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**COASTAL RESEARCH &
EXTENSION CENTER**

**PRODUCER ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

Commodity Session Notes

February 23, 2023

thank you!

to our Partners



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VP/ Branch Manager

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Nathan Taylor, Loan Officer

Laura Michini, Loan Administrator

12196 Highway 49 * Gulfport, MS 39503

V 228-832-5582 * F 228-832-7908



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**COASTAL RESEARCH &
EXTENSION CENTER**

1815 Popps Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532
P. 228-388-4710 * F. 228-388-1375
www.coastal.msstate.edu

Dear Community Partner,

The Mission of the MSU Coastal Research & Extension Center is to conduct research and education programs aimed at developing a better understanding and use of renewable and nonrenewable resources in south Mississippi. To this end, it is important for us to continue to reach out and work with our clients and community partners, finding creative and innovative ways to share our knowledge and ideas.

The following pages contain the report from the 2023 Annual Producer Advisory Council (PAC) 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 Mississippi State University to better meet your needs.

With 104 individuals in attendance, we had producers from 11 counties of southeast Mississippi with 13 counties being represented by our Extension agents. In addition to the faculty and staff of the Coastal Research & Extension Center and the Coastal Extension Region, there were 16 other MSU staff members and administrators, representing MSU Extension and MS Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES), which are part of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry & Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM), as well as guests from Southern AgCredit and MS Farm Bureau Federation. 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 our colleagues and fellow producers, and we ask you to encourage them to attend future meetings as well.

If you were unable to participate, 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 which will be held January 25, 2024. The Coastal Research and Extension Center was established in 1988 and is based in Biloxi, MS. CREC supports Extension programs in the 21 southeastern counties of Mississippi, on the reservation of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and at the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune. CREC also administers experiment stations in Harrison, Jackson, Perry, and Pearl River Counties under the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Station system.

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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COASTAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION CENTER

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY COASTAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

- Serves 21 of 82 Mississippi counties.
- Offers professional services from the MSU Extension Service and Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station in agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, community resource development, and 4-H.
- Includes approximately 120 employees, including Extension agents and specialists, program associates and assistants, and faculty and staff.

THE MSU COASTAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER IS FUNDED BY THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE.



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*Extension funding is supplemented
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Coastal Research & Extension Center
(228) 546-1001
1815 Popp's Ferry Road
Biloxi, MS 39532
coastal.msstate.edu



- ★ Coastal Research & Extension Center
- ◆ Extension Unit: Crosby Arboretum
- MAFES Unit: South MS Branch Experiment Station
- MAFES Unit: Experimental Seafood Processing Lab
- MAFES Subunit: Beaumont Horticultural Unit
- MAFES Subunit: White Sand Beef Unit
- MAFES Subunit: McNeill Unit
- County Extension Office
- MS Band of Choctaw Indians Extension Office



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Apiculture

Dr. Jeff Harris, MSU Chair
Ross Overstreet, Recorder
15 Attendees

A welcome was given to all in attendance by the moderator, MSU Apiculture chair/specialist Dr. Jeff Harris. During the welcome, a quick rundown of the goals and expectations of the group was given. Dialogue was initiated between group members and Dr. Harris on issues viewed as of high importance. Topics of interest to members of the group included information on varroa mite treatment/management and the prevalence of the pest in the hives of today's beekeeping community. This is the most damaging pest to honeybee hives currently.

After discussion on research dealing with this pest, conversation shifted to making hands-on workshops more widely available to those interested in learning about beekeeping. Dr. Harris mentioned that a new series was in the works similar to these goals. Attendees were enthusiastic about this upcoming opportunity and looking forward to them. Dr. Harris also mentioned the availability of workshops and beginner opportunities through local beekeeping clubs and associations.

Another topic of interest to the attendees was the use and incorporation of native wildflowers and plants in the landscape that are beneficial to honeybees, and more importantly, native pollinators. Native pollinators are an extremely important part of the ecosystem, and more care should be taken to increase their numbers and increase their habitat and food.

