

## Mississippi Farm Bureau® Federation

# Grassroots Leader

October 2014

**MEMBER DISCOUNT ON CASE IH EQUIPMENT:** Farm Bureau members have an opportunity to receive up to \$500 off eligible tractors and equipment from Case IH. The following products are eligible for this benefit: Farmall Compact tractors (A & B) - \$300 per unit; Farmall Utilities C, U, & J series - \$500 per unit; Maxxum Series and Farmall 100A series - \$500 per unit; self-propelled windrowers - \$500 per unit; large square balers - \$500 per unit; round balers - \$300 per unit; small square balers - \$300 per unit; disc mower conditioners - \$300 per unit; sickle mower conditioners - \$300 per unit; and Case IH Scout - \$300 per unit. How do you qualify for this discount? Go to [www.fbverify.com/case](http://www.fbverify.com/case) and follow the prompts for the Case IH offer. Members enter their Farm Bureau membership ID and zip code and click "submit." A prompt to print a personalized certificate will appear. Members should take the certificate to their dealer with a current driver's license or state identification. For assistance or for more information, contact Member Benefits Coordinator Dedra Luke at (601) 977-4169.

**NEW FARM BUREAU APP FOR SMARTPHONES:** A new app for your smartphone has just been released that gives users quick access to Farm Bureau information, including member benefits, programs, events, and more. You can pay your dues, watch the latest videos from Farm Bureau, link to our social media sites, find directions to your county Farm Bureau office, read the latest Farm Country magazine, even send us photos! Versions are available for Apple and Android phones. Go to the App Store or the Android Store and search for Mississippi Farm Bureau.

**FARM BUREAU BOOTHS AT STATE FAIR:** Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation will have booths at the Trade Mart, Pig Races, and Barn 6 during the Mississippi State Fair, Oct. 1-12, in Jackson. Make plans to visit the fair and stop by our booths.

**THE 2014 STATE RESOLUTIONS MEETING** is scheduled for Nov. 13 at the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Building in Jackson. The deadline for submitting county resolutions is October 23.

**MFBF ANNUAL MEETING:** The annual membership meeting of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation will be held Dec. 6-8 at the Hilton Jackson hotel in Jackson. Dr. Temple Grandin will serve as the keynote speaker. Special music for the worship service will be provided by Susie McEntire. Look for the convention schedule in the November/December issue of Mississippi Farm Country magazine.

**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:** Berta White Scholarship recipients include Abigail Bufkin of Bolivar County, Danielle Welch of Simpson County, Rachel Wilson of Rankin County, and Ashley Ivy of Jones County. The \$3,000 scholarship is presented annually to deserving female

college students. Recipients of the \$3,000 Young Farmers & Ranchers Scholarship are Andrew Tucker, Leake County; Etta Kathryn Jennings, Leflore County; Jessica Wilson, Rankin County; and Rodrick Patterson Jr., Claiborne County. Christian Good of Noxubee County received the \$3,000 Hugh Arant Scholarship. Lee McCoy of Prentiss County is the recipient of the \$3,000 Don Waller Scholarship. Chloe' Henson of Alcorn County received the \$3,000 David Waide Scholarship.

**COTTON TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CTAP):** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan M. Garcia has announced that farmers can enroll in the Cotton Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) from August 11, 2014 through **October 7, 2014**. The program, created by the 2014 Farm Bill, provides interim payments to cotton producers during the 2014 crop year until the Stacked Income Protection Plan, a new insurance product also created by the legislation, is available. For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill). For more information about CTAP, visit a local FSA office or go online to [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

**MISSISSIPPI AG GROUPS HOST EPA OFFICIALS:** Ten officials from the Office of Pesticide Programs within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) visited Mississippi on Sept. 16 to learn more about agricultural production in the state and to view ongoing efforts to protect pollinators. The group visited several farms, an aerial application service, and research plots on the Stoneville and Starkville campuses of Mississippi State University. Patrick Swindoll, a Tunica County producer who participated in the visit, stated, "We had a great discussion with the staff from EPA. Our beekeeper and I discussed ways we work together during the growing season to protect his hives on the farm from any pesticide application. They asked a lot of great questions, and we reviewed the major components of the Mississippi Honey Bee Stewardship Program and how it has enhanced communication between farmers and beekeepers." John Campbell, Director of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Bureau of Plant Industry who facilitated the group's trip, stated, "I want to thank all groups and organizations who contributed to the success of this visit. Without their support, this key opportunity for us to open this dialogue would not have been possible." Groups participating in the visit included the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Beekeepers Association, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Cotton Foundation, Delta Council, Delta FARM, Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, Mississippi Rice Promotion Board, Mississippi Corn Promotion Board, Cotton Inc., Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association, Mississippi Agricultural Consultants Association, and Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH MSU WILD HOG STUDY:** Over the next few months, you may be contacted – via letter and/or phone – by researchers from Mississippi State University (MSU). These researchers need to interview farmers around the state about how wild hog damage is affecting their operations. They will also conduct field surveys on a select number of farmers' properties to determine the physical extent of wild hog damage and identify surrounding landscape features that may promote or hinder wild hog access to fields. In the long run, this will help lawmakers, land managers, and agricultural producers develop tools to accurately evaluate wild hog damage and mitigate losses through better management practices. Agriculture is the lifeblood of Mississippi, and Mississippi farmers and foresters are leaders of

