



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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MDAC Hosts Special, Pecan-Themed Podcast Featuring Guest Farmer from Hinds County

JACKSON, Miss. – Today, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) releases its eighteenth episode of the popular Freshly Picked podcast series. The pecan-themed episode, “Cracking the Code: The Pecan’s Journey in Mississippi” features special guest Max Draughn, owner of Pecan Hill Farms and Bass Pecan Company in Raymond.

In 2002, Draughn purchased the 90-acre pecan orchard that was once a part of the Old Moss Plantation in Hinds County. The trees were originally planted in the 1870s, making them approximately 150 years old. Since establishing his farm, Pecan Hill Farms, Draughn has consistently planted new trees to repopulate and grow the orchard. Today, there are over 4,000 pecan trees on the property. He also owns a u-pick agritourism operation that offers blueberries and blackberries during the summer months to the public.

Within this episode, Draughn talks about the best tree nut varieties to grow in Mississippi, the resources available to pecan growers and valuable tips for hobby farmers. Draughn formerly served as president of the Mississippi Pecan Growers Association, and he continues to advocate for and support local farmers who work tirelessly to bring pecans from the orchard to the consumer’s table. He goes on to discuss the future of Mississippi’s pecan industry and the important differences between store-bought and locally sourced pecans. Hear personal stories, unique insight and much more in today’s episode by visiting www.msfreshlypicked.com and on all major podcast platforms.

The Freshly Picked podcast series, developed by MDAC, will feature 24 episodes and include specialty crop farmers, experts, entrepreneurs and/or chefs as they tell the stories behind their farms, businesses and the unique products they offer. Listeners can find new episodes every Thursday through February 2025 at www.msfreshlypicked.com, Spotify, Apple Podcasts or other major platforms.

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Photo attached.



The latest episode of MDAC’s Freshly Picked podcast, titled “Cracking the Code: The Pecan’s Journey in Mississippi,” airs today at 9:30 a.m. Pictured L-R: Max Draughn, owner of Pecan Hill Farms and Bass Pecan Company in Raymond, and Claude Nash, podcast host and editor of MDAC’s *Mississippi Market Bulletin*.