At Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, we are committed to a healthier Mississippi. Our Blue Care benefit plans help make that commitment a reality in the lives of thousands of Mississippians. Blue Care includes Healthy You! — an annual wellness screening at a network provider with no out-of-pocket cost.

The most important part of the family farm is the family — and we want your family to be healthy. Contact your local Farm Bureau Agent for more details about Blue Care and Healthy You!

Rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best Company

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, A Mutual Insurance Company, is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Registered Marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an Association of Independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.
Features

MISSISSIPPI POULTRY
Poultry is Mississippi’s number one agricultural commodity, with a 2006 farm gate value of just under $2 billion. Come with us and learn more.

SOLVE THE MYSTERY
Sam Olden loves to hear the 135-year-old clock atop the historic courthouse in this small Delta town ring out the hour. Read the clues and name this town.

MEMBER SERVICES
Take advantage of the many benefits available to Farm Bureau members ONLY. Read all about them inside.

RURAL LIVING
Come with us as we visit The Old Country Store Restaurant in Lorman and the friendly town of Calhoun City.

Departments

4  President’s Message
6  Commodity Update: Cotton
7  Commodity Update: Soybeans
18  Safety Notes
20  Counselor’s Corner

ON THE COVER
This chick will grow into a four-pound broiler that will be processed and, perhaps, marketed to your favorite fast food restaurant. Read about Mississippi broiler production on pages 8 and 9.
The focus of this magazine is poultry. Poultry dethroned cotton several years ago as the number one commodity grown in Mississippi in terms of farm gate value. The farm gate value of poultry today is approximately $2 billion. Poultry production is a relatively new industry that has experienced dramatic growth in the past thirty years, affording producers a great opportunity to produce an income that is sufficient to support a family farm and contribute significantly to the economy.

The slight downturn the poultry industry has experienced recently can be directly related to food safety issues. While this is just a small blip on the radar screen, our exports have been limited, to some degree, by fear of avian influenza. This scare is comparable to the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) scare in the cattle industry.

It should be noted that, while the highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza known as Asian H5N1 has been discovered among poultry in Southeast Asia, Europe and Africa, it has not been found in the U.S. Nevertheless, the widespread fear of the disease has had a significant impact on our export market – at least in the short run.

The likelihood of avian influenza showing up in the United States on wild birds is probably a real threat to the industry, but individuals should be aware that our poultry product system is robust in its ability to prevent disease in domestically-raised poultry and ultimately protect the American consumer. If Asian H5N1 or any other type of avian influenza should ever be discovered here, it is highly likely that, with the production practices our producers use, it will be brought rapidly under control.

I have said all of this simply to stress the need for country of origin labeling on our products.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

The 2002 Farm Bill contained a provision for country of origin labeling. Congress, however, decided it would take the funding away from the implementation of country of origin labeling. I believed then and I believe now that this was a serious mistake.

Consumer confidence causes our products to be competitive in this country and abroad. The fact that we have the safest, most abundant food supply, grown under the safest environmental conditions, has been positive for U.S. agriculture and its ability to export products. We must not compromise the need we have to have country of origin labeling in the future.

Most recently, we have seen a scare in the catfish industry from antibiotics found in Chinese fish. This type of scare is something that is real to every producer of an edible commodity, and to have the USA-produced label on our catfish and other products is most important. While it is costly for our producers to go that extra mile, having that label, designating that the products are from the USA, brings consumer confidence the world over.

Noting that labels are important is part of the educational system we as a policy organization have as a challenge. Most Americans do not realize when a label says USDA inspected that this does not always mean that the product has been grown in the USA. Agriculture is one of the more regulated entities in the United States. Consumers need to know that, while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) impose strict growing conditions on U.S. farm products, the production conditions in other countries are very different. Many products that have been banned from use by U.S. agriculture are still widely used by some of these countries.

If EPA or FDA bans a product(s) from being used by U.S. agriculture because of food safety issues and then other countries use those same banned products in their own production methods, consumers must be made aware when those countries import food products into the United States.

The recent scare among the pet food imports highlights the need for a country of origin labeling. In my judgment, it would be a good practice for repeat offending countries to have a much higher level of inspections than countries that are acting in good faith in participating in international trade.

OUR CHALLENGES ARE GREAT

Our challenges are great within the Farm Bureau organization. We must communicate to the public the value of having U.S.-produced products, and the importance of having USA labels on our U.S.-produced products. We must communicate that this is a way that consumers can be assured of safe food products.

This will be an enormous challenge for every individual because Congress has to be made aware that the American public wants to know how the food products they eat are grown. Having a USA label will certainly give consumers an opportunity to recognize the value that must be added because of the higher cost of producing food in a safe manner.

KANSAS RELIEF FUNDS

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors has agreed to solicit funds through the Mississippi Farm Bureau (MFB) Foundation and Relief Fund to assist victims of the recent Kansas tornadoes. Areas in Kansas hard-hit were populated by many Farm Bureau members.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, send checks, made payable to “Mississippi Farm Bureau Foundation and Relief Fund,” to: Mississippi Farm Bureau Foundation and Relief Fund, Attn: Charles Cleveland, P. O. Box 1972, Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1972.

Contributions through the MFB Foundation are tax-deductible, and 100 percent of the funds received will be forwarded to Kansas Farm Bureau for assisting tornado victims restore their lives.
FARM BUREAU® MEMBERS® GET AN EXTRA $500 CASH ALLOWANCE† ON THE ALL-NEW DODGE RAM 3500 HEAVY DUTY CHASSIS CAB.

It's a good farmhand with a really sturdy back. Get Dodge Ram 3500 Heavy Duty Chassis Cab with a medium-duty grade in-line 6-cylinder 6.7L Cummins® Turbo Diesel that generates 305 horsepower and 610 lb-ft of torque. For more info, visit dodge.com/chassiscab or call 800-4ADODGE.

*Must be a Farm Bureau member for at least 30 days. Farm Bureau is a federally registered collective membership and a registered service mark of the American Farm Bureau Federation. †Vehicles eligible for $500 cash allowance include Dodge Ram, Ram Chassis Cab, Dakota, Durango, Caravan, Magnum, including specific E85/Flex Fuel equipped vehicles available in 45 states. See Farm Bureau office for details. Properly secure all cargo.
As most people within the agricultural community know, the 2007 crop year has brought one of the most significant changes in crop rotation the state has seen in many years. Just last year, Mississippi planted roughly 1.2 million acres of cotton. This estimated 40 percent reduction is due primarily to the increased corn acres planted in Mississippi in light of positive market conditions attributed to the nationwide boom in ethanol production.

The purpose of this article is to simply acknowledge the tremendous economic driver that cotton is to the economy of Mississippi. First, let’s take a look at cotton from a historical perspective.

Cotton’s History

Cotton has long been a staple of the Mississippi economy. With the invention of the cotton gin in the 1790s and a strong demand for Southern cotton in England, the fertile soils of the Mississippi Territory became the land of opportunity for many settlers. By the time Mississippi joined the Union in 1817, cotton was the dominant cash crop.

In his 1998 book, “Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America,” John Barry described the early development of the Mississippi Delta and how cotton was at the center of every part of life in those days. By the mid-1800s, Mississippi had become the center of Southern cotton production.

Cotton’s Economic Impact

Today, cotton still remains an important element of Mississippi’s economy. Just last year, Mississippi ranked third in the nation for planted cotton acreage. Within the state, cotton ranked third among all commodities in actual dollar value of production, at an estimated $583 million last year. There were roughly 1,596 farms that produced about 2.1 million bales of cotton last year.

According to the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University, cotton had a direct contribution of $253 million in value-added benefit and contributed about 5,250 jobs to the economy of Mississippi in 2004.

Spillover impacts, which are defined as economic activities stimulated in the overall economy by one particular industry, added about $496 million in value-added benefit and about 10,650 jobs to the economy of Mississippi that same year.

So, basically, for every $1 of value-added that was generated by the Mississippi Cotton Industry in 2004, there was an additional $1.96 of value-added generated by the rest of the industries within the state. And for every job that was generated by the Mississippi Cotton Industry in 2004, there were 2.03 additional jobs generated by the rest of the industries within the state.

From this information, it’s evident that not only will the allied agriculture industries, such as the chemical dealers, equipment suppliers and aerial service operators, be impacted by this crop change in 2007, but the other support industries, such as financial institutions, petroleum distributors, restaurants, car dealerships and even local parts houses, will feel the adjustment in crop rotations.

Cotton’s Infrastructure

There is one additional point that must be considered as we see these changes this crop year. Mississippi has long been equipped with an infrastructure to handle a large cotton crop, but not grain. Last year, Mississippi had around 86 cotton gins scattered throughout the state. This year, many gin owners have had to ponder the tough decision of whether or not they will even open the gin. Some will operate this year, others will not.

Keeping this infrastructure available will be a critical decision that we will make over the next several years. If we lose the capacity to handle cotton in Mississippi, it will not be rebuilt quickly.

In closing, we hope this information has helped you understand the important economic role that cotton plays in this state and the many communities that still rely on this fiber as a major part of their local economies. This year, these economic impacts will be duly noted.

As this article goes to press, the state’s cotton crop is estimated to be around 85 percent planted – at least, that is, the 740,000 acres USDA predicts Mississippi will plant this year.
Mississippi Soybeans

By: Keith Morton, Chair, MFBF Soybean Advisory Committee
Paul Chambee, MFBF Commodity Coordinator for Soybeans

Most people don’t realize that more acres of soybeans are planted in Mississippi than any other crop. It is estimated that a little over 1.5 million acres will be planted in 2007, compared to 1.6 million acres in 2006. Of the 40 counties that produce soybeans in the state, Bolivar County had the most acreage with 216,500 acres in 2006. The value of the 2006 crop was $2.7 million, down from $3.4 million in 2005, mostly due to the dry weather we experienced in 2006.

SMART

Mississippi’s average soybean yields have increased more consistently and with a greater percentage of gain than any other soybean-producing state in the nation. These rapid yield increases can be attributed primarily to the SMART program, an acronym for Soybean Management through Application of Research and Technology.