agricultural production in the South. Please consider participating in this very important study. If you have any questions, contact Marina Denny with the MSU Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture at (662) 325-4722 or mdenny@cfr.msstate.edu.

**EPA WATERS OF THE U.S., ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SEMINAR:** Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, the Mississippi Center for Public Policy, and the National Federation of Independent Business are co-hosting an event titled “Regulating Puddles & Protecting Dingbats\*: EPA’s Power Grab and What Can Be Done.” Federal government agencies have been busy crafting regulations that will significantly increase burdens on farmers, landowners, construction, and development. Two of the most important are the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed changes to the definition of “waters of the United States” and changes in the way the Fish and Wildlife Service determines critical habitat for endangered species. The seminar will be held on Oct. 7, 2014, at the Capital Club in Jackson from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The keynote speaker will be William L. Kovacs, Senior Vice President, Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs, U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Kovacs provides the overall direction, strategy, and management for the Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs Division of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which initiates and leads multidimensional national issue campaigns on comprehensive energy legislation, complex environmental rulemakings, telecommunications reform, emerging technologies, and the systematic application of sound science to the federal regulatory process, among others.

**MFBF PARTNERS WITH GEOSYNTEC TO DEMONSTRATE EPA’S WATERS OF THE U.S. IMPACT:** Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation has partnered with Geosyntec, a GIS company, on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) expanded jurisdiction should the Waters of the United States rule go into effect. Go to [www.tinyurl.com/EPAWaters](http://www.tinyurl.com/EPAWaters) to view the map. Geosyntec identifies the difference between the number of stream miles and the number of acres in floodplains/buffers between two different resolutions. The medium resolution (1:100,000 scale), which shows perennial and intermittent streams, roughly approximates EPA’s current jurisdiction. The high resolution (1:24,000 scale) shows not only perennial and intermittent streams but also about 30 percent of ephemeral streams, which EPA is attempting to regulate through the proposed rule. Please don’t forget to leave a comment for EPA by going to [www.ditchtherule.fb.org](http://www.ditchtherule.fb.org).

**MFBF APPLAUDS MS HOUSE MEMBERS FOR SUPPORT ON CASH ACCOUNTING:** The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, along with the American Farm Bureau Federation, is appreciative of the 233 co-sponsors on the dear colleague letter in the House concerning cash accounting. The proposal requires a transition from the cash method of accounting to the accrual method. Cash accounting, combined with the ability to accelerate expenses and defer income, gives farmers and ranchers the flexibility they need to optimize cash flow for business success, plan for business purchases, and manage their tax burden by targeting an advantageous level of taxable income. Representatives Gregg Harper, Alan Nunnelee, and Steven Palazzo all signed the letter addressed to the leadership trying to preserve the cash method of accounting.

**AG MAGS AVAILABLE:** Farm Bureau offers a children's agricultural newsletter called Ag Mag, which features one Mississippi commodity each issue through facts, activities, games, and more. You can order copies of this newsletter for your local classroom or ag promotion events

from our Ag in the Classroom Program. Dairy, corn, poultry, and horticulture editions are now available for purchase. Cotton will be available in November. The cost is \$5 for 20 copies. To order, contact Pam Jones at [pjones@msfb.org](mailto:pjones@msfb.org) or (601) 977-4854.

**AG IN THE CLASSROOM T-SHIRTS FOR SALE:** If you have not purchased your Ag in the Classroom T-shirt, call Clara Bilbo or Pam Jones at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4245 or ext. 4854. You may also email Pam at [pjones@msfb.org](mailto:pjones@msfb.org). The shirts are available in maroon or red, sizes Youth, small through large, and Adult, small through 2XL. The cost is \$15 for short sleeves and \$20 for long sleeves. We also have fans for sale, using the same design as the T-shirt, at 50 cents each. If you buy in bulk, you get a cut. For example, you can purchase 25 fans for \$10.

