



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

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 25, 2020

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Who: Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson
What: Press Conference to Announce Wild Hog Control Program
When: Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
**Where: Kirk Fordice Equine Center on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds
1207 Mississippi Street
Jackson, MS 39202**

Ag Commissioner Gipson to Announce MDAC's New Wild Hog Control Program

The media is invited to attend as Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson announces the roll out of a statewide hog trapping system led by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). The Mississippi Wild Hog Control Program (WHCP) will be announced with a live demonstration at a press conference on Thursday, August 27, at 9:30 a.m. at the Kirk Fordice Equine Center on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Gipson will be joined by Mississippi House of Representatives Agriculture Chairman Bill Pigott, Mississippi State Senate Agriculture Chairman Charles Younger, and Mike McCormick, President of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

“After a full year of public education, research and outreach through the Commissioner’s Wild Hog Challenge, MDAC is launching the first-of-its-kind state agriculture department-led invasive feral hog smart-trapping initiative,” said Commissioner Gipson. “The innovative Wild Hog Control Program, with support of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, is designed to provide farmers, ranchers and landowners with the resources and training necessary to effectively combat the rise of destructive wild hogs in Mississippi, which cause more than \$60 million in damages annually.”

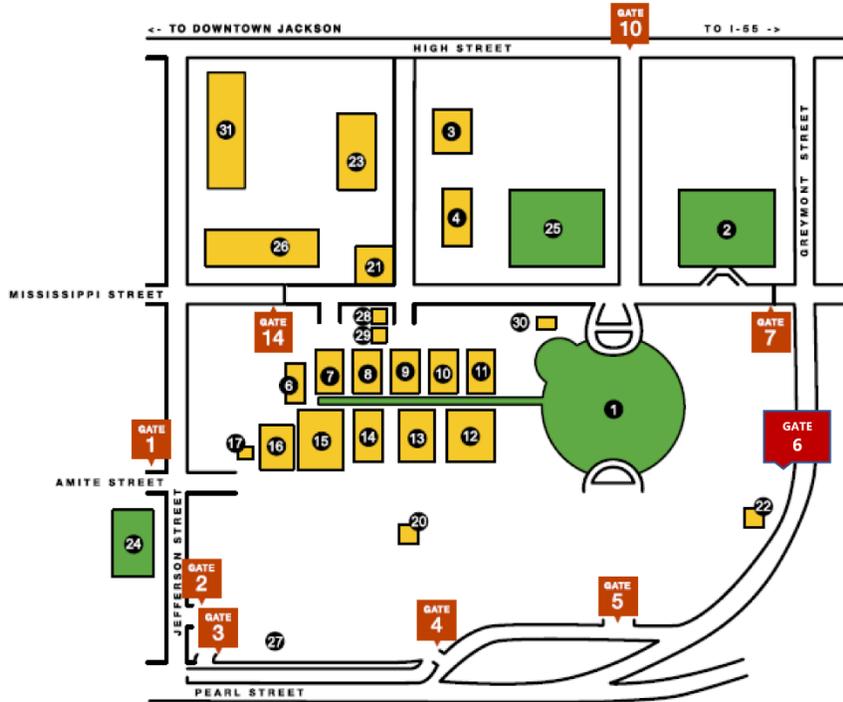
During the 2020 Legislative Session, MDAC was authorized to operate programs to fight nuisance species on private agricultural and forestry lands. The WHCP will involve the coordinated trapping and control of feral hogs on private farm and timber land throughout Mississippi. Working at the request of local farmers, this program will include training and technical assistance for farmers on the most effective methods to trap and control destructive wild hogs on their farm property. Following training, one or more WHCP “smart” trapping systems may be set up on the farm, and farmers or their designees will be trained on the remote monitoring methods and best practices for effective trapping.

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The media is invited to attend. The announcement will be held at the Kirk Fordice Equine Center on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. It is recommended to enter the Fairgrounds at Gate 1, the main entrance from High Street. The Kirk Fordice Equine Center, designated as Building 25 on the attached map, is located northwest of the Coliseum. The Commissioner will be available for interviews following the announcement. Map attached.

Mississippi Fair Complex

INCLUDING THE MISSISSIPPI COLISEUM, STATE FAIR GROUNDS &
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE OFFICE



The media is invited to attend as Commissioner Andy Gipson announces the development of MDAC's newest program, the Wild Hog Control Program, with a press conference on Thursday, August 27, at 9:30 a.m. at the Kirk Fordice Equine Center on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds.