



# MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

**Cindy Hyde-Smith,  
Commissioner  
2013 Annual  
Report**

**Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce  
121 North Jefferson Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Phone (601) 359-1100  
Fax (601) 354-6290  
[www.mdac.ms.gov](http://www.mdac.ms.gov)**

# Letter from Your Commissioner



**Cindy Hyde-Smith, Commissioner**

I am proud to present you with the 2013 Annual Report of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). Our mission is to promote Mississippi's \$7.5 billion agricultural industry while regulating laws governing the various agricultural sectors from on-farm production to processing and retail markets. MDAC is committed to making sure that the state's farmers and ranchers can continue to provide safe food and fiber while maintaining the utmost in consumer confidence in the marketplace.

The services MDAC provides touch the lives of every Mississippian, not just those directly involved in agricultural endeavors. From ensuring that the food that you eat is safe for consumption to ensuring that the fuel that you purchase is safe for your vehicle, MDAC strives for fairness

and equity in the marketplace to protect all Mississippians.

The accomplishments highlighted in this report are a testament to the Department's hardworking and dedicated staff that strives to operate efficiently and effectively while utilizing taxpayer funds wisely. Collaborations and joint efforts with other State and Federal agencies and the Mississippi Legislature are integral to MDAC's success.

The Bureau of Regulatory Services and the Bureau of Plant Industry are responsible for the many regulatory functions of the Department which extend from the farm to the marketplace. Regulatory Service Inspectors conduct sanitation inspections on grocery stores and meat plants to ensure that food safety regulations are adhered to. They are also responsible for the certification of gas pumps and verification of weights and measures. The Bureau of Plant Industry protects the agricultural and horticultural interests of the state from harmful insects, diseases, and weeds. The Bureau is also responsible for registering pesticides, feeds, seeds, fertilizers, and soil amendments sold in the state, as well as, permitting all pest control operators throughout the state.

The Market Development Division is responsible for promoting Mississippi's agricultural products and agriculturally-related businesses at home and abroad through programs such as the Certified Farmers Market Program, the Agritourism Registration Program, Farm-to-School, Make Mine Mississippi, and the Mississippi Market Bulletin. The Market Development Division strives to enhance consumer awareness of the quality products that Mississippi has to offer.

MDAC also assists agricultural producers who have been the target of agricultural theft through the Mississippi Agricultural Theft Bureau. The Bureau is charged to investigate any theft that involves agribusiness, including timber theft, equipment theft, chemical theft, and livestock theft.

In addition to overseeing the responsibilities of the Agency, duties of the Commissioner of Agriculture include leadership through service on the following state boards:

- Mississippi Board of Animal Health
- Mississippi Central Farmers Market Board
- Mississippi Fair Commission
- Mississippi Land, Water, and Timber Resources Board
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Permit Board
- Mississippi Egg Marketing Board
- State Seed Board
- State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

This report details the many accomplishments of MDAC this year in each of the various Divisions and Bureaus. I encourage you to learn more about the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce through our website [www.mdac.ms.gov](http://www.mdac.ms.gov).

Sincerely,  
Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Commissioner

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# Mississippi Agriculture Facts

- **\$7.5 billion value of production**
- **42,400 farms**
- **11.2 million acres of land farmed**
- **19.6 million acres of forest land**
- **640,000 acres of ponds and lakes**
- **Average farm size: 263 acres**

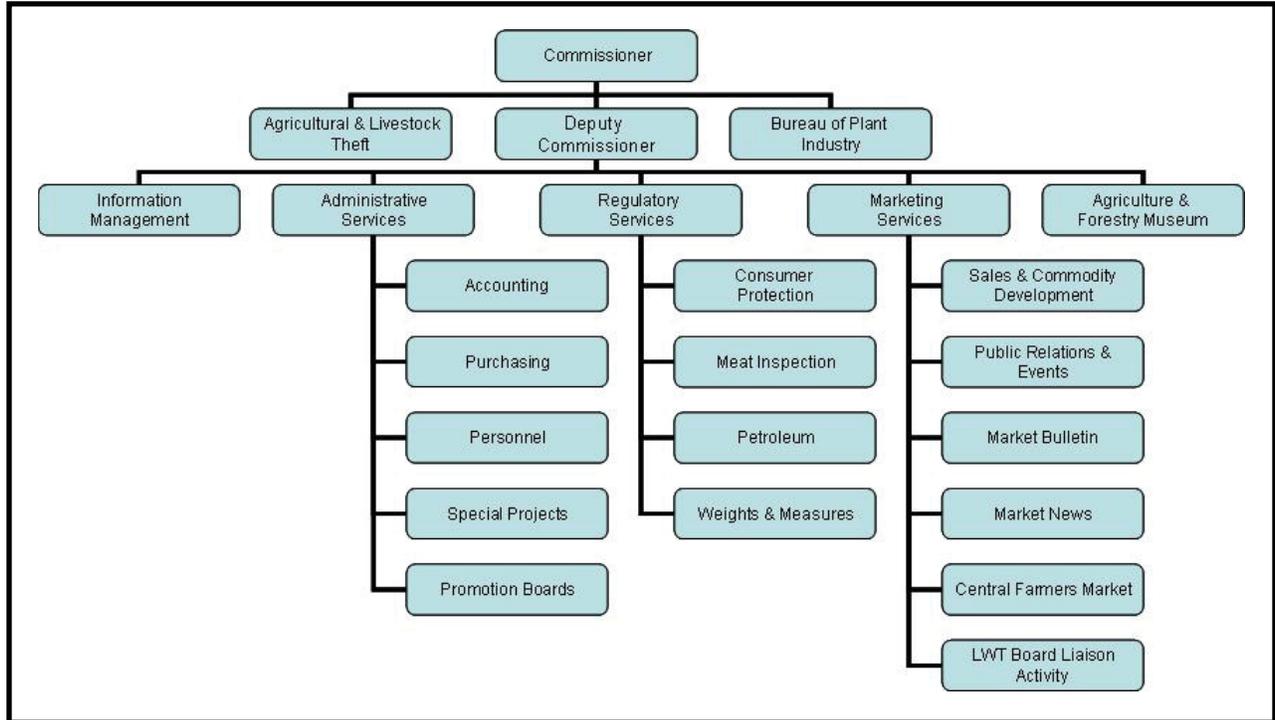
# Mississippi Value of Production

<b>Broilers/Eggs/Chickens</b>	<b>\$2.5 billion</b>
<b>Soybeans</b>	<b>\$1.2 billion</b>
<b>Forestry</b>	<b>\$1 billion</b>
<b>Corn</b>	<b>\$891 million</b>
<b>Cotton</b>	<b>\$397 million</b>
<b>Cattle</b>	<b>\$329 million</b>
<b>Catfish</b>	<b>\$165 million</b>
<b>Hay</b>	<b>\$145 million</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>\$134 million</b>
<b>Rice</b>	<b>\$124 million</b>
<b>Hogs</b>	<b>\$102 million</b>
<b>Horticulture</b>	<b>\$96 million</b>
<b>Sweet Potatoes</b>	<b>\$79 million</b>
<b>Peanuts</b>	<b>\$52 million</b>
<b>Milk</b>	<b>\$40 million</b>
<b>Grain Sorghum</b>	<b>\$23 million</b>
<b>Government Payments</b>	<b>\$217 million</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$7.5 billion</b>

