

# Producer Advisory Council Commodity Session Notes

February 26, 2019

**MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Coastal  
Research and Extension Center**

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Dear Community Partner,

The following pages contain the report from the 2019 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.

With 114 individuals in attendance, we had producers from 14 of the 21 counties in our region and 16 of our counties were represented by our agents. There were also 17 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, and Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith's office. Overall, this was a very well represented and attended meeting.

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 [www.coastal.msstate.edu](http://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,

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



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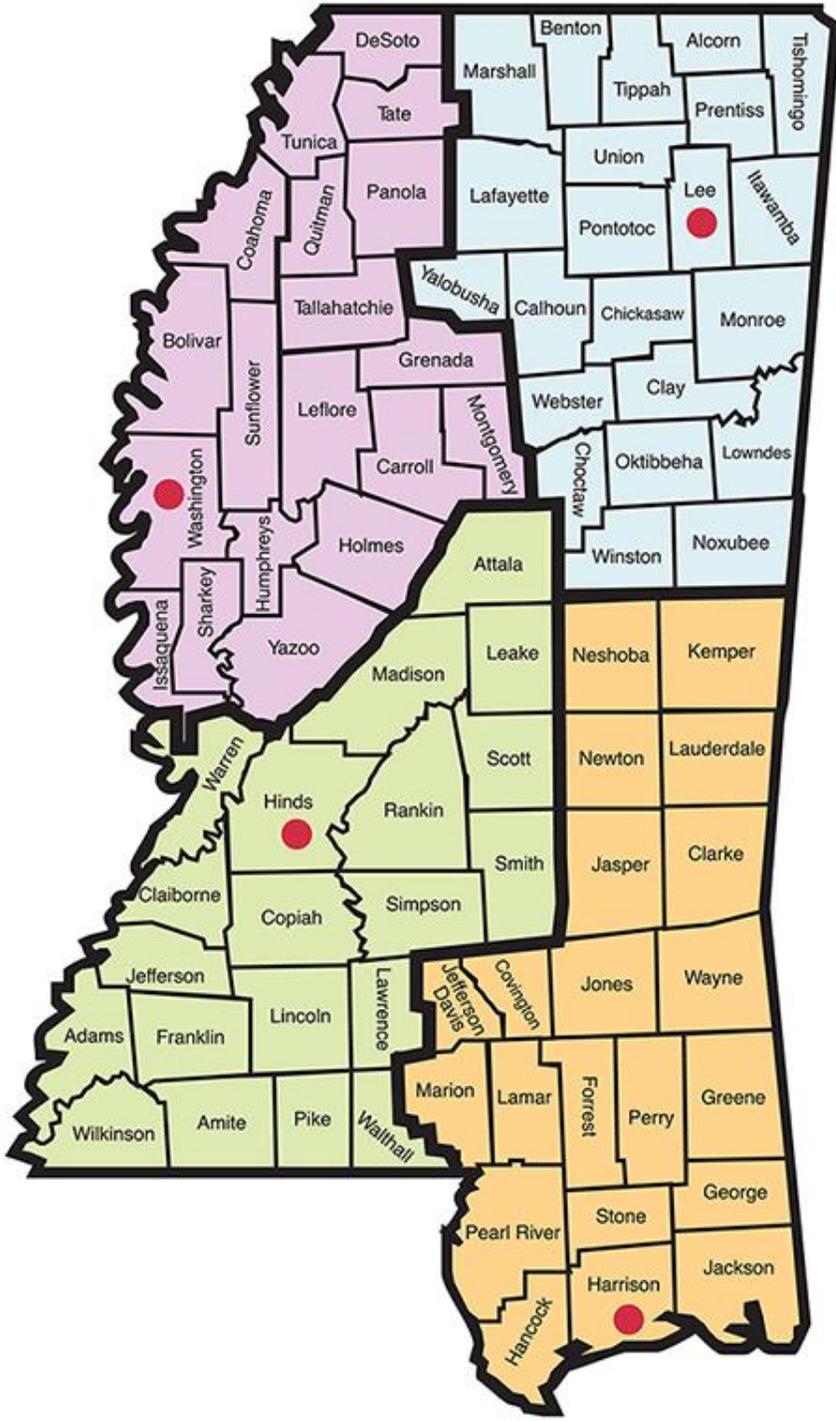
## Producer Advisory Council

