



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 6, 2026

Contact: Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Governmental Affairs
(601) 359-1163 / cell: (662) 312-5897
Paige@mdac.ms.gov

Kelly Shannon, Public Relations Representative
(601) 359-1137 / cell: (601) 750-3316
Kelly@mdac.ms.gov

Who: Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson
What: Mississippi State Fair Ribbon Cutting
When: Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
Where: Gate 1 of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds
(Located at the intersection of Amite and Jefferson Streets)

Ribbon Cutting to Mark Grand Opening of the 167th Mississippi State Fair

STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson invites the public to attend the ceremonial ribbon cutting to officially open the gates of the 167th Mississippi State Fair Thursday, October 8, at 11:00 a.m. at Gate 1 of the State Fairgrounds, located at the intersection of Amite and Jefferson Streets.

Commissioner Gipson will be joined by law enforcement officials; Mississippi 4-H and FFA state officers; Mississippi and Dixie National Rodeo Queens; and North American Midway Entertainment (NAME) representatives. Jackson State University will present the colors, and Ed Meadows of Simpson County will sing the national anthem. Rev. Brandon Halford, Associate Pastor of Galloway Memorial UMC, and Minister James Hopkins of Reset Jackson will lead a prayer during the ceremony. The opening ceremony will include a flyover by the Mississippi National Guard. Following the ribbon cutting, Commissioner Gipson will lead opening ceremony participants in a parade down the Midway in his 1968 Chevrolet C-10 pickup truck.

The 167th Mississippi State Fair, which runs October 8-18, is wrapping the Mississippi State Fair once again in red, white and blue with this year's theme, Let Freedom Ring! Admission is free every weekday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with the exception of Columbus Day, October 12. Find the complete schedule of fair events at www.msstatefair.com. For additional information and updates, follow the Mississippi State Fair on Facebook, Instagram and X.

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For Media Planning Purposes at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:

Following the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Commissioner Gipson and ceremony participants will parade down the Midway from Gate 1. Media will be given time to position themselves on the Midway in order to obtain photos and video footage. Media partners can pick up Fair Media Passes and Passport at the Budweiser Pavilion to receive complimentary samples from various food vendors along the Midway.

Media Note: Media advisories will be sent out each afternoon during the State Fair with schedules of the two upcoming days.