The use of plants as "super plants" to help hives be more resilient and be stronger as they could be receiving greater nutrition. These plants can be seen like superfoods in humans as they provide superior nutrition to more typical plants in the landscape. Care should be taken to make sure these plants are native and non-invasive in a landscape. This is paramount as we already have enough exotic, invasive species in the landscape that is competing with our native plants but want to limit what we introduce.

The final issue noted was creating/managing a list of individuals or businesses that do hive removal or cut outs from buildings, homes, water meters, or other structures that may experience swarms or colonies. Creating a centralized list, that individuals can sign up to be on and can easily be accessed by home/landowners or extension agents would be of great service too many individuals during peak swarm times or when colonies have invaded a structure unwantingly. It was mentioned that a website where individuals could go to register to be automatically populated on a website and included on this list yearly could help alleviate the burden of someone trying to physically manage such an everchanging list. This also includes possible publications talking about the tools and options available to land/homeowners when they are dealing with an unwanted swarm or hive.

Coastal & Marine Ecology

Dr. Marcus Drymon and Dr. Mark Woodrey, MSU Chairs
Matt Thornton, Recorder
24 Attendees

Coastal and Marine Ecology (Dr. Marcus Drymon)

- Dr. Drymon discussed the goals of the Marine Fisheries Ecology group and their efforts to work with fishermen and stakeholders in the Northern Gulf of Mexico.
- Dr. Drymon provided an overview of the large scale, synoptic, single-species stock assessments that included the Great Red Snapper Count and now focusing on the Greater Amberjack.
- Working with partners in other states, Mississippi State Extension and the Marine Fisheries Ecology group are tasked with leading the extension efforts. These efforts include social media, publications on data and species identification, and outreach to over 6000 individuals at 23 events.
- Additionally, they publish the Gulf Coast Fisherman Newsletter and provide a FISHERS course for the public interested in learning more about the coastal and marine ecology.



Avian Ecology (Dr. Mark Woodrey)

- Dr. Woodrey provided an overview of the research taking place on breeding marsh birds in estuaries and their species distribution, avian community response to longleaf pine restoration, and mottled duck, yellow rail, and black rail response to marsh grass burning.
- Dr. Woodrey discussed outreach efforts including birding field trips, coastal birds of Alabama, and the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival.
- Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network and their work to monitor species response and populations after disturbances including oil spill was discussed.



Coastal Resiliency & Restoration

Sara Martin and Andrew Medhurst, MSU Chairs
Megan Chevis, Recorder
22 Attendees



PLACE: SLR (Sea Level Rise)

- Works on resiliency for coastal communities, changing flood resilience
- Geography: spans entire northern Gulf of Mexico
- SLR makes existing conditions worse (storm surge, nuisance flooding, erosion, saltwater intrusion, storm water management) and harder to deal with
- Focus areas and goals:
 - Resilient communities and economies
 - Knowledge of changing condition and risks enhances community well-being
 - Municipalities, counties, different levels
 - Incorporate info about changing conditions
 - Environmental literacy and workforce development
 - Environmentally literate public
 - Diverse and skilled workforce
 - Healthy coastal ecosystems - Green infrastructure that protects and connects communities
- Approach:
 - Identify gaps and needs - Partner with community organizations
 - Identify priorities, objectives, and actions to address in the coming years - Tangible timelines to see progress over time
 - Meet regularly to review progress, network, identify collaboration opportunities, etc.
 - Listen to input from community leaders, residents, and technical experts
- Activities:
 - Understand risk - Improve data and information accessibility
 - Communicate risk - Support appropriate use and application of data and information
 - Facilitate action: foster multi-directional dialogue and connect individuals and groups
- Improve data and data access
 - Graphics and gifs
 - Informational videos and case studies and video diaries to develop new ideas and create plans
 - Dissemination of info to appropriate audiences
 - Tools and applications - Identifying effects of sea level rise on communities
 - Technical reports and application guide
 - Every 5 years, most up to date science
 - Guide for report to be more digestible and easier to understand and apply; for multiple audiences



Coastal Resiliency & Restoration - Continued

- Supportive use and application
 - Resources for teachers and students: SLR in the classroom available for teachers around Gulf of Mexico
 - Resources for municipal staff: Lunch and learn: providing up to date information and tools to managers to foster dialogue
- Between types of researchers
- Tool developers and users
- Funders and decision makers
- Residents and stakeholders
- Community's RISE (Resilience in SLR Education): connecting residents with municipal officials (Community Connection Dialogue) - Bring SLR info to the public (Pop-ins), external sites to present to new audiences that may not normally be exposed to information
- Resilient East Biloxi
 - Series of community leader trainings and resident engagement events
 - Redevelopment planning that is affordable and resilient - Incorporates science and up to date info
- Nature based solutions to stormwater management:
 - Assess feasibility of enhancing stormwater management using innovative green infrastructure
 - Engage residents and municipal officials
- Digital presence: blog posts, interviews, news stories, social media
- Questions:
 - Retention ponds being looked at?
 - Many different options are looked at, including retention ponds
 - Presented multiple ideas to community groups to gauge interest in what type of methods they wanted
 - Preferred green space: walking space, bike baths, parks, etc as opposed to retention ponds
 - SLR vs land subsidence: negligible in Mississippi, but more so in Louisiana
 - Villanova partnering along with Coastal Conservation & Resiliency group on nature-based solutions
 - Where did funding originate from?
 - Started out of Dauphin Island, not with MSU and Sea Grant
 - Initially NOAA funding program
 - Get lot of questions about- how it plays into SLR
 - MS has subsidence? - Not really, more so in LA combined with SLR



Coastal Resiliency & Restoration - Continued

- CCR (Coastal Conservation & Resiliency)

- How we work: identify something that needs assessment – search for information – conduct applied research – develop information transfer products – implement products – assess effectiveness of products and adoption of information - repeat
- Environmental education:
 - Plan it dunes
 - Grow and plant plants for dunes and marsh in high school, run experiments, team members teach about topics, used for restoration
 - Plan it marsh
 - GRITS – Green & Resilient Infrastructure Technical Skills
 - Program for high schoolers
 - Technical skills that can be used for careers
 - Drone, boat driving, trailering
 - Student naturalist
 - Master naturalist
- Marine debris and litter:
 - MS Coastal cleanup
 - All coastal counties
 - Once per month
 - Can request kit to participate outside of scheduled cleanups
 - Data collection
 - Inland Cleanup
 - 6 counties north of the coast in southeast Mississippi
 - Focus on river areas
 - Derelict crab trap project
 - Incentive program for shrimpers to bring in crab traps that they haul in
 - Over 1000 traps collected
 - Paid for turning in traps
 - Look at economic impacts of debris
- Conservation/targeted grazing
 - Use of grazers for managing ecosystems: clearing brush, managing unwanted plants
- Coastal restoration and ecology
 - Research: seagrass, fish and invertebrates, bats, oyster reefs to exclude predators
 - Living shorelines: Camp Wilkes case study (bulkhead replaced with living shoreline)
 - Site has continued to grow and expand



Coastal Resiliency & Restoration - Continued

- Living shorelines: type of alternative to bulkhead, nature-based solution
 - Most of shorelines are privately owned
 - Small scale projects are important, at homeowner level
 - Work with property owners to come up with a design that will prevent further erosion and restore natural processes
 - Use drone for up-to-date aerial imagery
 - Low-cost DIY wave gauges built to assess wave measurements
 - better for gauging boat wakes in high traffic areas
 - Assist with permitting for these projects
 - Resources/technical assistance
 - Catalogs, workshops, questionnaire
 - For contractors, property owners, landscapers
 - Cost share/assistance programs
 - Provide materials to property owners to defray costs associated with implementing living shorelines
 - Obstacle: native plant nurseries located in LA and FL
 - Difficult to get supplies
 - Working with master gardeners to grow native marsh classes to supplement
- Questions:
 - Any other places in MS other than Camp Wilkes where have implemented living shorelines?
 - Had to pause because of regulatory issues- permitting paused since last summer
 - Working with DMR to get back started and have several projects in AL
 - Primary concern for shutting down permitting? - Where property line is and how changes property value over time/giving away land
 - Can master gardeners help with dune projects and marsh projects? - Can connect with coordinator of that project – Nora Skinner
 - School projects still ongoing? - Yes, team members are visiting often
 - How long have been monitoring SLR?
 - About 8 years ago, work with NASA and NOAA- don't directly monitor
 - Focus more on impacts, solutions, dissemination
 - In last 30 years, have seen 6" of rise, could see another 6" in next 30 years