February 26, 2019

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**EXTENSION**

# AGRONOMIC CROPS

*DR. ALAN HENN, MSU CHAIR  
2 ATTENDEES*

Heath Steede of George County and Alan Henn were the primary attendees.

Both had contacted some growers and Alan Henn also contacted some professional field scouts. None attended.

A discussion of how to encourage grower participation occurred. It seems that growers use us for emergencies and immediate needs but not long-term help. To change that, ideas were exchanged about what activities were most likely to interest growers so as to increase their participation and consequently be more likely to encourage longer-term interests.

It was decided that variety trails were the most likely avenue. The final suggestions were:

To increase grower involvement and Interest:

- Continue new cotton variety trials and disease ratings.

- Expand into peanut and soybean.

# APICULTURE

AUDREY SHERIDAN, MSU CHAIR  
11 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Thomas McCaffrey

Producer Chair-Elect – Leilani S. Rosenbaum

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

Audrey Sheridan reviewed recommendations and gave updates on several matters of concern for beekeepers. New State Inspector was announced and contact information was given. Upcoming MSU Workshops and Short courses were announced and information will be forthcoming.

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

- More research in relation to the Flea Beetle and Chinese Tallow Tree
- Provide information in regard to FDA labeling for honey
- Provide information on Queen Beekeeping
- Provide Research results on Hygienic Bees
- Provide information on strategies for Small Hive Beetle
- Provide 4-H programs and publications for youth
- Update publication on Beekeeping Plants in Mississippi
- Provide information regarding Economic Impact of Slime Out

Details on 2019 Mississippi Beekeepers Association annual meeting were announced. The MBA will hold their 2019 meeting on October 8-9 at Eagle Ridge Hotel and Conference Center in Raymond, MS.

The session concluded with the election of Leilani S. Rosenbaum to serve as producer chair for the apiculture session of the 2020 Producer Advisory Council.



# COMMERCIAL ORNAMENTAL & HOME HORTICULTURE

DR. GARY BACHMAN, MSU CHAIR  
25 ATTENDEES

Dr. Gary Bachmann introduced the session and had attendees introduce themselves.

1. Dr. Gene Blythe discussed award for AAS display garden landscape challenge competition
2. MS Medallion Plant Promotion Program in cooperation with MS Nursery and Landscape Assoc. trial plants for MS homeowner use.
3. Use of high tunnels at CREC for cut flower production – Dr. Christine Coker, Dr. Jim DelPrince
4. Dr. Jim DelPrince – Beautiful things from Mississippi
5. Vegetable trials, people’s garden, and earth box demonstration and research gardens at CREC
6. Dr. Patricia Knight – Coastal Horticulture Research Group
  - a. Broad goals – identifying improved fruit vegetable and ornamental plants for gulf south
  - b. Honey bee and insecticides
  - c. Sustainable production and increased profitability
7. Open floor for comments
8. Alan Henn – IR4 program
  - a. Specialty crop producer indicate problems and program tests products for use in specialty crops
9. Crepe Myrtle Bark Scale
  - a. Spread of CMBS throughout MS
  - b. Invasive insect pest
  - c. Treatment by dinotefuran
  - d. Possible environmental effect
  - e. Site to site spread by landscaping
  - f. Infestation of native Beautyberry and soybean
10. Spotted Wing Drosophila
  - a. USDA screening selections for possible resistance – some wild blueberries where SWD cannot reproduce
  - b. Control with various insecticides – Malathion, Mustang Maxx, Spinosad
  - c. Growers using placement of hummingbirds – likely ineffective
11. Produce Safety MS Department of Agriculture and Commerce distribution of information on produce safety rules
12. Farm Service Agency – NAP program from products that cannot receive Federal crop insurance
13. Dr. Rebecca Melanson presentation of plant disease information available



# FLORICULTURE

DR. JIM DELPRINCE, MSU CHAIR  
13 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Leilani Rosenbaum

Are our current Extension programs answering your needs?