The SMART program, which began in 1992, takes beneficial scientific research results and applies these production methods immediately in the farmer’s fields. The farmer begins producing more profit, benefiting not only their own operation, but Mississippi’s agricultural economy as well.

“Entering the SMART program in 2000 was a major turning point for our farm,” said Keith Morton, who farms with his wife Beth in Falkner. “Dr. Alan Blaine, who was the state soybean specialist at the time, and a team of experts came to our farm to help us best determine how to increase our profitability in soybean production.

“Each expert has a specialty,” he said. “They helped us with drainage, pH and fertility, variety selection and seed treatments, planting techniques, weed and insect control, scouting, rotation, harvest timing, and marketing. We immediately saw a reduction in production costs, and at harvest, we had higher yields.

“The principles we learned in SMART also helped us increase profitability in other crops as well,” Keith said. “Thanks to this team of dedicated professionals, we are producing soybeans more profitably. I am a strong advocate of the SMART program, and I would encourage soybean farmers to consider participating if they aren’t participating already.”

The SMART program is a 2-year program for each producer and is funded by Mississippi soybean producers’ checkoff dollars distributed by the Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board.

Asian Soybean Rust

Asian Soybean Rust (ASR) is a fungal disease spread by spores. It can be carried on the wind for hundreds of miles, transported on people or machinery, or spread by infected plant material. Left untreated, it completely defoliates and often kills a plant, reducing yields by as much as 80 percent.

ASR cannot survive freezing temperatures, but as a result of the mild winter we just had, ASR was found on May 8, 2007, in New Iberia, Louisiana, on kudzu. This finding is 53 days earlier than last year. Mississippi State University (MSU) has 23 sentinel plots, many kudzu sites and over 20 SMART fields that are being monitored on a weekly basis. They are also monitoring wind currents that could move the spores into Mississippi fields.

As a direct result of research at MSU and other land-grant universities across the nation, there are several fungicides that can be used to both prevent and cure ASR. Without these fungicides, the entire soybean crop could be at risk, having a devastating impact on the economy.

2007 USDA Predictions

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) predicts for the 2007 crop a 2 percent increase in domestic use, a 2 percent increase in crushing of soybeans, and a 1-2 percent increase in soybean meal consumption. And as the trend to renewable energy continues, the demand for the oil from soybeans to make biodiesel is increasing.

With the reduction in acres and the increased demand, USDA predicts a 225-million-bushel reduction in ending stocks for next year, which could keep prices at or above the recent high levels.
Growing Mississippi Broilers

By Glynda Phillips

Each year, Bob Webb grows approximately 341,000 four-pound broilers for Lady Forest Farms, a local poultry integrator. He gets the birds when they are one day old (or less) and keeps them 38 days. Bob’s birds are processed then marketed to fast food restaurants, grocery store delis, restaurants, and school and military lunch programs.

Bob grows a small broiler. The average broiler size in Mississippi is six to seven pounds, but an increasing number of eight and nine-pound birds are being grown. Larger birds are processed into chicken parts and a variety of easily-prepared products that are sold in grocery stores.

In addition to his twelve broilers houses, Bob raises 240 head of commercial beef cattle, 30 head of sheep and several acres of timber. He owns RW Farms and is a managing partner, along with his brothers and sister, in the Earl Webb family farming operation in Scott County.
VERTICAL INTEGRATION
Growing and marketing poultry in Mississippi follows a pattern known as “vertical integration.” In this type of production system, companies supply growers with chicks, technical assistance and feed. Growers provide the houses, equipment and labor under contract with the companies. When birds are market size, the companies catch and transport the broilers to processing plants, where they are processed and marketed.

Bob is paid on a cost-contract basis.
“The company supplies us with chicks and feed, and our pay is based on the pounds of birds delivered,” he said. “Growers are grouped into sales groups and ranked on how well they do within their group. The better the feed conversion, the higher the weight in our group, the better we are paid. The top three growers get bonuses.

“The goal is to be in the top three. When you can do that, your pay is above average and you survive. When I receive a bonus, I always share it with my employees.”

Vertical integration got its start in Mississippi with local feed stores.
“Farmers would mail order chicks through feed stores and purchase their feed at the stores,” Bob said. “Eventually, feed store owners began to provide growers with chicks and feed and would take a cut from their profits when the birds were sold to processing plants. Some of these feed store owners went on to build their own processing plants.

“The McCarty, Haralson, Gaddis, Etheridge, and Walsh families – these were the original integrators in our state,” he said.

MODERN POULTRY PRODUCTION
Today, most poultry integrators control every aspect of raising and marketing birds – from breeding pullets to hatching eggs to supplying growers with feed and chicks to processing and marketing meat.

Pullets are laying hens. Eggs from these hens are hatched into broiler chicks. Broilers provide the meat you purchase at your local grocery store or favorite restaurant.

Modern chicken houses are known as “tunnel houses.” They are designed to provide better ventilation and light in order to give growers a better conversion of feed to pounds with lower input costs.

Most modern chicken houses are computerized, but a few growers still operate without computers. Bob is somewhere in between.

“We have digital thermostats and set points in our houses with digital readouts of what’s going on in all of the houses at all times. We have automatic feeders and waterers, but I like to keep close tabs on my houses.

“Back when I started raising chickens, you had waterers, but I like to keep close tabs on my houses. My chicks are hand-fed on lids during the first 14 days of their lives,” he said. “Someone is in my houses from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. each morning. We check the ventilation every one to one and one-half hours until 10 p.m., particularly in those first 14 days of our chicks’ lives.

“It’s easier now than back in the 1960s when the industry was getting started because everything is more mechanized,” Bob said. “But you still have to stay here and check your systems, making sure that everything is going like clockwork.”

“Our houses are hooked up to generators so they will continue to operate if the electricity goes out,” he added. “We also have two water sources – the town line and our own water wells – so we always have a fresh supply of water.”

Bob says high temperatures and a lack of oxygen are the two biggest problems in poultry production, especially when chickens are young.

“Summer is not an easy season, and during the winter months, you have high utility costs.”

Catastrophes like Hurricane Katrina present a major challenge to the most smoothly-run operation.

Four-week-old broiler

“Katrina did affect us,” he said. “We were out in the storm, trying to keep everything going.” Bob said. “We had wind damage to our curtains, cool cells, ceilings and roofs. We had some insulation blown out of the walls.”

CHALLENGING BUT REWARDING
Bob says raising broilers is like any other type of farming – it’s both challenging and rewarding.

“We deal with environmental regulations that are becoming more complex every year, skyrocketing fuel costs, equipment that must be updated so we can remain competitive and labor issues,” he said.

“We produced less broilers in Mississippi in 2006 because of an oversupply of poultry due to decreased demand from the export market,” he said. “And we will most likely have lower national broiler production in 2008 because of skyrocketing corn prices.

“Growing broilers is challenging, but I love to farm. A good year can be very rewarding,” he said. “It’s provided my family with a good life.”

Bob and wife Anita are Scott County Farm Bureau members. Anita is the Scott County Extension Director and Chair of the Scott County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee. Their daughter Samantha is a former Miss Farm Bureau Mississippi. Their daughter Holly is an award-winning 4-H sheep exhibitor.

Bob and Anita Webb
As far back as she can remember, Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard has wanted to be a veterinarian. That she is now an avian veterinarian or “bird doctor” is a detour she did not foresee but one that has led to a most satisfying career.

“I grew up surrounded by animals, and I loved them,” she said. “I was very firm at an early age that I was going to become a veterinarian and work with all animals. Once I began my studies, however, I was encouraged to take a serious look at poultry medicine.”

“I saw that it was a challenging field, and I liked the people in the industry,” she said. “Plus, with this type of veterinary medicine, there’s something different every day.”

Sue Ann works at the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab in Pearl. She is one of four veterinarians on staff. In addition to Sue Ann, these vets include Dr. Danny Magee, who is the lab director; Dr. Tim Cummings; and Dr. Gabriel Senties-Cue.

Sue Ann works at the poultry lab one day a week. The other four days, she is out in the field working with integrators and growers.

“Many state integrators have vets on staff, but they utilize us too because most of their veterinarians are headquartered at out-of-state complexes. Only two integrators have in-state vets,” she said.

Integrators and growers use state poultry lab facilities in a number of ways.

“Sometimes, integrators will collect birds and bring them to the lab for cultures and blood work just like you would bring in a pet dog or cat,” she said. “They may also bring chicks from primary breeders to be monitored for bacteria and fungi to ensure good quality chicks.”

Growers seek staff expertise in solving problems they encounter when growing pullets, broiler breeders or market-size broilers.

“Our lab has the very latest diagnostic equipment, including a robotic microscope that can be used to share microscopic slides with other labs and consultants all over the world,” Sue Ann said. “We also have biosafety level 2 and 3 facilities that allow us to work on disease...
Dr. Hubbard and Dr. Danny Magee at work at the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab in Pearl.

agents that are highly contagious to animals and humans.”

FIELD WORK

Sue Ann enjoys working in the lab, but she loves visiting growers, processing plants and hatcheries. She especially likes solving problems.

“I like the troubleshooting aspect of my job,” she said. “Sometimes the solution to a problem is obvious; sometimes, weeks or months will pass before you can solve a problem; and sometimes, you may never find the answer”

“I don’t have all of the answers, but I’m not afraid to tell people what I think. I make recommendations, and that’s what they want.”

For example, Sue Ann was contacted by a broiler manager to assist a grower whose chickens kept getting sick. The grower was trying hard to do everything right and was convinced that the company was providing her with bad chicks. The woman switched to another company and, after awhile, began to have the same problem.

“I went to her farm, necropsied birds and took culture samples, and discovered that she had a certain type of bacteria that grows in the water lines. She is a good manager and keeps her houses clean, but this type of thing can happen.”

The line was properly cleaned and disinfected, and the woman went on to become a number one grower over the next growing season. She has remained a top grower ever since.

