



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson Announces Marketing and Governmental Affairs Leadership Team

JACKSON, Miss. – Commissioner Andy Gipson has appointed longtime Director of Marketing Paige Manning to the new role of Director of Marketing and Governmental Affairs and *Mississippi Market Bulletin* Editor Claude Nash to Deputy Director of Marketing and Governmental Affairs for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). Manning is assuming this role to coincide with the transition of Chris McDonald to lead the USDA Farm Service Agency.

“When we learned that Chris McDonald will be leaving MDAC to accept the Director position at the federal Farm Service Agency, I knew we would need a capable and established leader to take on the role of governmental affairs,” said Commissioner Gipson. “Since Paige already has extensive experience working with USDA and other governmental agencies on a variety of programs, she is the perfect choice for the Director of Marketing and Governmental Affairs. In addition, having served as Marketing Director for 13 years here at MDAC, Paige has a full understanding and appreciation of all the good work done by our agency both at the State and Federal levels and with our agricultural industry stakeholders. I have every confidence that Paige will do an outstanding job as she assumes this new important position and becomes part of our MDAC executive leadership team.”

Manning has been with MDAC nearly 20 years serving in various roles. She led the Market Development Team in promoting and raising public awareness of Mississippi’s agriculture commodities and the farmers and ranchers who produce them. Manning received her Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and a Master’s of Agribusiness Management from Mississippi State University. She currently resides in Madison with her husband, Ron, and their son.

“I am elated to serve in this capacity at the Department, and I am grateful to Commissioner Gipson for giving me this opportunity. Having grown up on a farm and seeing the challenges our farmers face, I look forward to working on state and federal policy issues impacting our farmers and ranchers across the state,” said Manning.

“Claude Nash has faithfully served in providing excellent management as Editor of the Mississippi Market Bulletin for over 36 years, so I am fully confident in Claude’s ability to tackle the new role of Deputy Director of Marketing and Governmental Affairs,” continued Commissioner Gipson. “With his great experience and knowledge of the work our agency does for the People of Mississippi, Claude is perfectly positioned to manage the daily activities of this new Division and to assist Director Paige Manning as Deputy Director. I truly appreciate Claude’s willingness to take on this new role and to further support the good work of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce as we look to the future.”

Nash began his career at MDAC in 1990 and has served as Editor of the *Mississippi Market Bulletin* for 35 years. Within this role, Nash has overseen a significant increase in paid *Mississippi Market Bulletin* subscriptions. Under his leadership, he has helped make the publication user friendly by expanding the categories to include more agricultural related items that are raised, grown and operated on Mississippi farms. In 2010, he broadened the *Mississippi Market Bulletin* horizon with more advanced technology and the online version option which allows for a whole new demographic to enjoy and access it on a worldwide level. He grew up working on his family’s poultry farm, where they also raised beef cattle. Nash and his wife, Yolanda, reside in Brandon where he continues to raise Brangus cattle to this day.

“Being around agriculture my entire life, I am honored by this opportunity to serve and promote our state’s hardworking farmers, ranchers and producers. Agriculture is a vital and ever-changing industry, and our team is dedicated to supporting its continued growth,” said Nash.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce directly impacts the daily lives of all Mississippians. MDAC supports and applies common-sense regulation to agricultural-related businesses within the state, and proudly promotes Mississippi products locally, regionally and around the world. Learn more at www.mdac.ms.gov.

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Photos attached.



Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson has named Paige Manning as MDAC's new Director of Marketing and Governmental Affairs.



Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson has named Claude Nash as MDAC's Deputy Director of Marketing and Governmental Affairs.