



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Mississippi Farmers Market, Genuine MS® Farmers Market to Kick Off Summer with Watermelon Celebration

JACKSON, Miss. – Shoppers can celebrate the start of summer at two Mississippi farmers markets Saturday, June 13, with watermelon slices sponsored by Genuine MS®, local products and family-friendly activities.

The Mississippi Farmers Market in Jackson and the Genuine MS® Farmers Market at the Brandon Amphitheater will host National Dairy Month and watermelon-themed features, including slices of Smith County watermelons, while supplies last.

The Genuine MS® Farmers Market at the Brandon Amphitheater, located at 8190 Rock Way in Brandon, will host its Watermelon Jubilee from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Shoppers can expect the following vendors: 5D Natural Farms; Amason Farms; Cooper Farms & Vineyard; DNA BBQ; Fresh Grown Farms; Hannah's Breadbasket; KGP Naturals; Land of Milk & Honey; Nature Crest Mushrooms; New Ground Nursery; Paul's Plants; Pennington Farms Honey; Primas Family Homestead & Farm; Red River Trading Company; Revived Roots Farm; Sparrow Gardens, T&R Dairy; and Two Dog Farms.

The Mississippi Farmers Market, located at 929 High Street in Jackson, will host its Summer Kickoff: Watermelon Crawl event from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with the following vendors: 5D Natural Farms; Amason Farms; Amorphous Garden; Artillery Ridge Grower; BeeTree Meadows; Bread & Butter; Chane; Cooper Farm & Vineyard; Dandelion + Crow; Deaf Mama; Donna Corkern; Dutch Creek Goat Farm; Ellis Farm; Flavourful Fungi; Foot Print Farm; Fresh Grown Farms; Gaienne's Gulf Seafood; Geneva Springs; Heartbeat; Homestead Farms; Iron Skillet Brittle; J & M Blueberries; Just Vanilla; Little Blue Stem Farm; Livingston Spring Farm; Liyah's Sourdough; Magnolia Quail Farm; MSZ Fancy's Solutions; Other Kitchen; Pearson Ceramics; Pop's Blocks N More; Reaper's Suburban Homestead; Rubie's Daughters Handmake Creations; Sarah Farm; Sumrall Farm; T&R Dairy; Taylr'd Table; Two Dog Farms; Viking Honey; and Wurmworks.

The City Limits Café at the Mississippi Farmers Market will also be cooking up a summertime favorite – the classic BLT – for shoppers.

"This Saturday at the Mississippi Farmers Market is an extra special occasion because this month marks the 20th anniversary of this market," Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy

Gipson said. "I invite everyone to come out to both locations for double the fun and to enjoy fresh Smith County watermelon, provided by Clyde Magee of Mize, and sponsored by Genuine MS®."

Educational materials provided by the National Dairy Alliance will also be available for people to take home.

"Visiting both locations in one day is a great way to celebrate the start of summer while supporting local farmers and vendors," Gipson added. "Buying fresh and local foods for your table is a key ingredient to Making Mississippi Healthy Again. We invite the public to come out, taste watermelon, shop local and enjoy the day with us."

Both markets are operated by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. For more information on both markets, visit www.msfarmersmarket.com.

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