“To be able to tell her that it was not her fault was very satisfying,” Sue Ann said.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS/ EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In addition to lab and field work, Sue Ann and her colleagues hold periodic Roundtable discussions with state poultry integrators to talk about current or potential health issues within the industry.

“We’re lucky in Mississippi to have integrators who communicate with each other, especially where disease issues are concerned,” she said. “If we ever have a bad disease outbreak, we will be able to work together to rid our state of it.”

Sue Ann and her colleagues also participate in Emergency Response Training activities.

“Dr. Danny Magee and I were the first veterinarians in the country to go through the training wearing the special personal protection equipment,” she said. “We want to be prepared in case a catastrophic illness such as avian influenza or exotic Newcastle disease enters our state.”

The highly pathogenic avian influenza strain, Asian H5N1, has never been found in the United States. Mississippi hasn’t had a serious poultry disease outbreak of any type in a number of years.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to her other responsibilities, Sue Ann helps teach service techs how to examine flocks and fill out forms for Russian exports that are forwarded to vets so that health certificates can be signed stating that Mississippi birds bound for Russia are disease-free. Russia is our top poultry export market, followed by China, Hong Kong and Mexico.

She also works with owners of backyard flocks, ducks, quail, wild turkey, guinea fowl, pet birds and parrots and with the Game Bird Association of Mississippi and the Guinea Fowl Breeders Association. She takes a lot of out-of-state calls from people who learn about the lab through its Website.

“I travel 200 to 300 miles a day,” Sue Ann said. “But I love what I do. Mississippi has a great poultry industry, and I enjoy being a part of it.”

Sue Ann is Jeff Davis County Farm Bureau Women’s Chair and a former Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers State Discussion Meet winner. Her husband Lyle is a Jeff Davis County poultry grower for Tyson Foods, Inc. Lyle is a former MFBF State Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee Chair. Sue Ann and Lyle have two children, Mark Jeffrey and Sabra.

The Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory in Pearl is one of the few of its kind in the nation. The lab, fully accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, contains state of the art equipment, diagnostic support and biosecure facilities designed to ensure rapid diagnosis and response to avian disease and bioterrorism agents.

“Mississippi’s poultry industry identified a need for this lab over a decade ago, and the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine responded,” said Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory Director Dr. Danny Magee. “This is a fine example of the type of communication that exists within our state’s poultry industry and the industry’s willingness to work together for the good of state agriculture.”

Magee says poultry diagnostic services began to change in the mid-1990s. With the recent increased concerns about avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease, the need for rapid, in-depth diagnostic support has become more obvious. The MSU lab opened in November 2000 with the full support of the Mississippi Poultry Industry. It moved into its new facilities in April 2006.

The Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory is located within a 42,000-square-foot facility that also houses the state of the art Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (MVRDL). The MVRDL serves all other animal species.

Both labs are members of a system of labs known as the Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory System. This system is administered by the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Other labs within the system are located at the Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center in Stoneville and the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine in Starkville. All labs contain state of the art laboratory equipment for diagnostic support for Mississippi’s veterinarians and ag industries throughout the state.

Dr. Lanny Pace is executive director of the Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory System for the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.
Poultry is Mississippi’s number one agricultural commodity.

The 2006 farm gate value of state poultry totaled $1.977 billion, down 10 percent from 2005. State broiler production was down almost 6 percent to 804 million birds from the 853 million raised in 2005; however, national broiler production rose slightly in 2006.

Broiler production is the primary income-generating facet of the state poultry industry, but the egg industry also provides a substantial contribution to the agricultural economy of our state.

“Last year was a challenging year for Mississippi poultry growers. We had an oversupply of chicken because of decreased demand from the export market due to the avian influenza scare,” said Dr. Tim Chamblee, Poultry Science Department, Mississippi State University.

“The United States has had no cases of the highly pathogenic form of avian influenza, Asian H5N1, but reports of Asian H5N1 in the Pacific Rim countries led to more and more countries refusing to import our poultry,” he said. “We would literally have a ship of chickens halfway to its destination, and the country would refuse to accept it.

“All of this excess chicken got dumped on the domestic market,” he said. “This oversupply led to historic low prices, and in response, poultry companies slowed down production so that less chicken would be on the market. We are a global marketplace now, and anything that happens in the world complicates everything.”

Russia is our nation’s biggest export market for chicken, followed by China, Hong Kong and Mexico.

**HIGH GRAIN PRICES**

High grain prices will likely pose a challenge to poultry production in 2007. Corn prices are skyrocketing in response to interest in using corn as an alternative fuel. Corn is an important ingredient in poultry feed, and high grain prices increase the cost of production.

“The Economic Research Service (ERS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised its estimate of U.S. broiler production downward for 2007,” Chamleee said. “Total broiler meat production for 2007 is forecast at 35.575 million pounds, a decline from 35.753 million pounds from the previous year.”

According to ERS, this will be the first decline in production since 1973.

**POULTRY WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The poultry industry uses environmentally safe and economically sound ways of disposing of dead birds and utilizing the litter generated by poultry houses annually. Strict recordkeeping regulations concerning the disposition of litter ensures safe handling and utilization of poultry litter.

“Historically, our poultry litter has been used to fertilize pastureland,” Chamblee said. “Today, more and more farmers are demanding poultry litter for their row crops.

In addition, alternative energy uses of poultry litter are being explored.”

Dead bird disposal is accomplished through composting, incineration or freezing.

Chamblee says he’s heard of yet another interesting way to dispose of dead birds. “An alligator farm in Copiah County feeds dead birds to alligators,” he said.

**A GROWING INDUSTRY**

Poultry production, a relatively new industry in America, has experienced dramatic growth over the past three decades. Reasons include national health concerns, the extraordinary success of the industry in developing domestic and foreign markets, the development of a multitude of convenience food items using chicken, and the relative inexpensiveness of poultry.

Chamblee says that, as the poultry industry continues to grow, industry experts will continue seeking workable solutions to the unique challenges it faces.

“It’s amazing to look at where we’ve come with poultry production in so short a time,” he said. “It is a fascinating industry to be a part of.”

According to the “2002 Ag Census,” Mississippi’s top 11 broiler counties are Scott, Smith, Neshoba, Simpson, Leake, Jones, Wayne, Newton, Rankin, Jasper and Covington counties.
American agriculture works hard to ensure that our nation’s food supply is safe. Poultry integrators and growers pride themselves on being proactive.

“Every poultry integrator in this state has a biosecurity plan their growers are required to follow,” said State Veterinarian Jim Watson, Mississippi Board of Animal Health. “In addition, our agency has a similar biosecurity plan that is communicated to growers throughout the state.

“At the farm level, these plans call for prevention and control practices that must be followed in order to prevent the introduction and spread of a disease from farm to farm or the introduction of a bioterrorism agent onto a farming operation,” he said.

Poultry growers are especially concerned about infectious diseases such as exotic Newcastle disease and avian influenza.

The United States has never had an outbreak of the highly pathogenic form of avian influenza, Asian H5N1, but countries in Southeast Asia, Europe and Africa have not been so lucky. Given that the Asian H5N1 strain may be carried by migratory waterfowl, we cannot eliminate the possibility that this virus may be brought to North America by wild birds.

Also, in light of Sept. 11 and other terrorist activities around the world, concerns exist that our domestic food supply might one day be attacked.

“The agriculture industry is a soft industry, which means most of us don’t expect that a terrorist attack will ever happen to us,” Watson said. “But we need to be aware that this type of danger exists.

“Any type of attack on our crops or livestock would have far-reaching consequences,” he added. “The economic damage alone would be incalculable.

“Growers must think about this. It’s a mindset.”

FARM SAFETY MEASURES

Consumers are familiar with farm safety measures such as foot baths, but Watson says disease prevention on a poultry farm goes much deeper than that.

“We encourage growers to wash their hands often and wear clothing dedicated to the farm, especially if the growers want to visit with each other off the farm,” he said.

“Growers should also clean and disinfect equipment as well as the tires and undercarriages of all vehicles entering or leaving the farm. Additionally, they are cautioned against loaning or borrowing equipment or vehicles from other farms.”

Farmers need to keep up with all visitors who go from farm to farm.

“These types of visitors should park their vehicles away from the farm and wear plastic boots and/or disposable coveralls,” Watson said.

“Growers are cautioned to protect poultry flocks from coming into contact with wild or migratory birds,” he said. “And poultry should be kept away from any source of water that may have been contaminated by wild birds.”

With the possibility of a terrorist attack in mind, farmers are instructed to be mindful of strangers on their farm. They are cautioned to put up gates with locks and to have a sign-in logbook to keep track of all visitors on the farm.

STATE, NATIONAL MEASURES

Watson says all flocks are tested before they ever leave a poultry farm. In addition, the USDA is involved in inspections at processing facilities to ensure that all poultry food products are safe.

“USDA also helps fund state efforts to carry out prevention and wildlife surveillance activities such as the testing of ducks and other waterfowl in the major fly-ways and Alaska,” he said.

On a national level, USDA’s role in disease prevention lies in regulations that govern the importation of live animals and food products.

“Birds coming into this country are regularly quarantined, and the importation of birds or frozen or fresh poultry food products from countries with avian influenza or any other kind of contagious disease is prohibited,” he said.

Internationally, USDA is involved in prevention and surveillance work. The agency provides funding to countries that don’t have the people or technical expertise necessary to adequately monitor for diseases or prevent them from spreading.

“Additionally, we are involved in educating world travelers because we have so much global movement of people today,” Watson said. “Lots of people travel for business or pleasure. Poultry growers or people who own pet birds are instructed not to have contact with their live animals for five to seven days after they return from a trip.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

As you can see, American agriculture works hard to safeguard your food supply. For more information, contact Watson at 1-888-646-8731 or www.mbah.state.ms.us.
The 2007 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature ended on April 3, 2007, as lawmakers agreed to the state budget for the July 2007 to June 2008 fiscal year. Highlights of the more than $11 billion 2008 fiscal budget include:

- Fully funding public education for the first time since 2003 and a 3 percent teacher pay raise;
- $35 million more for community and junior colleges;
- $85 million more for institutions of higher learning; and
- A pay raise of at least $1,500 for state employees.

