



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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MDAC's Chris McDonald Tapped by Trump Administration to lead USDA's Farm Service Agency in Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson is very pleased to announce the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Director of Federal and Environmental Affairs Chris McDonald has been appointed by the Trump Administration to serve as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director for the State of Mississippi. As State Executive Director, McDonald will help implement President Trump's America First agenda and execute USDA policies in planning, organizing and administering FSA programs in Mississippi. He will assume his duties on June 2, 2025.

"I am proud to announce that MDAC's own Chris McDonald, our Director of Federal and Environmental Affairs, has been selected by President Donald J. Trump and the Trump Administration to lead USDA's Farm Service Agency in Mississippi. Chris is a tremendous asset to our Department and Mississippi's agriculture industry. Through his extensive work on state and federal policies and the development of nuisance wildlife programs, Chris has successfully led our policy team to the benefit of farmers and ranchers across the State, and he will provide further support for the visionary leadership of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins. I look forward to continuing to work with Chris in his new role at USDA FSA as we keep advocating for and supporting our Mississippi farmers," said Commissioner Gipson.

Prior to joining MDAC under former Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith in 2016, McDonald was employed with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for nearly 13 years where he served within the Wildlife Bureau as an Administrator and Field Biologist assisting landowners with conservation management. During his time serving in the Gipson administration at MDAC, McDonald took the primary lead in federal and environmental policy issues and helped in crafting legislative policy at the Mississippi Legislature.

McDonald is a graduate of Mississippi State University. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and Master of Science degrees in Animal Physiology and Wildlife Ecology.

The official USDA announcement can be viewed at <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2025/05/02/secretary-rollins-announces-new-state-directors-farm-service-agency-and-rural-development>.

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Photo Attached.



Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson congratulates MDAC's Director of Federal and Environmental Affairs on his appointment by the Trump Administration as the USDA Farm Service Agency State Executive Director for Mississippi.