**Source: Mississippi State University**

# Administration

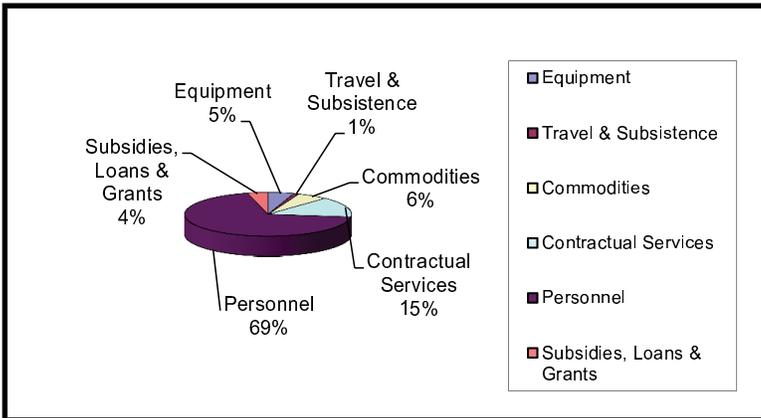
## Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Organization Chart



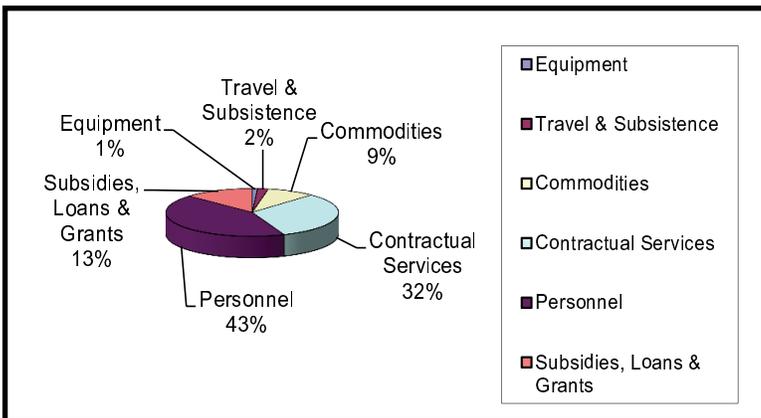
### Administration

**Cindy Hyde-Smith - Commissioner**  
**Andy Prosser - Deputy Commissioner**  
**John Campbell - BPI Director**

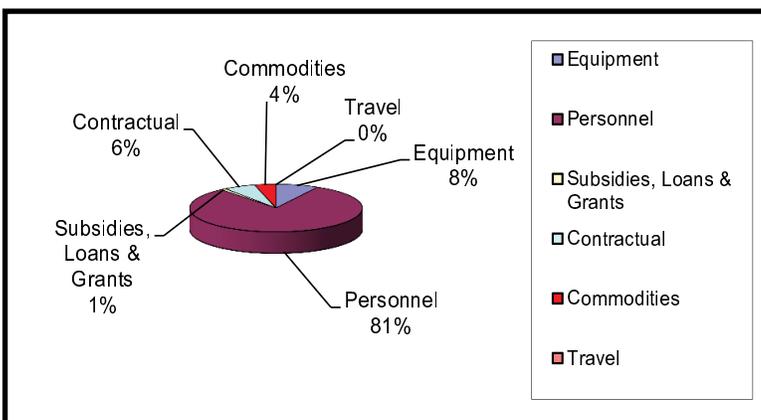
# Revenues and Expenditures



MDAC Support Budget General and Special Funds FY 2013	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$15,010,336</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$13,851,572</b>

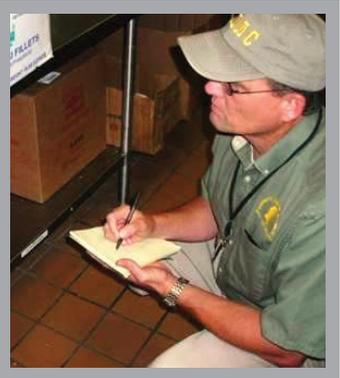
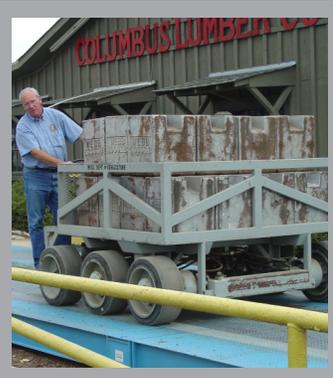


Special Funds Only	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,604,800</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,446,036</b>



General Fund Only	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$9,405,536</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$9,405,536</b>

# Regulatory Services



The Bureau of Regulatory Services is a regulatory bureau within the Department that is divided into area-specific divisions, which regulates businesses in the state. The Legislature established a regulatory office within the Department pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. 69-1-203. The goal of the Bureau of Regulatory Services is to ensure that businesses maintain their activities within a certain framework of laws and regulations, with the purpose of protecting the public health and welfare and establishing equity in the marketplace.

The Bureau of Regulatory Services administers state laws and promulgates regulations to support those laws in the areas of Meat Inspection, Retail Food Sanitation, Labeling laws, Peanuts, Petroleum, and Weights and Measures. The Bureau partners with federal and other state agencies.

## Core Divisions

- Consumer Protection
- Peanuts and Federal / State Inspection Service (fruits and vegetables)
- Petroleum
- Meat Inspection
- Weights and Measures
- State Metrology Lab

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 Julie McLemore, Director  
 E-mail: Julie@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. Also, to ensure fairness and equity in the marketplace through the administration and enforcement of specific laws and regulations designed primarily to protect the interest of the general public.