Hurricane recovery and economic development incentives also topped the list of major accomplishments. Legislators approved the Mississippi Economic Growth and Redevelopment Act of 2007, which will address many of the issues relating to insurance and rebuilding the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Northeast Mississippi landed a $1.3 billion Toyota automotive manufacturing plant that will employ approximately 2,000 people, due to a $324 million incentive package passed by the legislators.

Legislators seeking re-election to the 174-member Mississippi Legislature will face the electorate on the August Primary and November General Election ballots. The primary is held on August 7, 2007, and the general election is held on November 6, 2007. The 2008 Regular Session will convene on January 8, 2008.

The following are significant bills supported by Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation that were passed into law during the 2007 legislative session:

- **Boll Weevil - House Bill 861** allows for a continuation of a portion of the sales and/or warehouse tax on cotton to be diverted into the Boll Weevil Management Fund until all debt owed by the program is paid off. Cotton producers already pay a warehouse tax used to repay the debt incurred in eradicating the boll weevil. Continuation of state funding is vital to paying the remaining debt and providing economic relief to cotton farmers;
- **Peanut Promotion - Senate Bill 2986** creates the Peanut Promotion Board, which allows Mississippi peanut farmers to collect an assessment on peanuts grown in the state for the purpose of research, education and promoting Mississippi peanuts;
- **Dairy - Senate Bill 3199** creates the Mississippi Milk Producers Transportation Cost Assistance Loan Fund. The loan program is designed to help dairy farmers offset transportation costs incurred to them by allowing them to qualify for a no-interest loan in the amount of their actual transportation cost. In order to qualify for the loan, the dairy farmer must produce and sell at least 300,000 pounds of milk during a calendar year. The loan cannot exceed $20,000;
- **Forestry - House Bill 1628** increases the maximum amount of income tax credit for approved reforestation practices for eligible tree species on eligible lands. The increase on the lifetime tax credit is from $10,000 to $75,000.

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation also supported appropriations bills to fund Mississippi State University (MSU). The success of Mississippi agriculture depends on the research, education, and service provided by the MSU Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. During the 2007 session, Farm Bureau was able to help secure an additional $11.3 million in funding for the MSU Division of Agriculture.

Highlights of the four separate MSU Division of Agriculture units include:

- **Senate Bill 3122** – MSU, Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station - 12 percent increase for fiscal year 2008 over fiscal year 2007; increased from $21,166,668 to $23,699,108;
- **Senate Bill 3123** - Appropriations, MSU, Cooperative Extension Service - 24.4 percent increase for fiscal year 2008 over fiscal year 2007; increased from $23,609,868 to $29,374,724;
- **Senate Bill 3124** - Appropriations, MSU, Forest and Wildlife Research - 21.3 percent increase for fiscal year 2008 over fiscal year 2007; increased from $5,051,121 to $6,125,405;
- **Senate Bill 3125** - College of Veterinary Medicine - 12.7 percent increase for fiscal year 2008 over fiscal year 2007; increased from $5,051,121 to $5,625,405.

For more information, contact the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Public Policy Department at 1-800-227-8244. MFBF Public Policy Director is Derrick Surrette. MFBF Public Policy Assistant is Samantha Cawthorn.
Agriculture Disaster Signed by President

By Samantha Cawthorn, Public Policy Assistant

In a last minute push before the Memorial Day break, the ag disaster assistance spending measure passed the House and the Senate and was signed into law by the president. Also included in the legislation are an increase and extension of small business expensing and an increase in the minimum wage.

Agriculture Emergency Spending

The bill contains $3 billion in emergency relief for farmers and ranchers, primarily to compensate crop and livestock producers for lost production. USDA officials expect that it will take several months before payment applications will be taken. Specifically, the bill contains the following funding:

- Crop Loss Assistance Program at $1.552 billion: A producer must have incurred losses for the 2005 or 2006 crop or the 2007 crop year (for crop plantings before February 28, 2007), and if losses were incurred in multiple years, the producer must elect to receive assistance for only one year. The payment rate will be 42 percent of the established price, and producers who do not have crop insurance for insurable commodities will not be eligible for assistance for that commodity.

- Livestock Compensation Program at $1.203 billion: Losses must have incurred between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, and if losses were over multiple years, producers must elect one year for which to receive assistance. Payments will be 61 percent of the payment rate established in the program.

- Lifting the cap on the Conservation Security Program at $115 million: The cap was originally included in the FY2007 Joint Resolution.

- MILC payments at $31 million for FY2007: It waives the emergency designation beyond 2008 thereby providing the Ag Committee with approximately $2.435 billion for the baseline.

- Livestock Indemnity Program at $29 million: Losses must have been incurred between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, and if losses were over multiple years, producers must elect one year for which to receive assistance. Indemnity payments will be made at not less than 26 percent of the market value on the day before the death of the animal.

- Emergency Conservation Program at $16 million.

- Dairy Production Loss Assistance at $16 million.

- Small Business/Farmworker Assistance at $16 million.

Small Business Tax Relief

The bill includes a one-year extension (through 2010) of the enhanced provisions of Section 179 small business expensing and, beginning in 2007, increases in the maximum amount that can be expensed to $125,000 and for the total dollar limit to $500,000.

Under current law, the maximum amount that a small business taxpayer can expense for 2007 is $112,000. The deduction is reduced dollar-for-dollar when qualifying expenses exceed $450,000. The deduction is scheduled to revert to $25,000 in 2010. In 2010, the threshold will revert to $200,000.

Minimum Wage Increase

The bill includes an increase in the minimum wage over 24 months as follows:

- $5.85 an hour, beginning on the 60th day after the president’s signature;
- $6.55 an hour, beginning 12 months after that 60th day
- $7.25 an hour, beginning 24 months after that 60th day.

For more information, call the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Public Policy Department at 1-800-227-8244. Derrick Surrette is Director of Public Policy, and Samantha Cawthorn is Public Policy Assistant.
During his lifetime, Sam Olden traveled and lived around the world. Upon his retirement, he chose to return home to the small Delta town featured in this contest. The 88-year-old says that, after all these years, he still loves to hear the 135-year-old clock atop the town’s historic courthouse ring out the hour.

Name the town. Here are your clues:

IMPORTANT RIVER PORT

Established on a river bluff with the idea that it would become an important port in the state’s growing cotton industry. The site was chosen, surveyed, and platted — lots were numbered and all streets given names — before an auction was held on Feb. 22, 1830, to sell lots to potential new residents. The town began to grow when the new buyers began to arrive to stay.

Cotton was transported to this town from miles around and shipped by steamboat to Vicksburg and on to New Orleans. By 1840, the town was sending 25,000 bales of cotton a year south and the population numbered over 1,000.

In its early years, cotton and the river were important contributors to this town’s economy, but in 1848, the town also became the seat of county government. In addition, in 1857, a railroad from New Orleans to Memphis came through the eastern corner of the county, 30 miles away.

“Trains stopped at Vaughan Station, and a stagecoach line ran from here to there to bring mail and other supplies back to our citizens,” Olden said.

FIRE OF 1904

Throughout its early history, small fires damaged this town from time to time, but the Fire of 1904 proved to be disastrous.

“Legend has it that a vengeful witch caused the fire,” Olden said. “But, in reality, a little boy playing with matches accidentally set a house afire. The wind was blowing fiercely that day, and approximately three-fourths of the town burned to the ground. We lost almost all of our houses, churches and businesses on both sides of Main Street and the two residential streets on either side before the fire finally stopped at a canal.”

Spared were the courthouse (1872); Ricks Memorial Library (1900); Public School #1 – now the Triangle Cultural Center – which was being built at the time of the fire; Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (1890); and approximately ten antebellum homes located behind the courthouse. The town was rebuilt and up and running within two years.

“Through the years, our town lost scores of citizens to multiple Yellow Fever epidemics. We also endured the Flood of 1927, when the entire Delta became a sea,” Olden said.

“The floodwaters were stopped by the bluffs to our east, and we all evacuated to higher ground. I was in the third grade and saw the muddy water cover my schoolyard four feet deep.”

THE TOWN TODAY

The western part of this town lies in the Delta while the eastern region is located in loess bluffs. Known as the “Gateway to the Delta,” this town still boasts a strong agriculture-based economy. Cotton, corn, soybeans, grain, and farm-raised catfish are extremely important. Mississippi Chemical Corporation, maker of chemical fertilizer, was a mainstay for many years but has now been bought by Terra Industries.

The downtown area isn’t as active as it
once was because most businesses have moved to shopping malls north of town. Residents are attempting to revitalize the downtown area by working with the Model City Program. Trees and flowers are being planted, artistic streetlights installed and existing – often historic – buildings restored.

“In the 1970s, over 100 downtown buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places,” Olden said. “At that time, and perhaps still today, this represented the largest single group on the register.”

Of special interest to our readers … the county Farm Bureau office can be found downtown on Washington Street. In addition, Olden says a new business, known as “The Manchester,” has been established downtown in the historic Elk’s Club. This social center provides space and resources for parties, reunions, retreats, etc.

A federal prison is located near this town and Amtrak, a national passenger rail system, runs right through town. This town is the only Amtrak stop between Jackson and Memphis.

“In 1920, when I was a child, we had 5,000 citizens,” Olden said. “Now we have well over 14,000.”

RENEWED CITIZENS

This town is known for its outstanding citizens, both past and present. A few of them include writer and editor Willie Morris; businessman Owen Cooper; movie star Stella Stevens; blues musicians Jack Owens and Gatemouth Moore; football great Willie Brown; and motivational speaker Zig Ziglar. Amite County native Jerry Clower became a famous Grand Ole Opry star while working and living in this town.

