

Producer Advisory Council Meeting



Commodity Group
Session Notes
February 28, 2017

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Dear Community Partner,

The following pages contain the report from the 2017 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.

In spite of the meeting falling on Fat Tuesday this year, there were 100 individuals in attendance. Producers came from 12 of the 21 counties in our region and 16 of our counties were represented by our agents. There were also 11 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 Thad Cochran's office.

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 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

Annual Meeting

of the



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

Producer Advisory Council

February 28, 2017

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AGRONOMIC CROPS

*DR. RANDY SMITH, MSU CHAIR
3 ATTENDEES*

Reported that we had many successes during the 2016 growing season and yields of corn and soybeans had increased due to our work.

Reported that we were seeing an increase in acres farmed and investment into new equipment.

Reported that our strip tillage work was beginning to pay off as we were increasing the number of growers using this technique.

Reported that there was a need for more grower meetings in the region pertaining to row crops and a need for more precision agriculture techniques.

Reported a need for better understanding on the new technologies involving the auxin and auxin like herbicides.

Stated that we are diversifying programs into new areas of research including potatoes and forage crops.

Reported that we were seeing great results from bio-stimulants which were new to the U.S. market place and had hormonal influences in corn and cotton. Also we reported that we had shown good results in soybeans. We are now working with two companies.

Reported that the understanding of germplasms and technologies were of crucial importance today with the changes evolving around new technologies. Most growers will plant new germplasms but not use the new chemistries which could cause serious injury to horticulture crops.

APICULTURE

DR. JEFF HARRIS, MSU CHAIR
10 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Glenn Collins

Producer Chair-Elect – LaRue Stephens

The Chair, Glenn Collins, opened the meeting, welcomed the group and asked that each person introduce themselves. Then he called Dr. Jeff Harris to take the floor.

Dr. Harris talked about the meeting with the State House and Senate committees and the Department of Health on the issue of inspections of honey producing facilities. He mentioned that small honey producers that sell from a booth and those that sell from home are not subject to inspections as long as it's under 500 gallons. If the honey leaves the producer's hands and is sold by someone else it makes it subject to inspection. They will inspect the extraction, heating, and bottling facility and equipment.

Suzette Bass joined in the discussion and was involved in answering questions of some of the honey producers in the room. As you can imagine, the honey producers are not happy about new regulations.



FORESTRY

DR. GLENN HUGHES, MSU CHAIR
20 ATTENDEES

Producer Chair – Walt Moeller

Producer Chair-Elect – Perry Meyers

The forestry session was conducted by Walt Moeller, Forestry Chair, and Glenn Hughes, Extension Forestry Professor. After introductions, Mr. Perry Myers was elected as next year's Chair.

Following introductions, Dr. Hughes presented a handout and brief update from last year's meeting. The group discussed each of the items noted.

For this year, the following concerns were identified:

- Information and communications—we need to get information out regarding timber prices and additional forestry topics on a more regular basis.
- We have a problems with the lack of mills for forest products. We need incentives to bring more mills into Mississippi, as we have a significant forest resource.
- Forest understory—this is critical, and includes vegetation, prescribed fire, quail, and managed grazing. Forestry is more than trees.
- Technology—we should make sure landowners know of advances in technology, including phone apps and other technology that might be useful to them. Specific examples included Google Earth Pro (for mapping forest lands), Leafsnap (tree identification app), GPS apps (allowing landowners to locate property boundaries) and other technologies.
- Prescribed fire—we are unable to get burns done. We need more Certified Burn Managers willing to burn on private lands, or alternative ways of getting burns conducted.



COMMERCIAL ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

DR. GENE BLYTHE, MSU CHAIR
10 ATTENDEES

Gary Bachman highlighted some of the CREC's current projects in ornamental horticulture:

- New floral design program with Dr. Jim DelPrince
- Studies with commercial production of zinnias as a cut flower crop.
- Annual and perennial trials at the Poplarville station with Dr. Gene Blythe (with results featured in HighLights newsletter, which began publication 3 years ago based on request at the 2014 CAC meeting).
- Graduate student project examining safety of alcohol in rooting hormone solutions for commercial cutting propagation.
- Continuing screening of crepe myrtle germplasm for future nursery introduction with Dr. Patricia Knight.
- Potential applications of hyperspectral imaging in cooperation with the MSU Geosystems Research Institute.

Dan Batson noted interest in potential applications of hyperspectral imaging in nursery production.

James Mills noted interest in cut-flower roses as a commercial crop for the coastal region. Focus could be on upper-income customers. The correct cut-flower varieties would need to be selected.