In FY 2013, the Division continued efficiency improvement. The Division handled 101 food sanitation complaints and referred other food-related complaints that did not come under the Division's purview to the proper department or agency, including the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food & Drug Administration (FDA), or the State Department of Health.

In FY 2013, the Division conducted 22 USDA Country of Origin (COOL) reviews in retail food establishments, as assigned by USDA under a cooperative agreement. This generated \$13,200 in revenues for the Division.

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, the Division also has weights and measures responsibilities as well as administering six other laws. The Division also conducts meat compliance inspections in retail food establishments under a USDA Cooperative Agreement; performs USDA Country of Origin Labeling in designated retail food establishments under a USDA Cooperative Agreement; and works with the Mississippi State Department of Health to regulate retail food sanitation and the sale of pure syrup, honey, and honey products. The Division also has a natural disaster partnership with the FDA to coordinate with that agency and other state agencies in the event of a natural disaster, such as a hurricane or a tornado outbreak.

### Consumer Protection Statistics

- Retail food sanitation inspections (2.32% failed) 6,260
- Pre-packaged items weighed (2.20% placed off-sale) 31,299

- Cases of shell eggs inspected 32,896
- Scales tested (100 pounds or less) (2.44% rejected) 6,259
- Labeling Inspections 5,286
- Meat compliance inspections 5,713
- Inspections for commercial garbage disposal compliance 6,261
- Universal Product Code price verification inspections (1.29% failed) 449

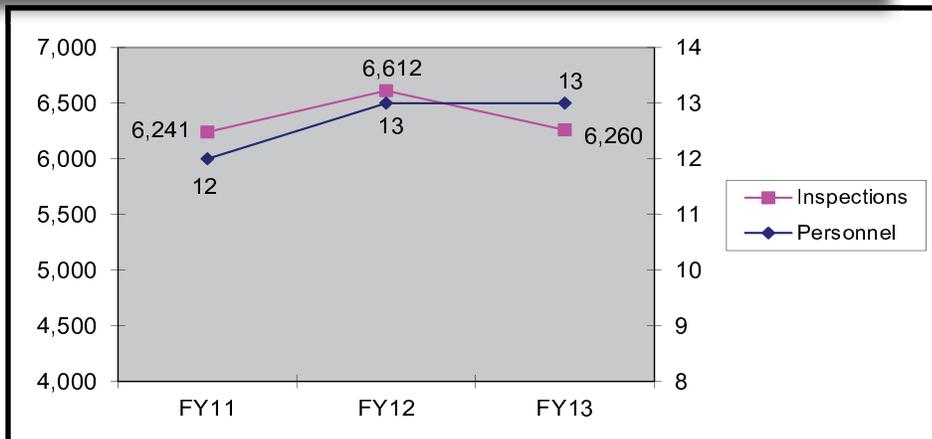
The Consumer Protection Division has continued to increase efficiency in the field and office through the use of laptop computers and a specialized computer software inspection program for field inspection staff and office personnel. In FY 2013, the Division continued its "New Direction in Food Sanitation Program," with placards being placed in all retail food establishments to inform consumers of the successes and failures of stores.

**Consumer Protection**, continued on next page

## Consumer Protection, *continued from page 7*

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.

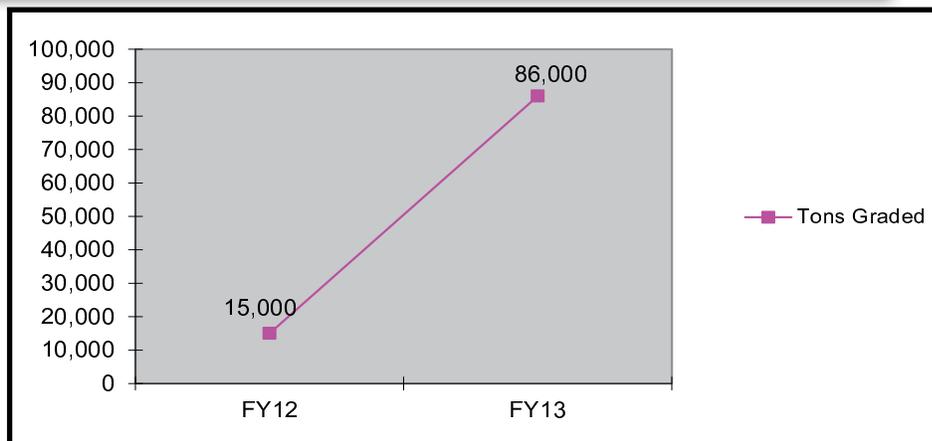
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 Adam Choate, Director  
 E-mail: Adam@mdac.ms.gov



**Number of retail food sanitation inspections FY 2011 through FY 2013.**

## Peanuts and Federal/State Inspection Service

The Federal/State Inspection Division provides fruit and vegetable inspections, as well as third party food safety audits known as GAP/GHP audits (Good Agriculture Practices/Good Handling Practices). All inspections and food safety audits are provided statewide to farms, packers, and wholesalers. Farmer stock peanut inspections have increased dramatically from their beginning in 2006. In 2006, there was only one peanut buying point that graded 2,500 tons and employed two contract employees. As of FY 2013, there are four peanut buying points in the state, employing multiple seasonal contract workers.



**Tons of peanuts graded FY 2012 through FY 2013.**

In FY 2013, the Peanut and Federal/State Inspection Division received USDA GAP/GHP Harmonized accreditation. This allows for the inspector to provide a one-audit accreditation. This reduces audit fatigue and allows operations to focus on food safety rather than passing multiple audits.

During FY 2013, 45 GAP/GHP audits were performed.