Mississippi’s first president of the American Bar Association, John Satterfield, hailed from this town as did the state’s first chairman of the Republican National Committee, Haley Barbour. Haley Barbour is Mississippi’s current governor.

Name this town.

A special thanks to Sam Olden for his help with this article. Sam is working to renovate the local historical society’s museum, which is located in the Triangle Cultural Center. This center also houses the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau.

CORRECT GUESSES

Mail guesses to “Solve the Mystery,” Mississippi Farm Country, P. O. Box 1972, Jackson, MS 39215. You may also email your guesses to: FarmCountry@MSFB.com

Please remember to include your name and address on the entry. Visit our Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Web site at www.msfb.com.

When all correct guesses have been received, we will randomly draw 20 names. These 20 names will receive a prize and will be placed in the hat twice.

At the end of the year, a winner will be drawn from all correct submissions. The winner will receive a Weekend Bed and Breakfast Trip, courtesy of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

Families may submit only one entry. Federation staff members and their families are ineligible to participate in this contest.

The deadline for submitting your entry is July 31.

MAY/JUNE

The correct answer for the May/June “Solve the Mystery” is Star.
SAFETY NOTES

Farm Pond Safety

By Mike Blankenship/Coordinator, MFBF Safety Program & Director, MFBF Member Services Department

Now that summer is here, a lot of people are going to the water to cool off. When people come to your farm to visit, they either want to ride your horses, swim or fish in your pond … or both.

Last year, the number one cause of accidental deaths on farms among Farm Bureau members was drowning in farm ponds. We can help reduce these drownings by placing a farm pond safety post at our ponds.

A farm pond safety post consists of a post placed in the ground with hooks on both sides. A 14-foot cane pole should be placed against one hook and a gallon milk jug on the other. Put a little sand in the bottom of the milk jug to give it some weight with about 50 feet of rope attached to it so it can be thrown and retrieved. If there is a boat handy, you can use it, but make sure they enter over the back of the boat. If they try to enter over the side with a small jon boat, they could turn the boat over then you have more than one person in the water.

The last thing you should ever do is attempt a swimming rescue. If you have not had a minimum of advance lifesaving, you should never go into the water after anyone, not even a child. A drowning victim will go to the highest part of your body, which is your head. They will push you underwater, and this normally results in a double drowning.

Everyone should learn CPR and Rescue Breather. These are two lifesaving techniques that are easy to learn and can save a life. An ambulance could be as much as 30 minutes away from your farm and every second counts.

Make your farm pond safer this summer with a farm safety post.

25 % DISCOUNT ON AMERLINK LOG HOME PACKAGES!

Mississippi Farm Bureau Members are eligible for a 25% discount on the purchase of a log home package from AmerLink Ltd. AmerLink offers a standard line of over 75 residential models as well as garages, commercial designs, outbuildings and barns. The Planning Guide is only $10 for Mississippi Farm Bureau Members (a $4.95 savings off the regular price) and has 100 color pages of our log homes. Give us a call at 800-872-4254 and start making your dream home a reality. We invite you to visit http://www.amerlink.com/msfb our special website for Mississippi Farm Bureau members.
MEMBER BENEFITS

Take advantage of these benefits available to Farm Bureau members ONLY. If you are not a member, joining is simple. Contact the Farm Bureau office in the county where you live, pay your membership dues, and start enjoying these benefits today!

- **ACCIDENTAL DEATH** - Provides for accidental death benefit of $750 for children and $1500 for adults. Benefit increases $150 each year for the member and spouse if the current membership year’s dues are paid before November 1. Maximum benefit is $3000. Benefit does not apply to deaths caused by accident while occupying any vehicle which is required to be licensed under applicable state motor vehicle laws; arising out of military activity occurring within a combat zone; suicide; or occurs during, or is the direct or indirect result of injuries incurred during the commission of a felony by a person covered under this membership service.

- **ADT HOME SECURITY** - Southern Security Services is offering an ADT Home Security System installed at no charge (36 month monitoring contract required). Please call 1-800-960-9119.

- **AGRISTAR GLOBAL INTERNET** - A high speed internet service that can reach all parts of the state – even rural areas. Please call 1-888-777-0440 or you can visit www.agristar.com.

- **AMERLINK LOG HOMES** – Mississippi Farm Bureau Members are eligible for a 25% discount on the purchase of a log home package from AmerLink Ltd. AmerLink offers a standard line of over 75 residential models as well as garages, commercial designs, outbuildings and barns. Give us a call at 800-872-4254 and start making your dream home a reality. We invite you to visit our Website for Mississippi Farm Bureau members at http://www.amerlink.com/msfb.

- **CHILD SAFETY SEAT PROGRAM** – Members can pick up order forms for $25 car seats and $15 booster seats at their local county office.

- **CHOICE HOTELS** - 20% off published rack room rate at any participating location of their brand hotel locations. This discount is based on availability at any Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality, Sleep Inn, Clarion, Main Stay Suites, Econo Lodge and Rodeway Inn.

- **CIMARRON MORTGAGE** - Save $150 off closing costs when you finance your home mortgage through Cimarron Mortgage Company, a Mississippi-based national lender. Please call 1-800-949-6699.

- **DODGE DISCOUNTS** - Pick up a $500 rebate certificate before you purchase your Dodge vehicle. Certificates are limited to Dodge trucks, Durango, selected vans, and selected sedans.

- **FARM BUREAU CONNECTION** - Farm Bureau Connection is a full service, long distance program designed exclusively for Farm Bureau members.

- **GOT GEAR ATY OF RIDGELAND** - A $500 discount coupon for the purchase of ATVs, motorcycles and 4-wheeled utility vehicles. This discount applies only to ATVs that are 400 cc or greater and motorcycles that are 800 cc or greater and does not apply if there are any other special promotions or rebates in effect. This offer is good until December 31, 2007. To receive this coupon: Call Dedra Luke at 601-977-4169 or 1-800-227-8244 extension 4169 with your Farm Bureau membership number.

- **GRAINGER INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY** - Save 10% off industrial products by using discount number 818224800.

- **MEAN MALLARD** – Members receive a 10% discount at the Mean Mallard store in Ridgeland. Not applicable to guns, optics, or ammunition and cannot be used in addition to any other sales or discounts. To receive this coupon: Call Dedra Luke at 601-977-4169 or 1-800-227-8244 extension 4169 with your Farm Bureau membership number.

- **MISSISSIPPI FARM COUNTRY MAGAZINE** – The official publication of Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation. It is published bi-monthly and spotlights one particular area of agriculture each issue. It also contains information on agricultural issues and Farm Bureau programs.

- **MOSSY OAK** – MFBF and Mossy Oak have teamed up to offer our members a 10% discount through the Mossy Oak online store. This discount does not apply to promotional or sale items. To access the Mossy Oak online store please follow these steps: Go to msfb.com / Click on programs / Click on membership verification box / enter information.

- **NEVADA BOB’S GOLF** – All Mississippi Farm Bureau Members receive 10% of all accessories, apparel, excluding golf balls, 5% off all hard goods irons, drivers, fairway, wedges, and putters. Excluding Ping & Callaway, see store for details. Not valid with any other offer.

- **PASS KEY SOLUTIONS** – Members receive a sizable discount on pharmacy, eye care, hearing, and health and wellness products. Please call 1-800-800-7616 for additional information. Group number is 39211.

- **POWER SPORTS Plus** - One of the leaders in the mini truck business, also carries mini vans, ATV’s from 50 cc and up, child and adult go carts, motorcycles, scooters and other recreation and utility equipment. Offers a 10% discount to all MS Farm Bureau members in good standing on any merchandise, excluding any sale or promotional items.

- **PUBLIC POLICY** - Farm Bureau’s role on both the state and national level is to keep members informed with good and factual information concerning Farm Bureau policies and farm issues.

- **RENTAL CAR** – various discounts through Hertz #00337777 1-800-654-3131 and Avis #A398824 1-800-331-1212 or Budget #Y775724 1-800-527-0700.

- **SCHOLARSHIPS** - Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation offers several scholarships to young people interested in furthering their education in agriculture. These scholarships are offered through the Young Farmer & Rancher Program and the Women’s Programs. For more information, contact: Greg Shows at 601.977.4277 or E-mail: gshows@msfb.com or Clara Bilbo at 601.977.4245 or E-mail: cibilbo@msfb.com

- **SUPERIOR OUTDOOR SUPPLY** – Members receive a 10% discount on the “Mobile Hunter” or the “Trail Hunter” from Superior Outdoor Supply, LLC (SOS). For more information, contact: Troy Davis at 601-214-9880 or Kenneth Davis at 601-616-1042 or visit their Website at www.theroadhunter.com

- **THEFT REWARD PROGRAM** - Members can offer a $500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone committing theft, arson or vandalism against their property.

- **WYNDHAM HOTELS** - Receive an additional 10% off the “Best Available Rate” at participating locations. Advanced reservations are required. Offer is subject to availability at participating locations and some black out dates may apply. Wyndham Hotel Group, Inc. is one of the world’s largest lodging companies under the AmeriHost Inn®, Days Inn®, Howard Johnson®, Knights Inn®, Ramada®, Super 8®, Travelodge®, and Wingate Inn® brands. Super 8 (800) 889-9706 all other hotels - (877) 670-7088.
Consider a Corporation

By Sam E. Scott/General Counsel, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation

In the Mississippi Delta 60 years ago, most smalltown businesses were simple operations and most stores were country stores. My father was a farmer and had a general insurance agency, and he never even considered incorporating, nor did his contemporaries. But then, people did not sue each other at every opportunity, mass torts were not recognized, class actions were few and far between, and there were no million-dollar verdicts. His reputation for honesty and fairness followed him all the days of his life, and he was never sued.

Many wonderful memories of old country stores, their proprietors and patrons linger, and I wonder if my grandchildren will have comparable memories of the big superstores. No soda pop ever tasted better or was colder than one from the ice-cooled drink box in Rinks’ store. When my children visited my parents in their tiny Delta town, one of their delights, well-remembered today, was Dovey’s Dairy Bar, a sole proprietorship long since gone and the town almost.

