



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson Announces Make Mississippi Healthy Again Farm Tour

JACKSON, Miss. – As part of Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson’s Make Mississippi Healthy Again (MMSHA) initiative, he is touring a number of local farms, farmers markets, restaurants serving local foods and agribusinesses around the state.

Make Mississippi Healthy Again is an initiative to increase access to local, nutritious foods and promote healthy eating. As part of the initiative, Commissioner Gipson is highlighting the vast number of farms across the state that provide local, healthy foods and the farmers who grow them.

“I am excited to visit the farms and small businesses across our great state,” said Commissioner Gipson. “Healthy eating begins with healthy ingredients, and there’s nothing more nutritious than fresh, locally sourced fruits, vegetables, dairy products and meats. That’s why our agency will be making stops at farms throughout Mississippi in the coming months. Our farmers, ranchers and producers are the backbone of our food system, and they hold the key to providing abundant, safe, healthy and affordable food. Stay tuned for the latest updates from our journey across the state to Make Mississippi Healthy Again!”

Currently scheduled stops on Commissioner Gipson’s Make Mississippi Healthy Again Farm Tour include:

- Delta Council Meeting in Cleveland – Friday, June 13, at 10:30 a.m.
- DeSoto County Agri-Education Center ribbon cutting in Nesbit – Thursday, June 19, at 11:00 a.m.
- Home Place Pastures (beef/pork farm) in Como – Thursday, June 19, at 12:00 p.m.
- Eubanks Produce (fruits/vegetables farm) in Lucedale – Monday, June 23
- Mississippi Farmers Market in Jackson – Thursday, June 26, at 10:00 a.m.
- Two Crackers Oyster Company (seafood producer) in Vancleave – Tuesday, July 1, at 1:00 p.m.
- Sullivan’s Produce (fruit & vegetable store) in Meadville – Thursday, July 3, at 12:00 p.m.

Additional stops are being added frequently. Commissioner Gipson will be visiting farms throughout the summer that produce fruits and vegetables, catfish, pecans, sweet potatoes, rice, honey, mushrooms, peanuts and other locally grown crops. So far on the MMSHA Tour, Commissioner Gipson has visited

Banks Farm in Brandon, Nature's Gourmet in Petal, Clyde Magee's Watermelon Farm in Mize, Sandy Run Farm in Purvis, The Midtowner restaurant in Hattiesburg and Sumrall Farms in Canton.

For updates and additional information about the Make Mississippi Healthy Again 2025 Farm Tour, visit the calendar at www.makemshhealthyagain.com.

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Photos attached.



Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson and his wife, Leslie, visited Banks Farm in Brandon as the first stop on the MMSHA Farm Tour. The family owned and operated peach orchard currently has 4,000 trees in production and all peaches are hand-picked and hand-selected for sale to the public. Pictured L-R: Emma Burkhalter, Glenda Banks, Leslie Gipson, Commissioner Andy Gipson, Ben Banks, Leighton Banks, Molly Banks Burkhalter and Mark Burkhalter.



Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson visited Nature's Gourmet, a livestock operation that produces beef, pork, lamb, poultry and eggs earlier this month. The Petal-based farm utilizes regenerative soil practices to provide nutrient-dense food products. Pictured: Ben Simmons, owner of Nature's Gourmet, and Commissioner Andy Gipson.



Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson visited Clyde Magee's Watermelon Farm in Mize. For years, Clyde has grown a variety of fruits and vegetables at his farm in Smith County, but he is most well-known for his tasty watermelons. Pictured: Clyde Magee and Commissioner Andy Gipson.



Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson visited Sandy Run Farm in Purvis. This u-pick agritourism operation is owned and operated by the Goggins family, and they grow blackberries, blueberries and peaches. Pictured L-R: Jo Ann Goggins, Tim Goggins, Commissioner Andy Gipson, Ethan Goggins, Connor Goggins and Kathryn Goggins.



Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson visited The Midtowner in Hattiesburg, which is a café serving up “everyday food” with fresh ingredients sourced direct from local farms. Pictured: Commissioner Andy Gipson and Robert St. John, owner of the Midtowner, Crescent City Grill, Mahogany Bar, Ed’s Burger Joint, Tabella, Loblolly Bakery and Lakewood Social Catering & Events.



Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson visited Sumrall Farms, a row crop farm in Canton, this week. While there, he met with the Trump Administration's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Administrator Kevin McOmber to discuss issues impacting Mississippi's farmers and agriculture industry. Pictured L-R: EPA Regional Administrator Kevin McOmber, Commissioner Andy Gipson, Morgan Sumrall, Jeff Sumrall, Myers Sumrall, Kimberly Sumrall, James Sumrall, Jerry Sumrall, Kari Sumrall and Emerson Sumrall.