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 Kevin Riggan, Director  
 E-mail: Kevin@mdac.ms.gov

# Regulatory Services - Petroleum Division

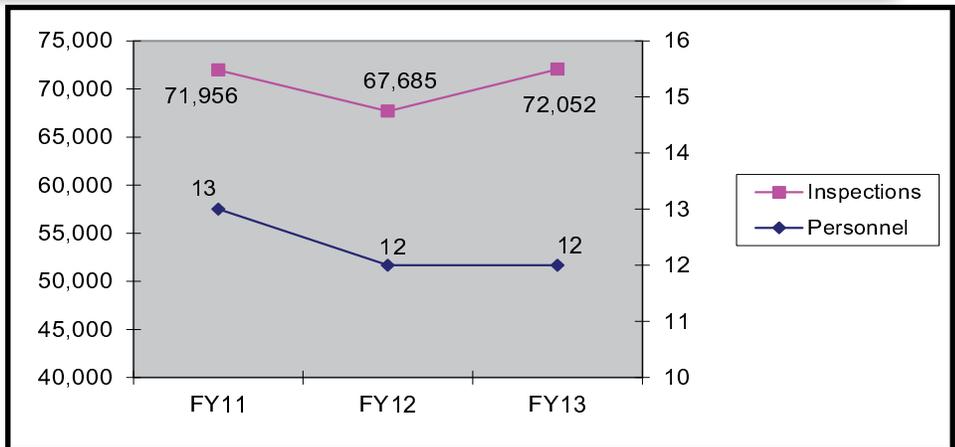
The Petroleum Products Inspection Division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce ensures the quality of fuel purchased within the state. All retail motor fuel products, which include gasoline, ethanol blended fuel, diesel fuel, biodiesel blended fuel, and kerosene are analyzed by the Mississippi State Chemical Lab to ensure product compliance within ASTM specifications, including octane, flash point, alcohol content, presence of water, and biodiesel content.

The purchase of a Scully water detector for each inspector has proved to be both a cost savings measure and an extremely accurate method of checking for water in underground storage tanks. 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. At the first hint of water, the detector will sound an alarm, giving the inspector the potential to place the product off-sale.

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 Petroleum Division responded to nearly 300 consumer complaints, resulting in nearly one-third being out of compliance. Complaints are typically addressed within a 24-hour period. In addition, the Division conducted routine device meter and fuel quality inspections. Water and sign inspections are also performed on-site during each inspection to ensure compliance. Total inspections of 2,911 retail locations involving over 72,000 individual devices were handled for fiscal year 2013. A total of 3,928 violations were issued for non-compliant devices.



**Pump inspections and personnel for FY 2011 through FY 2013.**

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 the division's 60-gallon calibration trailers. With the addition of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) now available through a metering device at most major truck stops and some independents, test measures specific for DEF have been purchased and will be used as part of the calibration trailer unit.

the inspectors the ability to email pictures of problem situations instantaneously, as well as send and receive emails and submit inspection reports relevant to complaints and other information from the field. Laptop mounts in all vehicles have proven a safe means to transport and to use laptops for data entry while on site.

Administrative complaints were issued for non-compliant product and civil penalties assessed and collected in the amount of \$66,400.00. That money is deposited into the general fund.

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

### Petroleum Division Responsibilities

• Stations registered	2,911
• Petroleum pumps tested	72,052
• Petroleum products samples	2,480
• Violations issued	3,928
• Stop sales for fuel violations	127
• Sales for calibration violations	122
• Stop sales for sign violations	150
• Stop sales for water violations	231
• Total nozzles	51,883



Continued use of the WinWam Computer software designed specifically for Petroleum officials allows field personnel to work more independently and to complete all inspection information for immediate downloads to the main office computer, giving complete access to all inspection data by office personnel.

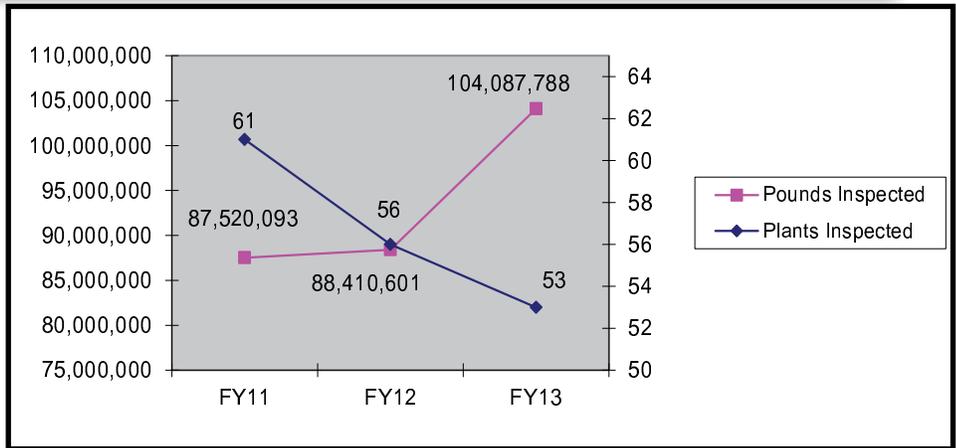
The internet data cards have worked well; however, they are being upgraded to Hotspots that provide better and more effective coverage and use a more integrated technology. They provide

# 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 Division began with the Meat, Meat-Food, and Poultry Regulation and Inspection Law of 1960. The law was amended with the Mississippi Meat Inspection Law of 1968, at which time it entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the cooperative agreement is to establish a meat and poultry inspection system that is equal to the federal inspection system. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce also has cooperative agreements for the Talmadge-Aiken Program and the Compliance and Investigation Division program.

The Meat Inspection Division is moving from organoleptic inspection to 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 current system, Performance Based Inspection System (PBIS), 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 will also integrate data from all



**Pounds of meat and plants inspected for FY 2011 through FY 2013.**

program systems and program areas for use as a tool in making the most informed decisions about food safety.

### Meat Inspection Division Statistics

- Pounds of red meat inspected 48,670,898
- Pounds of poultry inspected 55,416,890
- Number of animals inspected 98,699
- Number of rabbits inspected 29,997
- Number of state meat plant licenses issued 32
- Number T/A plant (no state license required) 21