Commercial Fisheries & Seafood Processing

Dr. Benedict Posadas and Dr. Wenbo Liu, MSU Chairs

Dr. Yan Zhang, Recorder

7 Attendees

Dr. Ben Posadas presented his research and extension projects in marine fisheries and aquaculture, seafood marketing and processing and disaster economics at MSU-CREC in 2022.



- Collaborate with 12 U.S. aquaculture economists to assess the economic status and contribution of U.S. Aquaculture 2020-23.
- Optimize surimi production systems subject to supply and technological constraints and global pandemic.
- Promote local food business through the Mississippi MarketMaker marketing program.
- Study the break-even and shut-down points of Gulf shrimping in 2021 associated with high fuel prices and low dockside shrimp prices.
- Research Mississippi off-bottom oyster farming and U.S. marine aquaculture production and farmgate values.
- Investigate economic impacts of coastal hazards on Gulf region and state commercial landings and dockside values and prices.

Dr. Wenbo Liu outlined his food mechanical engineering program to benefit catfish and other aquatic food industries.



- Automation Preparation for Individually Quick-Frozen Process of Catfish Fillets
- Automation Design for Skewering Process
- Catfish Bone Powders Recycling for Polymer Composite 3D Printing
- Application of Water Jet Cutting in Processing of Catfish

Consumer & Commercial Horticulture

Dr. Patricia Knight, MSU Chair

Thomas Brewer, Recorder

36 Attendees

- 50th Ornamental field day October 5, 2023
- 3rd Poinsettia Open House - December 1 & 2, 2023
- Salad tables are being used for the edible portion of research at the South MS Branch Experiment Station
- Self-compatibility of blueberries research
- Seen increase in sales of ornamental horticulture during and after covid
- Vegetable seed shortage
- Beaumont Horticulture Field Day June 1, 2023
- Cultivate cut flowers in farm production – Farmer Florist Series
- Need more Flower Farm Growers for Mississippi
- Research on cut marigolds and did not see major results in pinching them back and are a good option for producers in MS. The white flowers are not a good option for MS.
- Research on impatiens or coleus as an option for cut flower research
- Research on zinnia production cut flower production
- Research Mexican Sunflower
- Research for micro flower farmers as a fresh state or dried state
- Research on Rhubarb/will it grow in MS?
- Studies on propagation of native cultivars
- Research maypop and crossing with passionfruit to have a crop that can grow well in MS
- MS Master Gardener Association State Conference will be May 1, 2, & 3, 2024, and is hosted by the Harrison County Master Gardeners. There will be no MMGA State Conference for 2023.
- Issues with pomegranates in the humidity and wet conditions so it is not as successive in MS



Fruits & Vegetables

Dr. Christine Coker and Dr. Eric Stafne, MSU Chairs
Haley Williams, Recorder
34 Attendees



Dr. Stafne discussed the following:

- Works with all fruit and nut crops
- Conducted 2 blueberry workshops this year: 1 in person and 1 virtual (3rd one since Covid)
 - Have had good reaction to both in person and virtual workshops
- Blueberry pruning/maintenance workshop aimed at agent training will be held in June: one by MSU and one by LSU
- Held muscadine field day at McNeill in August for the first time since Covid - had good turn out
- Current research projects on grapes, muscadines, blackberries, blueberries, and passion fruit
 - White drupelet disorder in blackberries caused by high heat environment and genetic factors
 - Will be looking at mulching and irrigation effects
 - Blueberry pruning heights: to the ground vs foot above the ground
 - Passion fruit breeding to get cold hardy varieties developed
 - First trying in pots then will move to field
 - Conducted national survey on passion fruit to find out what varieties are grown, how they're grown, and their pest problems
 - Evaluating some table grapes from University of Georgia