These stores did not shut down if the electricity went out, and many of them were original self-service concepts – you got what you needed while the owner whistled or played checkers or dominos with friends, wrote your own ticket if you charged it or got your change out of the cash drawer if you were taking the unusual step of paying cash. One of the stores in town had posted on the big front window, “Cash if you got it – Terms if you need it.” Quaint, but it worked well “back when.”

Business life is different in the electronic age, and lawsuits are numerous and dangerous. The threat of big verdicts and punitive damages hovers like a tumor that may become malignant. Creating and operating a corporation today is common, from individuals to multinational conglomerates, but the basic concepts are the same for both.

Incorporation is an idea whose time has long since come. There are many forms of corporations: limited liability companies, professional associations and others. They all protect the owners and operators from personal liability if operated properly, and in the modern business world, this is very important. The following is only a corporate primer.

ANCIENT ORIGINS

Corporations are not, as many believe, recent creations. They have ancient origins. The chapter on corporations in Blackstone’s 1765 “Commentaries on the Law of England” informs that corporations date back to the time of the Roman Empire. Today, corporations are statutorily organized and governed, and Mississippi adopted the Uniform Business Corporation Act in 1962.

A corporation is an entity created by law, which Blackstone describes as “an artificial person, who may maintain a perpetual succession and enjoy a kind of legal immortality.” In today’s computer-driven world, we might describe it from a business or legal standpoint as a “virtual person.” It can do most of the things a human can do in business but not everything. It cannot make a will, for example, yet it can direct the distribution of its assets upon dissolution, which one might whimsically describe as a virtual death.

Nonprofit corporations are very much like business “for-profit” corporations except they avoid some of the taxes and charges assessed as explained later. The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) and the 82 County Farm Bureau (CFB) corporations are all nonprofit, non-share corporations. The MFBF has only 82 members, each of which is a CFB, but no shareholders.

Contrary to many assumptions, MFBF has no individual members, yet CFBs have mostly individual members, the number varying from county to county but no shareholders. The MFBF is ultimately controlled by its members, and CFBs are controlled by their active members.

Ownership rights, different in nonprofit corporations from shares of stock in for-profit corporations, usually cannot be transferred nor converted into cash or property, short of a dissolution. Yet, member benefits, a core value of Farm Bureau, have substantial value and could be considered as dividends of membership.

Corporations, like most machines, must be operated by human minds and hands, and they must be operated according to certain rules, regulations and procedures, which can be internal through bylaws and external by statutory law, regulations and judicial decisions. Forming a corporation is not a do-it-yourself project, but also should not be expensive. Make sure the professional you engage is skilled in this field.

PROPERLY OPERATED

A properly operated corporation provides a legal shield to its owners and operators, if only they follow the legal rules and use common sense and sound business judgment. Ignoring, disregarding or breaking the rules can impose personal civil liability upon its officers, directors and agents and, in some cases, criminal liability – World Com and Enron are much-publicized examples.

Managing a family corporation or a CFB is not rocket science, but neither is it like the old country store. Generally, it all comes down to a few basic things: (1) Organize the corporation properly and to suit your needs; (2) Adopt a set of rules; (3) Understand and follow those rules; (4) Use sound business judgment; (5) Exercise your common sense; (6) Keep good records.

If it gets beyond that, get help or professional advice.
The importance of good corporate housekeeping cannot be overemphasized. A poet once said, “Good fences make good neighbors.” Good records make good fences: protection when you need it; comfort when you want it.

The common corporate structure under Mississippi law is as follows: (1) A board of directors makes policy decisions and manages the business and affairs of the corporation. They are elected by the shareholders or members; (2) Officers are elected by the directors to execute policy decisions and carry out day-to-day management; (3) Members or shareholders (depending upon the nature of the corporation) ultimately control the organization, and many own it; (4) Rules for operation are the bylaws that are usually adopted by the directors and should provide for the following: (a) Members or shareholders rights; (b) Officers authority, responsibility and accountability; (c) Directors powers, duties; (d) Meetings of all boards and committees and notice required; (e) Corporate governance and ownership; and (f) Financial management.

Corporate meetings are necessary for owners and directors, and the bylaws should provide a system for meetings, including:

1. Notice of meetings – how given and what notice; (2) What number constitutes a quorum; (3) Conduct of the meeting – usually according to “Robert’s Rules of Order;” (4) Record of the meetings, known as minutes, should be kept, which accurately reflects the action taken at the meeting.

Safekeeping and upkeep of corporate records is important and, in the digital age, easy. Consider a policy manual containing rules of the workplace if your corporation has several employees. It is much easier to follow rules when they are in writing and circulated.

The consequences of failing to operate your corporation properly and keep reasonable records are worse than you might think. For example, your corporation might be found to be a sham, leaving its operators, who are often also the owners, liable for negligent acts, omissions or defaults.

Help is readily available if you need it. Doing it right is much easier than messing it up and having to correct it or suffer unexpected and often serious consequences. So make your own rules within legal boundaries and then follow them. Get the business advantages you want and the protection you need from incorporation.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the “Federal Register,” extending the compliance deadline for CAFOs from July 31, 2007, to February 27, 2009. This proposal is open for public comment until July 11, 2007.

EPA is also proposing to extend the implementation dates for Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) from July 31, 2007, to February 27, 2009. This extension will have no effect on Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has been requiring NMPs since the 1970s.

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBB) will be submitting comments on this proposed rulemaking. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact MFBB Environmental Specialist Brook Stuart at 601-977-4243.

Sam E. Scott is general counsel for Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and practices law in the law firm of Samuel E. Scott, PLLC, in Jackson. The foregoing information is general in nature and is not intended as nor should be considered specific legal advice.
Arthur Davis, proprietor of The Old Country Store Restaurant in Lorman, believes his fried chicken is the best in the South. He says he learned to cook fried chicken from the finest cook who ever lived ... his grandmamma.

“My grandmamma ran a rooming house and would cook for her tenants,” said Davis. “She taught me how to season food, and she let me season our fried chicken when I was just a kid.

“When customers would compliment my grandmamma on her delicious fried chicken, I would be secretly proud,” he said. “That set me on my course as a cook and restaurant entrepreneur.”

HOW HE DOES IT
In its July 2006 issue, Southern Living magazine calls Davis’ fried chicken “heavenly.” When you ask him his secret, he says his trick is to use fresh chicken and a special blend of spices.

“I never use batter,” he explained. “I also use a specific type of frying vat, and I change the oil often to keep it fresh. These are all tricks I learned from my grandmamma.”

Davis’ fried chicken is part of a daily lunch buffet that includes salad fixings and a variety of Southern cuisine such as candied yams, mustard greens, field peas, rice, mashed potatoes, cabbage, macaroni and cheese, cornbread dressing, pork chops and cornbread. Some of these dishes alternate with others from day to day, but you will ALWAYS find fried chicken.

“People love it,” he said. “Word of mouth from satisfied customers has resulted in a loyal clientele that is steadily growing.”

Davis should know chicken. He also owns two successful “Wingo’s” (chicken wings) restaurants – one at Pemberton Square Mall in Vicksburg and one at Alcorn State University in Lorman. His sons manage these restaurants.

In addition, he caters church suppers, banquets, retreats, family reunions, parties…you name it.

THE OLD COUNTRY STORE
Davis’ lunch buffet is delicious, but the 130-year-old store is unique. The first time the Claiborne County Farm Bureau member set eyes on it, he knew that it was special.

“I had planned to purchase the building and resell it,” he said. “But something about this place held my interest, and I found that I couldn’t let it go.”

The original latch on the front door speaks of another era. The wooden floors, rusted signs and floor to ceiling shelves hearken back to a time when country stores offered just about anything a person would need to run a home or farm.
Davis enjoys that his store spans a time frame from wagons to automobiles. Down through the years, the historic Lorman country store has sold general merchandise and housed a bank, post office, Western Union station, telephone company, train station, craft mall and, now, a restaurant.

People stop by to share memories. “One 80-year-old woman, who was gravely ill, insisted that her daughter bring her back to the store of her childhood,” Davis said. “When she arrived, she ran her hands lovingly along the wooden counters and shelves. It brought tears to my eyes. I baked a special cake for her, and we had a wonderful visit.”

Davis credits the nearby Mississippi Welcome Center with directing visitors to his restaurant. The Old Country Store Restaurant sits near Rodney Road, which leads to the historic ghost town of Rodney, and beside U.S. Highway 61, also known as the Great River Road or the Blues Highway from Memphis to New Orleans. It catches the attention of visitors traveling to Natchez for seasonal pilgrimages, and it benefits from a close proximity to Alcorn State University.

“People come here from all over the world,” he said with pride.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
The Old Country Store Restaurant is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The buffet costs $5.95 plus 89 cents for all the iced tea you can drink. Dessert is $1 extra and usually consists of either peach or blackberry cobbler and ice cream. Davis invites you to come by and enjoy Southern cuisine at its best.

For more information, call Davis at 601-437-3661 or write to him at 18801 Highway 61, Lorman, MS 39096.
Calhoun City: A friendly, family town
By Glynda Phillips

Calhoun City is a lovely town filled with friendly people and lots of family-owned businesses that have been passed down from generation to generation. Locals say the pace of life is just right in this Northeast Mississippi hill town, where people know each other and are never too busy to stop and visit.

Calhoun City’s downtown area is arranged around a square. In the middle of the square, you will find a beautiful gazebo and a monument to war veterans. The story goes that, back in their early years, both Calhoun City and Bruce anticipated being named the county seat of Calhoun County. Both towns built their downtown areas around squares so that a courthouse might be added.

County leaders, however, had other plans. Wanting to keep ill feelings at bay between the two towns, a third town, Pittsboro, was named the county seat. Pittsboro does not have a town square.