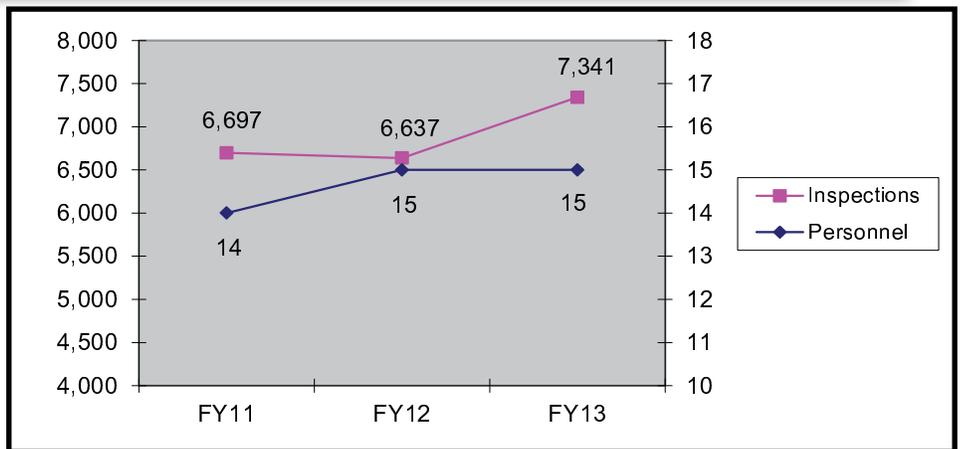


Richard Benton, Director  
E-mail: RichardB@mdac.ms.gov

# Regulatory Services - Weights and Measures Division

The Weights and Measures Division serves a valuable consumer and commercial protection function for the people of the State of Mississippi. The Division regulates the use of weighing and measuring devices used commercially within the state to ensure compliance with the Weights and Measures Law of 1964. The team of dedicated weights and measures inspectors and officials ensure equity in the marketplace by making routine inspections on those devices. The inspectors inspect and test all types of commercial weighing devices including railroad scales, vehicle scales, and livestock scales and those used to weigh precious metals & stones like gold, silver, and diamonds. The Division promotes marketplace equity through check weighing packages to verify their labeled weight and UPC-price verification of all businesses that use UPC scanning systems. The Division also

**Weights & Measures, continued on next page**



**Inspections and personnel for FY 2011 through FY 2013**

## Weights and Measures, *continued from page 10*



**Testing a conveyor scale at a sweet potato facility.**

investigates complaints involving weighing and measuring devices and their use. In addition, the department licenses scale repairmen and companies that sell, install, and repair weighing or measuring devices within 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. The lab provides testing and inspection of devices used to measure the moisture content of agricultural products offered for sale, processed, or stored, using standard methods

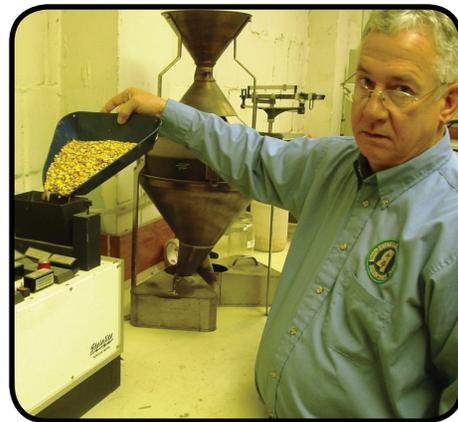
set by the USDA. The Moisture Meter Lab also compiles grain standards used in the inspection of grain moisture meters tested in the State of Mississippi.

### Weights and Measures Division Overview

- Tested 1,330 heavy scales and rejected 237
- Tested 4,108 intermediate scales and rejected 391
- Tested 153 livestock scales and rejected 16
- Tested 54 rail scales and rejected 6
- Calibrated 65 dairy farm milk tanks
- Bonded 93 Weighmaster inspections and rejected 28
- Conducted 235 pulpwood/timber inspections and rejected 35
- Checked 569 packages and rejected 44
- Handled 134 UPC inspections and rejected 14
- Tested 437 gram scales and rejected 89
- Tested 163 grain moisture meters and rejected 8
- Oven tested 20 soybean, 10 corn, 71 wheat, and 14 rice samples

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Connie Braswell, Director

E-mail: [Connie@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:Connie@mdac.ms.gov)



## Regulatory Services - State Metrology Lab

The Regulatory Division maintains the State Metrology Laboratory located on the campus of Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. The lab 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 certification allows the lab to provide certification and calibration services for government, commercial, and private entities. Once certified, the equipment then can be used for testing and calibrating of mass and volume standards. This certification allows the Department to test all measuring devices for accuracy used in commerce which is traceable to NIST.



**State Metrology Laboratory  
Lorman, MS.**

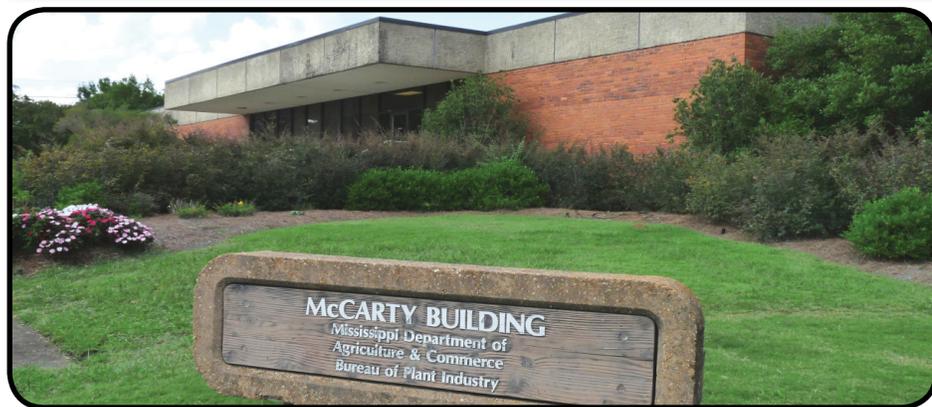
### The Metrology Laboratory Overview

- Total calibrations were 4,752.
- Collected \$52,433.75 in calibrations fees.

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Mel Isajgi, Director

E-mail: [Mel@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:Mel@mdac.ms.gov)

# Bureau of Plant Industry



**Bureau of Plant Industry is located 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. 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 938, 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 69-23-135
- 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 600 nursery inspections and 981 nursery dealer inspections.
- Conducted 24 inspections for Brown Garden Snail on plant materials shipped from California.
- Certified and inspected 19,311 colonies of honey bees.
- Permitted 55,445 bee colonies into Mississippi.
- Issued 431 phytosanitary certificates on plant material and seed export.
- Found no Sweet Potato Weevils after setting 3,111 traps on 22,500 acres of sweet potatoes.
- Conducted Cogongrass demonstration

program for 241 private land owners. 1,095 acres were treated in the program.

- Collected assessment fees on 261,768 acres of cotton by farmers participating in state wide eradication of the Boll Weevil.
- Issued 18 landscape horticulturist licenses.
- Issued 4 tree surgery licenses.
- Conducted 1,459 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 323 surveys in 53 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 76 surveys in 7 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 61 surveys in 4 counties at rice production fields for Bacterial Leaf Streak of Rice. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 37 surveys in 6 counties at rice production fields for Giant African Snail, Apple Snails, Asiatic Rice Borer, South American Rice Miner, Bakanae, Senegal Tea Plant, YeGu, and Panicle Rice Mite. All sites were found to be negative.
- Conducted 410 surveys statewide in pastures and livestock facilities for the noxious weed, Tropical Soda Apple. No positive sites were found.
- Conducted 1,991 surveys statewide in nurseries, nursery dealers, and the environment for the noxious weed, Giant Salvinia. One positive site found (Ross Barnett) and eradicated.
- Conducted 1,991 surveys statewide in nurseries and croplands for the noxious weed, Benghal Dayflower. No new positive sites were found.
- Conducted 1,831 surveys statewide in nurseries, nursery dealers, and the environment for the noxious weed, Cogongrass. 66 counties were found to be positive.
- Placed 6 traps in 6 counties at lumber mills and furniture manufactures for the Sirex Woodwasp. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 209 traps in 45 counties on ash trees for the Emerald Ash Borer. All traps were found to be negative.
- Placed 14 traps in 4 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.

