# Producer Advisory Council Commodity Session Notes

February 27, 2018



COASTAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER



to our Partners



Jones County Junior College





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#### COASTAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

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Dear Community Partner,

The following pages contain the report from the 2018 Annual Producer Advisory Council Meeting of the Mississippi State University (MSU) Coastal Research and Extension Center (CREC). This meeting allows producers and community leaders like yourself to communicate concerns, identify needs, and express opinions and feedback to allow the Mississippi State University to better meet your needs.

The Coastal Research and Extension Center was established in 1988 and is based in Biloxi, MS. CREC oversees Extension programs in the 21 southeastern most counties of Mississippi, on the reservation of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and at the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune. CREC also maintains experiment stations in Harrison, Jackson, Perry, and Pearl River Counties under the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Station system.

We tried something different and held this year's meeting, hosted by the Jones County Junior College, at the Ronald E. Whitehead Advanced Technology Center at Howard Technology Park in Ellisville. It was a wonderful facility and very conducive to our needs. We look forward to possibly alternating meeting locations between the Coastal Research & Extension Center Office in Biloxi and this facility in Ellisville every year to continue to reach as many producers in our region as we possibly can.

With 116 individuals in attendance, we had producers from 15 of the 21 counties in our region and 14 of our counties were represented by our agents. There were also 35 other MSU staff members and administrators, representing MSU Extension, MS Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES) and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM), as well as guests from MS Farm Bureau Federation, USDA, Southern AgCredit, Senator Thad Cochran's office, and Congressman Steven Palazzo's office. This was one of our highest attended meetings in years.

If you were able to attend this year's meeting, I want to thank you for your time and participation and look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the year. Moving forward, we challenge you to spread the word about MSU Extension and MAFES and what we do with your colleagues and fellow producers, and ask you to encourage them to attend future meetings as well.

If you were unable to attend, we invite you to learn more about what we do at <u>www.coastal.msstate.edu</u> and hope that you will join us next year at our Annual Meeting held the last of week of February. Your continued support and participation makes our impact on the communities we serve even stronger.

Sincerely,

James E. Henderson, Ph.D. Professor and Head Coastal Research & Extension Center

#### Mississippi State University, United States Department of Agriculture, Counties Cooperating

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### **Annual Meeting**

of the



### **Producer Advisory Council**

February 28, 2017

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## AGRONOMIC CROPS

Dr. Randy Smith led the following discussions with his group:

- Prevalence of nematode species.
- Cropping dynamics, acres and yield.
- Integrated Crop Management Strategies.
- Overall row crop needs.
- 2017 trials of corn, soybeans and cotton. Over 30 strip and replicated trials conducted in 2017.
- Soybeans and corn behind ryegrass cattle.
- Value of strip tillage and its found success and research surrounding this practice.
- Evaluation of new germplasm and technologies.



### APICULTURE

DR. JEFF HARRIS, MSU CHAIR 18 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – LaRue Stephens

Producer Chair-Elect – Thomas McCaffrey

The meeting was opened by the chair with a welcome and introductions. Eighteen people were present and participated in discussions.

Dr. Jeff Harris reviewed recommendations from 2017 and gave updates on several matters of concern for beekeepers. Updates included: honey house inspections, FDA law regarding "sugar added" label, FDA antibiotic law for treatment of honey bee diseases, neonicotinoid pesticides, and a proposal to release a flea beetle for biological control of the Chinese Tallow tree. These matters required no specific action from beekeepers at present, but we will remain vigilant with monitoring action related to these concerns.

Matters for which assistance from the MSU Extension Services is requested include:

- Make sure commercial beekeepers arriving in Mississippi for overwintering colonies are permitted and/or licensed.
- Identify and provide information for source(s) of pollinator friendly plants and seeds.
- Written communication for beekeepers from the MSU–ES; namely, the Bee News & Views. Beekeepers need timely, regular, and relevant information.
- Remain vigilant on the actions regarding the Chinese Tallow tree and flea beetle release for biological control.