James Mills discussed his commercial production of garden roses on *Rosa fortuneana* rootstock. This rootstock is more vigorous and adaptable to different soil conditions than conventional rose rootstock, but grafted roses on *Rosa fortuneana* rootstock must be sold as container-grown plant since the vigorous root systems do not permit bare-root shipping. Most of his plants ship to California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida (Palm Beach area). He noted that his roses are successfully sold via the internet, thanks to assistance from MSU training in setting up an internet-based sales system.

James Mills requested information on how to set up an email distribution list for promoting his roses to new customers.

Terri Doyle requested evaluating the potential of nontraditional foliage plants, such as those growing in the annual variety trials in Poplarville, for use in floral design.

James Mills noted that three pests of roses that seem likely to become an increasing problem over the coming years are rose rosette, chili thrips, and stem canker. Dan Batson noted that crepe myrtle bark scale is of increasing concern in the landscape ornamental market, with some customers in Texas already reducing their purchases of crepe myrtle.



Dan Batson noted an industry-wide concern is development of young professionals who will lead the nursery industry into the future.

Dan Batson and James Mills agreed that labor availability is still the number one issue facing nursery producers. Guest workers (under the H2A program) are arriving four to six weeks late due to delays in processing, and future increases in demand for guest workers could cause the H2A program to fail. Dan added that his nursery is willing to pay more than the government H2A rate to obtain experienced workers. Mississippi uses the E-verify system, but surrounding states do not. Dan noted that involvement with Mississippi Farm Bureau is critical in bringing needs of the nursery industry to the attention of Mississippi congressmen.

The five top issues/needs identified by the advisory committee at this meeting were:

- Testing vase life of potential foliage crops for floral design
- Instruction on setting up an email distribution system for mass marketing
- Pests and diseases on the horizon.
- Developing young professionals for the nursery industry.
- Immigration issues and labor availability.

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

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

Topics Discussed

- Chill hours and Dormancy
 - Chill hour data app now available at webapps.msucare.com
 - Dormex spray can be used to break dormancy in blueberries when chill hours are not sufficient; however, small berries may be a result of use.
- Business Planning
 - Fruit and Nut/Vegetable Enterprise Planning templates are available at agecon.msstate.edu
 - Budget Generator (includes budget and input files)
- Bird and Deer deterrents
 - For birds in blueberries, netting was suggested
 - For deer in crops, a multi-faceted strategy is recommended including deterrents aimed at sight, taste, and smell
- Fruit and Vegetable Disease Publications
 - How to collect and package disease samples
 - Mayhaw diseases
 - Common problems with tomatoes (abiotic issues)
 - Organic vegetable IPM guide
 - Taking photos of plant disease problems
 - Southeastern Vegetable Crop Handbook
 - Choosing a disinfectant for tools in horticulture operations
 - Pecan bacterial leaf scorch
- Upcoming 2017 Events
 - March 16 - General Pest Management Workshop (Raymond)
 - April 4 – Commercial Strawberry Field Day (Crystal Springs)
 - June 1 – Beaumont Horticultural Unit Field Day (Beaumont)



HOME HORTICULTURE

DR. CHRISTINE COKER, MSU CHAIR
24 ATTENDEES

Attendees were reminded about the MSU Extension resources on fruits, nuts, and vegetables available at <http://extension.msstate.edu>.

Disease problems and lab diagnostics was the first issue. Getting proper diagnoses was discussed. Information from Extension state specialist may take time and depends on varying factors. Take photo images to help speed the process. The state lab offers great service. Clients should start with County Agents.

Squash Bugs or insect that appears to be Stink Bugs are causing plant problems. Christian has tried all types of organic controls and none work. Malathion works but smells bad. Thinking of trying a crop just for the bugs that acts as a deterrent for them to stay away from other crops. Use sanitation in/near garden. It is not an end-all, but can help. There is a publication on vegetable garden insect pests available. Bury the meristem of vine to protect from borer; just a shovel of dirt. The beneficial insect for squash bugs are Braconids. Unless they are in an enclosed structure, they fly away and do not eradicate. Some plants are more attractive to certain insects than others. Fennel, dill, Queen Anne's lace attract lacewings and lady beetles (companion plants).

Wood ashes are a beneficial amendment if used properly. They can be incorporated into the soil. It raises pH, so take care. Be sure to soil test to find pH, fertilizer needs and more. The cost is \$8.

Master Gardeners are working at the Audubon Center with goal to produce native plants due to public interest. What are the best native ornamentals? Virginia Sweet Spire is one plant idea.

Group then discussed upcoming events of interest to home gardening. An idea was discussed to schedule a field trip/tour around the CREC property.

Some people were concerned about frost protection for citrus. What coverings and materials would work best?

LIVESTOCK

DR. DANIEL RIVERA, MSU CHAIR
24 ATTENDEES

Recorder – Ms. Amanda Woods

Rivera updated the group on Research being conducted at White Sand Experiment Station. He announced the upcoming field day on April 28.