Dr. Coker discussed the following:

- Beaumont field day will be held on June 1st
- Multistate variety trial on acorn squash
 - How long can you store the squash?
 - Small and easy to work with
- MAFES bulletin on mini pumpkins
 - Once over harvest that occurs before vines decline
- Lettuce trial
 - Quick and easy
 - Conducted in spring and fall
- MAFES bulletins on cut flowers
 - Field production, vase life, dried flowers
- Shaun Broderick using soil steaming to disinfest soil
 - What about good microbiome?
 - How long does it take good stuff to regenerate?
- Working on drought guide for tomatoes, peppers, eggplants
- Agriculture and natural resources pathway at Pathways 2 Possibilities
 - Volunteer activity held Wednesday and Thursday the week before Thanksgiving

Fruits & Vegetables - Continued



PhD student Haley Williams discussed the following:

- Completed master's research on canopy management of Midsouth grapevines to improve fruit quality for winemaking
- Future research projects on grapevine stress tolerances, wild yeast for winemaking by sequential and spontaneous fermentation, passion fruit seed germination
- Current study on amounts of pruning on grapevines

MDAC outreach coordinator, Davis Edwards, discussed the following:

- Education opportunities for growers: in person and virtual
- Sanitation to minimize risk of contamination
- Focus on blueberries, watermelons, and tomatoes

NRCS urban conservationist, Tyree Harrington, discussed the following:

- Helps get funding for urban agriculture
 - Fruits, vegetables, cut flowers
 - Small scale production inside city limits
 - Irrigation, raised beds, community gardens
 - Must have FSA farm track number

Vegetable, Fruit, and Nut Pathologist, Dr. Melanson, discussed the following:

- Pathology/IPM updates for vegetables, fruits, pecans
- Upcoming extension programs
- Research on white fly-transmitted viruses and yellowing viruses in watermelon and other cucurbits. Emerging viruses in cucurbits working group
- Many new and revised publications
- Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium IPM and production guides
- MyIPM app

Participants commented on the following:

- Problems with worms on mini pumpkins? Not currently a problem
 - When to plant mini pumpkins? Plant in middle of summer and will hold well until fall
- Are mini pumpkins edible?
 - Not enough flesh to eat
 - Only weigh ½ pound or less
- What will irradicate deer? Anything affordable?
 - Have tried electric wires
 - Some success with monofilament fishing line
 - Must have a strategy and change out what is used
- Best muscadine wine ever made was made with wild yeasts
- What mentoring/learning programs are available?
 - Mississippi raised garden group, Facebook groups for just about anything



Forestry

Butch Bailey, MSU Chair

Tim Ray, Recorder

22 Attendees

Chair: Jim Currie

Hardwood timber residuals are sent to Enviva for wood pellets; 100% of wood pellets are sent to Europe for heating.

Logging demand challenges: although there's less loggers than 10 years ago, there's more wood being harvested in that same time. Problems are labor and insurance.

Hinds Community College has a new forestry program that encompasses many aspects of logging.

Forestry information can be found via newsletters from CFAs but also a lot of information found online on MFA and MFC websites.

Forestry interest in our area (coastal) seems to be declining but the wildlife aspect of forestry is still a popular topic.

Forestry habitat starts with soil health and the habitat is part of the aesthetics.

There's a lot of interest in silviculture by both timber and cattle producers.

MFA would like to see more "boots on the ground" from professionals such as Extension personnel who can communicate with landowners.



One huge issue in forestry is our CFAs aren't attracting younger members. However, many wildlife-related programs conducted by CFAs seem to attract a younger audience.

Discussion of the disconnect between stumpage prices and finished lumber prices. Specifically, why is the price for finished lumber at historic highs while the stumpage price landowners get for the raw material at historic lows.