Details of the 2018 Mississippi Beekeepers Association annual meeting were announced. The MBA will hold their 2018 meeting on October 26-27 at Eagle Ridge Hotel and Conference Center in Raymond, MS. Several prospective presenters were named, all of whom are being contacted for availability.

This session concluded with the election of Thomas McCaffrey to serve as producer chair for the apiculture session of the 2019 Producer Advisory Council.



# COMMERCIAL ORNAMENTAL & HOME HORTICULTURE

#### DR. GARY BACHMAN, MSU CHAIR 32 ATTENDEES

Dr. Gary Bachman calls meeting to order at 11:08 followed by the introduction of attendees.

After framing purpose of meeting as opportunity for attendees to provide input and direction on meeting topic, Dr. Gary Bachmann opens floor to comments and questions from attendees.

Request for more support in promotion of commercial horticulture products from Mississippi desired, particularly in understanding the products available. Producer mentions benefits of this work on markets.

Research regarding rootstock (Rose) being used by commercial producer in comparison with other products requested.

Dr. Gary Bachman discusses ongoing variety trials at numerous locations in Mississippi (e.g. All American Selections; Mississippi Medallion)

Discussion of Crepe Myrtle Bark Scale and its distribution in Mississippi.

Dr. John Adamczyk (USDA-ARS) discusses work being conducted on Crepe Myrtle Bark Scale in Texas.

Discussion of effect of treatment for crepe myrtle bark scale on native bee populations.

Discussion of rose rosette disease and its distribution. Mite species distribution may be responsible for greater occurrence of rose rosette in northern area of Mississippi.

Discussion of tea production in Mississippi. Interest expressed in commercial production of tea plants by nurseries as well as home tea production.

Dr. Rebecca Melanson distributed new and updated plant disease publications and discussed ongoing efforts to monitor downy mildew in cucurbits.

Dr. Jim DelPrince give update on Master Floral Designer program. Program began in 2015. Space for 8 participants per semester. MSU is a leader in education for retail floriculture. Research being conducted on production of cut flowers.

Dr. Alan Henn discussed IR-4 work in labelling fungicides for specialty crops including ornamentals.

Concerns expressed by producers regarding labor issues in commercial horticulture production.



### **FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

DR. ERIC STAFNE AND DR. CHRISTINE COKER, MSU CHAIRS 43 ATTENDEES

#### Producer Chair – Rickey Cole

Topics Discussed:

- Chill hours web app
  - Access chill hours data at webapps.msucares.com
  - The importance in chill hours in blueberries and fruit trees
- The importance of honey bees as pollinators
  - Blueberries benefit greatly from high levels of native bees, but managed hives are also an important factor in blueberry production.
  - Try to disturb native bee populations as little as possible, particularly when applying insecticides.
  - How to go about locating non-treated seeds to grow honey bee forage.
- The Viability of Fuyu Persimmons and olives in Mississippi
  - USDA has seen poor survival in non-astringent varieties of persimmon in their field trials.
  - Olives could become a valuable crop for many producers with adapted varieties, well drained soils, favorable microclimate, and a nearby press.
  - Currently there is no adapted variety of olive for Mississippi. However, their popularity in Georgia may soon lead to varietal improvements allowing Mississippi to produce olives.
- Manual labor and harvest
  - Producers discussed the need for education of the general public on the importance of legal immigrant labor to the fruit and vegetable harvest in Mississippi.
  - Dr. Stafne discussed some current research looking into improving mechanical harvest.
    This is aimed to help producers reach a fresh market with mechanically harvested
    blueberries by causing less damage to berries.
  - Producers discussed the need for improved marketing and secondary markets for the byproducts of blueberries. Suggestions included juicing facilities and Individually Quick Frozen (IQF) facilities.



### FORESTRY

MR. BUTCH BAILEY, MSU CHAIR 23 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Perry Meyers

Producer Chair-Elect – J.B. Brown

The forestry session was called to order by Butch Bailey at 9:40 a.m. in Ellisville, MS. The Producer Chair selected was Perry Meyers and the Producer Chair-Elect selected was JB Brown. The floor was opened for discussion.

Southern Pine Beetles and black pine snakes were discussed. Butch Bailey mentioned that while it might look pretty bad right now, the most likely end result will be a process that we can live with and not to worry about the current situation.

