



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 23, 2024**

**Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations**  
**(601) 359-1163 / cell: (662) 312-5897**  
[Paige@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:Paige@mdac.ms.gov)

**Hannah East, Marketing Specialist**  
**(601) 359-1179**  
[HannahE@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:HannahE@mdac.ms.gov)

## **MALTB Investigators Recover Stolen Ag Equipment in Pearl River County**

**JACKSON, Miss.** – On May 14, 2024, the Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau (MALTB) recovered a stolen excavator in Pearl River County.

The 2017 John Deere 50G excavator was stolen in Alabama in 2021. The property was valued at \$50,000 when it was stolen. The MALTB received a tip that led investigators to Pearl River County, Mississippi where the excavator was recovered.

Director Dean Barnard thanked the MALTB investigators for their quick actions on the recovery of this excavator, and also wants to thank the anonymous caller for providing the information.

“This is an open and ongoing investigation. I encourage anyone who may have information on stolen agricultural equipment, please contact your local law enforcement, Crime Stoppers at 601-355-TIPS or the MALTB tip line at 1-800-678-2660. All callers can remain anonymous,” said Barnard.

The Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau, the law enforcement division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, enforces state laws pertaining to the theft of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, fish, farm equipment, chemicals, timber and all other farm or agriculture-related crimes. Visit <http://msagtheft.org/> to learn more about the MALTB. To report or provide information regarding an agricultural crime, call (800) 678-2660.

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**Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau  
Dean Barnard, Director  
P.O. Box 1609  
Jackson, MS 39215  
Telephone: (601) 359- 1121  
Tip Line: 1 (800) 678-2660**

**Photo attached.**



**Last week, the Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau recovered a stolen 2017 John Deere 50G excavator in Pearl River County.**