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COASTAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION

Producer Advisory Council Meeting

Commodity Group
Session Notes
February 23, 2016

Biloxi, MS



Dear Community Partner,

The following pages contain the report from the 2016 Annual Producer Advisory Council Meeting of the 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.

In spite of the bad weather we experienced this year, 95 individuals were in attendance. Producers came from 11 of the 21 counties in our region and 14 of our counties were represented by our agents. 14 other MSU staff members and administrators also attended, representing MSU Extension, MS Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Stations (MAFES) and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM), as well as guests from Farm Bureau, USDA and Southern AgCredit.

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 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 MSUCares.com or www.coastal.msstate.edu 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,

Dr. Wayne C. Porter
Regional Extension Coordinator
Coastal Research & Extension Center

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

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Annual Meeting

of the



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
**COASTAL RESEARCH &
EXTENSION CENTER**

Producer Advisory Council

February 23, 2016

<i>Session</i>	<i>Page</i>
Agronomic Crops	1
Apiculture (Bees)	2
Commercial Ornamental Horticulture	3
Forestry	4
Fruits & Vegetables	6
Livestock	8
Horse & Small Ruminants	10
Seafood and Aquaculture	11
 <i>Listings and Contact Information</i>	
Coastal Extension Region County Offices	12
CREC Experiment Stations	13

AGRONOMIC CROPS

MR. RANDY SMITH, MSU CHAIR
10 ATTENDEES

- Growers who raised row crops were interested in control of weeds in corn and soybeans primarily resistant palmer and tall water hemp. Also, they were interested in season long control of morning glory species.
- Growers were also interested in row crops behind ryegrass cattle, the use of vertical tillage, and one-pass planting systems.
- Growers were interested in fertility management especially potash.
- They were also interested in variety selection to improve yield.
- Forage producers were interested in forage weed control especially purple nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*).
- Forage producers were interested in fertility and insect management to maximize yield.
- They were interested in grazing strategies and forage types.
- We were able to answer their questions about management but demonstrations and grower meetings are very necessary to improve their knowledge.
- Another factor of interest was precision agriculture and use of Veris rig to obtain soil pH and texture on the go.
- Jason Sarver was present to discuss peanut production and gave information relative to their program.

APICULTURE

DR. JEFF HARRIS, MSU CHAIR
15 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Mr. Glenn Collins

The Chair, Glenn Collins, opened the meeting, welcomed the group and asked that each person introduce themselves.

Dr. Harris reviewed the recommendations from 2015 and talked about continuing some of the possible activities from that list as well as those that have been put in place. He said that emphasis needed to be put on good plants for honey. There is a need for good sources of flowering plants to provide food for the bees in the fall to carry the hive through the winter. Feeding the hives during a time of few sources of pollen is important. We need to educate folks on plants for bees during the year.

For 4-H and other youth, we need to continue to find opportunities and develop information. It was noted that youth programs are being pursued through summer camps with entomology.

Dr. Harris recognized the value of the USDA attendees from Poplarville in our area and some of the work they are doing in research for bees. The workshop held this year in Poplarville was very successful. There was some discussion about making it an annual workshop.

The issue of pesticides was discussed. There was discussion about an article written in 2015 about bees that could be referenced when talking with people in the people and companies (utility companies, forestry, pipelines, etc) who spray under power lines, killing plants that produce food for bees. It is difficult to define who sprays what, when, how, and why. And, one cannot “blame” seed treatments and spraying because it is a two edged sword. Other crops, like forestry and corn, need spraying also. The bees are being killed in the spraying. The need for a piece for information to use and education of the public is still there.

The session concluded with the election of Glenn Collins, glennnc@cableone.net, and president of the MS Gulf Coast Beekeepers, to continue as chair for the Commodities Council for 2017.



COMMERCIAL ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

DR. GENE BLYTHE, MSU CHAIR

11 ATTENDEES

Matt Bayles from Mississippi Farm Bureau invited everyone to submit ideas or comments to Farm Bureau regarding policy issues related to commercial horticulture that might need attention. He briefly reviewed Farm Bureau procedures and noted that proposed agricultural laws pass through the state legislature.

Rudolph Hall of Rocky Creek Nursery reported that the recent Gulf States Horticultural Expo was the best show in 10 years from the nursery's perspective. The nursery also had a display at the MANTS show in Baltimore. The company is looking forward to a good spring.

Hiram Baldwin reported that business at GreenForest Nursery had been good and the nursery will be short on large (15-gallon) container plants in the spring.