The flea beetle was mentioned as a control to the Chinese tallow tree but introducing predators to work on invasive species is more of a problem. Bees love popcorn trees and are good to have for pollination purposes.

New markets and industry ideas were discussed: pellet mills, more mills to increase prices, and growing sawtimber is the main goal. Housing inventory growth is needed for prices to recover. Small tracts of timber are becoming harder to get contracted. Bundling together neighboring properties were discussed to help save money and time for contracting the smaller tracts of land.

The cutbacks of the Mississippi Forestry Commission are a concern. Forest fires and wildlife could be a problem with the cutbacks. Currently, there is 1 forester for 3-5 counties depending on the workload. Volunteer fire department training was discussed to help with the MFC cutbacks. They are not equipped with the appropriate equipment for forest fires.

Prescribed burning was an issue addressed with the group. Experience with burning is a concern and there needs to be more education on burning correctly. It was stated that encouraging a more grassland approach in the coastal region (different site prep) would produce better looking trees. Burning is typically limited to 30-40 days of good burning weather for our region in burning season. It is becoming harder to get burning done in that window. (Cows were mentioned as a management technique). Liability with burning was a concern. Prescribed burning short course to certify landowners would help with the limited liability. Permits, certified burner (hard to obtain), notary and burn management plan are conditions to in order to get burning done. Prescribed fire cooperatives, cost share programs, and infrastructure was discussed as possible management.



#### FORESTRY – CONTINUED

Cogongrass was an issue due to it being spread by county equipment. Chemical control was brought up as the best control method. Educating other agencies on controlling and spreading issues was mentioned. Coordinating the county, state, federal, etc. would help stop the spread of cogongrass. The turnover of employees promotes a problem with the educating of employees. Training for public knowledge needs to be addressed by getting information out to radio stations, newspapers, etc. We should look for different avenues to spread the information on trainings.

Wood bridges were discussed as a good alternative to concrete bridges. Educating MDOT and supervisors on wood bridges would be necessary. The Mississippi Forestry Association is working on collaborating efforts with the supervisors on this concern. The University of Southern Mississippi was mentioned as they are now educating college students on building with wood. Timber bridges can hold up (weight) just as well as concrete bridges. There is a mill in Lucedale that is currently treating timber for these types of bridges.

MFA members are welcome to attend the governor affair committee meetings to advocate issues for the state government. This is the greatest lobbying effort to bring up these issues.

Deer dog trespassing was mentioned as a concern for landowners.

Tax rates increase was mentioned as a problem. It was suggested that the money spent on the increase of these taxes could be used for other purposes.

Coastal restoration funds were mentioned as an avenue for use in the forestry issues.



# HORSE & SMALL RUMINANTS

MR. BRAD JONES, MSU CHAIR 17 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – E.J. Richards

Producer Chair-Elect – Dewayne Smith

The Annual Producer Community Advisory Council Meeting Session 1 – Horse & Small Ruminants meeting was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 9:40 a.m. in Room 204 at the Ronald E. Whitehead Advanced Technology Center on 72 Technology Blvd. Ellisville, MS, Mr. Brad Jones & Alex Shook, MSU Chair being present.

Daniel Rivera mentioned that Clay Cavinder is looking for horses for a research project and anyone willing to offer their horse(s) that campus would take care of their horses and expenses. Also, a small ruminant workshop will be held March 17 from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Expert speakers from LSU and TN State will be teaching the workshop. Registration is \$30 until March 9 and after will be \$35 – participants can register online at msucares.com.

Introductions were given around the room at 9:46 a.m.

Brad Jones began with last year's first discussion being 4-H District Horse Show which will be in Harrison County June 7 & 8.

Brad Jones and Alex Shook spoke on the quarterly small ruminant meetings they have been having. Lunch is often supplied.

Brad and Alex also mentioned that agents are still working to make better relationships with producers within the county. Extension has sent some agents to TN for small ruminant trainings so they can help producers close to their area.

Rocky Lemus mentioned MSU was having a workshop and the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop is about basic information for producers and the second is about artificially inseminating.