The Livestock group discussed the change of antibiotic use in livestock and the regulations on feed grade antibiotics and the new restrictions and laws. The producers discussed alternatives for use in livestock and new research to aid in these new regulations.

Producers discussed using minerals in cattle and the time of year that is most beneficial for the producer. Rivera said they will begin new mineral research at Whitesand in the later spring or summer. This will focus on what the mineral programs actually do and how they work to be beneficial to cattle according to the time of the year when fed.

Discussion on controlling parasites and new methods to do so and how they will affect the new rules and regulations.

There was also discussion on using GPS and the efficiency of using the guidance systems on pasture management. This group would like to see if there could be research done on using systems like these on pasture work like they do with row crops.

Upcoming dates announced –

BCIA meeting – March 2

BQA training – March 9

Fall AI School October 26-28 (spring AI school is already full)

Beef Unit Field Day - April 28



HORSE & SMALL RUMINANTS

MR. BRAD JONES, MSU CHAIR
24 ATTENDEES

Recorder – Ms. Amanda Woods

1. 4H District Horse show June 8, 9, 10, 2017
2. Magnolia Community Center – Quarterly Small Ruminant Meeting – Stone/Pearl River
3. Relationships with Extension Agents , USDA, Farm Bureau, Vets and medicines
4. Need more processing plants, marketing locations, sheep market – price of wool lower than price to travel.
5. Forage testing for protein – MSU Chem Lab \$15, \$8 soil sample to Extension Office

SEAFOOD & AQUACULTURE

DR. BEN POSADAS AND
DR. ERIC SPARKS, MSU CHAIRS
12 ATTENDEES

Areas of Expertise

- Marine Fisheries
 - CONTACT PERSON: Position will be filled on August 1, 2017
 - PHONE: 228-546-1028
 - PROJECT COORDINATOR: Peter Nguyen
 - EMAIL: pnn11@msstate.edu
 - PHONE: 228-546-1031
 - WEBSITE: <http://www.coastal.msstate.edu/marine-resources>
 - WEBSITE: <http://extension.msstate.edu/natural-resources/marine-resources/seafood-harvesting-and-processing>
- Seafood Science
 - CONTACT PERSON: Position is now vacant
 - WEBSITE: <http://www.coastal.msstate.edu/seafood-processing>
 - PHD STUDENT: Yuwei Wu
 - PROFESSOR: Dr. Sam Chang
- Coastal Ecology
 - CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Eric Sparks
 - EMAIL: eric.sparks@msstate.edu
 - PHONE: 228-546-1025
 - WEBSITE: <http://www.coastal.msstate.edu/coastal-environment>
- Marine Economics
 - CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Ben Posadas
 - EMAIL: ben.posadas@msstate.edu
 - PHONES: 228-546-1024; 662-769-9938
 - WEBSITE: <http://www.coastal.msstate.edu/marine-economics>
 - WEBSITE: <http://extension.msstate.edu/natural-resources/marine-resources/seafood-economics>
 - FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/HortMarine/>
 - FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/MSMarketMaker/>
- Monthly validation verification tests for irradiated and IQF oysters
- Conduct HACCP and Preventive Controls trainings
- Oyster harvester training to improve gear efficiency and reduce damage to resources
- Prepare annual estimates of economic impacts of seafood industry by major species.
- Compile shrimp imports data from ITC and shrimp aquaculture licenses from all state.





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. James Henderson, Head, and 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	Angie Byrd	#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	Kelby King	37B West 8th Ave., PO Box 506 Bay Springs, MS 39422	601-764-2314	601-764-2035
Jeff Davis	Thomas Brewer	2304 Pearl Avenue, PO Box 580 Prentiss, MS 39474	601-792-5121	601-792-5123
Jones	Kimberly Hancock	515 North 5th Ave., PO Box 448 Laurel, MS 39441	601-428-5201	601-428-3158
Kemper		Rt 4, Box 332 Old Scooba Rd, PO Box 339 DeKalb, MS 39328	601-743-2837	601-743-5581
Lamar	Liz Sadler	216 Shelby Street Ste B, PO Box 419 Purvis, MS 39475	601-794-3910	601-794-5515
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
Neshoba	Karen Benson	12000 Hwy 15 N, Ste 2 Philadelphia, MS 39350	601-656-4011	601-656-5505
Newton	Katrina McCalphia	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
Perry	Brittany Odum	103-B 2nd Street West, PO Box 405 New Augusta, MS 39462	601-964-3668	601-964-8480
Stone	Judy Breland	214 N Critz St, Suite A Wiggins, MS 39577	601-928-5286	601-928-4677
Wayne	Lanette Crocker	810-A Chickasawhay St Waynesboro, MS 39367	601-735-2243	601-735-6264



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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

Dr. James Henderson, Head

1815 Poppo Ferry Rd

Biloxi, MS 39532

Phone: 228-388-4710

Fax: 228-388-1375

Beaumont Horticultural Unit

475 Hwy 15

Beaumont, MS 39423

Phone: 601-788-6616

Fax: 601-788-5522

Experimental Seafood Processing Laboratory

3411 Frederic Street

Pascagoula, MS 39567

Phone: 228-762-7783

South MS Branch Experiment Station

Includes Poplarville, White Sands, and McNeill Units

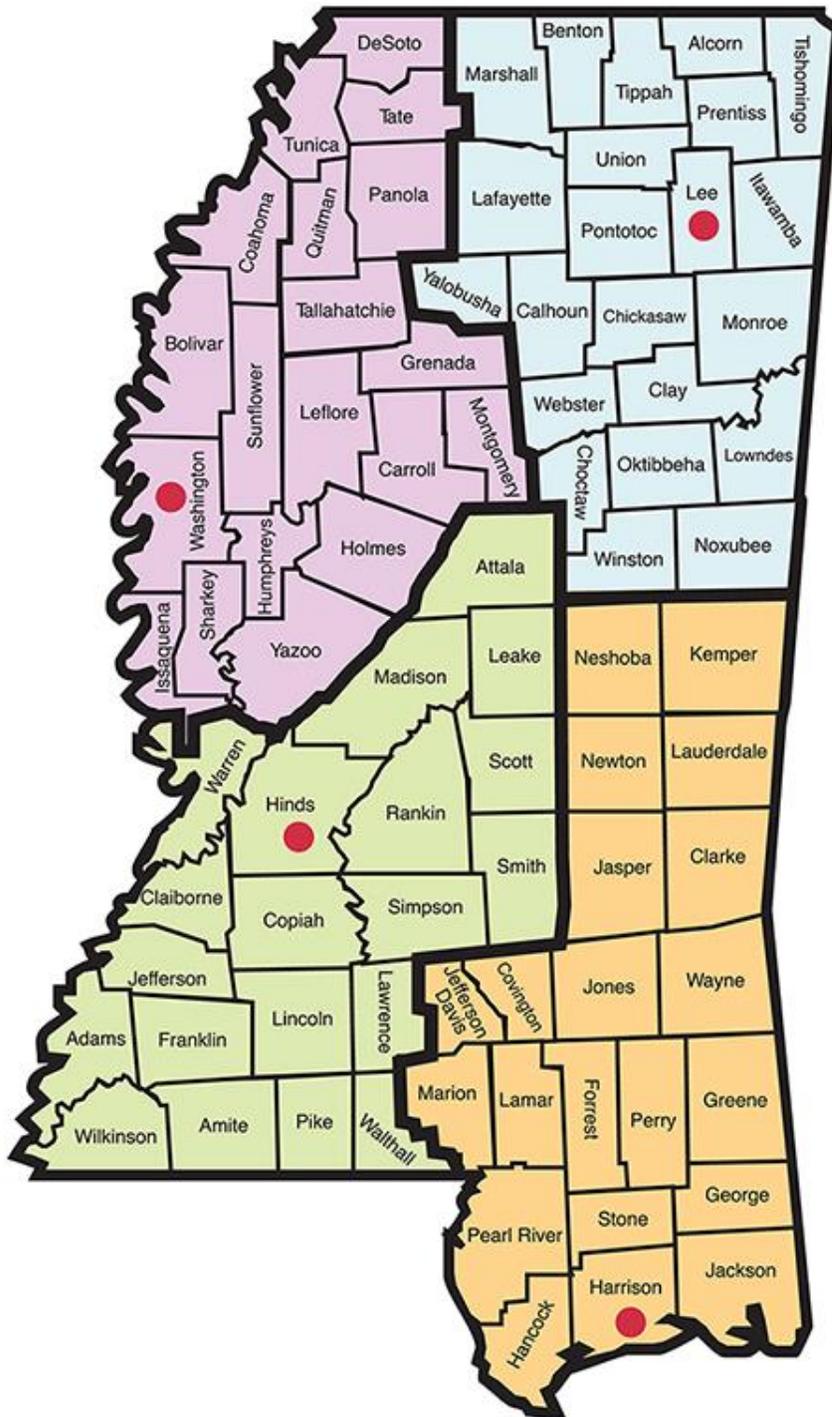
810 Highway 26 West * PO Box 193

Poplarville, MS 39470

Poplarville Phone: 601-795-4525

White Sands Phone: 601-795-4805





- DELTA REGION**
- Delta Research & Extension Center
STONEVILLE
- NORTHEAST REGION**
- North MS Research & Extension Center
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- SOUTHWEST REGION**
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