

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

Fiscal Year 2008



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COMMERCE – LESTER SPELL, JR., D.V.M., COMMISSIONER

2008 Annual Report

Letter from your Commissioner



**Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M.
Commissioner**

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) promotes Mississippi's agricultural industry and regulates laws governing all sectors from on-farm production to processing to retail markets. The MDAC is committed to agriculture and creating an environment that gives Mississippi farmers and related industries opportunities and advantages. Detailed information is included in this report; however, the following is a summary.

The Market Development Division serves in promotional activities for Mississippi businesses. The Market Development Division's focus on

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

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ADMINISTRATION

Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M. - Commissioner
Rickey Gray - Deputy Commissioner
Butch Alpe - BPI Director

consumer education enhances public awareness of Mississippi's superior quality products. "Make Mine Mississippi" is a logo identification program with the purpose of promoting Mississippi products at home and worldwide. This program continues to grow and currently 1,006 companies have met the criteria, registered, and received official promotional assistance. Also, the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*, published by the Department with 46,500 subscribers, provides a venue for consumer and vendor contact.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's regulatory responsibilities extend from farm to marketplace. In addition to the regulation of foods, the MDAC helps insure the health of consumers through sanitation inspections in grocery stores. The Department is also responsible for the regulation of pesticides, certification of gasoline pumps, and verification of weights and measures of scales.

In cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Health and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), the MDAC assists with the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program. This program makes fresh fruits and vegetables available to some low-income and nutritionally at-risk citizens. Through the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Mississippi and enhances the quality of life for these participants, it contributes to the economic well being of small farmers.

The Commissioner of Agriculture assures informed qualified leadership through service on several state boards such as:

- Mississippi Board of Animal Health
- Mississippi Central Farmers Market Board

- Mississippi Fair Commission
- Mississippi LWT Resources Board
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Permit Board
- Egg Marketing Board
- State Seed Board
- State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

Our Department has progressed over the last year with many challenges remaining for the coming year. The accomplishments of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce are achieved through the joint efforts of State and Federal agencies, the Mississippi Legislature, and a sincerely dedicated staff.

Sincerely,
Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M.
Commissioner

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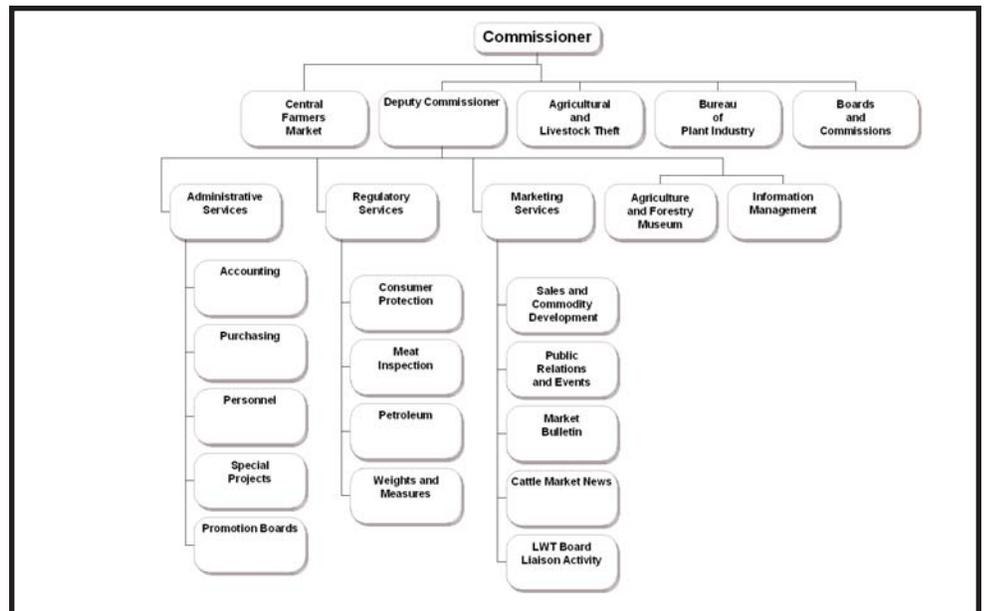
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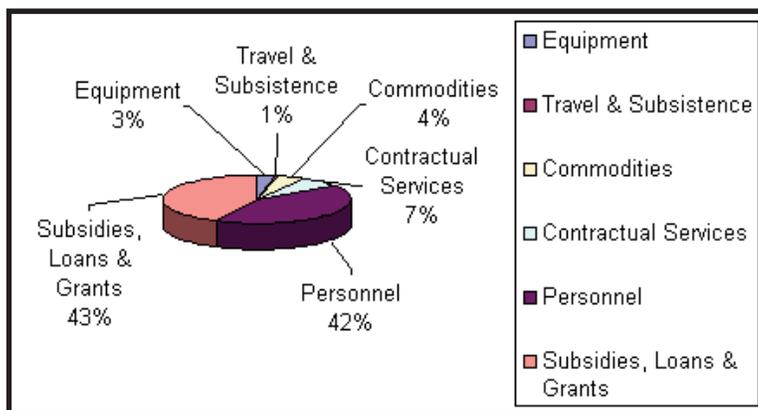
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Administration & Charts

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Organization Chart



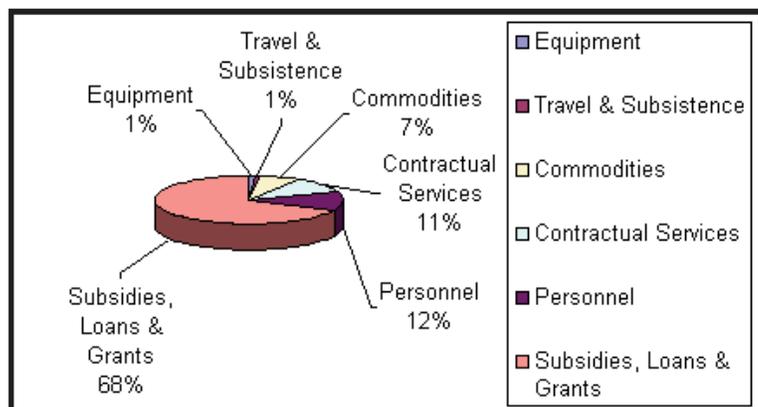
In 2008, the number of personnel remained stable; however the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce assumed additional responsibilities, as well as, implemented new programs to protect the Mississippi consumer. All of this was done with 33% fewer personnel than in 1996, when Lester Spell assumed the leadership of the agency. The agency has been able to accomplish this by upgrading its technology, as well as, cross-training its employees.



