

# GRASSROOTS LEADER

A Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Volunteer Leader Newsletter

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February 2007

## Celebrating America's Safe, Abundant, and Affordable Food Supply

Food Check-Out Day and Day at the Capitol are Farm Bureau events designed to call attention to American agriculture and the fact that farmers provide consumers with the most affordable, safe and abundant food supply in the world.

### Food Check-Out Day

Food Check-Out Week is Feb. 4-10, and Food Check-Out Day is Feb. 6. Food Check-Out Day celebrates the calendar day each year when the average American has earned enough disposable income to pay for their entire year's food supply.

To commemorate this fact, Mississippi Farm Bureau Women will again collect food, cash donations and household items for delivery on Food Check-Out Day to the Ronald McDonald House in Jackson.

You are invited to participate with your donations and your presence on this important day of the year.

### Day at the Capitol

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation State Women's Committee will again serve refreshments at the State Capitol as a part of their annual Day at the Capitol on Feb. 7. They also plan to visit with legislators to talk about state agriculture.

Agriculture is Mississippi's number one industry, making a significant contribution to the economies of all 82 counties.

The production value of agriculture and forestry in 2006 was \$5.8 billion.

In 2005, Mississippi's agriculture and forestry industries employed 27 percent of the state's workforce, either directly or indirectly, in approximately 400,000 jobs. The ad valorem tax base in a majority of our counties is generated primarily through agriculture and forestry.

## Magnolia Beef & Poultry Expo

The annual Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo will take place Thursday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Smith County Ag Complex in Raleigh.

The expo will feature educational seminars and a trade show featuring agricultural equipment for beef and poultry producers and other valuable information.

Educational sessions include: "Animal Disposal" – Dr. Jim Watson; "Alternative Energy" – John Logan; "Alternative Feeds" – Dr. Robert Stewart; and "Marketing Cattle" – Ken Jordan. Door prizes will be given in each educational session.

Contact your local Extension office or Community Bank for an agenda of the event.

The Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo is sponsored by the Mississippi State University Extension Service, Jasper, Newton, Rankin, Scott, Simpson and Smith counties and Community Bank.

The Smith County Ag Complex is located on Highway 35 South.

## Educational Beef Tour

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation is hosting an Educational Beef Tour for Producers on April 15-19, 2007. The purpose of the trip is for producers to see alternative management practices to help increase profits.

The group will travel to Missouri and Iowa to visit with commercial producers' alliances and seed stock operators as well as the research station at Iowa State University. The group will also visit the IBP (Tyson) harvest facility, Joplin Stockyards, the largest cow/calf market in the U.S., and Gregory Feedyard.

Registration is limited to the first 40 Farm Bureau members. The cost will be \$500 per person for double occupancy and \$785 per person for single occupancy. This price includes all meals, bus fare and lodging.

Please call Nancy Britt at 1-800-227-8244, ext 4230, or email her at [nbritt@msfb.com](mailto:nbritt@msfb.com) for your reservation by March 16, 2007. Payment in full will also be due on March 16, 2007.

Please send payment to the following address: MFBF, Attn: Nancy Britt, P O Box 1972, Jackson, MS 39215-1972.

## Fisher Leads MDEQ

Trudy D. Fisher, an experienced attorney in natural resources, energy and environmental law, has been named by Gov. Haley Barbour to serve as Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. She succeeds Charles Chisolm, who retired Jan. 31, 2007 after 37 years of service to Mississippi.

Fisher previously served as MDEQ's General Counsel before becoming a partner with the Jackson-based Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes firm. She chaired Brunini's Regulatory Department and co-chaired the firm's Environmental Practice Group.

## Recipients of Chittom and Simpson Awards

Recipients of the Gary Chittom and J.K. Simpson Memorial awards were announced recently.

Tippah County Farm Bureau is the recipient of the Gary Chittom Award in the category of 1750 or more members. Montgomery County received the Gary Chittom Award in the category of 1750 or fewer members.

Marshall County Farm Bureau received the J.K. Simpson Memorial Award for having the most numerical gain after the Dec. 31 deadline.

