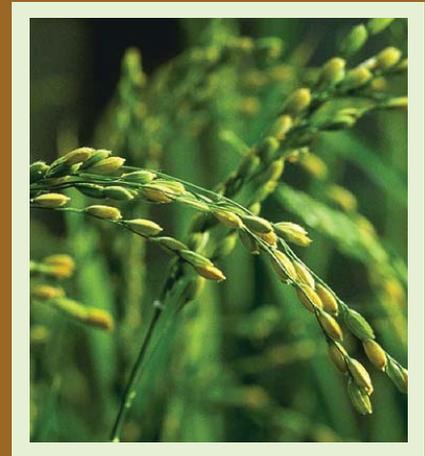
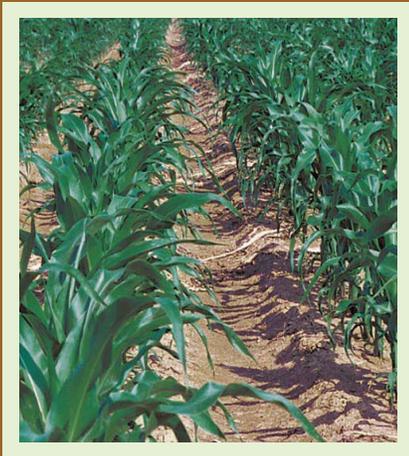
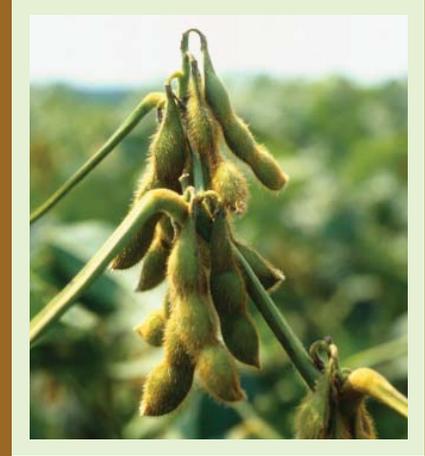
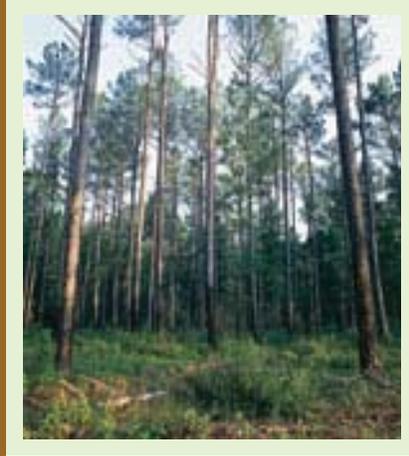
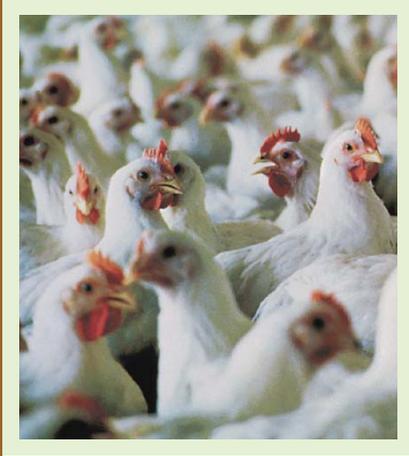


2011 Annual Report

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

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

Fiscal Year 2011



Administration

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

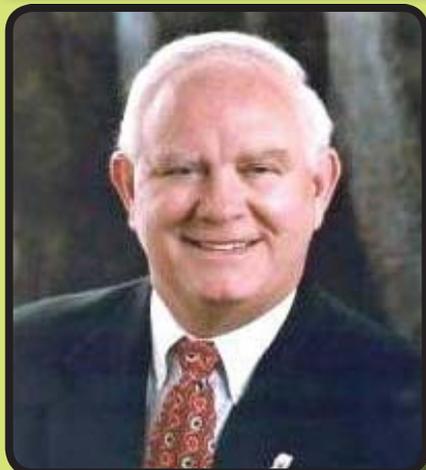
**Rickey Gray - Deputy
Commissioner**

**John Campbell - BPI
Director**

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

121 North Jefferson Street
Jackson, MS 39201
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Website: www.mdac.ms.gov

Letter from your Commissioner



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

“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 1,060 companies have met the criteria, registered, and received official promotional assistance. Also, the *Mississippi Market Bulletin*, published by the Department with 46,054 subscribers, provides a venue for consumer and vendor contact as well as highlighting the diversity of Mississippi’s agriculture base.

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 at 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, the lives of these participants are enhanced, and the economic well being of small farmers is helped.

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

- 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

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.

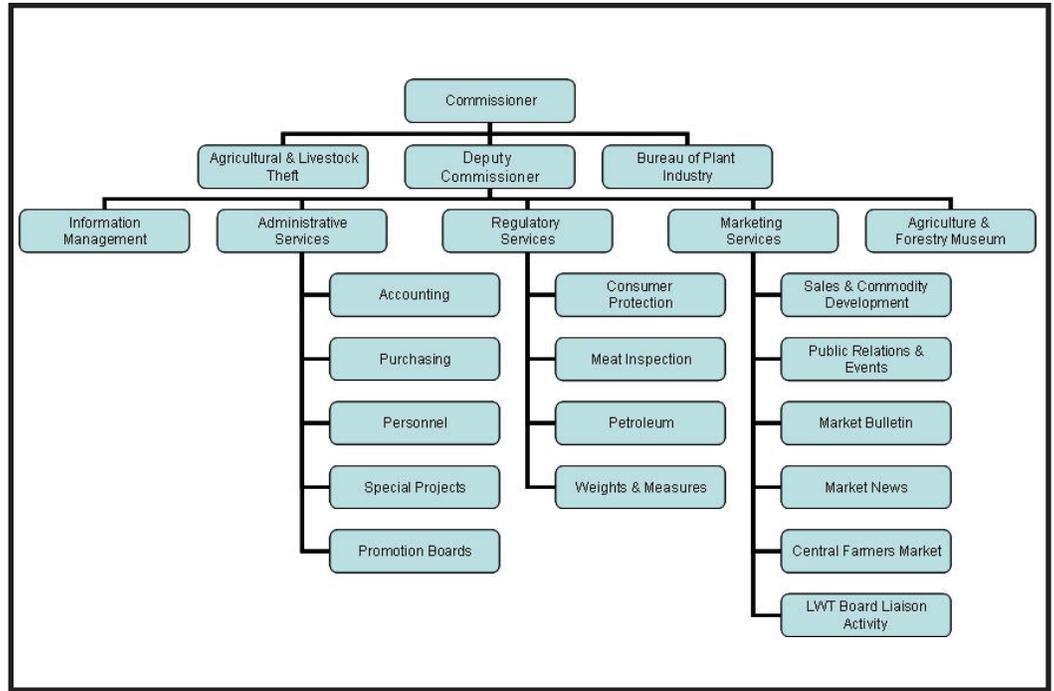
The Market Development Division serves in promotional activities for Mississippi businesses. The Market Development Division’s focus on consumer education enhances public awareness of Mississippi’s superior quality products.