General & Special Funds

MDAC Support Budget General and Special Funds FY 2008

Total Revenues	\$25,166,897
Total Expenditures	\$23,906,019



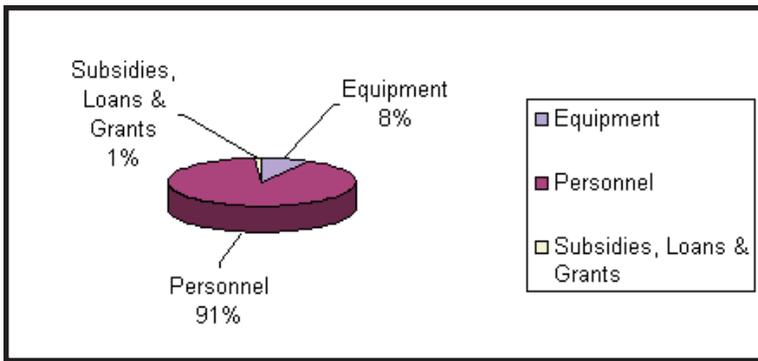
Special Funds

Special Funds Only

Total Revenues	\$16,283,649
Total Expenditures	\$15,022,771

Charts, continued on next page

General Fund Only



Total Revenues	\$8,883,248
Total Expenditures	\$8,883,248

General Fund

Mississippi Farmers Market



The Mississippi Farmers Market was created by an Act of the Legislature, House Bill 54 Laws of 1946. The market was created to provide facilities for the efficient handling of farm products in the interest of the farmer, consumer, general public, and the State of Mississippi.

In February of 2006, the Farmers Market moved to the new 18,000 square foot market facility located at the corner of Jefferson and High Street.

The market rents space to seasonal fruit and vegetable farmers in order to sell directly to the consumer. There is no middle man, no big chain supermarket - just the best food coming straight from the field. This increases the annual net profits for farmers.

The Mississippi Farmers Market operates from a "Special Fund Account."

A summary of income sources:

- Thirty-two stall rentals
- Restaurant facility rental
- General facility rental

Fruits and Vegetables

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has a Fruit and Vegetable Division. This division's purpose is to assist our

fruit and vegetable growers with planting, marketing, or any problems encountered by the growers.

MDAC has three fruit and vegetable drop points in Mississippi, which are located in Bassfield, Booneville, and Lucedale. The purpose of these drop points is to give growers a local contact with which to work. The revolving fund, located in Bassfield, is a \$1.9 million fund set up to give our growers fast pay when they sell their products. After Bassfield receives the Bill of Lading confirming the buyer's acceptance of the shipment, a Mississippi grower is paid from this fund within five days. The buyer then pays MDAC instead of paying the grower. Each grower and buyer must sign an acknowledgement with MDAC stating their understanding of the terms and regulations of MDAC's Revolving Fund.

A new and exciting program that MDAC is participating in is the Farm to School Program. This program is run by the Department of Defense, which for years bought produce from local growers for military bases. The DOD recently expanded the Farm to School Program to include the school systems. MDAC works very closely with the Mississippi Public School Nutritional Purchasing Agent, who receives all orders from the state's schools for produce needed for school cafeterias. MDAC then finds growers to supply the school system with the required fruits and vegetables. The first year MDAC participated in this program it created more than a \$330,000 new market for Mississippi growers. Our growers now have an additional market, and school children are being introduced to locally-grown fruits and vegetables.

Organic Certification Program

In 2004, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce was granted its certification that allows for farmers to be certified as organic growers. There are currently six trained



Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce fruit and vegetable drop points

inspectors, one state director, and one state coordinator. To date, Mississippi has 22 certified organic growers and three certified packing lines. Mississippi has become one of the largest shippers of organic blueberries in the nation.

Richard Butler, Market Manager
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Bureau of Plant Industry



BPI front entrance in Starkville, Mississippi

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) serves as the Plant Protection and Quarantine Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. It carries out regulatory programs pertaining to agricultural aviation, pesticides, plant pests, honey bees, seed, animal feed, fertilizer, lime, and soil/plant amendments. Additionally, it maintains cooperative agreements with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in administration and enforcement of state and federal laws.

Purpose

The State Plant Board was established under the Mississippi Plant Act of 1918, Sections 69-25-1 through 69-25-47, Mississippi Code 1972, to protect the agricultural and horticultural interests of the state from the introduction and spread of destructive plant pests. In 1971, the Mississippi Legislature abolished the board and established the Division of Plant Industry within the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce to assume the board's duties and responsibilities. In 1991, the name of the Division of Plant Industry was changed to the Bureau of Plant Industry. In 1996, the state agriculture department's Seed Division and Feed, Fertilizer, Lime, and Soil/Plant Amendments Division were placed under the administration of the Bureau.

Legislative Authority

The Bureau is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the following state statutes:

- Mississippi Plant Act of 1918, Sections 69-25-1 through 69-25-47
- Mississippi Bee Disease Act of 1920, Sections 69-25-101 through 69-25-109

- Regulation of Professional Services Law of 1938, Sections 69-19-1 through 69-19-11
- Crop Spraying and Licensing of Aerial Applicators Law of 1952, Sections 69-21-1 through 69-21-27
- Mississippi Pure Seed Law of 1968, Sections 69-3-1 through 69-3-29
- Mississippi Commercial Feed Law of 1972, Sections 75-45-151 through 75-45-193
- Mississippi Fertilizer Law of 1972, Sections 75-47-1 through 75-47-39
- Mississippi Pesticide Law of 1975, Sections 69-23-1 through 69-23-27
- Mississippi Pesticide Application Act of 1975, Sections 69-23-101 through 69-23-133
- Mississippi Soil and Plant Amendment Law of 1978, Sections 69-24-1 through 69-24-27
- Mississippi Boll Weevil Management Act of 1993, Sections 69-37-1 through 69-37-33
- Mississippi Agricultural Liming Materials Act of 1993, Sections 69-39-1 through 69-39-19

The Bureau is also designated by the federal government as the state agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of 1947 (FIFRA).

Personnel Changes

- Zack Chesser was named Environmental Scientist in July 2007.
- Stacey Swain was named Communication and Policy Advisor in November 2007.
- Suzette Cameron was named Administrative Assistant to the Pesticide Division in January 2008.
- Butch Alpe was named Director in February 2008.
- John Campbell was named Deputy Director in April 2008.
- Melisa Rider was named Seed Analyst in May

2008.