Dewayne Smith suggested trainings should focus on what kind of livestock to produce and how to effectively maintain their health instead of focusing on artificially inseminating.

Charles Wilson mentioned he believed artificially inseminating is important.

Dewayne Smith mentioned there should be more farming/agriculture education for youth in schools.



#### HORSE & SMALL RUMINANTS - CONTINUED

Charles Wilson also mentioned parasite management workshops especially FAMACHA would be beneficial.

Brad Jones said that they would try to do more education on basic small ruminant management and education on artificially inseminating will also provide add an extra tool in the box.

E.J. Richards mentioned he would like to see a starter kit of information to let new producers know what kind of animals to purchase, what kind of parasites to look for, feed and available buyers to slaughter animals.

Brad Jones mentioned there are similar trainings twice a year in the state for cattle. He suggested a possible boot camp for small ruminants.

E.J. Richards also mentioned he would like to see more literature and extension publications on small ruminant production.

Charles Wilson mentioned getting a list of experienced producers. He would also like to see Mobile Slaughter Units brought to our area in Mississippi for producers.

Rocky Lemus mentioned an upcoming workshop for beginners on campus that will go over many concerns. Those who attend will leave with a lot of basic information if you are a small producer starting your farm.

Conclusion of session and main concerns of producers are youth education, extension publications, mobile slaughter unit and in field trainings and seminars.



# LIVESTOCK

DR. DANIEL RIVERA, MSU CHAIR 25 ATTENDEES

#### Producer Chair – J.B. Brown

Dr. Daniel Rivera talked about the experiments going on at White Sands. Oats and Annual Ryegrass extending the growing season and cost analysis. Talked about this year's ryegrass progress. Working on project on developing heifers on ryegrass and impairment of estrus. Looking at dry lot vs annual ryegrass hormone profiles. After 28 avdg they are gaining about 3 lbs. a day. Project will wrap up in May and data delivered next fall. Mineral bolus project with Cargill started last week. Data should be back by fall. Dart gun project vs Sub-Q injection route project was run in 2017, data should be released in the next few weeks.

Dr. Rhonda Vann talked about sampling herds throughout the state and looking at carriers on antiplasmosis. 60% rate of cattle that are carriers. This project will continue for the next couple of years. Looking at chelated minerals and management practices in relation to response in immunities and vaccinations. Mineral packages in relation to consumption rates in Al.

Dr. Rocky Lemus is working on winter grazing projects using wheat, oats, cereal rye, balansa clover (annual) from Grassland Oregon with hollow steams to look at bloating potential on cattle from hay directly onto clover. Potential grasses fir winter graining and gains. Project 2 is incorporating more legumes into pastures to improve grazing or hay production. Alfalfa incorporation was successful, data poster is onsite. Alfalfa and bermuda fertilized vs alfalfa and bermuda not fertilized, and whether or not legumes help summer grasses. Dow Agro science is revealing new chemical in weeds in clovers. Brad brought up meetings on Grazon being mixed with granulated fertilizer, Rocky said this looks very promising. Stem maggot update is coming and statewide webinar sometime in early April late March.

#### Calendar from Brandi Karisch on Campus:

BQA training will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Lucedale Livestock Barn.

BCIA membership dinner February 28<sup>th</sup> at Raymond. March 1<sup>st</sup> is Bull sale

AI in Starkville March 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

- AI in Starkville October 18th-20th
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> at White Sands Experiment Station will be the Grass fed tour, 9am
- April 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Southeast Cattle Women Handling in Verona

April 7<sup>th</sup> – Beef Cattle Basics

May 12<sup>th</sup> – Beef Cattle Basics, Brandon, MS

Livestock Show: Numbers are up from the last few years. Over 3,000 animals at Dixie Nationals and 1,400 youth showing livestock.

Brad brought up VFD in affect this year and not many issues that are known.



#### LIVESTOCK – CONTINUED

Dart gun studies are great for producers and good for BQA practices. Looking to see if shooting the animal with dart guns will match the same level as serums delivered subcutaneously.