Horses & Small Ruminants

Dr. Leyla Rios DeAlvarez and Brad Jones, MSU Chairs

Amanda Woods, Recorder

27 Attendees

Welcome and Introductions were given by Brad Jones and Dr. Leyla Rios DeAlvarez

Committee Chair – Helen Glaze, Harrison County

Updates:

Dr. Rios talked to the livestock commodity group about the efforts done through training farmers on sustainable parasite control, use of FAMACHA system, parasite identification, the new program "Taking the Lab to the Farm". The team plans to keep training more farmers in north and south MS. Also, she shared books from Southern SARE (Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education, <https://southern.sare.org/>) with the participants. In the Forestry commodity group, small ruminants were also mentioned for the opportunities of silvopasture systems for sheep and goats in MS. There is a new factsheet available for anyone wanting more information on this topic (MSSTATE Extension Publication P3822)

Small Ruminant Training will be held in Hattiesburg on April 12th. This training will include Forage Management, parasite control, and FAMACHA training

Updates from NRCS – programs to assist small ruminant producers are available.

Key Points from Discussion:

- Research native breeds of cattle, goats, and sheep for parasite resistance over other breeds.
- Guide for new farmers to stay ahead of controlling parasites
- Information on how controlling parasites can affect healthy environments and beneficial insects.
- Promoting the 4-H Horse program focusing on Halter and performance classes.



Livestock

Brad Jones, MSU Chair
Amanda Woods, Recorder
20 Attendees

Welcome and introduction of the meeting was given by Extension Agent, Brad Jones.

Elected as chair: Larry Davis, Pearl River County

Updates:

- Southern Producer Board Sale
- Southern Producers Heifer Sale
- Research Station Updates:
 - White Sands - Currently interviewing for a research scientist/Extension specialist.
 - Hay Field Demonstration will be held at the White Sand Unit on April 20, 2023.
 - Brown Loam – Redesigning pastures and fencing. Working on rebuilding the herd.
 - Coastal Plains – Beef Cattle Field Day, March 30, 2023.
 - Campus – Hinds BCIA Bull Sale, March 2, 2023.
 - Beef Reproduction camp will be held in Ellisville (Jones Junior College) and Prairie.
 - Artificial Insemination School – March and October

Key Points from the meeting:

1. Research for cheaper protein sources to feed and supplement cattle.
2. Training on Calving and calving difficulties for producers. With the reduction of large animal vets in the counties this training would be very beneficial.
3. Silage/Sorghum research in the south and cost efficiency for feeding beef cattle.



4. Resistance or overuse of Ivermectin in Beef Cattle. Alternatives or education for producers.
5. Education of antibiotics that will not be available over the counter starting June 2023. Prescriptions will be required.
6. Ryegrass research. Especially Rust and Blast

Poultry

Dr. Jessica Wells, MSU Chair

Ellen Russell, Recorder

4 Attendees

Dr. Jessica Wells spoke with the group on about the recent Avian Influenza outbreak in the state as well as an update from campus on Poultry Research. She opened the floor for questions and what the group felt their needs were. The following topics were discussed:

- Avian Influenza education information for the public as well as backyard producers
- Backyard poultry health & disease issues.
- The need for poultry veterinarians who would treat backyard poultry.
- Biosecurity precautions and how to create better biosecurity practices.
- Tips on starting a backyard flock from scratch.

Dr. Wells concluded the zoom meeting by stating she would work on creating some publications to disseminate quickly for general AI information for backyard producers and the public. She also reminded everyone she is available at any time to assist with whatever poultry concerns may arise throughout the year.





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.

What we do and where we do it:

<p>Coastal Research and Extension Center 1815 Popp's Ferry Rd Biloxi, MS 39532 Phone: 228-388-4710 Fax: 228-388-1375</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coastal avian ecology• Coastal climate resilience• Coastal restoration ecology• Forest management• Marine fisheries ecology• Natural Resources and agricultural economics• Ornamental horticulture• Vegetable horticulture
<p>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</p> <p>Beaumont Horticultural Unit 475 Hwy 15 Beaumont, MS 39423 Phone: 601-788-6616 Fax: 601-788-5522</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beef nutrition• Host to USDA ARS Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Library• Ornamental horticulture• Small Fruits horticulture• Vegetable horticulture
<p>Experimental Seafood Processing Laboratory 3411 Frederic Street Pascagoula, MS 39567 Phone: 228-762-7783</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aquatic processing technology• Food-borne pathogen elimination• Extension of the shelf life of aquatic products• Post-harvest technology• Chemical residue analysis• Food mechanical engineering



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 Mississippi counties, as well as the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI).