- Sharon Berry was named Administrative Assistant to the Boll Weevil Eradication Program and State Seed Lab in June 2008.
- Kathy Bowman was named Senior Systems Administrator in June 2008.



Apple Snail

Plant Pest Program

- Conducted 460 nursery inspections and 495 nursery dealer inspections.
- Conducted 155 inspections for Brown Garden Snail on plant materials shipped from California.
- Certified and inspected 67,823 colonies of honey bees.
- Permitted 36,845 bee colonies into Mississippi.
- Issued 545 phytosanitary certificates on plant material and seed export.
- Found no Sweet Potato Weevils after setting 2,127 traps on 20,397 acres of sweet potatoes.
- Conducted Cogongrass demonstration program for 332 private land owners. 2,257 acres were treated in the program.
- Collected assessment fees on 359,393 acres of cotton by farmers participating in statewide eradication of the Boll Weevil.
- Conducted 1,167 visual surveys statewide at nurseries and nursery dealers for Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Chrysanthemum White Rust, Viburnum Leaf Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Giant African Snail, Cactus Moth, and Asian Longhorned Beetle. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 775 visual surveys in 73 counties at soybean production fields for Giant African Snail, Soybean Pod Borer, Chilli Thrips, Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, and Benghal Dayflower. All sites were found to be negative.

BPI, continued on next page

- Conducted 110 visual surveys in 11 counties at cotton production fields for Giant African Snail, Cotton Seed Bug, Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Egyptian Broomrape, and Benghal Dayflower. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 55 visual surveys in 9 counties at rice production fields for Giant African Snail, Apple Snails, Asiatic Rice Borer, South American Leaf Miner, Bakanae, Senegal Tea Plant, Ye Gu, and Rice Panicle Mite. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 113 visual surveys in 13 counties at high risk sites for Oak Ambrosia Beetle, Great Spruce Bark Beetle, Pine Tree Lappet, European Oak Bark Beetle, Large Pine Weevil, and Pine Cone Cerambycid. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 86 visual surveys in 4 counties at rice production fields for Bacterial Leaf Streak of Rice. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 454 visual surveys statewide in pastures and livestock facilities for the noxious weed, Tropical Soda Apple. 38 positive sites were found.
- Conducted 454 visual surveys statewide in nurseries, nursery dealers, and the environment for the noxious weed, Giant Salvinia. 1 positive site found.
- Conducted 2,715 visual surveys statewide in nurseries and croplands for the noxious weed, Benghal Dayflower. 29 positive sites were found.
- Conducted 1,262 visual surveys statewide in nurseries, nursery dealers, and the environment for the noxious weed, Cogongrass. 2 new counties were found to be positive, making a total of 66 positive counties.
- Placed 6 traps in 6 counties at lumber mills and furniture manufactures for the Sirex Woodwasp. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 50 traps in 17 counties on Ash trees for the Emerald Ash Borer. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 1,344 traps in 58 counties at high risk sites for the European Gypsy Moth. 2 moths were caught in 2 traps.
- Placed 116 traps in 13 counties at high risk sites for Japanese Pine Sawyer, Japanese Pine Sawyer Beetle, Redhaired Pine Bark Beetle, and the Scolytid Beetle. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 65 traps in 9 counties at high risk sites for Africanized Honey Bee. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 18 traps in 1 county at soybean production fields for the Chilli Thrip. All traps were found to be negative.
- Found Channel Apple Snail in 2 residential lakes in South Mississippi. Educational meetings were presented to the residents and a quarantine was implemented on the positive lakes.
- Assisted USDA-APHIS-PPQ and USDA-FS in the monitoring of a nursery and the bordering forestland for the Sudden Oak Death pathogen.
- Assisted USDA-APHIS-PPQ in a survey for Asian Citrus Psyllid. 1 county was found to be

positive; a quarantine was implemented on the positive county.



Waste Pesticide Disposal

Pesticide Program

- Registered 12,093 pesticide products.
- Collected 303 samples from products available at retail and distribution outlets to spot-check registration numbers and compliance with state and federal pesticide laws.
- Issued 14 stop-sale orders on pesticide products found to be deficient, misbranded, or not registered.
- Issued 7 special-use registrations (Section 24c of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Issued 3 emergency exemptions (Section 18 of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Licensed 260 dealers to sell restricted-use pesticide products.
- Issued 2,335 private applicator certificates.
- Issued 1,209 commercial applicator certificates.
- Made 150 inspections of records kept by private applicators of restricted-use pesticide.
- Conducted 18 producer-establishment inspections, 292 marketplace inspections, 226 inspections of applicator records, and 118 inspections of dealer records.
- Conducted 51 inspections of pesticide misuse in agricultural situations and 19 inspections of misuse in nonagricultural situations.
- Collected 128 samples under the Pesticide Enforcement Program.
- Conducted 80 worker protection inspections.
- Issued 71 licenses for aerial application of hormone-type herbicides and approved 105 aircraft used in application of such products.
- Collected 388,700 pounds of waste pesticide.

Seed Program and State Seed Testing Laboratory

- Conducted 327 seed inspections.
- Collected 6,043 official regulatory seed samples.
- Found 234 official regulatory seed samples to

be in violation of the State Seed Law.

- Issued 1,409 permits for the sale of seed to be planted.
- Issued 2 permits for commercial Bermuda-grass sprigger.
- Tested 15,795 seed samples.
- Conducted 4,795 special tests on seed such as cool germ test, accelerated aging on soybeans, and red rice test.
- Performed a total of 30,824 tests on seed.
- Received 161 applications for seed inspection fees.

Feed, Fertilizer, Lime, and Soil-Plant Amendments Program

- Registered 600 feed manufacturers.
- Collected 4,540 feed samples.
- Registered 3,011 fertilizer products from 356 fertilizer companies.
- Registered 70 lime products from 48 distributors.
- Collected 1,363 fertilizer samples.
- Collected 192 lime samples.

Public Information Program

- Edited, designed, and produced the September 2007, December 2007, March 2008, and June 2008 quarterly newsletter, *Plant Industry News*.
- Produced the following 5 press releases: BPI Ensures Safe Movement of Baled Hay and Straw, Spell Announces Dates of Beekeeping Workshops, Spell Secures Helpful Products for Rice and Corn Producers, Mississippi Declares Emergency Exemption for Clearfield Rice Herbicides, and MS Department of Agriculture Receives Authorization to Regulate Aerial Applicators.
- Conducted pesticide and chemical safety training sessions at the 2007 Jasper and Smith Counties Safety Day, 2007 Leake County Safety Expo, and 2007 Safety Town in Oktibbeha County.
- Provided exhibit and educational materials at the 2007 Fall Flower and Garden Fest in Crystal Springs, 2008 Delta Ag Expo in Cleveland, and the 2008 Fish Farming Trade Show in Greenville.