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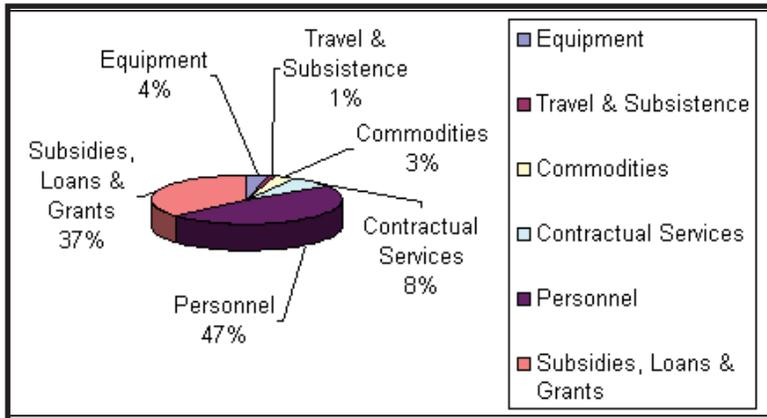
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Administration & Charts

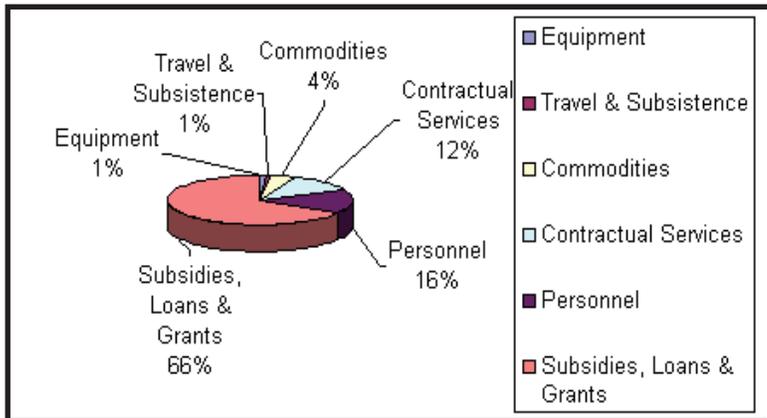
In 2011, the number of personnel remained stable; however, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce assumed additional responsibilities, as well as, implementing new programs to protect the Mississippi consumer. All of this was done with 33% fewer personnel than in 1996, when Lester Spell assumed the leadership of the agency. The agency has been able to accomplish this by upgrading its technology, as well as, crosstraining its employees.



**Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Organization Chart**

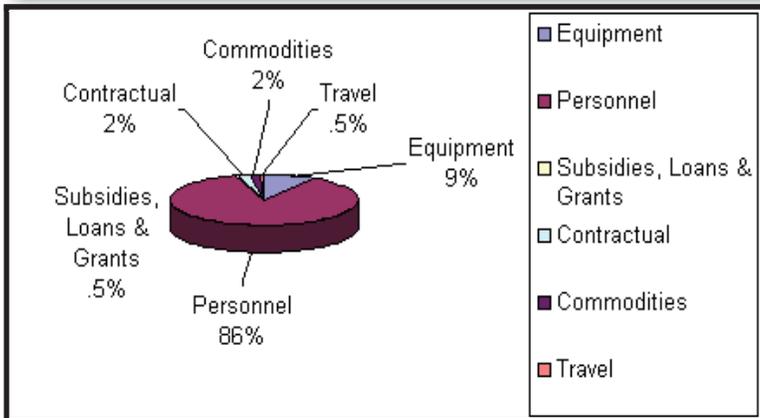


MDAC Support Budget General and Special Funds FY 2011	
Total Revenues	\$21,848,047
Total Expenditures	\$20,636,068



Special Funds Only	
Total Revenues	\$12,732,762
Total Expenditures	\$11,520,783

Administration & Charts, *continued from page 3*



General Fund Only	
Total Revenues	\$9,115,285
Total Expenditures	\$9,115,285

Central Farmers Market / Fruits and Vegetables



Farmers Market located off High Street in Downtown Jackson.

The Mississippi Farmers Market was created by an Act of 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, specialty food vendors, and artisans from across the state and provides a place of business where consumers can buy products directly from the growers or producers. The Market also rents the facility for private parties and events when the facility is not being used for Farmers Market activities.

On average, the Market serves over 100 businesses across the state including farmers, specialty food vendors, and artisans. From February to December the Mississippi Farmers Market has an average of nearly 2,000 customers each week shopping during the peak months of the summer vegetable season.

The Farmers Market Grill, located inside the Mississippi Farmers Market, rents space from the Market and serves breakfast and lunch six days a week.

The Mississippi Farmers Market operates from a "Special Fund Account." A summary of income sources is the following:

- Booth/Stall rentals
- Restaurant facility rental
- General facility rental

Fruits and Vegetables

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce has a Fruits and Vegetables Division. This division's purpose is to assist our fruit and vegetable growers with planting, marketing, or any problems encountered by the growers.

The revolving fund, is a \$1.9 million fund set up to give our growers fast pay when they sell their products. After MDAC 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.