- We feel there is positive impact with Extension publications, videos and programs.
- Looking to continued interaction with MS Dept. of Ag and Commerce

What do you feel Extension should look into in terms of the broad category of floriculture?

- Edible flowers from MS growers
- Small, local stores displaying locally grown flowers
- Research on pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides
- IR-4 program was discussed and Dr. Henn's poster is on display in the hallway
- More information on MS community supported agricultural programs
- Continue to publish brochures, including Farmer Florist series
- There is a market for high quality cut roses

How can we improve awareness and usage of MSU Floriculture Extension?

- Outreach to schools and existing Extension programs, garden clubs
- Social media presence is important
- Provide seasonal workshops
- Master Floral Designers can aid outreach
- Continue to provide demonstrations
- Provide more instructional brochures

Other Discussion

- Promotion of All American Selections floral and decorative vegetable materials



# FORESTRY

MR. BUTCH BAILEY, MSU CHAIR  
22 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Mitchell Newman

The forestry session was called to order by Butch Bailey at 11:00 a.m. in Biloxi, MS. The Producer Chair selected was Mitch Newman. The floor was opened for discussion.

Butch discussed Dr. Glenn Hughes's retirement and input from the attendees on the need in hiring for that position. It was mentioned that the need for someone with a silviculture background was important for the new hire.

Cogongrass was presented as an issue and how to effectively get rid of it. Chemical control as well as disking it were discussed as possible control methods. Butch discussed that it produces asexually therefore disking it promotes spreading it in other places. Educating other agencies on controlling and spreading issues was mentioned. Coordinating the county, state, Federal, etc. would help 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. MDOT had a program for assistance with the chemical control as well as the Mississippi Forestry Commission. It was mentioned that MSU is working on an app program to help landowners with cogongrass. It lets agencies such as the Board of Supervisors, FSA, etc. know where the problem areas are let them make better decisions on method control.

Southern Pine Beetles and the Japanese Climbing Fern were discussed as some invasive species that were presented as a problem.

New markets and industry ideas were discussed: pellet mills, pulp mills, etc. Location was mentioned being a problem with the current mills. Board certification such as the American Tree Farm System was discussed as an important sustainability effort for future pellet mills. The SFI and FSC were mentioned as potential certifications that most big companies were interested in. Wood chipping was discussed as an expensive process due to the equipment. Cross laminated timber was discussed as a new way to utilize a sustainable resource to build strong buildings.

Glyphosates, Imazapyr, and surfactants were discussed as chemical controls that were good in a site prep mix. The southeast grows for plywood and 2x4s for housing markets. They are important for driving the timber prices. Technology has people pushing for new things.

Prescribed burning was an issue addressed with the group. Controlled burn is a valuable tool and necessary especially when growing longleaf. Butch mentioned there is no set plan for burning and it depends on the trees itself. Burning every 2-3 years was mentioned as a precautionary effort and you should burn it when you can. It truly depends on the individual location and the landowner's desire for that location.