Butch Alpe, Bureau Director
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Information Management Division

The Information Management Division (IMD) is primarily responsible for providing information technology and services to all employees of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). Also, IMD provides technical and network support, applications development and systems support, and strategic planning services for both the Mississippi Board of Animal Health and the Mississippi State Fair Commission.

IMD plays a critical role in (a) aligning information technology with the agency's business goals, (b) providing the infrastructure resources to support the agency's communication and decision making, and (c) exploring emerging technologies to promote agriculture and commerce in the state.

The Information Management Division successfully accomplished the following major projects during the last fiscal year:

- Replaced 35 aging and out of warranty desktop computers and 23 field laptop computers and printers for the Bureau of Plant Industry in Starkville. Also, IMD staff transferred data from old computer and trained the field staff in use of new equipment.

- Designed and implemented Agriculture Aviation database system to manage approximately 102 applicators, 205 pilots, and 174 aircrafts. In addition, the system allows the Bureau of Plant Industry to capture fees, track violations, generate reports, and issue applicator certificates, pilot licenses, and plane decals.

- Upgraded the Pure Harvest software to a web based system that supports the regulatory needs of the State Seed Testing Laboratory. The system allows Bureau of Plant Industry to electronically manage seed certification and validation of purity and quality of seed samples. Some of the new features and benefits of the system include electronic invoicing, web enabled reporting, and time and cost savings along with improved efficiency.

- Each year IMD staff takes pride in planning network infrastructure goals, which include disaster recovery and deployment of preventive measures to effectively manage virus and hacker attacks. During the last three-year period, with the exception of telecommunication links in remote offices, the agency's computer network was available 99.9% of all business hours.

- IMD staff, in a cooperative agreement with

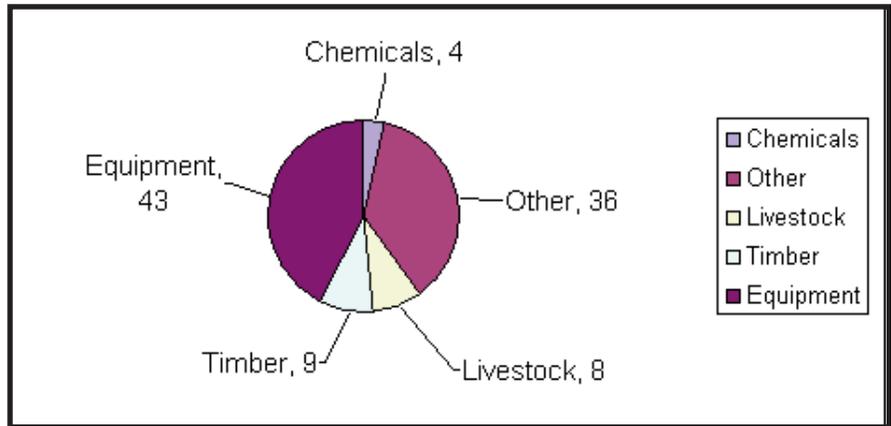
USDA-NASS, continued to work on the Cropland Data Layer (CDL) using a unique statistical technique which optimizes map generation of the Mississippi's land use. Dr. Fred Shore, a Geographical Information Systems Analyst, continues to find new applications for the Cropland Data Layer remote sensing program. In 2008, the first ever early season winter wheat crop estimate was done using the Cropland Data Layer procedures at a time when little ground data was available. Also, based on the multiyear Cropland Data Layer, Dr. Shore developed two summing programs. First, a cropping intensity to indicate the location used for growing crops over several years with acreages and statistics of the land use, and second a way to track crop rotations with location and statistics on each possible rotation pattern.

 Umesh Sanjanwala, Director
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Agriculture and Livestock Theft



The Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau was created in 1993 to assist in the investigation of all farm and agriculture-related crimes. The bureau has a director, secretary/brand registrar and nine investigators, one for each Mississippi Highway Patrol District. Investigators are charged with enforcing all state laws pertaining to the theft of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, fish, farm equipment, chemicals, timber, and all other farm or agriculture-related crimes. The bureau is also responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all persons who violate any of the laws administered by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.



Percentage Distribution of Dollar Value of Reported Crimes
Total Dollar Value of \$2,634,091 for FY2008

In addition to its law enforcement function, the Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau maintains registration of all livestock brands. Livestock in Mississippi do not have to be branded; however, if they are branded, the brand must be registered. The brands are recorded for a five-year period at a cost of five dollars. Registered brands are published in book form and distributed to law enforcement throughout the state. Presently, about 1,500 active brands are on file.

In the summer of 2007, *America's Heartland*, a weekly television series, profiled the Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau in a segment that was broadcast in 2008. The segment highlights the duties of this unique law enforcement agency and was viewed across the country.

 Robert Jordan, Director
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Consumer Protection

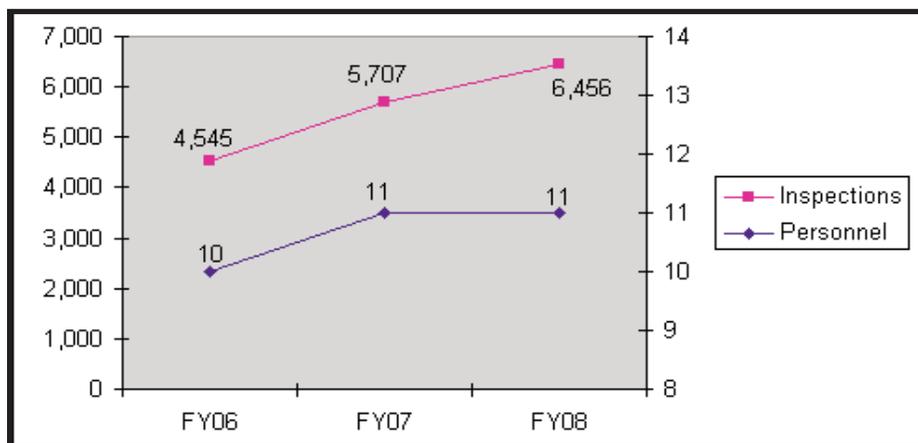
The main mission of the Consumer Protection Division is to ensure food quality and safety at the retail level, as well as ensuring fairness and equity in the marketplace through the administration and enforcement of certain laws and regulations designed primarily to protect the interest of the general public.