Congratulations to the seven counties who obtained quota on or before the Dec. 31 deadline. They are Benton, Marshall, Tippah, Lowndes, Montgomery, Wilkinson and Kemper.

## Programs Receive Recognition

Three Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation programs received the Award of Excellence during the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The award-winning programs include: Member Services, Public Policy, and Public Relations/ Information.

The Award of Excellence is presented to outstanding programs serving Farm Bureau members during the previous year.

## Agri-View Schedule

On the next *Agri-View: A Look Around Mississippi*, meet the finalists and visit the farms of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Achievement Award winners for 2006.

The program will air March 31 at 5:30 p.m. on RFD-TV. You can get the program on Channel 9409 on Dish Network and on Channel 379 on DirecTV.

*Agri-View* is a production of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

## Southern BioProducts and Renewable Energy Conference

The Sixth Annual Southern BioProducts and Renewable Energy Conference will be held April 16-18, 2007, at the Pearl River Resort's Golden Moon Casino and Hotel in Choctaw, Mississippi.

This year's conference will highlight recent successes in the rapidly growing renewable energy sector and will examine, from a regional approach, ways in which the strengths and resources of the Southern United States can contribute to the development and implementation of various renewable energy technologies.

Topics of discussion will include industry and commercialization, policy and legislation, business and financing, and research and development.

The conference agenda will feature several relevant speakers from industry and academia at the national, state, and local levels, as well as a practical workshop on technology commercialization and entrepreneurship. There will also be numerous opportunities for networking, including two evening receptions and a luncheon.

Be sure to watch the Mississippi Biomass Council's website for updated conference information: <http://ms-biomass.org>. For additional details, please contact Lauren Michaud at (601) 960-3655 or [Lmichaud@mta.ms](mailto:Lmichaud@mta.ms).

## Calendar of Events

Feb. 1	Presidents/Secretaries Meeting Southern Farm Bureau Life Jackson
Feb. 1	Legislative Reception Dennery's Jackson
Feb. 6	Food Check-Out Day
Feb. 7	Day at the Capitol
Feb. 8-10	AFBF Leadership Conference Jacksonville, FL
Feb. 10-12	AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference, Jacksonville, FL
Feb. 24	Farm Toy Show MAFES Conference Center Starkville
March 2-3	Farm and Gin Show Memphis
March 18-25	National Ag Week
March 21	National Ag Day

- April 12 Beef & Poultry Expo  
Smith County Ag Complex  
Raleigh
- April 15-19 Educational Beef Tour
- April 16-18 Southern BioProducts  
and Renewable Energy Conference  
Pearl River Resort  
Choctaw

## Poultry Litter Manure Transfer Incentives Through EQUIP

Through the USDA/NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP), landowners across the state of Mississippi may benefit from “incentive payments” which encourage poultry litter to be “transferred” to other watersheds in the state.

This initiative is intended to fund incentive payments for the hauling of poultry litter from areas in the state of high concentrations of poultry production to areas of the state with no poultry production. The intent is to encourage a market for poultry litter to be used as a source of fertilizer and organic matter on cropland and pastureland.

Interested persons who would like to participate in the EQUIP “Manure Transfer Initiative” can visit their local USDA/NRCS field office to sign up to have poultry litter transferred to their farm.

Poultry farmers can contact Brook Stuart at (601) 977-4243 with Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation to register their farm as a source of poultry litter or visit the Poultry Litter Clearinghouse Web site at <http://poultry.msfb.org/poultry/>

## Mississippi Peanuts

Peanuts have long been grown in south Mississippi, but acreage can now be found all over the state. In 2001, 2,000 acres of peanuts were grown in our state. In 2006, that amount had quadrupled to approximately 16,000 acres. This trend is expected to continue.

Because of increased interest and production, growers asked Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation to establish a Peanut Commodity Advisory Committee. The committee held its first meeting in July 2006.

This committee has quickly begun to play an important role in the peanut industry. Within its first year, the committee initiated legislation for a Peanut Checkoff Program that will provide funds for research and promotion of Mississippi peanut products.