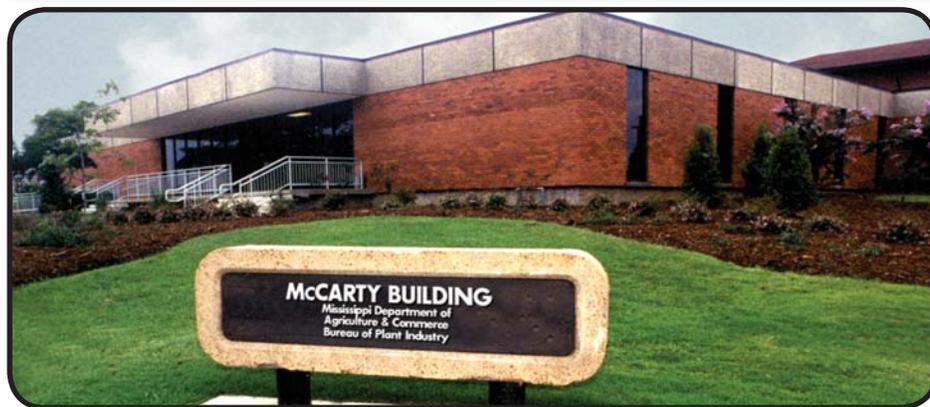
Since 2002, MDAC has been participating in is the Farm to School Program. This program is run by the Department of Defense, which for years bought produce from local growers for military bases. The DOD expanded the Farm to School Program to include the school systems. MDAC works very closely with the 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. In FY2011, more than \$292,000 of Mississippi produce was sold to local schools. 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 inspectors, one state director, and one state coordinator. To date, Mississippi has 22 certified organic growers and three certified packing lines. In FY2011, five organic operations received assistance through the USDA National Organic Program Cost-Share-Program administered by MDAC. Mississippi has become one of the largest shippers of organic blueberries in the nation.

Will Scarborough, Director
E-mail: Will@mdac.ms.gov

Bureau of Plant Industry



BPI front entrance in Starkville, Mississippi

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) is a regulatory and service division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. 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 was 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 69-19-15

- Agricultural Aviation Licensing Law of 2009, Sections 69-21-101 through 69-21-128.
- 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 75-45-195
- Mississippi Fertilizer Law of 1972, Sections 75-47-1 through 75-47-39
- Mississippi Pesticide Law of 1975, Sections 69-23-1 through 69-23-29
- Mississippi Pesticide Application Act of 1975, Sections 69-23-101 through 69-23-155
- 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 69-37-41
- 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.

Plant Pest Program

- Conducted 616 nursery inspections and 672 nursery dealer inspections.
- Conducted 45 inspections for Brown Garden Snail on plant materials shipped from California.
- Certified and inspected 17,749 colonies of honey bees.
- Permitted 50,248 bee colonies into Mississippi.
- Issued 391 phytosanitary certificates on plant material and seed export.
- Found no Sweet Potato Weevils after setting 2,621 traps on 23,200 acres of sweet potatoes.
- Conducted Cogongrass demonstration program for 712 private land owners. 5,031.25 acres were treated in the program.
- Collected assessment fees on 553,587 acres of cotton by farmers participating in statewide eradication of the Boll Weevil.
- Issued 57 landscape horticulturist licenses.
- Issued 17 tree surgery licenses.
- Conducted 1,324 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 245 visual surveys in 32 counties at soybean production fields for Maritime Garden Snail, Soybean Pod Borer, Chilli Thrips, Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Yellow Witchweed, and Benghal Dayflower. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 427 visual surveys in 12 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 98 visual surveys in 6 counties at rice production fields for Bacterial Leaf Streak of Rice. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 470 visual surveys statewide in pastures and livestock facilities for the noxious weed, Tropical Soda Apple. 70 positive sites were found.
- Conducted 1,519 visual surveys statewide in nurseries, nursery dealers, and the environment for the noxious weed, Giant Salvinia. 1 positive site found.
- Conducted 1,622 visual surveys statewide in nurseries and croplands for the noxious weed, Benghal Dayflower. 42 positive sites were found.
- Conducted 1,432 visual surveys statewide in nurseries, nursery dealers, and the environment for the noxious weed, Cogongrass. 66 counties were found to be positive.
- Placed 348 traps in 45 counties at high risk nursery and nursery dealer sites for the Light Brown Apple Moth. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 6 traps in 6 counties at lumber mills and furniture manufactures for the Sirex Woodwasp. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 150 traps in 41 counties on ash trees for the Emerald Ash Borer. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 1,450 traps in 58 counties at high risk sites for the European Gypsy Moth. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 43 traps in 6 counties at high risk sites for Japanese Pine Sawyer Beetle, Redhaired Pine Bark Beetle, Pine Shoot Beetle, and 2 Ambrosia Beetles. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 70 traps in 10 counties at high risk sites for Africanized Honey Bee. All traps were found to be negative.
- Assisted USDA-APHIS-PPQ in conducting herbicide spot treatment applications for Tropical Soda Apple in 13 counties covering approximately 19,000 acres.

Bureau of Plant Industry , continued from page 5

- Assisted USDA-APHIS-PPQ and USDA-FS in the monitoring of a Sudden Oak Death positive nursery and the bordering forestland for the pathogen.



BPI Inspector performing a Wood Boring/Bark Beetle Survey

Pesticide Program

- Registered 12,558 pesticide products.
- Collected 488 samples from products available at retail and distribution outlets to check compliance with state and federal pesticide laws.
- Issued 11 stop-sale orders on pesticide products found to be deficient, misbranded, or not registered.
- Issued 52 special-use registrations (Section 24c of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Issued 4 emergency exemptions (Section 18 of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Licensed 283 dealers to sell restricted-use pesticide products.
- Issued 1,817 private applicator certificates.
- Issued 514 commercial applicator certificates.
- Made 150 inspections of records kept by private applicators of restricted-use pesticide.
- Conducted 52 producer-establishment inspections, 197 marketplace inspections, 252 inspections of applicator records, and 112 inspections of dealer records and 19 container

containment inspections.