**BPI, continued on next page**



**BPI Inspector investigating termite damage.**

- Placed 75 traps in 11 counties at high risk sites for Africanized Honey Bee. All traps were found to be negative.
- Certified and inspected over 10,000 bales of hay free of fire ants for over 78 producers.

### Pesticide Program

- Registered 13,583 pesticide products.
- Collected 300 samples from products available at retail and distribution outlets to check compliance with state and federal pesticide laws.
- Issued 9 stop-sale orders on pesticide products found to be deficient, misbranded, or not registered.
- Issued 38 special-use registrations (Section 24c of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Issued 3 emergency exemptions (Section 18 of FIFRA) on pesticide products.
- Licensed 280 dealers to sell restricted-use pesticide products.
- Issued 655 licenses, 44 permits, and 522 registered technician identification cards to persons engaged in professional services. Ex: Pest control and weed control.
- Issued 2,221 private applicator certificates.
- Issued 565 commercial applicator certificates.
- Made 100 inspections of records kept by private applicators of restricted-use pesticide.
- Conducted 42 producer-establishment inspections, 200 marketplace inspections, 253 inspections of applicator records, 99 inspections of dealer records, and 27 container containment inspections.
- Conducted 49 inspections of pesticide misuse and 84 inspections in agricultural situations.

- Conducted 56 inspections of Agricultural use and 1062 inspections in nonagricultural situations.
- Collected 129 samples under the Pesticide Enforcement Program.
- Conducted 37 worker protection inspections.
- Licensed 217 agricultural aviation pilots, 97 applicators and registered 175 aircraft for agricultural purposes.
- Issued 190 pest management consultants licenses.

### Seed Program and State Seed Testing

#### Laboratory

- Conducted 332 seed inspections.
- Collected 2,668 official regulatory seed samples.
- Found 131 official regulatory seed samples to be in violation of the State Seed Law.
- Issued 1,592 permits for the sale of seed to be planted.
- Tested 17,006 seed samples.
- Conducted 8,168 special tests on seed such as cool germ test, accelerated aging on soybeans, and red rice test.
- Performed a total of 34,763 tests on seed.

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

- Registered 696 feed manufacturers.
- Collected 2,787 feed samples.
- Registered 4,097 fertilizer products from 417

fertilizer companies.

- Registered 101 lime products from 67 distributors.
- Collected 770 fertilizer samples.
- Collected 114 lime samples.

### Public Information Program

Produced the September 2012, December 2012, March 2013, and June 2013 issues of the quarterly newsletter, Plant Industry News. The newsletter presently reaches over 1,900 subscribers.

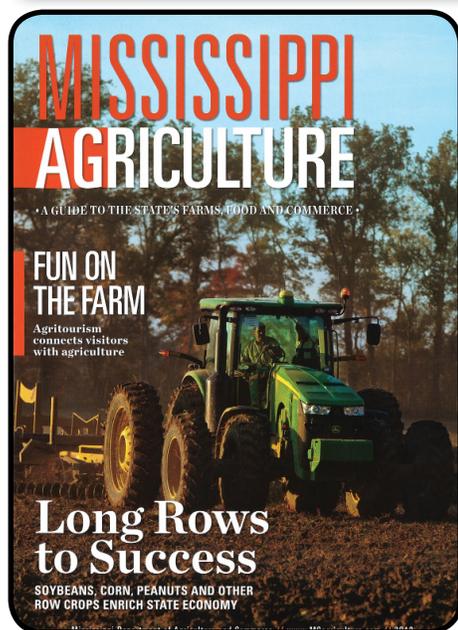
Issued the following 6 press releases: Kudzu Bug Discovered in Two Mississippi Counties, MDAC Assisting Hay Producers to Comply with Fire Ant Quarantine Restrictions for Out-of-State Transport, Africanized Bee Colony Destroyed in Pass Christian, Hyde-Smith Secures Important Products for Mississippi Beekeepers, Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Suspends License of Johnston Seed Company, and Department of Agriculture Revokes Philadelphia Resident's Landscaping License.

The BPI partnered with the Mississippi State University Extension Service to begin offering youth entomology classes. The first class was held in Ackerman in 2013, educating children ages 8 and up on insect biology and how to collect and identify insects.

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John Campbell, Bureau Director

E-mail: JohnCa@mdac.ms.gov





Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, employing approximately 29% of the state's workforce either directly or indirectly. In Mississippi, agriculture is a \$7.5 billion industry. 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.

## Market Development Highlights

- 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 Cook book* 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. There are currently 38 certified 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.

- The 2013 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program awarded Mississippi \$276,351.62 to distribute to organizations that will enhance our state's specialty crop industry. Ten projects were awarded to universities and producer organizations to administer research and programs in areas specifically related to high tunnels, sweet potatoes, food safety, farm to school, farmers market, and beekeeping.
- Worked with 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.
- Conducted educational workshops for growers and agriculture industry across the state.
- 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 international visitors.
- Counseled individuals and associations on export opportunities.
- Assisted in the passage of the Mississippi Agritourism limited liability law. Established guide lines and registration process for agritourism operators, and administers this ongoing and annual program. There are 56 registered agribusiness operations in the state.
- Information to statewide media on all important agricultural events.
- An agricultural commodity directory distributed statewide and located on the web at [www.mdac.ms.gov](http://www.mdac.ms.gov)
- A directory of the 74 Mississippi farmers markets.
- Developed the website [www.farmtoschoolweek.org](http://www.farmtoschoolweek.org) to provide educational and promotional materials and resources for schools serving Mississippi grown items.
- Provided 86 Certificates of Free Sale to companies exporting Mississippi agricultural products.
- Conducted an educational event in conjunction with Mississippi Farm to School Week. Nearly 150 first graders were visited by farmers that grew their lunch items.