# FRUITS & VEGETABLES

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

43 ATTENDEES

- Dr. Wes Burger gave a brief introduction on importance of producer panels for MAFES and how MAFES uses the input.
- Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce gave update on compliance with new regulations and genuine MS program.
- Dr. Rebecca Melanson spoke on new and updated publications related to fruit and vegetable production.
- Sweetie Pie Blackberry is currently available online through multiple suppliers. It is a thornless heat tolerant variety with a sweet berry. It has soft berries that do not ship well, but can work great for small fresh market or home use. Chilling hours are ~500, so it may not produce every year in coastal areas.
- Home gardening control of stink bugs: Malathion. No effective organic control. Permethrin will knock them off the plant, but have limited control. New “sevin” formulation may provide adequate control. Apply these insecticides when honey bees are not active. Permethrin has a short residual time and can be safer when bees are in the area. Malathion has longer residual and may locally harm bees.
- Economic analysis of vegetables consumed in the state: About 7 million pounds of tomatoes consumed in coastal counties.
- Muscadine pesticides/fungicides prices are high, but are they worth the cost of repeated use? Fruit and vegetable handbooks have table to break down the efficacy of chemicals for producers to do at home analysis of cost. Note that cost analysis will vary by the climatic conditions each year as the pest pressures will vary. Profit margins will vary by producer depending on the market that they are aiming.
- Youth involvement in fruit and vegetable production. One area of interest would be tying in technology to farming as producers increasingly rely on technology. Pathways to Possibilities serves 8th graders in multiple south MS counties. This is one major mode of introducing agriculture to thousands of youth.
- Planting cauliflower early allow producers to grow them without the bitter taste caused by heat. High tunnels allow the soil to warm early in spring and stay warm late in the fall when air temperatures are cooler.
- Beaumont experiment station did not plant as many winter crops due to drainage issues. They have subsoiled and planted tillage radishes to help with this issues.
- Cogon grass control in garden areas remains the same. Clean equipment after tillage to prevent the spreading of rhizomes.

## Upcoming Events

Pecan Education Workshop March 20<sup>th</sup> at CREC in Raymond, MS

Vegetable Field Day June 6<sup>th</sup> Beaumont Experiment Station Beaumont, MS

Blueberry Field Day May 9<sup>th</sup> Poplarville, MS

Blackberry Workshop June TBD Poplarville, MS

Muscadine Field Day August TBD McNeill, MS

Pest Management Workshop for Enclosed Structure Production TBD



# HORSE & SMALL RUMINANTS

MR. BRAD JONES, MSU CHAIR  
27 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Dewayne Smith

Educational trainings are usually offered at the Magnolia Community Center in Perkinston. Optimal management - forage, managing worms are the common county questions for equine and small ruminants.

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Small Ruminant Workshop in Hattiesburg presented by Dr. Lemus and Dr. Brown.

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Hands on Horses - help manage horses all the way through nutrition, worming, health and horsemanship.

MSU has heard from producers the need for a small ruminant specialist to provide research and publications.

Many of our problems result from not having enough land for livestock to be properly managed.

Prioritizing a research based specialist position to conduct research. More publications for producers. More training for agents as there are not many educational opportunities for agents.

Challenge producers to make a 20-30% return every year because if not then you are missing something in your management program.

- Pay attention to animal cruelty laws – stay engaged with Farm Bureau and Cattlemen’s who are keeping up with laws. The concern is interpretation of laws and how far they go. County would bury animals but they are backing away because of lawsuits.

Horse people have the same problems as small ruminant producers especially with parasites and same problem with wormer.

Asthema – extensive study on bahiagrass.

There are steroid shots that some vets are doing. Dr. Rivera worked with FDA on product approval – for it to happen for a livestock antibiotic it takes anywhere from 5 to 15 years in millions of trials and studies. Dr. Rivera is working on a product they had to do for 4 – 5 years replicated from another country before they will even approve to go to FDA. Getting them to justify getting money back from small ruminants to test for small ruminants.