- Conducted 94 inspections of pesticide misuse and 81 inspections in agricultural situations.
- Conducted 66 inspections of pesticide misuse and 708 inspections in nonagricultural situations.
- Collected 103 samples under the Pesticide Enforcement Program.
- Conducted 56 worker protection inspections.
- Licensed 220 agricultural aviation pilots, 101 applicators and registered 171 aircraft for agricultural purposes.
- Collected 55,909 pounds of waste pesticide.
- Issued 215 pest management consultants licenses.
- Issued 8 soil classifier licenses.

Seed Program and State Seed Testing

Laboratory

- Conducted 226 seed inspections.
- Collected 2,287 official regulatory seed samples.
- Found 145 official regulatory seed samples to be in violation of the State Seed Law.
- Issued 1,321 permits for the sale of seed to be planted.
- Tested 12,966 seed samples.
- Conducted 4,861 special tests on seed such as cool germ test, accelerated aging on soybeans, and red rice test.
- Performed a total of 26,554 tests on seed.
- Received 3 applications for seed inspection fees.



Seed Analyst Determines Germination Percentage of Cotton Seed

Feed, Fertilizer, Lime and Soil-Plant Amendments Program

- Registered 671 feed manufacturers.
- Collected 3,812 feed samples.
- Registered 3,209 fertilizer products from 380 fertilizer companies.
- Registered 88 lime products from 59 distributors.
- Collected 1,005 fertilizer samples.
- Collected 190 lime samples.

Public Information Program

- Produced the September 2010, December 2010, March 2011, and June 2011 issues of the quarterly newsletter, Plant Industry News.
- Issued the following 8 press releases: Stop Sale Order Placed on Contaminated Pesticide, Pest Control Application Sparks Investigation, MDAC Announces 2011 Beekeeping Workshops, Suspects Arrested in Pest Control Scam, Emergency Exemption for Corn Seed Treatment Announced, MDAC's Bureau of Plant Industry Revokes Termite License of Wilson's Termite and Environmental Services, MDAC's Bureau of Plant Industry Revokes Termite License of Howe's Termite Control, LLC, and Cleveland Men Sentenced for Pest Control Scam.
- Conducted pesticide and chemical safety training sessions at the 2010 Leake County Safety Expo and 2010 Safety Town in Oktibbeha County.
- Provided exhibit and educational materials at the 2010 Fall Flower and Garden Fest in Crystal Springs, 2011 Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association Convention in Bay St. Louis, 2011 North Mississippi Research and Extension Center Industry Meeting in Verona, 2011 Everything Garden Expo in Starkville, and the 150th Celebration of Booneville.

John Campbell, Bureau Director
E-mail: JohnCa@mdac.ms.gov

Information Management

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:

- Successfully implemented the Pesticide Products Registration Online System to register 12,000 products from approximately 1,100 companies annually. The system allows MDAC to accept payment from the public with a credit card over the Internet. Also businesses can now save

time and money, reduce paperwork, and enjoy the ease of using credit card or e-check payments.

- Successfully completed an upgrade of the agency's website to provide a new look and user friendly features. The upgrade allows citizens easy access to the agency's operations, provides information about regulatory duties, agriculture news and events, and offers search capabilities for agribusiness.

- Successfully acquired and implemented high speed data communication devices to replace the out-dated dial-up connections. The new devices improve inspection capabilities for field staff including online verification of federally approved product labels and enhanced GPS capabilities for easier location of businesses.

Umesh Sanjanwala , Director

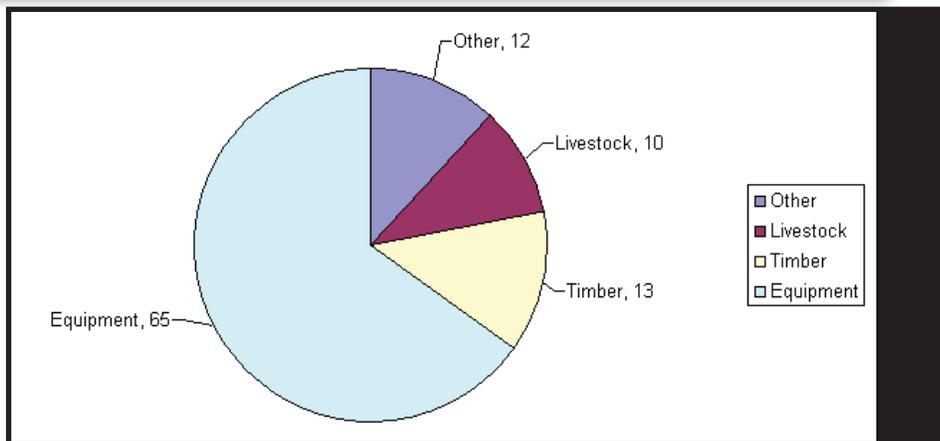
E-mail: Umesh@mdac.ms.gov

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.

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-



Percentage Distribution of Dollar Value of Reported Crimes

Total Dollar Value of \$4,087,312 for FY2011

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 1,100 active brands are on file.

In May 2011, new two-way radios were installed in vehicles operated by Investigators of the Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau. These radios operate on frequencies that will allow Investigators to communicate with the majority of Sheriff's Departments around the state. In addition, by early 2012, the Investigators will be able to

communicate car to car over the entire state using the Mississippi Wireless Network. The Investigators will also be able to communicate with the Bureau's main office in Jackson from anywhere in the state using the new system.

