



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: **Hannah East, Communications Director**  
**(601) 359-1179 / cell: (662) 816-3230**  
[HannahE@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:HannahE@mdac.ms.gov)

### **Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson Recognizes Multiple Pieces of New Legislation as “Wins” for Mississippi Agriculture and Consumers**

**JACKSON, Miss.** – Following the conclusion of the 2026 Legislative Session, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson praised the passage of multiple bills impacting Mississippi’s agriculture industry.

“I was encouraged by several significant pieces of legislation that should positively impact our farmers and ranchers, such as the establishment of the Mississippi Grain Indemnity Act, the ban on lab-grown dairy products and targeted sales tax exemption and reduction on key agricultural inputs,” said Commissioner Gipson. “Farms across the state – like those across the nation – are facing a challenging farm economy. Pro-agriculture policies such as these provide meaningful support to our farmers.”

Noteworthy ag-related bills include:

- **House Bill 1153** (Fake Meat Labeling/Lab-grown Dairy Ban) – Provides technical amendments for labeling requirements and enforcement provisions established under House Bill 913 (2025) regarding the misbranding of non-meat, meat-substitute products. The bill also prohibits the sale, offer for sale and the manufacture of ‘cell-cultured dairy products’ that are derived from animal cells cultured outside of a live animal. This makes Mississippi the first state in the nation to ban lab-grown dairy products. This bill becomes effective July 1, 2026.
- **House Bill 4060** (Sales Tax Relief) – Exempts lime used for agricultural purposes from sales tax and reduces the sales tax rate on retail fencing materials used to contain livestock to 1.5%. This bill becomes effective July 1, 2026.
- **Senate Bill 2399** (Security Posting Authority) – Removes the statutory prohibition preventing the Department of Public Safety from posting security personnel at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Mississippi Farmers Market, ensuring flexibility if future needs arise. This bill becomes effective July 1, 2026.
- **Senate Bill 2631** (Mississippi Grain Indemnity Act) – Establishes a voluntary grain indemnity fund for Mississippi producers of corn, soybeans and wheat. Participating producers will contribute a 0.2% assessment on marketed grain sold to the first purchaser licensee to the Mississippi Grain Trust Fund to protect producers from financial losses caused by the failure of licensed grain dealers or warehouse operators. This bill becomes effective July 1, 2026.

- **Senate Bill 2648** (Poultry Nutrient Management Support) – Authorizes Mississippi State University and Alcorn State University to assist poultry farmers with the development of comprehensive nutrient management plans. This bill becomes effective July 1, 2026.
  
- **Senate Bill 2809** (MALTB Firearm Retention) – Allows retiring law enforcement officers with the Mississippi Agriculture and Livestock Theft Bureau (MALTB) to retain one issued sidearm, which aligns with the benefit provided to officers with Department of Public Safety and Department of Transportation. This bill becomes effective July 1, 2026.

“I want to thank our Legislators, especially those that sponsored and championed legislation brought forward by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. I appreciate Senate Ag Committee Chairman Neil Whaley, Senate Ag Committee Vice-Chairman Andy Berry, House Ag Committee Chairman Bill Pigott and House Ag Committee Vice-Chairman Vince Mangold and other members of both the House and Senate Ag Committee for their continued support of Mississippi agriculture,” continued Commissioner Gipson. “Legislative wins like this are only possible when we put the interests of Mississippians first and work together for the common good of the People.”

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