# LIVESTOCK

DR. DANIEL RIVERA, MSU CHAIR  
29 ATTENDEES

## Producer Chair – Dewayne Smith

Opened up the meeting on updates within Extension and county level Extension topics and programs:

- Brad Jones talked about the area agents no longer working within the district, he also talked about grass management being a main form of interest in Stone County as well as marking options for livestock. Sprayer calibration is also a common topic within counties.
- The home place board sale is still going on within our district as well as the replacement heifer sale every year in Hattiesburg.
- Livestock show updates at District and State level and the numbers.
- Ross Overstreet talked about the gain on forage bull testing and sale in Tylertown his year. All were encouraged to join their local cattlemen's associations and participate in the BQA training program.
- Brad Jones touched on the BQA training and upcoming locations and dates for that, as well as how to host a BQA training.

Dr. Blanton talked about the home place board sale and how it has generated \$16 million in sales to producers over the last 3 years. A new research program focuses on supplementing cows with melatonin during pregnancy and how this will help with weaning weights. BQA regulations are changing and new rules are coming down on a national level so there will be some changes.

Dr. Daniel Rivera talked about the White Sand unit and research looking at oats and ryegrass as grazing options versus just ryegrass. Beneficial results were found and a new project will be started elaborating wheat, oats and ryegrass and grazing potential of combinations in relation to costs of annual ryegrass.

Ryegrass baling and supplementation as well as soybean hull supplementation research was done as well as a cost efficiency study, this will be released soon. They have been working with the Ag Econ group on different ways to market fat cattle and how to market cattle based on input costs.

Dr. Brandi Karisch is looking at studies on records of pen size relative to production and managing grazing by monitoring behavior of animals. BCIA meeting is on March 6<sup>th</sup> the night before the sale and the BCIA sale will be at noon on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Questions were asked about amount of cattle and numbers used on research projects and if this is relative to small operations. Dr. Rivera explained that they use large numbers because of amount of livestock and how it needs to be used for statistical purposes. It was also explained that studies like ryegrass and how those examples are still relatable because you can look at gain and days on grass versus the type of equipment used and amount of animals a producer has. Small producers might look into the retained ownership and some long term production ideas. Dr. Blanton explained that in MS there are over 14,000 beef producers and the average herd size is 14 head. The studies done by MSU are targeting small land owners and their production, but requires a large amount of animals in the study for statistical purposes.



## LIVESTOCK – CONTINUED

Oats and ryegrass studies consistently showed better results than just ryegrass planted. Rye has not been used, but Dr. Blanton shared his personal experience with oats and ryegrass and how the response is very consistent with oats in our part of the country.

Planting dates for oats and ryegrass was the end of September to the first week of October. It can be broadcast over scratched ground with a fertilizer mix mixed in with the seed.

Types of ryegrass planted: TAMTBO and Coker oats

Feedback from Producers on topics to work develop:

- VFD on feeds and antibiotics and relationships with the veterinarian
- Ryegrass and oats planting and research
- Any work done on alfalfa and the results
  - Dr. Lemus planted plots and that the persistence of alfalfa was not found
  - More work is being done and there is not enough data on how viable it is because it is so expensive and it barely lasts 4 years
  - The cost effectiveness is not there for producers
  - Future studies are in the works for White Sand
- Actively planting clover and is it feasible?
  - No ability to control weeds when clover is planted
  - Clover only produces the nitrogen after it has gone dormant
- Type of foresight on cost per unit of cow into the app for phones? Maybe use this as a management tool?
  - State average is \$500 to \$550 a year to raise a calf depending on target marketing. That also calculates land use and rent, equipment calculation, etc.
  - Cattle Calculator App and Calving Calculator App
  - Biggest problem is record keeping from producers
  - Grazing and hay calculator
- Women in Ag Workshops coming up?
  - Hopefully Fall 2019 but date and location is not known

Dr. Blanton urged producers to attend the Grass Fed Workshop on campus since this has been a large level of concern in the state and there is a knowledge gap in producer knowledge of how to produce quality beef and how to understand the grass fed industry and production strategies required. Finished up the meeting with advising producers to contact their local county Extension agent and let us know what the needs are in the county.