Robert Jordan, Director

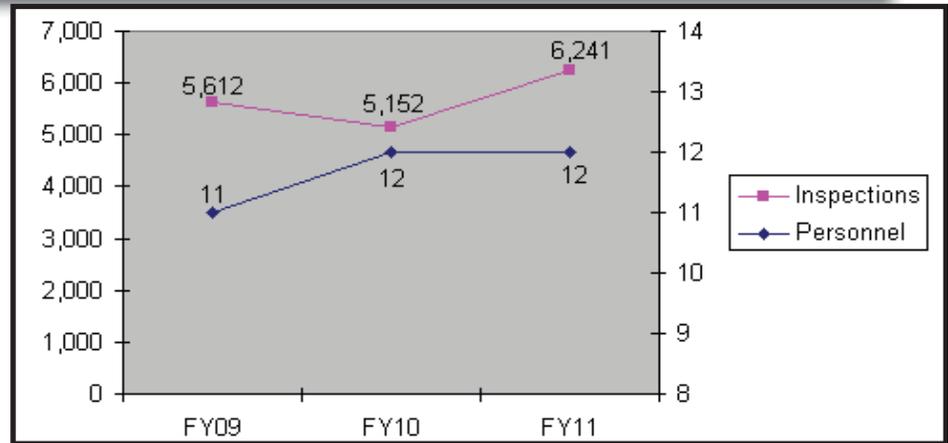
E-mail: RobertJ@mdac.ms.gov

Regulatory Services - Consumer Protection Division

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 2011, the division continued improvement in efficiency. The division handled more than 92 food sanitation complaints, as well as referring other food-related complaints that did not come under the division's purview to the proper department or agency, which would include U.S.D.A., FDA or the State Department of Health. Stepped up enforcement of the Catfish Marketing Law by the division became necessary in the Spring of 2011 when several complaints were received indicating a few restaurants were slipping in foreign fish under the guise of USA Farm Raised Catfish. The later part of the fiscal year, over 400 restaurant inspections took place, with fifty (12.5%) found to be in violation by mislabeling their offerings to the public. All violations by the restaurants were corrected and apparently "unintentional" mistakes on the part of the proprietors.

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) in designated retail food establishments, under a U.S.D.A. Cooperative Agreement; has a memorandum of understanding with the Mississippi Department of Health concerning retail food sanitation to alleviate job duplications and more efficiency, and has a natural disaster partnership with the US Food and Drug Administration to coordinate with their agency and other state agencies in the event of a natural disaster such as a hurricane or a tornado outbreak.



Number of Retail Food Sanitation Inspections FY09 through FY11

The numbers below give some idea of the scope of our responsibilities:

- Pre-packaged items weighed 34,731 (7.55 % placed off-sale)
- Cases of shell eggs inspected 34,660
- Scales tested (100 pounds or less) 5,804 (2.45 % rejected)
- Labeling Inspections 5,650
- Meat compliance inspections 5,804
- Retail food sanitation inspections* 6,241 (3.90 % failed)
- Disposition of garbage store inspections 6,167
- UPC price verification inspections 385 (12.99% failed)

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 pro-

gram for field inspection staff and office personnel. The first six months of FY 2011, concluded the third year of our division's "New Direction in Food Sanitation Program". This program has proven to continually be very successful in reducing the number of sanitation violations in the stores as well as making the general public more aware of the condition of the stores in which they shop. This program has not changed the method of conducting a sanitation inspection, but was designed and implemented 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.ms.gov

Regulatory Services - Petroleum Division

The Petroleum Products Inspection Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce insures the quality of fuel purchased within the state. All retail motor fuel products which include gasoline, ethanol blended fuel, diesel fuel, biodiesel blended fuel, and kerosene are analyzed by the Mississippi State Chemical Lab to insure product compliance within ASTM specifications, which include octane, alcohol content, presence of water, and biodiesel content. The Zeltex octane analyzer aids state inspectors in its use as a screening device to test for proper Federal Trade Commission octane ratings of fuel sold in the State of Mississippi. The division recently purchased a Scully water detector

to be used as a pilot program for inspectors. This water detector allows inspectors to immediately identify the presence of water in underground storage tanks, which has become increasingly difficult to detect with ethanol blended fuels.

State of the art slide-in calibration units are provided for all field personnel allowing them a safer and more efficient manner in which to verify calibration of retail motor fuel dispensing devices, through random retail device inspections. The units also help field staff from disrupting normal business practices on-site while performing inspections.

The Petroleum division responded to over 200 consumer complaints, which are normally addressed within a 24-hour period, as well as conducted routine random device meter and fuel quality inspections. Water and sign inspections are also performed on site during each inspection to insure compliance. Total inspections of 2,961 retail locations involving nearly 72,000 individual pump meters were handled for fiscal year 2011. A total of 2,423 violations were issued for non-compliant devices. Hi-volume meters typical of bulk racks are approved using the petroleum division's 150-gallon Calibration Trailer and; truck stop meters are approved using

Petroleum, continued on next page

Petroleum, continued from page 8

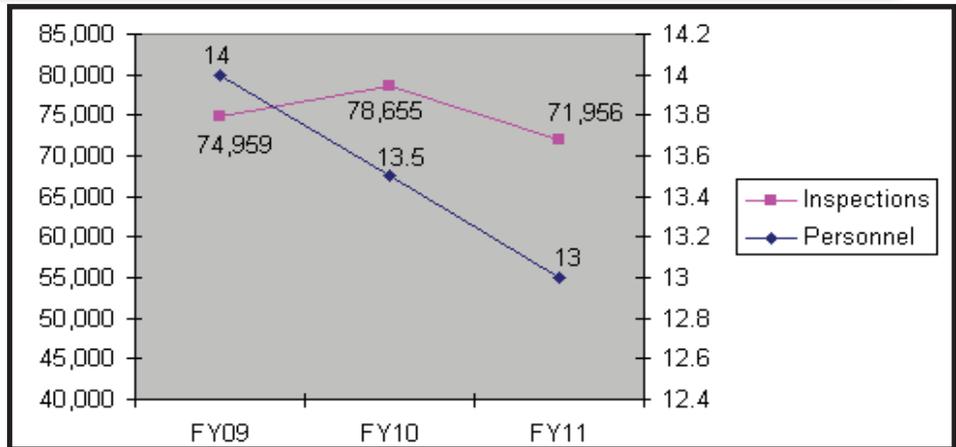
either of the division's two 60-gallon Calibration Trailers.

Two (2) complaints were issued and civil penalties assessed in the amount of \$3,500.00 were collected for non-compliant product. Recent changes in legislation now allow the division to issue complaints without prior incident.

This year the division replaced computers and acquired data cards for all field staff allowing instantaneous reporting of problems and resolutions. It also allows inspectors to access forms, reports and other pertinent information while in the field. Continued use of the WinWam Computer software designed specifically for Weights & Measures officials allows field personnel to work more independently and complete all inspection information for immediate downloads to the main office computer, giving complete access to all inspection data by office personnel. Laptop mounts were also installed in all vehicles to safely transport and use laptops when stationary.

