



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 3, 2026

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Commissioner Andy Gipson Recognized for Department of Agriculture's Partnership with Extra Table During Winter Storm Fern Response

JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson was recently recognized by Extra Table for his leadership at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) in partnering on emergency response efforts during Winter Storm Fern. Gipson received one of the nonprofit's inaugural "Good on the Go Awards" at its "Sweet 16" birthday banquet celebrating 16 years of fighting hunger across Mississippi.

The award recognizes Gipson and MDAC's collaboration with Extra Table during the January ice storm that impacted north Mississippi. Through the partnership, more than 40,000 hot meals were served to residents in affected communities.

"Thanks to all our MDAC team members for their efforts to bring life-saving supplies to the people in need during Winter Storm Fern," said Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. "This recognition reflects the power of partnerships and the dedication of everyone who worked together to ensure Mississippians had access to hot meals during a time of great need."

The banquet brought together local and state leaders, donors, volunteers and community partners to celebrate Extra Table's 16 years of fighting hunger across Mississippi and to recognize individuals and organizations whose leadership and service have made a meaningful impact in addressing food insecurity.

Founded in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Extra Table purchases and distributes healthy food to food pantries and soup kitchens across the state. The nonprofit relies on private donations, volunteers and community partnerships to help feed families facing food insecurity.

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Photos attached.



Martha Allen Price, Executive Director of Extra Table, with Agriculture and Commerce Commissioner Andy Gipson



**Robert St. John, founder-president emeritus of Extra Table, and Agriculture and Commerce
Commissioner Andy Gipson**