James Mills reported that sales of his roses have seen a good increase every year, with new emphasis on Internet sales helping to create new business. He discussed the advantages of his *Rosa fortuneana* rootstock over Dr. Huey rootstock, and noted that the Kordes roses from Germany are more disease-resistant than traditional garden roses.

James Mills noted that there is still a labor shortage, particularly in his blueberry business, and he continues to rely upon migrant workers because local people do not want to perform agricultural work. Hiram Baldwin remarked that the H2A program is now more difficult to use than in years past, and the brokers are expensive. Rudolph Hall noted that Rocky Creek Nursery does not use the H2A program, but employee turn-over is still a problem, and there is now a greater need for nursery automation.

Judy Breland of MSU Extension noted that vocational training is available for long-term jail inmates, but not for short-term (approximately 3-year-term) inmates who could also benefit from such programs. Hiram Baldwin noted that some inmates are used at GreenForest Nursery, but government incentives are needed to encourage more businesses to use this program.

Anne-Marie Callcott of the USDA noted that the emerald ash borer is now of concern in Mississippi. This pest has been found in surrounding states and is often transferred in lumber and firewood. Large purple traps seen in the landscape are used for monitoring the pest. One USDA employee in Biloxi, Randy Pingell, is available for identifying this pest.

Rudolph Hall reported that olive gall is becoming a more frequent problem on *Loropetalum* and Anne Marie Callcott stated that chili thrips are still a concern on ornamentals.

Dr. Wes Burger of MAFES reported that Dr. Patricia Knight will be developing a 5-year plan of horticultural industry research priorities for the Coastal R&E Center.

Sharon Peacock suggested that MSU Extension consider producing more agricultural business training videos to assist producers.

FORESTRY

MR. MITCHELL NEWMAN, MSU CHAIR
16 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Mr. Robert Steele
Producer Chair-Elect – Mr. Walt Moeller

Mr. Robert Steele opened the meeting by welcoming participants and introducing Mitchell Newman, MSU Extension Agent. Brief introductions followed along with an explanation of Dr. Hughes's absence. Mr. Walt Moeller was elected producer chair for the upcoming year.

Mr. Newman provided handouts for participants prepared by Dr. Hughes. He began with the handout that showed priorities from 2015 as well as the status of each item. The question was raised concerning the forestry and livestock groups meeting at the same time. It was pointed out that last year the schedule allowed for attendance of both commodity meetings. This year the schedule had reverted to how it was done in previous years.

Beaver control and wild hog issues were discussed in addition to educational opportunities available to the landowner. It was pointed out the workshops are held by Extension under Cliff Covington. Issues with beavers are a growing concern and there is a need to increase educational efforts for landowners to combat this issue.

A new program from the MS Forestry Commission was discussed involving cogongrass control in the Little Black Creek Watershed. It was discussed that cogongrass is a growing issue for most of the State. Japanese Climbing Fern is becoming more of an issue and is difficult to control.

Mr. Newman discussed that updated publications from Dr. James Henderson concerning forestry impacts on county, state, and regional levels are available. It was further discussed to include this information in newsletters to better illustrate the importance of forestry.

Mr. Newman discussed the "Ties to the Land" short course. Those in attendance agreed on its importance and need for all landowners.

The importance of getting information to landowners through CFA newsletters was discussed. No one in attendance had received the MFA newsletter. Alternative forms of dispersal such as social media was brought up. It was further discussed that advancements in technology should be utilized such as Facebook and YouTube.

The question was raised concerning herbicide tank mixes in site preparation. Current practices fully control native grasses which have negative effects on wildlife and reduce fuel; making it difficult to carry fire. Special consideration needs to be given to landowner goals in order to know what plant species are needed to attract particular species of wildlife.



The railroad project in Greene County was discussed as a multi-year effort currently being examined. There is a need for new wood products to help diversify income for landowners. The new app for forest landowners was discussed. Participants agreed that using available technology would be useful for them and they would attend any trainings or workshops concerning this.

Mr. Newman talked about the Black Pine Snake now being listed as “threatened” and its importance to landowners in the 12 county area. He further discussed types of activities and stands that could be impacted. Participants were advised to call US Fish and Wildlife with any questions.

New Needs:

- Beaver control Issues.
- Invasive species cogongrass and Japanese climbing fern.
- Forest inventory data (MIFI). Growth to Drain data.
- Use of Roundup in tank mixes for site preparation.
- Concerns for native grasses.
- Technology based courses for landowners to help with management. (i.e. Apps, Google Earth)
- Newsletter dispersed through CFA membership. (email blast?)