In FY 2011, the Petroleum Division was responsible for the following:

- Stations registered 2,961



Pump Inspections and Personnel for FY09 through FY11

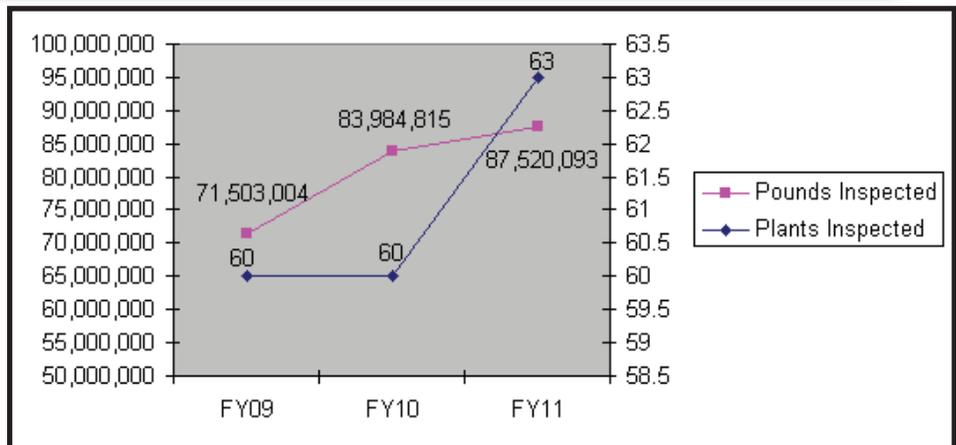
• Petroleum pumps tested	71,956	• Stop sales for water violations	126
• Petroleum products samples	4,512	• Total nozzles	51,622
• Violations issued	2,423		
• Stop sales for fuel violations	147		
• Sales for calibration violations	127		
• Stop sales for sign violations	57		

Jennifer Thompson, Director
E-mail: Jennifer@mdac.ms.gov

Regulatory Services - Meat Inspection Division

The Meat Inspection Division provides food safety assurance to meat and poultry food consumers. This is done by providing inspection services to establishments that prepare meat and poultry food products for entry into intrastate commerce and to some establishments that engage in interstate commerce. This assurance is becoming more critical as more food products are intended to be consumed with little or no further preparation at home.

The Meat Inspection Division is moving from organoleptic inspection to more and newly-evolving scientific methods of assessing the effectiveness of food safety systems. This division is constantly implementing new scientific advancements in food safety. Each establishment that produces meat products now have interventions in place to eliminate or control the pathogens that are most likely to cause food borne illness. The Meat Inspection Division is in the process of transitioning to a new computerized inspection system. The system that we are currently using (Performance Based Inspection System) was designed to meet food safety needs nationwide in a central system. The new inspection system (Public Health Information System) will not only accomplish the original goal of PBIS but is also designed to integrate data from all program systems and program areas for use as a tool in making the most informed decisions about food safety.



Pounds and Plants Inspected for FY09 through FY11

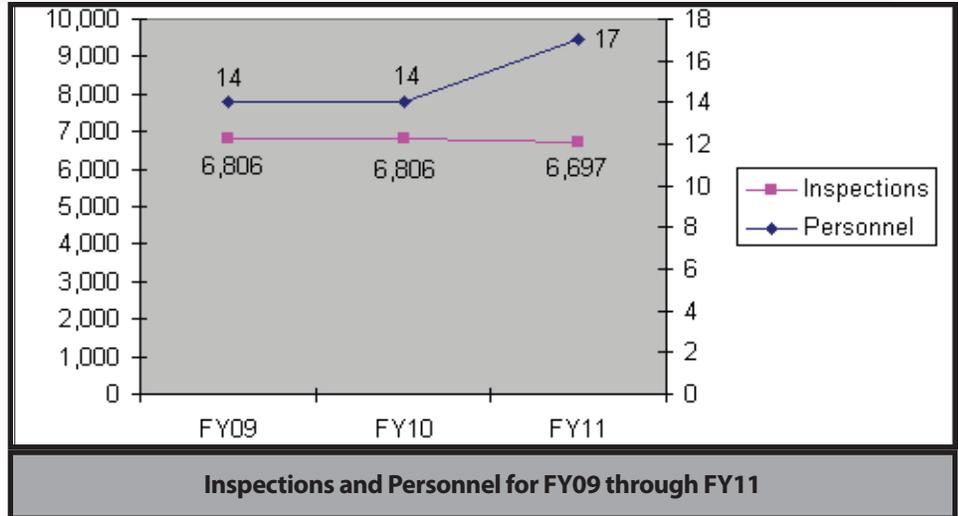
The following are numbers that give you an idea about the scope of the Meat Inspection Division:

• Pounds of red meat inspected	49,033,311	• Number of state meat plants licenses issued	38
• Pounds of poultry inspected	38,500,158	• Number T/A plant (no state license required)	21
• Number of animals inspected	254,280		
• Number of quail inspected	162,054		
• Number of rabbits inspected	22,945		

Richard Benton, Director
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Regulatory Services - Weights and Measures Division

The Weights and Measures Division serves a valuable consumer and commercial protection function within the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. The division's pursuit of equality in the marketplace is evident by the variety of services provided to Mississippi consumers. The division promotes marketplace equity in commercial transactions through testing and inspecting commercial devices, package inspection, UPC-price verification- all businesses that use UPC scanning systems are subject to inspection. Testing is done by randomly selecting items, recording the display price, then verifying the posted price matches the scanned price; if items fail the audit, the store manager is notified and the problem must be corrected immediately. The department also investigates any weights and measures complaints. The department licenses anyone who sells, installs, or repairs commercially used weighing or measuring devices.



Heavy Capacity Scales Inspector unloading weight cart and 33,000 pounds of test weights for testing a truck scale for accuracy of the scale.

The Weights and Measures Division has the responsibility for insuring fairness in all commercial transactions involving weighing and measuring devices used in the State of Mississippi. The division also is charged with the responsibility of the calibration and testing of scales and measurement equipment used in commerce and trade to ensure the accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices in the market place. Verify the quantity of both bulk and packaged commodities. Enforce the quality, advertising and labeling standards in commercial transactions through testing and inspecting commercial devices, price verification, check weighing packages, public education, and investigating and resolving complaints.