**AG BOOK OF THE YEAR:** The Agricultural Book of the Year for 2014 is “Seed, Soil, Sun: Earth’s Recipe for Food” by Cris Peterson. The book educates youth about the soil’s connection to growing crops and feeding humans and animals. Copies of the book can be ordered by contacting Clara Bilbo or Pam Jones at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4245 or ext. 4854. You may also contact your county Farm Bureau office. The cost of book is \$6 plus \$2 shipping. The educator’s guide developed for the book is available for an additional \$3.50.

**VOICES OF AGRICULTURE:** The next edition of Voices of Agriculture will feature stories about the Mississippi Honey Bee Stewardship Program, the problems caused by feral hogs, and a farmer in the Delta marketing his own rice. We will also have our Mississippi on the Menu segment. The next Voices of Agriculture will air Nov. 27 at 1 p.m., Central Standard Time, and Nov. 29 at 2:30 p.m., Central Standard Time, on RFD-TV. RFD-TV can be found on Channel 231, Dish Network, and on Channel 345, DirecTV. Voices of Agriculture is a production of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

**2015 WINTER COMMODITY CONFERENCE:** Make plans to attend the 2015 Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Winter Commodity Conference set for Jan. 26 and 27 in Jackson. Informa Economics Senior Vice President Jim Wiesemeyer and Wells Fargo Bank Ag Economist and Senior Vice President Dr. Michael Swanson will headline the event. Wiesemeyer will report on the current political climate in Washington and how this relates to agricultural policy. Swanson will provide an overall review of the economy and current trends in major commodity markets. More detailed information will be released closer to the time of the event. You may also call Nancy Britt at (601) 977-4230.

**THE MSU AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE** will be held Nov. 6-7 at Mississippi State University. Registration details can be found at [www.agecon.msstate.edu](http://www.agecon.msstate.edu).

**MSU FIELD DAY PLANNED FOR FORAGES, BEEF:** Beef and forage producers will receive current recommendations on a variety of topics influencing production success at a field day on Oct. 25. The 2014 Fall Beef Cattle and Forage Field Day will begin at 9 a.m. at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station’s (MAFES) Prairie Research Unit in Monroe County. A sponsored lunch will conclude the event. MAFES researchers and Mississippi State University Extension Service agents and specialists will provide information on nutrition, marketing, and other issues related to beef production. Visitors will be able to tour the feeding behavior facilities and see demonstrations on the use of global positioning systems for forage

seeding. The MAFES Prairie Research Unit is located at 10223 Highway 382 just east of Prairie. Activities will take place at the main cattle handling facility on the south side of the highway. The Monroe County and Clay County co-ops are sponsoring the field day. Reserve a meal by contacting Joyce Pace or Jane Parish at (662) 369-4426 or [jparish@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:jparish@ext.msstate.edu).

**4-H'ERS EAGER FOR STATE FAIR, NATIONAL 4-H WEEK:** One week each October packs a double thrill for Mississippi 4-H'ers. National 4-H Week, held Oct. 5-11, overlaps with the Mississippi State Fair, which runs from Oct. 1-12. This year, 4-H'ers will promote both the state and national events through social media. The theme for the 2014 National 4-H Week is #iam4H. In addition to the traditional livestock competitions most people associate with the fair, 4-H'ers submit baked and canned goods, photographs, crafts, and robots for competition. They compete in a fashion show, a modeling squad showdown, and a public speaking event. They promote 4-H at the 4-H Village. Plus, Oct. 11 is 4-H Day at the Fair, and there will be special science activities from the National Youth Science Day celebration. Current 4-H members and alumni can download a #iam4H sign at [http://msucare.com/4h\\_Youth/iam4h.pdf](http://msucare.com/4h_Youth/iam4h.pdf). For more information about 4-H, contact the county Extension office or visit <http://msucare.com>.

**FALL GARDEN FEST:** Leisure gardeners and horticulture professionals are invited to attend the Southeast's most popular gardening show on Oct. 17 and 18 at the Mississippi State University (MSU) Truck Crops Experiment Station. The Fall Flower & Garden Fest draws more than 5,000 people to Crystal Springs each year to get the latest recommendations for plants and gardening techniques. Specialists with the MSU Extension Service and Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Master Gardeners, and others will offer information on native plants in the landscape, fruit and vegetable crops for the home, rain barrel construction, flower arrangements, herb use, and more. Event hours are from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. Admission and parking are free. Food and drinks will be available from vendors both days. More than 60 vendors will have plants, yard art, and garden tools for sale. Smartphone users can download an application with complete schedule information at <http://guidebook.com/g/ffgfest>. For more information or to view the full list of seminar and walking tour topics and times, visit <http://www.msucare.com/fallfest/> or contact Rick Snyder at (601) 892-3731 or [rick.snyder@msstate.edu](mailto:rick.snyder@msstate.edu).