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

DR. ERIC STAFNE & DR. CHRISTINE COKER, MSU CHAIRS

25 ATTENDEES

Recorder – Mr. Will Evans

Welcome by Dr. Stafne and Dr. Coker.

MSU Announcements

- Strawberry Field Day April 21, 2016
- Tomato Short Course March 2 – 3, 2016
- Vegetable Field Day June 2, 2016 at Beaumont Horticulture Unit
- Irrigation Survey passed out by Dr. Evans and Cultivar Trial Survey poster was mentioned.
- High Tunnel Training at George County in early April, 2016
- Economics of pest control methods for fruits and veg by Dr. Coker's student was passed out to participants
- Good Ag Practices Training will be held Nov. 24, 2016 at Biloxi
- March 22, 2016 - FSMA course will be offered at Biloxi
- A grower asked about water quality and quantity – we need to be mindful of those issues going forward.

Cabbage and broccoli heading challenges

- Cold, irrigation, cultivar
- Rick added that warm weather early might have caused bolting, too.

Concern: Pecan Zinc to ground or leaves

Answer: spray on leaves according to Dr. Stafne

Concern: Pecan yields low in 2015

Answer: Flower issues early and dry weather later so fruit did not fill out

Dr. Stafne may have a pecan short course: half classroom, half farm visit

Commercial tomato variety trials needed for field and tunnel

Hay bale tomatoes

- Reduced diseases from lack of soil contact
- Aged hay, ryegrass or wheat straw
- Irrigation and fertility critical

Cogon grass in blueberries

- Rely/Cheetah. Glufosinate every three weeks is the recommended control



FRUITS & VEGETABLES – CONTINUED

Grower expressed issues with inconsistent tomato harvest in high tunnels. Consider other crops: Peppers, lettuces, cucumbers

Introduced Dr. Jim DelPrince, Extension Floral Industry Specialist

- Specialty cut flower post-harvest and marketing expertise available
- Conducts floral design workshops
- Mississippi Farmers Market

Selling tomatoes organic, or other value added and using direct markets to sell them.

Chris Shivers, MS Farm Bureau

- Commodity Policy and Development meetings are part of the program
- Not just an insurance company
- Conducted an informal issue survey for the growers

Dr. DelPrince asked if we can do more to help vegetable growers grow and sell cut flowers for wholesale or retail sales.

LIVESTOCK

MR. BRAD JONES, MSU CHAIR
23 ATTENDEES

Recorder – Ms. Amanda Woods

Brad Jones began by letting all the Extension faculty discuss the programs from the past year and the new ones they have planned.

Mike Keene – discussed the different marketing programs, heifer sale, board sale, local producer sales.

Daniel Rivera – Current programs include:

- Research on producer management practices
- Mycotil Research project
- Research on cattle stocking rates with Arkansas, increasing cost effective production
- Oats and ryegrass grazing study including grazing length and added pounds
- Planning a grazing field day in April 2016 with Rocky Lemus
- Research on administering antibiotic with darts vs working cattle in the chute.
- Research on deworming strategies
- Research with Ag Econ on predicting feed yard cattle to determine when and what time to send to slaughter for highest return.

Many of these studies and research have brought added funds and additional jobs to the beef unit at White Sands.

Cobie Rutherford – Gave an update on programs and on research on the South Farm at the University.

- Stocker Study and deworming systems for long range control
- Times Artificial Insemination Techniques
- Hair Shedding Study
- Held BQA trainings in the Fall 2016 and have 6 scheduled for Spring 2016. Great success and participation for these meetings. Total of 480 people have been trained.
- Farm Bureau and MS State have joined efforts in conducting the Law Enforcement animal welfare training. These will be a continuing education for law enforcement officers. There are two planned for South MS, March 21, 2016 at Coastal Research & Extension Center in Biloxi and March 22, 2016 at the Southeast Stockyard in Hattiesburg.
- BCIA Sale in Raymond March 3, 2016

LIVESTOCK – CONTINUED

- Feed Beef Challenge March 14-15, 2016
- Beef 101 March 15, 2016
- A.I. school March 17-19, 2016
- Feeder Calf Sale , April 5, 2016
- Beef Cattle Boot Camp – April 8 and 15, 2016
- Beef Advocacy Program being implemented in counties around the State.

Roy Higdon - promoted the 4-H FFA Heifer Development Contest.

There was much discussion from the group on the laws and regulations of Animal Cruelty and how this will affect raising Livestock. MS Farm Bureau is working with State legislators on reducing the number of laws that are put into act for Animal Cruelty for the State. This is a big issue that livestock producers are facing.