## Public Information

Since 1928, the farming community throughout Mississippi has had access to one of the most important farming tools, 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 46,300 includes in-state and out-of-state subscribers.

MDAC published the inaugural edition of *Mississippi Agriculture*, a comprehensive guide to the state's farms, food, and commerce. The annual publication utilizes a combination of original photography, reader-friendly graphics, and farmer profiles to tell the story of Mississippi agriculture from the perspective of those that live it each day. *Mississippi Agriculture* serves as an educational tool to increase awareness of the important role that agriculture plays in the local, state, and global economies. The magazine also promotes the state's largest industry to a growing number of consumers concerned about their families' food source.

The digital version of *Mississippi Agriculture* was available online at [www.msagriculture.com](http://www.msagriculture.com). In addition to featuring the magazine, the website contains hundreds of farm-to-fork recipes, gardening ideas, farmers market guides, nutrition information, and agriculture stats and facts. The magazine was made available to the public at no charge, and 15,000 copies were distributed. It was supported through advertisements and at no cost to the Agency.

## Trade Shows, Conferences, and Fairs

- North American Agricultural Marketing Officials
- Mississippi State Fair
- Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo and Parade
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Conference
- Mississippi Agritourism Association Conference

## 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.

*Marketing, continued on next page*

## Marketing, continued from page 14

At the end of FY 2013, 986 companies across the state in 30 categories belonged to the program.

### Livestock Market News Service

The Livestock and Grain Market News program is a Federal/State cooperative agreement in conjunction with U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A livestock and grain reporter supervises the dissemination of livestock report collecting and disseminating grain price information and radio and television broadcasts.

This office provides price information on livestock and grain to lending institutions, university agricultural economists, consultants, and livestock associations.

Fourteen 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.

### Fruits and Vegetables

A revolving fund is utilized 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 Mississip-

pi 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 the Farm to School Program in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Education. This program is administered by the Department of Defense (DoD), 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 FY 2013, more than \$203,700 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.

In order to increase the number of farmers participating in the Farm to School Program, MDAC established a cost-share program to provide financial assistance to those farmers receiving Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) certifications. Farmers that participate in the DoD Farm to School Program are required to obtain GAP/GHP certification.

Through grant funds, MDAC established the program to reimburse farmers for 75% of the cost (up to \$500) incurred to obtain the GAP/GHP certification.

### Agritourism

Agritourism is a fast-growing part of the future of Mississippi's agriculture. 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. The Department has worked collaboratively with the Mississippi Agritourism Association, the Mississippi State University Extension Service, the Mississippi Development Authority, and the Mississippi Department of Transportation to assist and promote the agritourism industry. Joint efforts have resulted in a new Agritourism Registration Program that provides limited liability to persons engaged in agritourism activities, and a new Signage Program which allows qualified agritourism businesses to have directional signage on the right-of-way of state maintained highways. Fifty-six operations are registered through the Agritourism Registration Program.

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Paige Manning, Director  
E-mail: Paige@mdac.ms.gov

## Mississippi Farmers Market



### MISSISSIPPI FARMERS MARKET

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 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 arti-

sans from across the state and provides a place where consumers can buy products directly from the growers or producers. The Market also rents the facility for private parties and events.



Farmers Market located off High Street in downtown Jackson.

On average, the Market serves more than 100 businesses across the state. 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 rents space from the Market and serves breakfast and lunch six days per week.

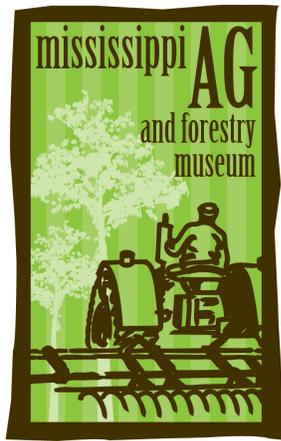
The Mississippi Farmers Market operates from a "Special Fund Account." Income is derived from:

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

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Frank Malta, Director  
E-mail: FrankM@mdac.ms.gov

[www.msfarmersmarket.com](http://www.msfarmersmarket.com)

# Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum



The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum boasts 139,000 visitors annually from all 50 states and 32 countries.

The mission of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum is to create an environment that communicates the value of past and present Mississippi agricultural lifestyles, relationships, and practices, and their relevance to the future of all people.

## Annual Event Highlights

- The Easter Egg Hunt, co-sponsored by the Egg Marketing Board, attracted over 1,000 visitors who enjoyed complimentary hot dogs and drinks, egg dyeing, games, and the egg hunt.
- The Museum hosted a Back to School Night for Teachers, in cooperation with the MS Children's Museum, the MS Museum of Natural Science, and the MS Sports Hall of Fame and Museum.
- More than 5,560 children and adults attended the October Pumpkin Adventure which 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 more than 6,600 people, including over 4,000 children. This educational event consisted of demonstrations as the cane mill, print shop, blacksmith shop and grist mill. The Bisland Cotton Gin, the oldest cotton gin still in operation, ginned 6 bales for visitors. The event also featured hit-and-miss engines, bluegrass music, antique tractors, and live interpreters demonstrating butter churning at the Fortenberry-Parkman Farmstead.
- More than 2,000 visitors attended the Museum's Country Christmas, which included Small Town MS in lights, a breakfast sampler, the reading of "Clarabelle the Cow" and the Gingerbread Gift Market.
- Museum staff assisted in National Ag Day at the MS Farmers Market on March 19, 2013. The Museum helped by recruiting schools to be a part of the celebration. These 4th graders were able to visit with the local farmers selling their goods, plant a seed to take home, and learn

about beef cattle.

## New Projects in 2013

- AgVentures!, held in partnership with Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi Farm Bureau, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, Mississippi Cattlewomen's Association, Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi Soil and Water Commission, and Natural Resources Conservation Service, was presented for 606 fourth grade students and teachers who learned the important role agriculture plays. Interactive activities and displays included a visit to the barnyard, a tour of the nature trail, milking Cloverbelle the Cow at the 4-H Museum, a demonstration of cultivation and composting, and presentations about corn and the cotton gin.

- With some assistance from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History which was awarded a grant, the Ag Museum underwent an inventory of its vast collection and developed a master plan for the future of the Museum. The plan provides the framework for developing interpretive media of all kinds in both the short and long terms. The document was developed to help guide the stakeholders in the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum into future plans for the campus, under new management and with a new and expanding mission.

