

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

ANDY GIPSON COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Mississippi Farmers Market to Host Senior Day Event in Celebration of Mississippi Farmers Market Week, July 7-13

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Farmers Market Summer Senior Day takes place in celebration of Mississippi Farmers Market Week, July 7-13. This event is free to attend and is open to all ages. The Market, open 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, July 11, will feature local products for purchase, complimentary health screenings from the Student Health Coalition of Mississippi, egg taco samples from the Mississippi Egg Marketing Board, a cooking demonstration from Mississippi State University Extension's "The Food Factor" host Natasha Haynes and an informational booth from Mississippi Farmers Market along with beef, pork, mushrooms, honey, peanut/pecan brittle, bread, croissants and pastries at the Thursday market.

Additionally, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson will be speaking about the role farmers markets play in Mississippi's local food access at 11:00 a.m. inside the Mississippi Farmers Market.

"During Mississippi Farmers Market Week, we celebrate the contributions of farmers markets to our local communities. Farmers markets are vital for both our local farmers and our consumers," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. "Markets provide a direct link for consumers to access the freshest, locally grown produce and agricultural products, while supporting our state's agricultural economy. I encourage everyone to support our farmers by shopping at their local markets."

Mississippi Farmers Market Week was established by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) to create awareness of local farmers markets and recognize the significant contribution of farmers markets to local communities. Mississippi is home to approximately 70 farmers markets, out of which 32 have been certified through the MDAC's Certified Farmers Market Program.

The Farmers Market Café, located inside of the Mississippi Farmers Market, is open 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every weekday and 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Saturday. For daily menu schedules, visit the Farmers Market Café on Facebook. The Genuine MS® Store, also located inside the Mississippi Farmers Market, is open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Saturday. For additional information about the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Genuine MS® program, visit www.genuinems.com or follow Genuine MS® on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The Mississippi Farmers Market, a division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, is open during the summer on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Saturday. For additional information about the Mississippi Farmers Market, visit

<u>www.msfarmersmarket.com</u> or follow the Mississippi Farmers Market on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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Commissioner Gipson will speak at the event at 11:00 a.m. and will be available for interview following.

Photo attached.



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