



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 4, 2024

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New Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council Class Holds First Meeting

JACKSON, Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson announced that the 2024 - 2025 class of the Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council (MAYC) held its inaugural meeting in Jackson on Wednesday, August 28. Fourteen students from across Mississippi came together to hear from Commissioner Gipson, as well as other officials with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Mississippi Board of Animal Health and the National Agricultural Law Center.

“It was a pleasure to meet with this year’s Ag Youth Council,” said Commissioner Gipson. “These bright students are Mississippi’s future, and our agency is dedicated to providing these potential leaders with an understanding of the vast opportunities and overall importance of our state’s largest industry, agriculture. With an ever-increasing demand for a trained and experienced workforce, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce will continue to play an active role in developing the next generation of leaders in agriculture.”

During their meeting, MAYC students learned about various aspects of Mississippi’s agriculture industry including regulatory services, marketing and public relations, timber commerce, and veterinary medicine. Council members also engaged in discussions with National Agricultural Law Center Director Harrison Pittman regarding important policy issues impacting agriculture at the state and national levels.

The MAYC is a workforce development program that seeks to expose agriculture-minded high school seniors to a variety of unique, behind-the-scenes experiences within the agriculture industry. Over the course of one year, council members visit agricultural companies and organizations; learn about the legislative process and how it affects the agriculture industry; hold discussions with industry professionals; and hone career-development skills.

Visit www.mdac.ms.gov/mayc for program guidelines and additional information. Questions regarding the Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council can be submitted to Nick Hall at Nick@mdac.ms.gov.

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Photos attached.



The 2024-2025 Mississippi Agriculture Youth Council held its inaugural meeting Wednesday, August 28, in Jackson. Pictured L-R: Layton Varner of Rankin County; Azion Leflore of Rankin County; Kayleigh Rose Myers of Itawamba County; Hannah Hill of Tippah County; Grey Cruse of Lee County; Alana Whitehead of Winston County; Bryce Bratcher of Oktibbeha County; Sloan Walker of Leflore County; John Clayton Kitchens of Lauderdale County; Gracyn Foster of Jones County; Emma Creel of Kemper County; Emma Grace Putnam of Sunflower County; Claire Rizzo of Bolivar County; and Micah Osborn of Leflore County.



MAYC students heard from Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson, as well as officials with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Mississippi Board of Animal Health and National Agricultural Law Center.