Having the Mississippi Peanut Checkoff gives our state national recognition within the industry. Mississippi peanut growers will now have representation on the National Peanut Board as a major peanut-producing state. Mississippi is the first state to be added to the board since its establishment.

## Coloring Book & AITC Teacher Essay Contest Deadlines

March 15 is an important day. It is the deadline for submitting entries to the district chair for the Coloring Book Contest and the deadline for entering the AITC Teacher Essay Contest.

For more information, contact the State Office at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4245, or call 601-977-4245.

## 2007 AITC Workshops set

Ag in the Classroom Workshops for Teachers and Volunteers have been scheduled as follows: June 19 – Covington County Multi-Purpose Building in Collins; June 20 – MS Delta Community College in Moorhead; and June 21 – MS Farm Bureau Building in Jackson.

Mississippi Farm Bureau Women encourage teachers and volunteers to attend one of these workshops.

For more information, contact Clara Bilbo, AITC Coordinator, at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4245.

## Farm and Gin Show March 2-3

The Southern Cotton Ginners Association will hold the annual Farm and Gin Show in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 2-3.

The show will feature events and sessions affecting the region’s (and nation’s) agriculture. This will include two outlook conferences – an energy seminar and a cotton marketing seminar – as well as ag update seminars and agricultural exhibits.

The Farm and Gin Show, considered one of the largest and best in the industry, has highlighted the ag industry for 55 years.

## Farm Toy Show Feb. 24 at MSU

The 2007 Farm Toy Show will be held Feb. 24 at the Mississippi State University MAFES Conference Center in Starkville.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Toy Farmers Association, this unique toy show features John Deere, Farmall, Oliver, New Holland, Allis Chalmers, Massey Ferguson or other brands of toys. Tractors, combines, disks, planters, hay balers, trucks – if it’s a farm toy, it’ll be there. There will be new toys, old toys, restored toys and customized toys.

The conference center is just west of the junction of Highway 12 Business and 182. It is also about a mile west of Humphrey Coliseum.

The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. There will be a banner beside Highway 182 to indicate the location.

For more information, contact John Byrd at 662-418-4537 or Mitch Sisson at 662-258-2746.

## ATV Discount Coupon

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and Got Gear Motorsports, LLC, in Ridgeland have teamed up to offer Farm Bureau members an exclusive \$500 discount coupon on the purchase of new ATVs, motorcycles and 4-wheel utility vehicles.

This discount only applies to ATVs that are 400 cc or greater and motorcycles that are 800 cc or greater and does not apply to any other special promotions. Got Gear is a dealer of Yamaha, Kawasaki and Polaris ATVs and 4-wheel utility vehicles; and Yamaha, Victory, Kawasaki and KTM motorcycles.

To receive the \$500 discount coupon, you must call Dedra Luke at 601-977-4269 or, toll-free, at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4169. Please be aware that you cannot go directly to Got Gear to receive this discount without your coupon.

Upon verification that you are a member, the ATV Discount Coupon will be mailed to you.

We are working with Got Gear to hopefully expand this program to include discounts on parts, service and accessories.

## Pass Key Solutions Service

Have rising healthcare costs become unaffordable? Are you paying full price for your prescription medications?

A discount card that provides savings on a variety of health care services is now available to Farm Bureau members.

For more information, call Dedra Luke at 601-977-4169 or, toll-free, at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4169

## Mean Mallard & SOS Discount Coupons

Mississippi Farm Bureau members can take advantage of a 10 percent discount on products from two companies: Mean Mallard and Superior Outdoor Supply, LLC.

The Mean Mallard discount is not applicable to guns, optics or ammunition and cannot be used in addition to any other sales or discounts. You must present a coupon at the time of purchase. For more information, contact Dedra Luke at 601-977-4169.

The Superior Outdoor Supply (SOS) discount is applicable only to the "Mobile Hunter" or the "Trail Hunter" hunting stands.

For more information, contact Troy Davis at 601-214-9880 or Kenneth Davis at 601-616-1042. Or visit their Web site at [www.theroadhunter.com](http://www.theroadhunter.com)



MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
P. O. Box 1972  
Jackson, MS 39215-1972