ON THE SQUARE
On the square in downtown Calhoun City, you’ll find businesses dating back to the early 1900s. Some of these include Chandler Drugs, established in 1932; The Monitor-Herald, a weekly newspaper begun in 1899; and Pryor Funeral Home, dating back to 1906.
Simply Charming, a gift shop and tea-room, has been in operation for several years. Its owner, Deana Marter, is the granddaughter of F.N. “Pat” Schmitz, a Calhoun County Farm Bureau board member and former Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation board member.

Off the Alley, a chic women’s clothing, jewelry and shoe store, dates back 27 years and is owned by Nancy Funderburg and Pam Burt, both longtime Calhoun County Farm Bureau members. Off the Alley is currently developing a Website.

Near the square, is the Calhoun County Farm Bureau satellite office, which has been in operation in Calhoun City since 1986. Stop by and tell these folks, “Hello.”

ACE CANNON

Calhoun City is proud to be the hometown of legendary saxophone player Ace Cannon. During his career, Ace traveled the world before settling in Calhoun City to live near his parents. He performed with Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash, The Judds and Kris Kristofferson, to name a few.

Ace still performs around the world at conventions, fairs, private parties, theaters and casinos. He has written over 100 songs and is best known for “Tuff,” his most famous and favorite song.

Calhoun City’s annual arts and crafts festival was recently renamed the Ace Cannon Festival. This festival has been held for at least 25 years on the last Saturday of May and attracts a large crowd.

CHARTERED IN 1906

Calhoun City was established by the Mississippi Legislature on March 8, 1852. It was chartered in 1906 and named in honor of John C. Calhoun, a lawyer, statesman and vice president of the United States. The town celebrated its centennial last year.

Calhoun City grew up where two important highways of the day crossed – Highways 8 and 9. Agriculture is important to the town, with cotton and timber being the primary crops. At one time, two cotton gins were located there.

Calhoun City was also influenced by the railroad, which came through at the turn of the century, and sawmills in nearby Bruce. Back in those early days, Calhoun City was known as the retail center of the county.

STOP BY AND VISIT

Next time you’re in the area, stop by Calhoun City and experience life in a Northeast Mississippi hill town, where the pace is “just right” and friendly people take the time to stop and visit.
SMALL FARM TOUR

Claiborne County Farm Bureau member Brybena Wyatt recently hosted a Small Farm Tour on her farm near Port Gibson. She is pictured, foreground, with Homer Wilkes, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservationist for Mississippi. Behind her are, from left, Congressman Bennie Thompson; Dr. Dalton McAfee, Dean of the School of Agriculture, Research and Applied Sciences at Alcorn State University; and Arlen Lancaster, Chief, NRCS, Washington, D.C. Also on the program, but not pictured, was James Cassell, secretary/treasurer, Claiborne County Soil and Water Conservation District. Brybena was featured in the 2007 January/February issue of Mississippi Farm Country.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

At pretime, the following county Farm Bureau annual meetings had been scheduled. More meetings will run in the next issue of Mississippi Farm Country.

Desoto County
August 21, 2007
(7:30 a.m.)
Timbeaux’s on the Square

Greene County
August 25, 2007
(6:00 p.m.)
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
Leakesville, MS

Marshall County
August 9, 2007
(6:30 p.m.)
Wall Doxey State Park

Walthall County
August 2, 2007
(7:00 p.m.)
Farm Bureau Office

Calhoun County
August 16, 2007
(7:00 p.m.)
Multi-Purpose Building
Pittsboro, MS

Lee County
August 25, 2007
(6:00 p.m.)
North MS Research Ctr.
Hwy 45 South
Verona, MS

YF & R CONTESTS AGAIN
HAVE ATTRACTIVE AWARDS

Entrants in the American Farm Bureau Federation’s (AFBF) 2008 Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) competitive events will again find attractive awards to this year’s programs. The winner(s) of the YF&R Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture Award will receive a selected 2008 Dodge pickup truck.

The Achievement Award winner will again receive a 2008 Dodge Ram 3500 SLT Quad Cab 4x4 pickup truck with a 5.9L Cummins HO Turbo Diesel engine. The winner will also receive paid registration to the 2008 YF&R Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, on Feb. 16-18.

Each of the four runners-up will receive a Case IH DX compact tractor.

The top Discussion Meet winner will receive a 2008 Dodge Ram 2500 Quad Cab 4x4 pickup with a 5.7L HEMI Magnum engine. The winner also receives paid registration to the 2008 YF&R Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, on Feb. 16-18.

Each of the American Farm Bureau Discussion Meet runners-up will receive a $6,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a Farm Boss, courtesy of Stihl Outdoor Power Equipment.

The winner of the Excellence in Agriculture Award will receive a 2008 Dodge Quad Cab 4x4 1500 pickup, with SLT trim and a 4.7L Magnum V8 engine, and a paid registration to the 2008 YF&R Leadership Conference.

Each of the American Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture runners-up will receive a $6,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a Farm Boss chainsaw, courtesy of Stihl Outdoor Power Equipment.

The winners will be determined during AFBF’s 89th annual convention to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Jan. 13-16.

All national contestants in these programs will receive an inscribed plaque and a gift from Dodge. Dodge is also sponsoring these contests on the state level by providing cash awards for each contest held by state Farm Bureaus.

SMALL MINORITY PRODUCER GRANTS

Applications for Small Minority Producer Grants are being accepted until July 30, 2007. Grants may be used to provide technical assistance to small minority producers whose governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent minority. Eligible applicants must be cooperatives and association of cooperatives.

For more information, contact Kenneth C. Randle, Cooperative Specialist, at 1-662-312-9540 or e-mail at: Kenneth.randle@ms.usda.gov. The Web site is www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg/htm.
SAMANTHA WEBB IS SUMMER INTERN

Samantha Webb is looking forward to promoting agriculture and renewing friendships while she serves as a summer intern with the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, beginning June 4. Samantha is the federation’s Miss Farm Bureau Mississippi for 2006.

“I’m excited about the opportunity to work again with Farm Bureau,” she said. “I love agriculture, and Farm Bureau is a great general farm organization.”

Samantha grew up on a farm, and her family has been involved in Farm Bureau for five generations. She is the daughter of Bob and Anita Webb of Forest and the granddaughter of Maurice and Ann Layton of Magee and Earl and Sammye Jean Webb of Forest. She has one sister, Holly.

A junior at Mississippi State University, Samantha is majoring in Apparel, Textiles and Merchandising with a double minor in General Business Administration and Marketing. She is the current Scott County Miss Hospitality.

NRCS REVISES THE 590 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT CODE

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently drafted revisions to its 590 Nutrient Management Code. This code is used in Best Management Practices suggested for livestock producers who have a Nutrient Management Plan through NRCS.

The revisions producers need to be aware of are as follows: (1) Maintain a minimum forage height of 4 inches in the winter months; (2) Increase buffer widths for surface water bodies from 25 to 50 feet during the winter months; and (3) Delay land application of organic nutrients by 24 hours when greater than one inch of rainfall has occurred.

If you have any questions regarding this nutrient management standard, feel free to contact Brook Stuart at 601-977-4243.

ADVERTISEMENT

Hydrogen Peroxide Can Heal What?

Medical science has discovered that hydrogen peroxide is more than just a disinfectant, it’s an amazing healer. Many doctors are using hydrogen peroxide to treat a wide variety of serious ailments such as: heart problems, clogged arteries, chest pain, allergies, asthma, migraine headaches, vascular headaches, cluster headaches, yeast infections, type II diabetes, emphysema, chronic pain syndromes, and more.

Average consumers are also discovering that hydrogen peroxide has tons of health, beauty and household uses. A new handbook called “The Amazing Health and Household Uses of Hydrogen Peroxide” is now available to the general public. It shows you how to make easy peroxide recipes for:

- A powerful bleaching formula for formula
- A fantastic homemade scouring powder
- The perfect drain cleaner for clogged drains
- A dishwasher detergent that makes dishes gleam
- An oven cleaner that eliminates elbow grease
- A tile cleaner that works like magic
- A little known formula that really cleans old porous tubs
- A solution to help house and garden plants flourish
- Use this formula to clean your pets
- This spray keeps a leftover salad fresher
- Ever wonder what happens to meats and fish before you bring them home? Here’s a safety-wash for meat and fish
- A spray that’s great for sprouting seeds
- Here’s a sanitizing vegetable soak
- A denture soak that works great
- A tooth whiter that makes teeth sparkle
- A super polish for copper and brass
- A spot lifter for coffee, tea and wine stains

You’ll learn all this and more in this remarkable book. In addition, you also get an extensive list of qualified doctors across the United States and even some in Canada who regularly use hydrogen peroxide in their practices to treat serious ailments.

Right now you can receive a special press run of “The Amazing Health and Household Uses of Hydrogen Peroxide” for only $8.95 plus $2.00 postage and handling. You must be completely satisfied, or simply return it in 90 days for a full refund.

HERE’S HOW TO ORDER: Simply PRINT your name and address and the words “Hydrogen Peroxide” on a piece of paper and mail it along with a check or money order for only $10.95 to: THE LEADER CO., INC., Publishing Division, Dept. HPT520, P.O. Box 8347, Canton, OH 44711. VISA, MasterCard, send card number and expiration date. Act now. Orders are fulfilled on a first come, first served basis.

©2007 The Leader Co., Inc.
FARM BUREAU EVENTS

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President David Waide talked about “Alternative Energy” during the annual Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo in Raleigh.

Craig Tucker, director of the Thad Cochran National Warmwater Aquaculture Center in Stoneville, addressed the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Summer Aquaculture Commodity Conference in May. Conference participants heard industry updates, learned about the Market Maker program and discussed policy issues.

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President David Waide visits with other attendees at the Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo in Raleigh. The expo, featuring educational seminars and a trade show, was sponsored by the Mississippi State University Extension Service and Community Bank.

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Poultry Advisory Committee Chair John Logan talked about “Alternative Energy” during the annual Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo in Raleigh.