952 Sullivan Drive * Hattiesburg, MS 39401 * Phone 601-545-6083

Ms. Tawnya Holliman, Regional Extension 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	Ellen Russell	68 Industrial Park Drive Collins, MS 39428	601-765-8252	601-765-5009
Forrest	Matthew Thornton	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	Heath Steede, Interim	414 Oak Street, PO Box 730 Leakesville, MS 39451	601-394-2702	601-394-2741
Hancock	Tim Ray, Interim	17304 Hwy 603 Kiln, MS 39556	228-467-5456	228-466-6225
Harrison	Tim Ray	9229 Hwy 49, PO Drawer Z Gulfport, MS 39502	228-865-4227	228-868-1470
Jackson	Kim Gowdy	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	Malikah Jones	587 Old Scooba Rd, PO Box 339 DeKalb, MS 39328	601-743-2837	601-743-5581
Lamar	Ross Overstreet	216 Shelby Street Ste B, PO Box 419 Purvis, MS 39475	601-794-3910	601-794-5515
Lauderdale	Katrina McCalphia, Interim	1022 Hwy 19 South 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	Anna Windham	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	204 Julia Street Poplarville, MS 39470	601-403-2280	None
Perry	Brittany Odum	105-B3 Main Street, PO Box 405 New Augusta, MS 39462	601-964-3668	601-964-8480
Stone	Brad Jones	214 N Critz St, Suite A Wiggins, MS 39577	601-928-5286	601-928-4677
Wayne	Curtis Jones	810-A Chickasawhay St Waynesboro, MS 39367	601-735-2243	601-735-6264
MBCI	Kaiti Ford	133 Ag Center Drive/PO Box 6010 Choctaw, MS 39350	601-656-9679	601-650-1992



The Crosby Arboretum

With increasing value being placed on our natural heritage, The Crosby Arboretum is the premier native plant conservatory in the Southeast. The Arboretum was established as a living memorial to L.O. Crosby, Jr. (1907-1978) and has expanded to become a resource for education in the region and the world. Today, it provides for the protection of the region's biological diversity as well as a place for the public's enjoyment of plant species native to the Pearl River Drainage Basin of south-central Mississippi and Louisiana. It allows us to study and learn about plants and plant products so that we may use them to their best advantage and ensure their continuous propagation in the future. Aesthetic, agricultural, scientific, and industrial contributions of native plant species and ecosystems can be examined in a real-life setting at the Arboretum.

The 104-acre Native Plant Center of The Crosby Arboretum serves as the focus of Arboretum activities and development. It includes the Pinecote Pavilion and the Piney Woods Lake for display of native water plants in their natural setting. The Pinecote Pavilion and the many wooden bridges that complement the lake were designed by award-winning architect Fay Jones, of Fayetteville, Arkansas to enhance the artistic and functional aspects of the Arboretum.

The Crosby Arboretum also manages 700 acres in seven associated natural areas. The assemblages of carefully selected and protected lands nurtures over 300 species of indigenous trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses. Rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants and wildlife are present at throughout the Arboretum's preserves. Unusual plants have their place as well. The Arboretum protects and manages several lovely pitcher plant bogs both on site and within the natural areas. Edible, poisonous, and aromatic plants, too, are found at the Arboretum. As the seasons unfold their splendor, the Arboretum provides a clear, unobstructed view of the variety and beauty of our natural resources.

More than attractive features of our landscape, plants are an integral part of the environment we inhabit. Our own survival will be threatened if they do not flourish. Therefore, humankind's best interests can be served by the study of our plant neighbors with which we share this planet.



The Crosby Arboretum

370 Ridge Road * P.O. Box 1639

Picayune, MS 39466

Phone: 601-799-2311

Fax: 601-799-2372

crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu

Open

Wednesday – Sunday

9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Save the Date

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