STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Mississippi Ag Commissioner Says Farmers Markets Celebrate Successful Year of Connecting Farmers and Consumers

JACKSON, Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson says Mississippi farmers markets have enjoyed another successful year of connecting local farmers and producers with consumers while showcasing the quality, variety and abundance of agricultural products grown and made right here in Mississippi. From fresh fruits and vegetables to locally raised meats, honey, baked goods, plants and specialty products, farmers markets continue to play an important role in supporting Mississippi agriculture, strengthening local economies and bringing communities together.

Mississippi is home to approximately 79 farmers markets, including 40 recognized through the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's (MDAC) Certified Farmers Market Program. These markets provide valuable opportunities for farmers and producers to sell directly to consumers while giving shoppers access to fresh, locally produced products and the opportunity to connect with the people behind the products.

Farmers markets provide Mississippians with access to a wide variety of fresh, wholesome foods while helping families save money through a sales tax exemption on many qualifying products. Consumers do not pay the state’s five percent grocery sales tax on eligible food products sold directly by farmers or on qualifying value-added food products sold at MDAC Certified Farmers Markets.

“Mississippi's farmers markets are an important part of our state's agricultural success story,” said Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “They give farmers and small businesses an opportunity to showcase their products, build relationships with consumers and grow their businesses. We are proud of the markets across our state and grateful to everyone who supports Mississippi agriculture by shopping local.”

One highlight of this year's farmers market season was the debut of the Genuine MS® Farmers Market at the Brandon Amphitheater. Dedicated to connecting consumers with the best of Mississippi agriculture, the seasonal market features 100 percent Mississippi-grown, raised and processed products from local

farmers and producers. The market operated Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon through October 2026, providing a new destination for shoppers to support local agriculture and discover products from across the state.

While many farmers markets wrap up their seasons in the fall, several remain open throughout the cooler months, continuing to provide opportunities for consumers to shop local. To find a farmers market near you, visit www.msfarmersmarket.com. The following markets are open this fall:

- Downtown Natchez Farmers Market, Natchez
- Alcorn County Farmers Market, Corinth
- Vaiden Farmers Market, Vaiden
- Forrest County Farmers Market, Hattiesburg
- Downtown Hattiesburg Farmers Market, Hattiesburg
- Hancock County Farmers Market, Bay St. Louis
- The Farmers Market at Long Beach, Long Beach
- Florence Gardens Farmers Market, Gulfport
- The Pass Market, Pass Christian
- Biloxi Community Market, Biloxi
- Mississippi Farmers Market, Jackson
- Vancleave Farmers Market, Vancleave
- Ocean Springs Fresh Market, Ocean Springs
- Oxford Community Market, Oxford
- Mendenhall Farmers Market, Mendenhall
- Community Marketplace of Woodville, Woodville

Farmers markets also host special events throughout the year to bring communities together and offer additional opportunities to support local farmers, artisans and small businesses. One upcoming event is the Merry Market at the Mississippi Farmers Market in Jackson, scheduled for Saturday, December 5, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Shoppers can browse a variety of Mississippi-made products and find unique gifts, holiday hosting essentials and seasonal favorites while supporting local businesses.

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce encourages communities interested in starting or hosting a farmers market to explore the opportunities available through the department. Individuals and organizations interested in establishing a market may contact Purvie Green at Purvie@mdac.ms.gov for information and assistance.

For more information about the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and its programs supporting Mississippi farmers and producers, visit www.mdac.ms.gov.

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