In FY 2008, the division continued improvement in efficiency. The chart below on retail food establishment sanitation inspections represent increased inspection activity with no additional personnel. *

Seven (7) retail food establishments were issued warning letters and four (4) retail food establishments were issued legal complaints for critical violations cited under the Mississippi Food Sanitation Law. Civil penalties in the amount of \$5,750.00 were issued for legal complaints.

The Consumer Protection Division is one of the most diversified divisions in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. In addition to certain retail food sanitation responsibilities, this division also has weights and measures responsibilities as well as administering five other laws. The division also conducts meat compliance inspections in retail food establishments under a U.S.D.A. Cooperative Agreement; performs U.S.D.A. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)



Number of Retail Food Sanitation Inspections FY06 through FY08

audit inspections in designated retail food establishments, under a U.S.D.A. Cooperative Agreement; and has a natural disaster partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The numbers below give an idea of the scope of this divisions responsibilities:

- Retail store inspections 7,282
- Pre-packaged items weighed (7.00 % placed off-sale) 44,567
- Cases of shell eggs inspected 43,067
- Scales tested (100 pounds or less) (3.55 % rejected) 6,119
- Labeling Inspections 5,533
- Meat compliance inspections 5,428
- Retail food sanitation inspections* (1.0 % failed) 6,456
- Disposition of garbage store inspections 6,457
- UPC price verification inspections (8.10% failed) 382

*These were not all complete inspections. The substantial increase in the number of inspections was probably due to special assignments and FDA and/or U.S.D.A. Class I Food Recalls where

we assisted those agencies by inspecting for recalled food products. This would also increase the number of meat compliance inspections as well as retail store inspections.

- The Consumer Protection Division has continued to increase efficiency both in the field and office through the use of laptop computers and a specialized computer software inspection program for field inspection staff and office personnel. Our division began working on a "New Direction in Food Sanitation." This program does not change the method of conducting a sanitation inspection but is designed to better make consumers more aware of the sanitation conditions of the retail food establishment/s in which they shop through the use of a color coded placard system. The division will strive to continue a cooperative working relationship with other state and federal agencies, as well as other bureaus and divisions of the department, to better serve and protect the general public.

John Tillson, Director
E-mail: JohnT@mdac.state.ms.us

Consumer Protection - Petroleum Division

The Petroleum Products Inspection Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce insures the quality of fuel purchased in the state through the testing of retail motor fuel samples. This includes gasoline, ethanol blended fuel, diesel fuel, biodiesel fuel, and kerosene. The use of the Zeltex octane analyzer as a screening device assists state inspectors in the number of gasoline samples taken to test for octane quality of fuel in the State of Mississippi.

All field personnel are equipped with state of the art slide-in calibration units, which is an efficient manner to verify calibration of retail motor

fuel dispensing device, through random retail device inspections. The Petroleum Division conducts routine random device meter and fuel quality inspections in response to numerous consumer complaints and are typically addressed within a 24-hour period. Inspections were conducted for the fiscal year on 3,367 retail locations and involved nearly 80,000 individual pump meters. Hi-volume meters typical of truck stops are approved using the division's 150-gallon Calibration Trailer and 60-gallon Calibration Trailer.

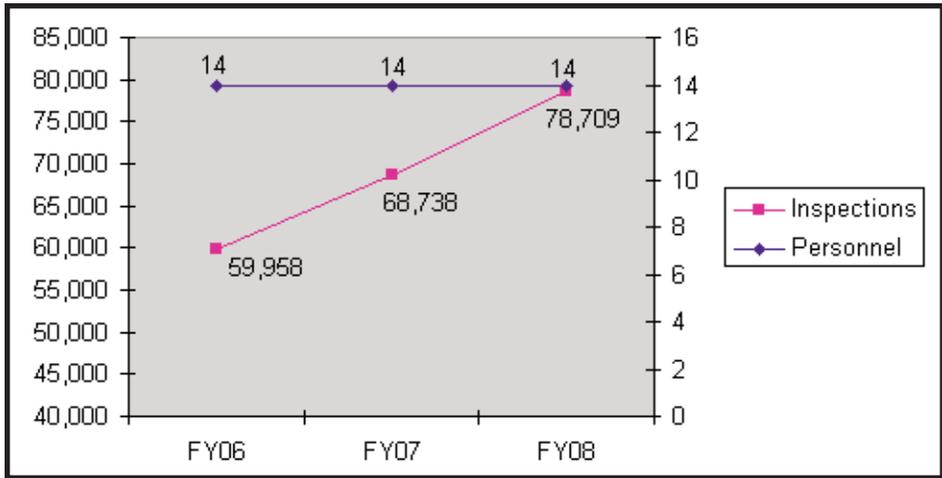
Use of the WinWam Computer software designed specifically for Weights & Measures offi-

cial allows inspectors to complete all inspection information for immediate downloads to the main office computer, giving complete access to all inspection data by office personnel.

In FY 2008, the Petroleum Division was responsible for:

- Stations registered 3,367
- Petroleum pumps tested 78,709
- Petroleum products samples 5,816
- Violations issued 1,447
- Stop sales for fuel violations 112

Petroleum, continued on next page



- Sales for calibration violations 41
- Stop sales for sign violations 14
- Stop sales for water violations 41
- Total nozzles 51,308

 Bob Louys, Director
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Inspections and Personnel for FY06 through FY08

Consumer Protection - Meat Inspection Division

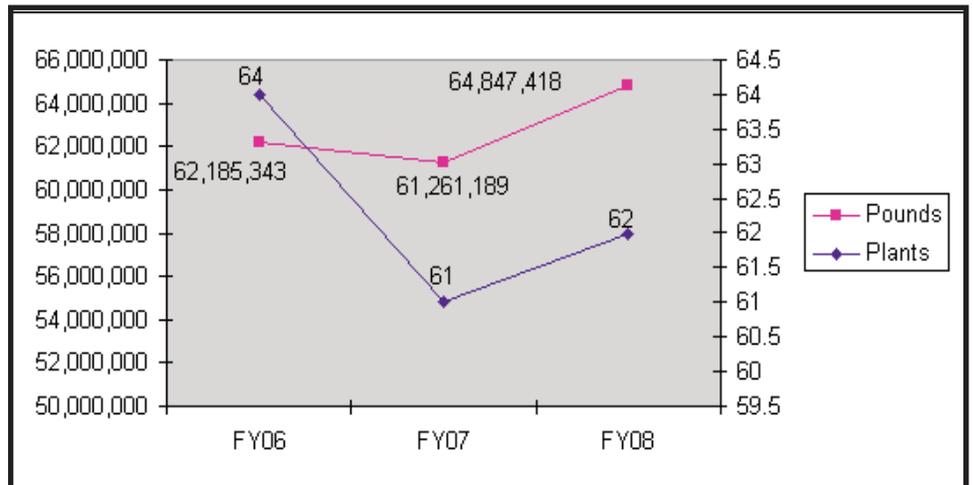
The current Meat Inspection Program, a cooperative state-federal service, is authorized by the Mississippi Meat Inspection Act of 1968 (Section 75-25-1 Miss. Code of 1972). This legislation was enacted to expand and improve the meat inspection services and to comply with the Federal Wholesome Meat Act passed by Congress in December 1967.