**MSU WOOD MAGIC SCIENCE FAIR:** The Mississippi State University (MSU) Wood Magic Science Fair will host some 4,000 fourth-graders, teachers, and visitors Oct. 6 through 10 at MSU's Sustainable Bioproducts Complex, formerly the Forest Products Laboratory, at 201 Locksley Way in Starkville. Attendees will learn about forestry, sustainable bioproducts, and wildlife. The Wood Magic Science Fair is sponsored by the MSU College of Forest Resources, MSU Extension Service, Mississippi Forestry Association, and Mississippi Sustainable Forestry Initiative. For more information on the Wood Magic Science Fair, contact David Jones at (662) 325-8454 or [david.jones@msstate.edu](mailto:david.jones@msstate.edu). Details can be found at <http://www.cfr.msstate.edu/forestp/wmsf>.

**MSU SYMPOSIUM OFFERS LANDSCAPE DESIGN IDEAS:** Mississippi State University (MSU) will host the 59th Edward C. Martin Landscape Design Symposium from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 15 at the MSU Bost Extension Center Auditorium. The event brings influential designers to campus to give professional and hobby gardeners new ideas about landscape design. Bob

Brzuszek, Extension professor of landscape architecture, is the symposium program chair. Register online for the symposium at <http://goo.gl/6yu9Ox>. The event costs \$25 to attend if registered by Oct. 1 and \$30 for those who register at the door. For more information, contact Debbie Whitfield at [dww12@lalc.msstate.edu](mailto:dww12@lalc.msstate.edu).

**NATIONAL RODEO QUALIFYING EVENT:** The eyes of the barrel-racing nation will turn to the Mississippi Horse Park in Starkville on Oct. 17. The Mississippi State University facility will host a qualifying event for The American, a major national rodeo. Parts of the qualifier will be broadcast nationally on RFD-TV and live-streamed over the Internet. This competition is on the first day of a three-day event that also will include the Better Barrel Racing Eastern Regional Finals and Horse Poor Barrel Races. Riders for the Starkville competition will be able to sign up online from Aug. 25 until Oct. 10 at <http://www.horsepoorBBR.com>.

**ANTIQUÉ DAYS:** The annual Antique Days will be held at the Triangle Cultural Center (the old Main School) at 332 North Main St. in Yazoo City on Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Old hit and miss engines will be grinding cornmeal and pumping water. Another engine will be hooked to two ice cream freezers, and we will have homemade ice cream all day. Also, several old tractors will be on display. Leo Beatty will be here with his sugar cane mill. Lyle Wynn, professional showing artist and seasoned demonstrator from the Mississippi Forge Council, will demonstrate and sell some of his hand-forged items. Greg Harkins will have his handmade chairs and hot tamales, and Bobby Rico will have his handmade knives. Lots of local artists, crafts people, and food vendors will be under tents on the grounds of the Triangle. For more information, visit [www.antiquedays.com](http://www.antiquedays.com) or call (662) 590-5415.

## Calendar of Events

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| Oct.1- 12  | Mississippi State Fair, <i>Jackson</i>   |
| Oct. 2-3   | Women's Ag Tour, <i>Delta</i>  |
| Nov. 13    | State Resolutions Meeting, <i>Jackson</i>  |
| Nov. 21-27 | National Farm-City Week  |
| Dec. 6-8   | MFBF Annual Meeting, <i>Jackson</i>  |
| Jan. 11-14 | AFBF Annual Meeting, <i>San Diego, CA</i>  |
| Jan. 23-25 | Young Farmers & Ranchers<br>Leadership Conference<br><i>MSU</i><br><i>Starkville</i> |
| Jan. 26-27 | Winter Commodity Conference, <i>Jackson</i>  |
| Jan. 26    | Legislative Reception  |

*If you have information for the next issue of Grassroots Leader newsletter, please contact Region 1 Regional Manager Justin Ferguson at (601)720-4238 or [jferguson@msfb.org](mailto:jferguson@msfb.org) or Glynda Phillips at (601) 540-6868 or [gphillips@msfb.org](mailto:gphillips@msfb.org).*