HORSE & SMALL RUMINANTS

MR. ROY HIGDON, MSU CHAIR
17 ATTENDEES

Recorder – Ms. Amanda Woods

Clay Cavindar was introduced as the new MSU Horse Specialist on campus. Clay updated the group on the programs he has been successful with since starting his position.

2015 programs included:

- Collegiate Horse Judging Team – organized and trained the first one in many years. This team won the Reserve national Champions on the first year to compete.
- Worked on several new publications that are available through MSUCares.
- Created the Mane Event videos that cover a 10-12 minute session for Horse producers and interested clientele.
- Worked on the Foundation Horsemanship Clinic – This program trained 4 volunteers (youth) to take this program throughout the state for county programs and other demonstrations.
- Conducted a Horse Judging Clinic in July for 4-H youth to attend.
- Stock Horse Show was conducted in Meridian with much success. More will be planned in the future to meet the need of this growing area of horse shows.

2016 Upcoming programs:

- Horse Management 101 – Winona, MS. This is an 8 week course that will include both classroom instruction and riding. Will incorporate 8 different riding professionals from MS each week. Will be sponsored by Nutrena.
- Summer Horsemanship Series
- Helmet Safety Awareness
- Online Horse Judging Website
- Working on research on Total Body fat composition

Sheep/Goats (small ruminants)

- Discussed at length the importance of having slaughter facilities that could support the sheep and goat industry in the Southeast part of the State.
- Discussed the Wool Pool program in Stone County and wool production in the State.



SEAFOOD & AQUACULTURE

MR. DAVE BURRAGE, MSU CHAIR

11 ATTENDEES

In the shrimp fishery, producers are experiencing low dockside prices due to pressure from foreign imports. Landings for 2015 were slightly below average. One bright spot is low diesel fuel prices.

Oyster landings for the most recent season continue to be far below average. Reef closures due to an outbreak of red tide and fresh water diversion related to the Bonnet Carre spillway opening were the primary factors causing low production. More water from spillway openings is passing through the Louisiana marshes due to marsh erosion.

In 2001, Mississippi had 98 certified seafood dealers and processors. The number declined to a low of five immediately following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and has since rebounded to 78. MSU continues to provide HACCP and sanitation training for seafood plant workers and trained 120 people from all regions of the US last year. The proposed Trans Pacific Partnership may provide a boost for other agricultural commodities in Mississippi, but may actually be detrimental to the seafood industry. Another factor having adverse impacts is the removal of country of origin labelling requirements.

In marine waters, oyster culture operations are the primary component of aquaculture production. Mississippi currently has five on-bottom oyster leases compared to 22 off-bottom operations in Alabama. Location of oyster operations in water of suitable quality which minimizes user group conflict will need legislative attention on the state and local level. There may be some future opportunity for MSU to partner with schools providing training for those seeking employment in the aquaculture industry.



The Mississippi State University Extension Service provides research-based 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.

1815 Popp's Ferry Rd * Biloxi, MS 39532 * Phone 228-388-4710 * Fax 228-388-1375

Dr. Wayne Porter, Regional Coordinator

County	County Coordinator	Physical Street/Mailing Address	Phone	Fax
Clarke	Christy King	101 Westwood Ave., PO Box 109 Quitman, MS 39355	601-776-3951	601-776-1023
Covington	Carolyn Conger	68 Industrial Park Drive Collins, MS 39428	601-765-8252	601-765-5009
Forrest	Tawnya Holliman	952 Sullivan Dr Hattiesburg, MS 39401	601-545-6083	601-545-6173
George	Heath Steede	7128 Highway 198 East, PO Box 738 Lucedale, MS 39452	601-947-4223	601-947-4224
Greene	Mitchell Newman	#2 Oak Street, PO Box 730 Leakesville, MS 39451	601-394-2702	601-394-2741
Hancock	Christian Stephenson	856 Highway 90 Ste B Bay St. Louis, MS 39520	228-467-5456	228-466-6225
Harrison	Sheran Watkins	2315 17th St, PO Drawer Z Gulfport, MS 39502	228-865-4227	228-868-1470
Jackson	Terri Thompson	4111 Amonett St, Ste E, PO Box 1248 Pascagoula, MS 39568	228-769-3047	228-769-3347
Jasper	Bert Gilmore	37B West 8th Ave., PO Box 506 Bay Springs, MS 39422	601-764-2314	601-764-2035
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Lauderdale	Patty Swearingen	410 Constitution Ave 5th Floor Meridian, MS 39301	601-482-9764	601-482-9777
Marion	Amanda Woods	1060 Hwy 13 South Columbia, MS 39429	601-736-8251	601-731-3791
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Newton	Katrina McCalphie	65 Seventh Street, PO Box 188 Decatur, MS 39327	601-635-7011	601-635-2146
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





MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™ **MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION**

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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Experimental Seafood Processing Laboratory

3411 Frederic Street

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Phone: 228-762-7783

South MS Branch Experiment Station

Includes Poplarville, White Sands, and McNeill Units

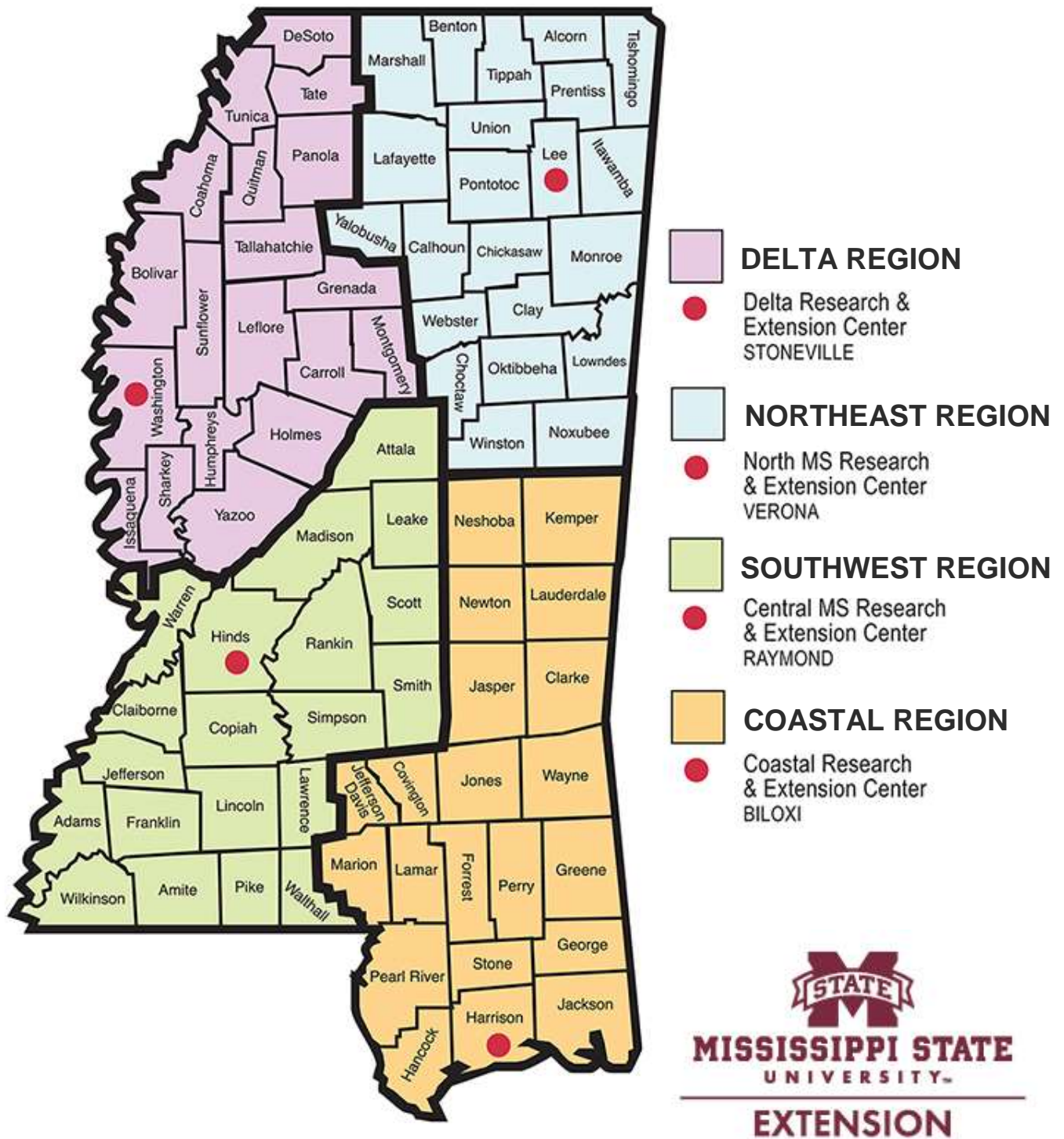
810 Highway 26 West * PO Box 193

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