MID provides regulatory coverage and inspection of all establishments engaged in the slaughtering of food animals and poultry except for those plants operating under federal inspection. The further processing of meat, meat-food products, poultry, poultry food-products, and their preparation for consumer items receive surveillance throughout formulation, packaging, labeling, and distribution to retail outlets

Here are some numbers that give you an idea about the scope of the Meat Inspection Division.

- Pounds of red meat inspected 50,053,155
- Pounds of poultry inspected 14,794,263
- Number of animals inspected 296,502
- Number of quail inspected 183,877
- Number of rabbits inspected 37,106
- Number of state meat plants licenses issued 41
- Number T/A plant (no state license required) 21

 Richard Benton, Director
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Pounds and Plants Inspected for FY06 through FY08



Inspector checking for plant cleanliness

Consumer Protection - Weights and Measures Division

The Weights and Measures Division tests scales used in commerce in Mississippi for accuracy. This division divides scales into two categories for testing, heavy scales with the capacity of 6,000 lbs. or more and intermediate scales with the capacity of 0 to 6,000 lbs. With heavy scales as well as intermediate scales, this division retests out-of-tolerance scales after repairs are made. Some examples of heavy scales are truck scales, livestock scales, poultry scales, and rail scales; examples of intermediate scales are grain elevators, gins, home/garden centers, cooperative stores, feed stores, hauling facilities, hospitals, and distribution centers.

Weights and Measures also has a variety of other responsibilities. Among the responsibilities is the regulation of equipment used in commerce and trade and issuing licenses to public weighmasters, scale companies/repairmen, and auctioneers within the State of Mississippi. Additionally, this division regulates timber to insure that acceptable standards are applied uniformly in the scaling of pulpwood-receiving facilities and sawmills. A division inspector covers the entire state testing dairy farm milk tanks and compiles calibration readings for the accuracy of the dairyman's chart. Weights and Measures inspectors also test Universal Price Code (UPC) scanners for accuracy to insure that consumers are charged the correct prices for the items they purchase. Division inspectors also check the weights of pre-packaged commodities to insure that businesses are labeling only the weight of the net contents and not the packaging.

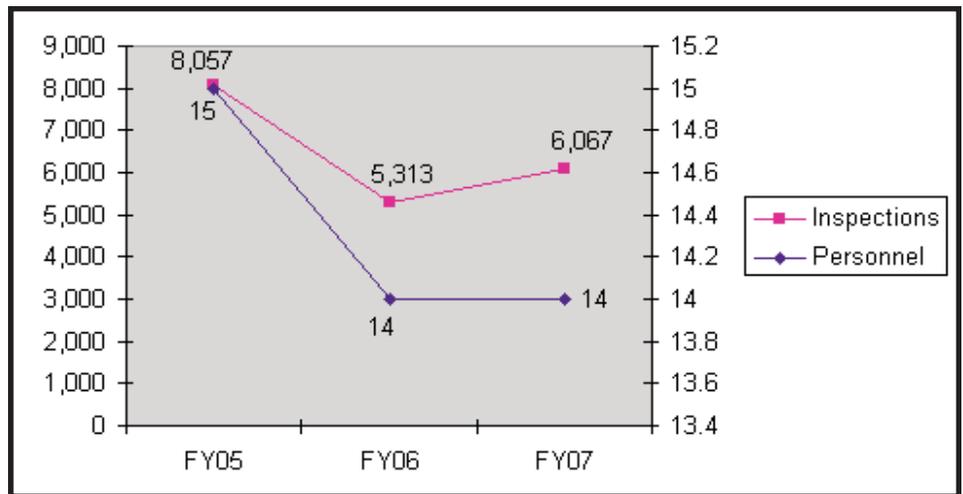
Our field personnel now have the opportunity to use laptop computers with the Winwam Software, which has been very beneficial in gathering the information needed on a daily basis.

Personnel FY '08 Weights and Measures Division — 2 supervisors, 12 inspectors, 1 metrologist and a metrologist assistant

- Tested 1,370 heavy scales and rejected 243
- Tested 3,441 intermediate scales and rejected 272
- Tested 146 livestock scales and rejected 17
- Tested 57 rail scales and rejected 12
- Performed 481 Weighmaster, Pulpwood & Timber inspections and failed 51
- Inspected 83 UPC-Price Verifications and failed 19
- Package checking 292 and failed 49
- Dairy Farm Milk Calibrations 57 dairy and rejected 1

Mississippi Moisture Meter Laboratory

The Mississippi Moisture Meter Testing Laboratory is maintained at the Delta Research



Inspections and Personnel for FY06 through FY08

and Extension Center in Stoneville, Mississippi. Grain is collected from farms and prepared by USDA standard methods for the purpose of testing the accuracy of grain moisture meters used to measure the moisture of grain offered for sale, processing, or storage. Upon request, grain moisture meters may be inspected at farms and other grain businesses. Other equipment used with grain moisture meters to determine moisture,

meaningless without calibrated standards. These standards are needed wherever goods are bought or sold by weight or volume. The Metrology Lab is accredited by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the testing of mass, volume, and length, and the lab uses these standards to calibrate the weights and volume measures used by MDAC and service companies that install, repair, and test scales and gas pumps used for commerce



Inspector testing a truck scale

grain test scales, and thermometers are also inspected for accuracy.