BCIA meeting Wednesday night at 6pm the 28<sup>th</sup> with the sale at noon the following day. Both at Hinds Community College in Raymond.

**<u>Feedback/Questions</u>** Any research done on wormers in box mixed in with minerals, or vaccination blocks? Safeguard still comes in crumble and pellets. No research done on it, but Daniel says it is a tool on less handling. It all depends on consumption, whether the cow consumes it or not determines if it works.

Research done on bolus and long range work. Is there any work done on this already? Is there any effect on bull calves? There is not any information on this nor cost comparison on this study. Daniel is in the stages of this getting started. Reloader 250 is the product. \$125 for 250 boluses. Anything under 800lbs gets 1 bolus and anything over 800lbs gets 2 boluses. Good for 250 days.

Trich mandatory testing is already requirement but is there a regulatory system? Anything over 18 months that switches hands must be tested. And there is no cure for trich, must be slaughtered.

Tomorrow is Ag Day at the Capitol in Jackson with Farm Bureau. HB 1122 will be voted on in the Senate tomorrow. "Right to Farm"

We need more educational programs in the schools and for kids these days. Finding ways to teach youth where their food comes from.

Farm Bureau Beef Tour is going to South Texas this year. See JB Brown or John Kilgore for more info.

Hay crop last year was not beneficial or productive. Animal condition scores are down and more supplements might be needed in our cattle herds this winter. Keep an eye on livestock.

Mobile Processing Units are becoming more popular.

Let your Extension Agents know what you need if there is anything you would like done in your county.

Private Applicator License and applications are done by the Bureau of Plant Industry. Extension Agents are only there to train you and host the training. The information on calibration and weed science is all in the instruction handbook given at the training. If you are looking for more with pesticide application or more for calibration that can be done at local meetings. Make sure you are following regulations and any person on your farm that touches the chemical or is helping you spray MUST go through the training as well. Not just the farm owner.

Dr. Rocky Lemus talked about the Weed Control Guideline for Mississippi. This can be found online and includes rates, grasses it can work on, etc... this needs to be followed especially if you are selling hay to others.

JB Brown brought up planting your pastures in trees, and silvopasture.

Trucking ELD bill will be at hot topic in March since the 90 day extension is coming up. Contact your legislators about how this will affect our cattle industry as well as sheep and hog producers.



### POULTRY

DR. TOM TABLER, MSU CHAIR 8 ATTENDEES

#### Producer Chair – Jay Jayroe

Dr. Tom Tabler opened the meeting and welcomed the group and asked that each individual introduced themselves. Dr. Tabler gave an over view for those present on the poultry department and how they want to get backyard and commercials poultry growers more comfortable to asking Extension for help whether information, research, etc.

Dr. Tabler asked the group to elect a Producer Chair and Chair Elect for this session. This would be an individual to take the notes of the Poultry session o report to the all participants at the Advisory Commodity meeting a summary of our discussion. Mr. Jay Jayroe was asked to represent the Poultry session as Producer Chair and Chair Elect since this is the first time that this session has been offered.

Discussion on biosecurity being a huge deal these days to try to keep diseases out of the state. Ways to prevent this is by having foot baths, changing clothes/footwear before going to houses, etc. for commercial producers. Biosecurity for backyard growers is not something they focus on as much as they should. Would like to see some type of program to get backyard growers involved in being more serious of biosecurity.

Discussion was started for whether there is a recycling program for their chicken litter. Getting the litter sampled to know what the litter is for N, P and K. If the litter sits it slowly loses its nutrient content. Regulations on how to best manage the litter once it leaves the chicken house and goes to a crop producer's fields for distribution. Establishing programs for best management practices of the uses for the litter to help row crop and livestock producers.

Discussion was started for backyard growers to understand general management practices. Whether it be nutrition, predators, housing, diseases etc. providing those programs for individuals to gain knowledge about having a backyard flock. Using technology to educate the public on some topics that have been previously recorded, viewed at that time, etc.

Discussion was started on watering for the commercial industry. It was discussed to having it analyzed for producer knowledge of the water content. Looking at programs on water testing for the commercial producer. Being able to look at the results of the samples to know whether there is a problem with their water or if it was acceptable.