Upcoming Dates:

- March 11<sup>th</sup> – Grass fed beef workshop on campus
- March 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – AI School and another one in October
- April 4<sup>th</sup> – BQA Training at Tadlock stockyard
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – Beef 101 Workshop on Campus
- Oct 12<sup>th</sup> – Perkinston, MS Outdoor Business Workshop focusing on tree farmers
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Cover Crop Field Day
- April 4<sup>th</sup> – Coastal Plain Field Day Newton, MS
- May 11<sup>th</sup> – Small Ruminant Workshop in Hattiesburg, MS



# MARINE RESOURCES

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

Producer Chair – Jessica Rankin

- Ben Posadas kicked off meeting with a welcome and introduction of the presenters.
- There were a total of six presentations focused on different aspects of marine resources.
- Renee Collini presented on the Northern Gulf of Mexico Sentinel Site Cooperative Program. This presentation included the rate of sea level rise in coastal Mississippi, the impacts of sea level rise, and the need to plan for it. Attendees were interested in getting sea level rise information on the MSU Extension website.
- Mark Woodrey presented on the Coastal Avian Ecology Program. Some of this work includes establishing a Gulf of Mexico wide avian monitoring network and exploring the ecology of marsh birds.
- Eric Sparks presented on the Coastal Conservation and Restoration Program. This presentation included information on the Living Shorelines, Coastal Cleanup, and Master Naturalist sub-programs.
- Marcus Drymon presented on the Marine Fisheries Ecology Program. Topics included the life history research that supports the Extension program the group is doing to improve management of fisheries, tarpon tagging, and The Great Red Snapper Count.
- Sam Chang presented on the upgrades to ESPL, introduced his staff, and discussed some of his funded and potential projects.
- Ben Posadas presented on his Marine Economics program. In this presentation, he covered the economic impact of the seafood industry and the economic impact of marine debris on the commercial shrimping industry.



# POULTRY

DR. TOM TABLER, MSU CHAIR  
8 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Shannon Hartley

Mr. Tabler gave an introduction along with a brief overview of the differences in the commercial poultry industry along with backyard poultry growers.

Extension centers are trying to incorporate more poultry research and educational classes.

An overview of what was discussed last year regarding litter management through transportation from our area to the Delta for use for fertilization.

Majority of commercial poultry industries are antibiotic free some are rotating in and out of the program.

Ways to decrease stress in your poultry was discussed and included allowing more room, less chance of a disease breaking out, a longer time between sets of birds. This could also cause the grower to lose profit by having less poultry in the house, having less pounds to sell, and diseases becoming more common, etc.

It was brought up that consumers are not knowledgeable in the fact that antibiotics are being used for a certain purpose. The possibility of a disease that antibiotics cannot treat was discussed. There is a possibility but that possibility is extremely low. It was asked if breeder houses will also be on the antibiotic program as the broilers or pullets.

The process of tricking poultry into laying through light manipulation to keep those breeder poultry in production through the winter months to keep them in production was discussed. For those that are looking to get into the industry Extension offers guidance as to what equipment will be more efficient.



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 Mississippi counties.

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Dr. James Henderson, Head

| County             | County Coordinator   | Physical Street/Mailing Address                             | Phone        | Fax          |
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| <b>Newton</b>      | Katrina McCalphia    | 65 Seventh Street, PO Box 188<br>Decatur, MS 39327          | 601-635-7011 | 601-635-2146 |
| <b>Pearl River</b> | Eddie Smith          | 417 Hwy 11 North<br>Poplarville, MS 39470                   | 601-403-2280 | 601-795-0651 |
| <b>Perry</b>       | Brittany Odum        | 103-B 2nd Street West, PO Box 405<br>New Augusta, MS 39462  | 601-964-3668 | 601-964-8480 |
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# 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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Phone: 228-762-7783

### **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



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

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