



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Reopens Following Closure Due to COVID-19

JACKSON, Miss. — Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson welcomes the public to the reopening of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Monday, June 8, 2020, following closure due to COVID-19. The Children's Barnyard, one of the Museum's newest attractions that opened earlier this year, is a must-see for visitors. The barnyard is home to three baby goats and four newborn lambs that were born during the closure.

“The public has been missing the outdoor, agricultural experience that the Museum offers, and we are so glad to welcome back visitors,” said Commissioner Gipson. “Though the Museum will resume normal operating hours starting Monday, safety is our top priority right now. The Museum staff is taking precautions to ensure a safe and fun-filled time for visitors of the General Store, Small Town, Mississippi, the Children's Barnyard and so much more. I encourage visitors to come by the Museum grounds and see the various open-air exhibits of barnyard animals and farmstead displays that the whole family can enjoy.”

The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum is following the regulations, orders and guidelines in accordance to the Governor's mandate to ensure safety and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing is required throughout the campus, personal protective equipment (PPE) is encouraged and hand sanitizer is provided.

The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson, is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information about the Museum, call 601-432-4500 or 1-800-844-8687, visit www.msagmuseum.org or visit the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Facebook.

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Photos and cutlines attached.



The Children's Barnyard and Multipurpose Building features several stalls, a turnout area, chicken coop, hay loft, tack room and veterinary medicine exhibit. The facility also houses a variety of farm animals such as rabbits, chickens, goats, sheep, cows, mules, pigs and the famous rodeo horse, Gunsmoke.



The Children's Barnyard has welcomed several new additions during the Museum's closure, including three goat kids and four newborn lambs (pictured above).