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President David Waide addressed the Winston County Self Help Cooperative (WCSHC) Field Day on April 9 at the WCSHC Farm near Louisville. The award-winning Winston County Self Help Cooperative helps small and limited-resource farmers succeed at making a living off their land.
Andy Whittington has joined the staff of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation as an Environmental Specialist. A native of New Albany in Union County, Andy is a graduate of Mississippi State University (MSU) with a master’s degree in Ag Economics. He previously worked in the MSU Department of Agricultural Economics as a Research Associate under a Biomass Grant from the United States Department of Energy. He is the son of A. L. and Pam Whittington, and his father is a former Union County Extension Agent.

“We are pleased to welcome Andy into our Farm Bureau family,” said Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President David Wade. “His background and experience will be an asset to our organization.”

Winston County Farm Bureau members Omeria and Dee Dotson were presented a trophy, roses and cash award in recognition of Omeria receiving the “Woman in Agriculture Award” from the Alcorn State University Extension Program and the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives. The Dotsons were featured in the November-December 2006 issue of Mississippi Farm Country.

Mean Mallard is offering a 10% discount to Farm Bureau members only.

This offer is not applicable to guns, optics or ammunition and cannot be used in addition to any other sales or discounts. Must present this coupon at the time of purchase.

ANDY WHITTINGTON JOINS STAFF

10% DISCOUNT COUPON FOR MEAN MALLARD

242 Highway 51 • Ridgeland, MS 39157
Phone: 601-605-2661 • Fax: 601-605-2662
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 9-12 Youth Safety Seminar
Kamp Kumbaya
Eupora

July 12 Rice Commodity Conference
Bolivar County Expo Bldg.
Cleveland

July 14 Region 3 Contests

July 17-18 Forestry Commodity Conference
Mississippi State Univ.
Starkville

July 17 Region 1 Contests

July 19 Region 5 Contests

July 19 Cotton Commodity Conference
Grenada County Ext. Auditorium
Grenada

July 21 Region 8 Contests

August 11 Region 4 Contests

August 18 Region 6 Contests

August 25 Region 2 Contests

September 15 Region 7 Contests

October 12-13 Women’s Leadership Conference
Lake Tiak O’ Khata
Louisville

November 8 State Resolutions Meeting
Jackson

November 29 MFBF Annual Meeting
December 1 Jackson

---

Saving money on your monthly payments!

If you’re a homeowner, let us show you how to pay off all your bills and make one, lower payment each month.

It only takes one ten-minute phone call to get started!

Look how low your payments could be at a low FIXED rate of 5.88% (6.34 APR):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loan Amount</th>
<th>Monthly Pymt.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$443.63*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$591.54*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$887.31*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Payment amounts based on loan with 6.34 APR, 30 yr. term. Subject to credit, collateral and income requirements. Rates as of 5/16/07. Rates subject to change. No down payment required.

Get out of your adjustable rate mortgage for a low, fixed rate before it’s too late!

Programs available for: • Self employed/unable to verify income • Refinance to a lower rate • Less than perfect credit • Double wide homes with land.

Call toll-free anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

The Mortgage Outlet, Inc. - 1-800-771-0383

(Homeowners only, please) Mississippi Registered Mortgage Company
10 State Residential Mortgage Lender

Visit us at www.moneyoutlet.com
Escape to the peaceful charm of America’s Heartland in the

JOHN DEERE CREEK VILLAGE

The First-Ever Village inspired by Thomas Kinkade and John Deere

exclusively from Hawthorne!

Thomas Kinkade and John Deere. Together, they’re inspiration for the heartwarming John Deere Creek Village Collection exclusively from Hawthorne. Each sculpture is meticulously hand-cast and hand-painted to enhance every wondrous detail and bring nostalgic charm to all your Christmases to come.

Exceptional value; attractively priced.

Begin your collection with “Deer Creek Bed & Breakfast” and FREE die-cast John Deere “Tractor,” yours for three easy payments of $19.98*, the first due before shipment. Subsequent sculptures—at the same attractive price—will be sent to Charter Subscribers about every other month. You can cancel at any time by simply notifying us. Your second issue will be the illuminated “John Deere Barn” with FREE die-cast John Deere “Tractor Hayride.” This classic, hand-crafted Dutch-style barn proudly wears the John Deere trademark that was emblazoned on barns across America in 1885.

Satisfaction guaranteed; reply today!

This is a limited-time offer and strong demand is expected, so please don’t wait to order. Send no money now. Just complete and mail the attached coupon today!

FREE! Two Die-Cast Tractors, Two Figurines and 6-PC Light Set Included—A $60 Value!

Yes! Please enter my Charter Subscription for the John Deere Creek Village collection starting with the “Deer Creek Bed & Breakfast” and FREE die-cast John Deere “Tractor” as described in this announcement. I need SEND NO MONEY NOW.

*Plus $7.99 shipping and service. All sales subject to acceptance and product availability. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

HAWTHORNE VILLAGE

9210 N. MARYLAND STREET, NILES, IL 60714-1322

Limited-time Offer—Please Respond Promptly

Signature

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Address Apt.

City State Zip

49215-E02901

Certificate of Authenticity & 365-Day, Unconditional Guarantee
Hawaiian Farm Tour

2 Weeks – 4 Islands from $1728*

Travel with other farmers departing January or February 2008 on this famous Hawaiian Farm Tour offered by Your Man Tours every year since 1974. Designed for the first time visitor, you’ll visit all four main islands with sightseeing on every island including Honolulu & Pearl Harbor, Punchbowl Crater, The Iao Valley, Lahaina, a Maui Tropical Plantation, the Wailua Riverboat Cruise & Fern Grotto, and on the “big island” a Hilo Orchid Nursery, Black Sand Beaches, a Giant Fern Tree Forest, Volcanoes National Park, a Kona Coffee Plantation, Macadamia Nut Factory tour, Parker Cattle Ranch Museum & more! *Your price of only $1728 per person, double occupancy, includes a flower lei aloha greeting, 14 nights in hotels, baggage handling, inter-island flights, taxes and sightseeing on every island. Round trip airfares start at $700. Call for prices from your closest airport. $100 deposits are now due.

For information, and brochure call 7 days a week:

‘YOUR MAN’ TOURS  1-800-968-7626
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and Got Gear Motorsports, LLC, of 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 400cc or greater, and motorcycles that are 800cc or greater and does not apply if there are any other special promotions or rebates in effect. Got Gear is a dealer for 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 601-977-4169 or, toll-free, at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4169, with your Farm Bureau membership number. Upon verification of your membership, a coupon will be mailed to you.

Please be aware that you cannot go directly to Got Gear to receive this discount without your coupon.

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

Members of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation are a part of one of the most influential organizations in the world.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in purchasing a late model used federation vehicle, please visit our Website for pictures and latest information at: www.msfb.com/programs/fleetforsale.html.

Or contact Merlene Partridge at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4233.

POWER SPORTS Plus is offering a 10% discount to all MS Farm Bureau members in good standing on any merchandise, excluding any sale or promotional items.

POWER SPORTS Plus, one of the leaders in the mini truck business, also carries mini vans, ATV’s from 50cc and up, child and adult go carts, motorcycles, scooters and other recreation and utility equipment. In addition, they offer parts and service.

To receive your discount coupon, contact Dedra Luke at 601-977-4169 or 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4169.

To contact POWER SPORTS Plus, call 601-420-3888 or 1-877-420-3888.
In today's economic climate, wise purchases are more important than ever. And with skyrocketing prices of natural gas and propane, many have found that a WaterFurnace geothermal comfort system is a smart choice. Geothermal cooling and heating systems operate at a fraction of the cost of ordinary systems, saving you money every month. In fact, many homeowners save as much as 50% in energy costs. That's because geothermal systems tap into the free, renewable energy found in your own backyard. For more information and an analysis of savings potential, contact your local WaterFurnace dealer or call (800) GEO-SAVE. It's money in the bank.

**Gulfport**
Woods Hwy. & A/C Service, Inc.
(501) 729-3915

**Hattiesburg**
G. C.'s Heating, Air & Sheet Metal Works, Inc.
(771) 209-2210, (601) 268-3617

**California Branch**
Air & Heat Service Co., Inc.
(662) 333-3033

**Biloxi**
Heblon A/C Co.
(228) 433-1156

---

WaterFurnace
WaterFurnace is a registered trademark of WaterFurnace International, Inc.
WHY MAN INVENTED FIRE.

Mississippi Beef Council
680 Monroe St., Suite A • Jackson, MS 39202
(601) 353-4520
Brought to you by Mississippi Beef Producers through the beef checkoff program.

BEEF
IT’S WHAT’S FOR DINNER.
WWW.BEEFITSWHATSFORDINNER.COM
I choose the Farm Bureau® Connection™ as my primary long-distance provider for the service(s) and telephone number(s) indicated below and I authorize the Farm Bureau® Connection™ to act as my agent by notifying my local telephone company of this choice. I certify that I am legally responsible for the payment of charges incurred on the telephone number(s) listed below and that I have the authority to change the prescribed 1+ long-distance carrier providing service to these numbers. Further, I recognize that I can have only one primary long-distance company for a given telephone number, that I will no longer be presubscribed to my current long-distance carrier’s service(s) and that my local telephone company may impose a charge for this and any later change. I also understand that the Farm Bureau® Connection™’s name will appear in my long-distance bill as a result of this switch and that this change only affects my 1-long-distance services. I understand that my signature on this form means the following services will be provided to me by the Farm Bureau® Connection™: IntraLATA® (when available); InterLATA*, interstate and intrastate telecommunications.

Signature __________________________________________ Date __ - __ - ___
Print Name___________________________________________

Telephone # (s) (_____) _______ - ___________ (_____) _______ - ___________
(_____) _______ - ___________ (_____) _______ - ___________

Farm Bureau Membership # ________________________________

* Please sign me up for ____ Farm Bureau® Connection™ Calling Cards.

* Please sign me up for a Personal800 number: _____ yes _____ no

Which number do you want your Personal800 to ring on: (_____) _______ - ___________

Street Address __________________________________________

City __________________________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Mailing Address __________________________________________

City __________________________________________ (if different from above) State __________ Zip __________