Providing a program for those that are not knowledgeable of the poultry industry but are looking at becoming a poultry producer. Disease being carried by other birds and tracking it through the producers houses. Discussion on advantages and disadvantages on the different feeders, waterers, fans, etc. that are out for the commercial industry.

Discussion began on avian influenza that it is carried by ducks and geese have droppings that can be easiest transported by a vehicle, clothing, etc. which could potentially affect the poultry industry.



### SEAFOOD & AQUACULTURE

DR. BEN POSADAS, DR. MARCUS DRYMON, DR. ERIC SPARKS, AND DR. SAM CHANG, MSU CHAIRS 14 ATTENDEES

Notes:

- Attendees and chairs were introduced.
- Ben Posadas started the meeting with a review of last year's PAC meeting notes and a review of how they were addressed over the past year.
- Eric Sparks conducted a presentation on his various extension programs and focus areas. This discussion included living shorelines, coastal cleanup, and the Master Naturalist program. Attendees had questions about the abundance and issues associated with microplastic pollution and the resilience and process involved with living shoreline projects.
- Sam Chang did a presentation about ESPL, introduced his employees, and discussed some of his potential focus areas. Attendees had questions about vibrio and oyster aquaculture in MS. Drs. Chang and Posadas discussed the status of oyster aquaculture (on and off-bottom) in MS and the risk factors for Vibrio.
- Attendees and facilitators then discussed the impacts of the Bonnet Carre spillway on oysters and the related permitting of aquaculture areas in MS Sound.
- Marcus Drymon then did a presentation on the Marine Fisheries Ecology Program. The recently started Red Snapper abundance project was the focus of the presentation and subsequent discussions. Attendees had questions about the focus of the red snapper project (commercial or recreational) and whether overfishing is the reason why snapper are found more offshore. Dr. Drymon specified that the red snapper project covers both commercial and recreational sectors and that the reason more snapper are found offshore is because of life characteristics and heavy fishing on nearshore structures. Several attendees expressed interest in signing up for his monthly Gulf Coast Fishermen newsletter.
- Ben Posadas did a presentation on his Marine Economics program. In this presentation, he covered the economic impact of the seafood industry and some value-added products for catfish. His research shows that seafood is a major component of the MS economy. There was discussion about similar value-added procedures for seafood.
- There were discussions of having Mark Woodrey and Sam Chang do detailed Powerpoint presentations at next year's PAC.
- The group also discussed renaming this advisory group to be more all-encompassing and boost participations. The new group name was decided to be Marine Resources.
- Attendees also discussed the need for oyster aquaculture training in Mississippi and the status of reef restoration efforts after hurricanes and the oil spill.





The Mississippi State University Extension Service provides researchbased information, educational programs, and technology transfer focused on issues and needs of the people of Mississippi, enabling them to make informed decisions about their economic, social, and cultural well-being

The **Coastal Extension Region Office** serves these 21 southeastern most counties of Mississippi.

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Pearl River	Eddie Smith	417 Hwy 11 North Poplarville, MS 39470	601-403-2280	601-795-0651
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Wayne	Lanette Crocker	810-A Chickasawhay St Waynesboro, MS 39367	601-735-2243	601-735-6264





**Mission:** The Coastal Research and Extension Center is Mississippi State University's "southern exposure," linking residents of the coastal region to the university. The center's mission is to conduct research and education programs aimed at developing a better understanding and use of renewable and nonrenewable resources in south Mississippi. Its applied research and educational programs with biological, physical and social systems focus on enhancing the quality of life of residents of Mississippi and other Gulf states. Our priorities address the specific needs of diverse communities including the health and well-being of the people and responsible stewardship of unique natural resources.

**Vision:** Coastal Research and Extension Center is the leader in providing responsive solutions addressing social, environmental, and economic integration of Research and Extension.

### Coastal Research and Extension Center

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#### South MS Branch Experiment Station Includes Poplarville, White Sands, and McNeill Units 810 Highway 26 West \* PO Box 193 Poplarville, MS 39470 Poplarville Phone: 601-795-4525 White Sands Phone: 601-795-4805



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