- Grain Moisture Meters tested 185 and rejected 1
- Gram Scales tested 115 and rejected 2
- Oven Test: Soybeans, 31; Corn, 31; Wheat, 109; Rice, 40

Mississippi Metrology Laboratory

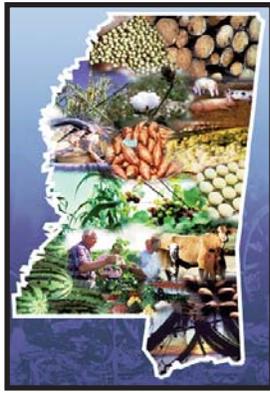
The division also maintains the Mississippi Metrology Laboratory located on the campus of Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS. Metrology is often referred to as the cornerstone of the weights and measures program. All laws, regulations, specifications, and tolerances would be

as required by the laws in the State. The Metrology Laboratory provides volumetric and mass standard calibration services to 110 Mississippi companies. Also, companies from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, and Tennessee look to the Mississippi laboratory for their calibration needs. These companies represent a broad range of commerce including grain elevators, the lumber and pulpwood industries, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas industry, concrete plants, agrochemical, and the technicians that service scales or meters.

- Calibrations of Mass and Volume Standards 3386

 Connie Braswell, Director
 E-mail: Connie@mdac.state.ms.us

Marketing Division



Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, employing approximately 30% of the state's workforce either directly or indirectly. In Mississippi, agriculture is a 6.3 billion-dollar industry, with a 2.7 billion dollar economic impact each year. There are approximately 41,700 farms in the state covering 11 million acres, which makes agriculture a significant contributor to all 82 counties. The Market Development Division is dedicated to promoting and heightening the public's awareness of Mississippi's agriculture commodities, and the farmers and ranchers who produce them.

Agriculture Awareness

- Presented agriculture's message to schools and civic organizations across the state.
- Participated in conferences and festivals throughout Mississippi.
- Distributed thousands of recipes using products grown in Mississippi.
- Produced the Mississippi Farmers Market Cookbook with recipes submitted from Mississippians state-wide.
- Counseled companies, producers, and organizations.
- Worked with the Mississippi Farmers Market to promote agriculture and healthy eating through cooking demonstrations and other events.
- Developed the Mississippi Certified Farmers Market Program, which is an ongoing marketing initiative for Farmers Markets across the state.
- Assisted in marketing of the Mississippi Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- Manage the Specialty Crop Block Grant to assist Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Growers and Industry.
- Worked with Mississippi State University and Auburn University on Federal State Marketing Improvement Program grants.
- Assisted in enacting Catfish Country of Origin Law, which went into effect July 1, 2008.
- Managed multiple Assistance and Disaster Programs.
- Conducts educational workshops for growers and agriculture industry.

International Trade

- Member of the Southern United States Trade Association, encompassing 14 southern states whose mission is to increase exports for United States agriculture and high-value foods.
- Department conducted tours and gave presentations to more than 100 international visitors.
- Counseled individuals and associations on export opportunities.

Public Information

Since 1911, the farming community throughout Mississippi has had access to one of the most important farming tools there is, the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*. The *Mississippi Market Bulletin* is a buy/sell newspaper for farmers to advertise their agricultural items that have been raised, grown, produced, or operated on their farms. It is the best source for information regarding machinery/equipment, livestock, plants/seeds, agricultural real-estate, or anything related to Mississippi agriculture. It provides a wealth of information delivered to farmers' doors 24 times a year. The *Mississippi Market Bulletin* is a semi-monthly publication, published on the 1st and 15th of each month. Its circulation of 46,500 subscribers is not limited to in-state residents, but goes to out-of-state residents as well, and includes:

- Information to statewide media on all important agricultural events.
- An agricultural commodity directory distributed statewide and located on the web at www.mdac.state.ms.us.
- A fruit and vegetable guide.
- A directory of the 49 Mississippi Farmers Markets.

Trade Shows, Conferences and Fairs

- Mississippi State Fair.
- Dixie National Rodeo & Livestock Show and Parade.
- New Orleans SUSTA Conference.
- Mobile SUSTA Conference.
- Deep South Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference.
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.
- Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture.
- Seoul, South Korea Food Show.
- Selling at Farmers Markets Workshop.
- Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Production Workshop.
- Vegetable Production Season Extension Workshops.

Make Mine Mississippi Program

This unique marketing program was created to highlight products at least 51% produced, manufactured, or enhanced in Mississippi. Using a logo to identify these Mississippi value-added products, the program has heightened consumer awareness about the quality and availability of Mississippi products.

Legislation providing the foundation for Make Mine Mississippi was passed in April, 1999. At the end of FY 2008, 1006 companies across the state in 30 categories belonged to the program. Funding secured for the Cooperative Promotions Reimbursement Program in November, 1999, has been a major benefit to members. Using this program, members have increased sales and helped their businesses grow, adding to the economy of our state.

- From the inception of the cooperative promotions fund in 1999 to the end of FY 2008, 708 companies were allocated funding.
- A total of \$638,146 has been awarded.
- The companies reported over \$90,000,000 in sales as a result of the promotional activities paid for in part by this program.
- Businesses are currently reporting some 3,592 new jobs created as a result of the Make Mine Mississippi program.
- Make Mine Mississippi is meant to unify the promotion of all Mississippi products, promote a positive image of the state, and sell Mississippi products.

Livestock Market News Service

The Livestock and Grain Market News program is a Federal/State cooperative agreement. There is one livestock and grain reporter supervising the dissemination of livestock reports, collecting and disseminating grain price information, and voicing radio and television broadcasts to 75 radio stations and one television station, which informs the agriculture community of livestock prices.

This office provides price information on livestock and grain to lending institutions, university agricultural economists, consultants, and livestock associations. A livestock report is issued in the *Mississippi Market Bulletin* that has a circulation of 46,500 readers per year.

Fourteen livestock auction markets are reported by nine cross-trained Mississippi Board of Animal Health personnel. Prices collected from the fourteen sales represent 85% of all the livestock markets throughout the state.

Marketing, continued on next page

Agritourism

committed to promoting Agritoursim in our state.

Agritourism is a fast growing part of the future of Mississippi's agriculture. An estimated 30 million people travel to and around Mississippi each year. By linking the state's Travel and Tourism Industry with Mississippi's number one industry, agriculture, a very successful partnership is being realized. With the public's desire for a "farm experience" and for the fun of fairs and festivals, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is

Andy Prosser, Director
E-mail: Andy@mdac.state.ms.us

Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum / National Agricultural Aviation Museum