- North American Midway Entertainment donated materials and labor for the restoration of the historic carousel. This classic American carousel is one of five carousels in the State of Mississippi recognized by National Carousel Association. The carousel, manufactured by the Allan-Herschell Company of North Tonawanda, New York, circa 1930, has been located at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum since 1988.

- The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum recently completed a new erosion control demonstration project through financial and technical assistance made available from the USDA-NRCS. The project was implemented to address erosion problems that were occurring along two streams on the Museum grounds as well as to serve as demonstration areas for erosion control practices that can be used in urban areas. The occurring problems were largely the result of storm water runoff from impervious areas such as parking lots and building roofs. Four demonstration areas were selected to install storm water runoff control structures including berms, drop pipes, and rock check dams to prevent erosion and stabilize the banks of the streams. Project design and funding were provided by the USDA-NRCS and was matched by in-kind services of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

- A new agriculture exhibit was installed in the Heritage Center of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum. The exhibit, made possible by the Farm Families of Mississippi, showcases the importance and contributions of Mississippi agriculture. The exhibit features information about Mississippi's farmers, farmland, forestry, crops, livestock, poultry, and catfish. The

exhibit also features interactive activities including two iPads with information and educational videos about Mississippi agriculture and a kiosk featuring My American Farm, an interactive game that teaches agriculture in America.

## The Museum continues to work on the following grant projects:

- The Recreational Trails Grant from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks has helped the Museum replace the existing nature trail and create new exhibits for livestock. These include repairs and additions to the barnyard and a new trail to connect the forest area to existing museum trails. The purpose of this project is to improve visitors' perception and knowledge about the importance of natural resources to the agriculture industry.

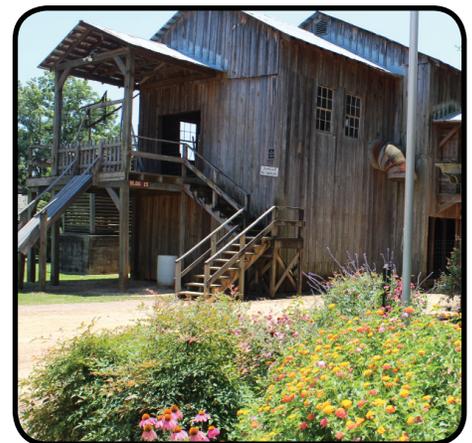
- Upgrades and repairs were made to Museum facilities including installation of a new floor in the Sparkman Auditorium, foundation stabilization to the Education Center and the Ethnic Heritage Auditorium, and renovation of the alternative energy house and service entrance gate.

- The Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau awarded a grant of \$10,000 as a reimbursement for 2013 advertisement expenses.

- The Mississippi Farm Bureau - Women in Agriculture hosted, "AG in the Classroom" teacher workshops 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 presented "Family Feud" to 200 teachers, stressing the importance of introducing agriculture-related activities to their students.

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Lise Foy, Director

E-mail: [Lise@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:Lise@mdac.ms.gov)



[www.msagmuseum.org](http://www.msagmuseum.org)

# 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:

Automated Bureau of Plant Industry's five major programs including Feed, Fertilizer, Lime, and Soil/Plant Amendment to an E-Commerce based online registration system. Today, the businesses can pay fees and fines, purchase permits and licenses, process registrations and renewals, and report tonnage over the Internet, 24 hours a day. By providing online services, MDAC allows businesses to save time and money by decreasing

the paperwork and need for writing checks manually. This has also allowed MDAC to reduce its paperwork and streamline labor intensive tasks.

Upgraded the regulation inspection and compliance system (Winwam) for the Bureau of Regulatory Services. Replaced 30 field laptop computers with touch screen technology tablet computers. Today, the inspectors are fully trained and equipped with state-of-the-art technology to conduct regulatory inspections, generate inspection reports onsite, and efficiently sync inspection data with the agency database system. The upgraded software system provides inspectors with easier and faster searches of business information in the field and reflects new and changed federal guidelines that each state follows in performing its duties for Weights and Measures practices. Also the new system provides agency managers with up-to-date information for querying, reporting, and decision making.

Replaced the Agricultural Livestock Theft Bureau's decade-old PC based database management system with a web based investigation case management system offered through PTS Solutions. Also replaced ten aging field computers and printers with new tablet computers to run the new software. Today, the investigators can submit case information and updates from the field in real time, search and query the da-

tabase online, and generate case management summary and field reports.

Launched the first State Fair mobile application for the MS Fair Commission. It is one of the first 10 state fair apps to ever be approved by both Apple's iTunes & Google's Android Store. The app provided the users with the latest updates and information on State Fair events, concerts, special attractions, and weather alerts. Also the app allowed the fairgoers to connect to social media and view the Fair Fun Guide, Livestock Schedule, and the Premium Book. With thousands of downloads in just a couple of weeks the app gave the people of Mississippi the best fair experience and the State Fair achieved the highest attendance in its 154 year history.

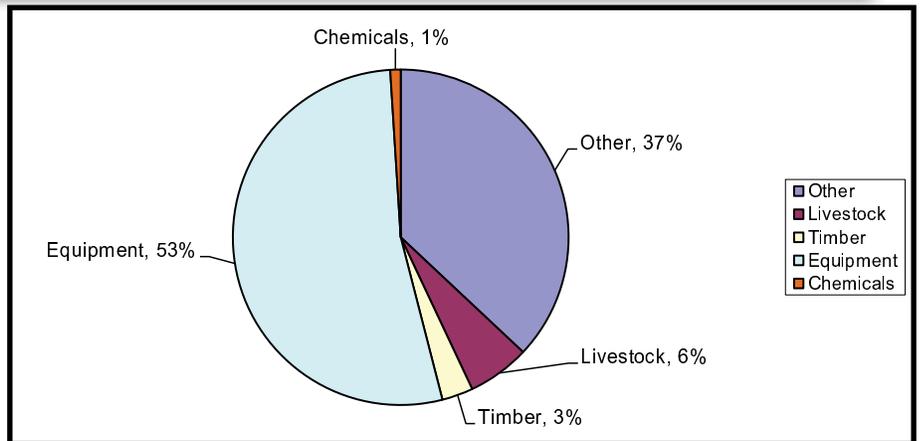
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 Umesh Sanjanwala, Director  
 E-mail: Umesh@mdac.ms.gov

# 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



**Percentage distribution of dollar value of reported crimes.**

**Total dollar value of \$3,331,635 for FY 2013.**

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.

The most current book was printed in December 2012 and has over a 1,000 brands registered.

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 Jeff Stewart, Director  
 E-mail: Jeff@mdac.ms.gov