State Metrology Laboratory

The Weights and Measures Division also maintains a State Metrology Laboratory located on the campus of Alcorn State University in Lor-

man, Mississippi which is accredited by the National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST) which certifies weighing and measuring test equipment to validate the accuracy of these standards. The lab provides certification and calibration services which are available for government, commercial and private entities for the testing and calibrating of mass, volume, and length used by service companies that install, repair, and test scales and gas provers used for commerce in the state of Mississippi.

Moisture Meter Testing Laboratory

The Mississippi Moisture Meter Laboratory is also a part of the Weights and Measures Division and is located on the campus of the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, Mississippi which provides testing and inspection of devices used to measure the moisture content of agricultural products offered for sale, processed or stored, using standard methods set by the USDA. The Moisture Meter Lab also compiles grain standards used in the inspection of grain moisture meters tested in the State of Mississippi.

Weights and Measures Division has:

1 Director; 1 Director's Assistant; 2 Supervisors; 11 Inspectors; 1 Metrologist and 1 Metrologist Assistant.

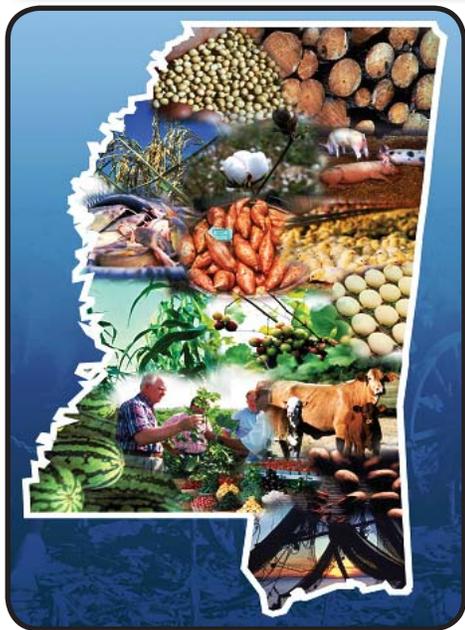
The Weights and Measures personnel was responsible for the following:

- Tested 1,029 heavy scales and rejected 199
- Tested 3,000 intermediate scales and rejected 290
- Tested 127 livestock scales and rejected 19
- Tested 40 rail scales and rejected 13
- Calibrated 21 dairy farm milk tanks

- Bonded 151 Weighmaster inspections and failed 36
- Conducted 316 pulpwood/timber inspections and rejected 59
- Checked 497 packages and failed 37
- Handled 181 UPC inspections and failed 28
- Conducted 4,082 metrology lab calibrations
- Tested 194 gram scales and rejected 54
- Tested 166 grain moisture meters and rejected 2
- Oven tested 65 soybeans, 55 corn, 99 wheat and 19 Rice samples

 Connie Braswell, Director
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Marketing



Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, employing approximately 29% of the state's workforce either directly or indirectly. In Mississippi, agriculture is a 7 billion-dollar industry, with a 14 billion dollar economic impact each year. There are approximately 42,400 farms in the state covering 11.2 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.
- Marketed the *Mississippi Farmers Market Cookbook* with recipes submitted from Mississippians statewide.
- Counseled companies, producers, and organizations.
- Worked with the Mississippi Farmers Market to promote agriculture and healthy eating through cooking demonstrations and other events.
- Administered the Mississippi Certified Farmers Market Program, which is an ongoing marketing initiative for farmers markets across the state.
- Assisted certified farmers markets with advertising costs through this marketing initiative.
- Assisted in marketing of the Mississippi Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- Managed the Specialty Crop Block Grant to

assist Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Growers, beekeepers, and industry.

- Awarded eight grants to universities and producer organizations.
- Worked with Mississippi State University and Alcorn State University on Federal State Marketing Improvement Program grants.
- Continued to support the Catfish Country of Origin Law in restaurants, which went into effect July 1, 2008.
- Managed multiple assistance and disaster programs.
- Conducted two educational workshops for growers and agriculture industry with participation of over 210 people.
- Collaborated with Mississippi State University to assist in conducting five additional workshops and field days with 350 participants.

International Trade

- Member of the Southern United States Trade Association, encompassing 15 southern states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Its 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 1928, 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 46,054 subscribers is not limited to in-state residents but goes to out-of-state residents as well. It 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 59 Mississippi farmers markets.

Trade Shows, Conferences and Fairs

- Mississippi State Fair.
- Dixie National Rodeo & Livestock Show and Parade.
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.
- Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture.
- Farmers market manager workshop.
- High tunnel field days.
- Food safety classes

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 2011, 1060 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 2011, 740 companies were allocated funding.
- More than \$650,000 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 3,900 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

Marketing, continued on next page

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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.

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*, which has a circulation of 47,400 readers per year.

Thirteen livestock auction markets are reported

by eight cross-trained Mississippi Board of Animal Health personnel. Prices collected from the twelve sales represent 85% of all the livestock markets throughout the state.

Agritourism

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 be-

ing 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 committed to promoting agritourism in our state.

Andy Prosser, Director

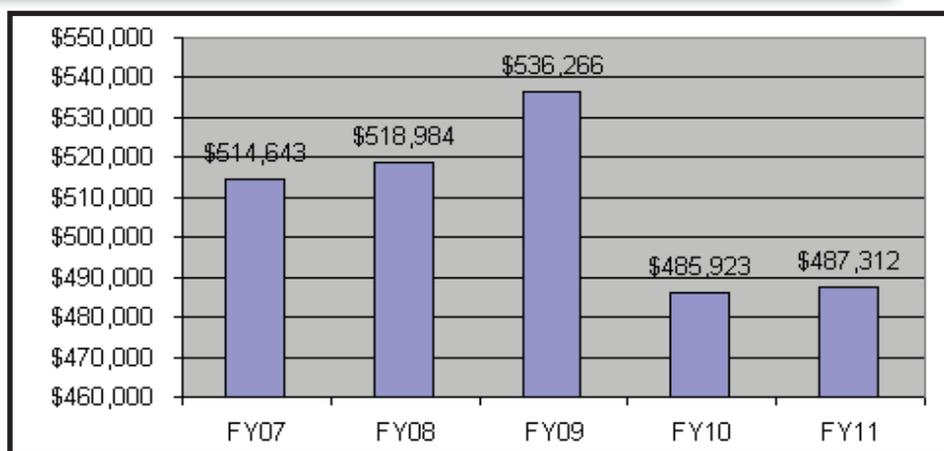
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Agriculture Museum

The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum was visited by over 140,000 visitors from all 50 states and 30 countries.