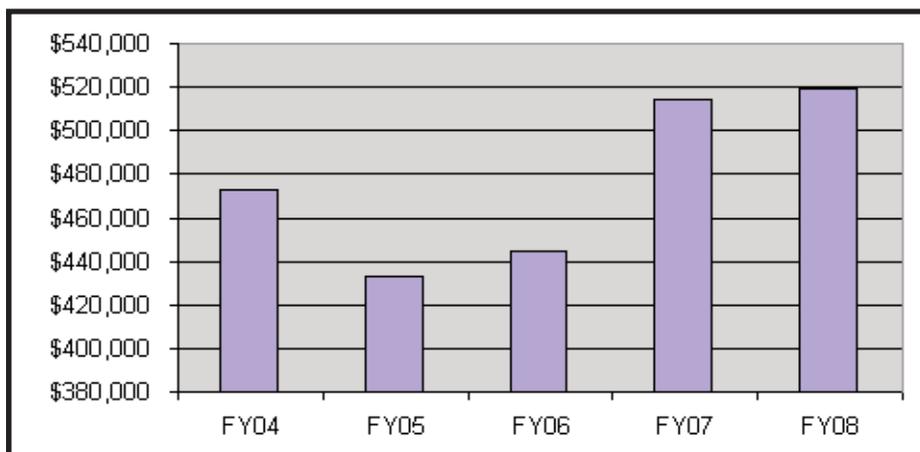
In 2008, the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum was visited by over 130,000 visitors from all 50 states and 27 countries. Visitation to the Museum in 2008 decreased slightly from visitation in 2007, due primarily to higher gas prices. However, the Museum's special events generated more revenue than ever. Several first annual events were held in 2008.

During the last week of February 2008, the Museum celebrated Black History Month displaying artifacts and information about influential African Americans who impacted agriculture. One example is George Washington Carver. Schools were invited to attend and plans are being made for the event February 2009.

The Museum hosted the 1st annual "mini" Celtic Festival on Sunday, March 16, 2008. The event attracted attendees from the St. Patrick's Day festivities held in downtown Jackson during that weekend. Plans for a 2009 event are being made.

The Museum hosted the 1st annual Mississippi Children's Educational Fair on April 1-5, 2008. The event was sponsored by the Mississippi Children's Museum Partners and Cellular South. The Fair was open to 5th grade students from Levels I-III schools across Mississippi. Students had a fun, action-packed experience with hands-on interactive exhibits. A wide variety of career opportunities were showcased, focusing on the school subjects that will help students acquire the needed skills to succeed in those careers. The Fair gave children a glimpse of what the Mississippi Children's Museum will offer them: Mississippi Heritage, The Arts, Health, Literacy, and The World at Work. They were introduced to "Mississippi Heroes" – Mississippians who have achieved great things. The 2nd annual Mississippi Children's Fair is scheduled for March 31-April 4, 2009.

On April 4, 2008, the Jackson and central Mississippi area was hit by several tornados and severe weather. At that time, the Museum was



Museum Revenue From FY04 through FY08

hosting the Mississippi Children's Educational Fair. With the breakout of severe weather warnings, all 1,500 children and adults were vacated safely to the Museum's Heritage Center until the warnings expired. Dr. Hank Bounds, State Superintendent of Education, Hinds County Sheriff Deputies, the National Guard and the University of Mississippi Medical Center Staff arrived during the severe weather to assist and ensure that all students left the Museum and headed to their school without the threat of severe weather. The Museum's Educational Center incurred damage during the storm, but no individuals were harmed that day.

Due to the electrical outage during the storms, the Museum saw the need for generators to operate emergency lights. The Museum was able to acquire natural gas powered generators through master lease money.

The popularity of the model train exhibit continues to grow as the Museum volunteers add to the display. New signage, lights, and sounds are just some of the improvements and additions made during 2008. Still under construction is the O gauge, which will be completed in 2009. The exhibit will display the Vicksburg, Mississippi area, with model trains winding through and

around the bluffs of the Mississippi River.

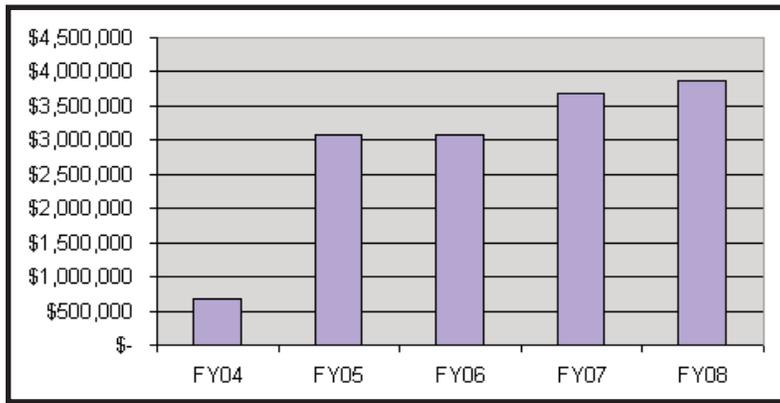
The Museum added a rental facility in 2008 called the Educational Center, which is the old Chimneyville Crafts Center. The Museum uses the facility as an additional educational area to hosts schools and the summer day camp.

Many improvements were made during 2008 including a new roof on the Blacksmith Shop and Pavilion. The Forestry Building was renovated with new air conditioning and heat units, 2 gas ranges and new blinds for the windows. The Sparkman Auditorium was renovated with new air conditioning and heat units, 2 gas ranges, new kitchen tile, and blinds for the windows. Projects still underway include repairs to the Fortenberry Parkman Farmstead, the Educational Center, and a new roof for the Sparkman Auditorium.

Individuals wanting more information should contact Charlie Dixon, at 601-713-3365.

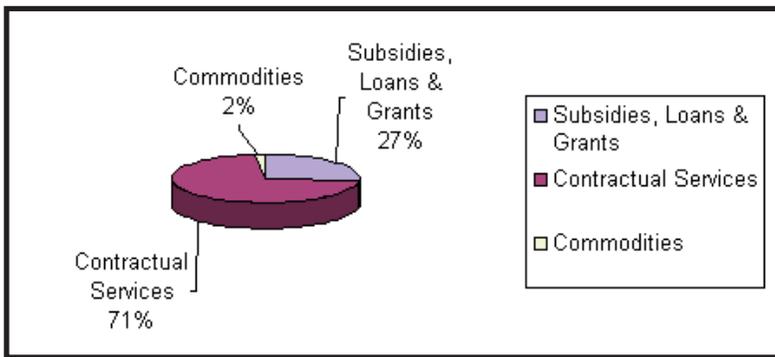
Charlie Dixon, Director
E-mail: Charlie@mdac.state.ms.us

Additional Charts and Graphs



**License and Inspection Fee Collections
for FY04 through FY08**

The fees include *Market Bulletin*, Egg Marketing, Corn, Peanut Promotion Boards, Weights and Measures, and other regulatory fees.



Egg Marketing Board

Egg Marketing Board
Special Funds

Total Revenues	\$58,878
Total Expenditures	\$47,033