



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Ag Commissioner Reminds Livestock Producers of Local Processing Options during Redemption Meat Processing Grand Opening

JACKSON, Miss. – Following the grand opening of Redemption Meats Processing in Richland, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson encourages Mississippians to shop local when purchasing meat products and reminds livestock producers of the local processing options now available to them.

“I was glad to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of Redemption Meats Processing’s new cut and wrap facility in Rankin County,” said Commissioner Gipson. “This is a prime example of real economic development that’s helping real people in Mississippi. Our state has an abundance of fresh, healthy food options like seasonal produce, dairy products and meats. What we need now are more processing facilities that can turn those Mississippi grown and raised resources into finished, value-added products ready for consumers to enjoy at their tables. So, this is a great moment for our state to see another step taken toward restoring our local food supply and providing better, nutritious options for our people.”

For producers and owners of live animals (including animals with multiple owners), there are currently fourteen (14) custom slaughter facilities in the state that process livestock for “personal use only.” Products received after processing in a custom facility must be clearly marked “Not for Sale.”

For producers, selling packaged processed meats from animals of their own raising to a third-party customer, or into commerce in retail stores or restaurants, there are currently six (6) state-inspected slaughter facilities and twelve (12) federally inspected slaughter facilities available in Mississippi. All meat and poultry products sold into commerce must have a valid “mark of inspection” which clearly identifies that the product has been inspected and notates the processing facility location.

“I encourage all my fellow Mississippians to shop local for food, and together, we’ll build healthier habits, lifestyles and families all while supporting our local producers and our economy,” continued Gipson.

Visit <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/inspection/establishments/meat-poultry-and-egg-product-inspection-directory> to find a list of USDA FSIS inspected slaughter and processing facilities in Mississippi. Visit https://agnet.mdac.ms.gov/website/map_MeatEstablishment for an interactive map of all meat processing

facilities in Mississippi on the department's Meat Inspection webpage. For statewide health and nutritional resources, visit www.makemshealthyagain.com and learn more about MDAC's Make Mississippi Health Again initiative.

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Photo attached.



Last month, Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson joined the Rankin County Chamber of Commerce and other dignitaries at the official ribbon cutting ceremony for Redemption Meats Processing.