The Museum continues to host educational events throughout the year. With the help of organizations such as the MS Egg Marketing Board, the MS Beef Council, MS Farm Bureau and the MSU Extension Service, the Museum can educate the public about the importance of agriculture and the state's commodities to our visitors. Some of the event highlights include:

- During the month of February, the museum displays artifacts and information about influential people from the African American community that impacted agriculture such as George Washington Carver.
- The Easter Egg Hunt was attended by over 1,000 visitors who enjoyed complimentary hot dogs and cokes, egg dyeing, games and the egg hunt.
- Summer Kids' Camp focused on the 'Life of a Farmer', including activities such as touring the working farmstead and experiencing demonstrations of the print shop, blacksmith shop and doctors office.
- Over 6,000 children and adults attended the October Pumpkin Adventure that included a hay ride tour of gardens and Small Town Mississippi, a snack, a walk around the museum and a pumpkin to take home.
- Harvest Festival was visited by over 5,000 people, of which 3,500 were children. This educational event showed demonstrations each day of the Bisland Cotton gin, saw mill, cane mill, print shop, blacksmith shop, grist mill and dutch oven cooking. The event also featured hit and miss engines, blue grass music, antique tractors and vehicles from the Antique Vehicle Club of Mississippi.
- Over 2,000 visitors attended the Museum's Country Christmas that included seeing Small Town MS in lights, a Christmas play featuring the Pearl River Redneck and Dora the Rat, and a breakfast sampler, all of which were complimentary.



Museum Revenue From FY07 through FY11

The Museum received a new model railroad exhibit donated by Dr. Jim and Gloria Martin of Jackson. The new display is an O gauge and displays various scenes of rural agriculture.

The Museum has been awarded the following grants:

- A Recreational Trails Grant from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks in the amount of \$100,000.00 for improvements and additions to the existing nature trail. The grant will help the museum improve visitor's perception and knowledge about the importance of natural resources to the agriculture industry and the various native trees of Mississippi.
- The Mississippi Arts Commission awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,100.00 to help present the Harvest Festival. The funds will help pay for demonstrators and advertising.
- The Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,475.00 as a reimbursement for advertisement expenses.

The Museum hosted a free harmonica workshop

and concert by George Winston, a Mississippi musician and sponsor of The Winston Project, Inc. This project is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing prevention and intervention programs and services to Mississippi youth to combat juvenile delinquency. The Museum will serve as a partner in their efforts by offering a place for the mentoring workshops to youth in the Jackson area.

The Mississippi Farm Bureau-Women in Agriculture host "AG in the Classroom" teacher workshops for educators for continuing education credits. The Museum participates in these workshops all over the state and encourages teachers to bring their students to visit the museum. The Museum also participates in other educational fairs and programs through the Mississippi Project Learning Tree, the United Way and other area attractions and museums.

Through the Mississippi Department of Finance, Bureau of Buildings and Grounds, the Museum

Agriculture Museum, *continued from page 12*

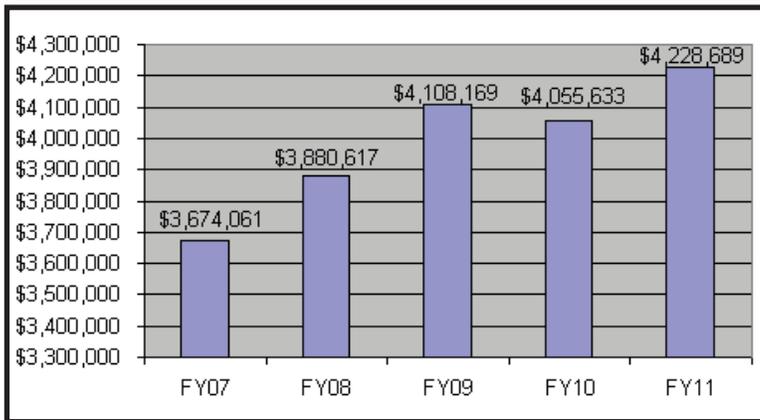
was able to reconstruct the canopy on museum main building.

The Museum's revenue in 2011 totaled \$487,312.02 exceeding expenses of \$474,951.08.

Charlie Dixon, Director

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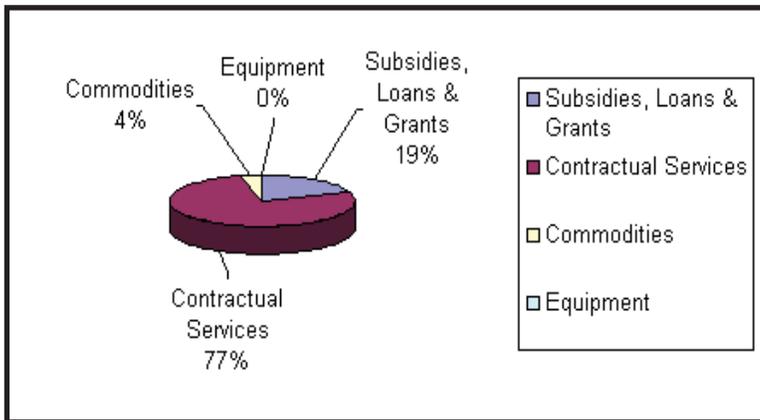
Charts & Graphs



License and Inspection Fee Collections for FY07 through FY11

The money includes *Market Bulletin*, *Egg Marketing*, *Corn*, *Peanut Promotion Boards*, *Weights and Measures*, and other regulatory income.

FY2011 total is \$4,228,689



Egg Marketing Board Special Funds

Total Revenues	\$77,283
Total Expenditures	\$67,419