



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

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **MDAC Fruits & Vegetables Inspectors Host Training for Missouri Department of Agriculture Employees**

**JACKSON, Miss.** – The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce’s (MDAC) Fruits and Vegetables Inspection Division hosted several inspectors from the Missouri Department of Agriculture for training in February.

“Our agency’s Bureau of Regulatory Services is our largest division, serving Mississippians in the petroleum, meat, consumer protection, weights and measures, produce safety and fruits and vegetables industries,” said Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson. “We were proud to host inspectors from the Missouri Department of Agriculture, and I am pleased with the training conducted by our staff.”

Over the course of three days, inspectors with the Missouri Department of Agriculture observed multiple packing, storage and distribution center inspections across the state of Mississippi. MDAC Inspectors demonstrated the importance of United States Department of Agriculture Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP). These federal third-party food safety audits require produce suppliers to verify that fruits and vegetables are produced, packed, handled and stored in the safest manner.

For more information on MDAC’s various divisions and programs, as well as agricultural updates from around the state, visit [www.mdac.ms.gov](http://www.mdac.ms.gov) and follow the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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**Photo attached.**



**The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Fruits and Vegetables Inspection Division hosted several inspectors from the Missouri Department of Agriculture for training in February. Pictured left to right: Ben Marshall, Inspector with the Missouri Department of Agriculture; Riley Franklin, Inspector with the Missouri Department of Agriculture; Vivian Purvis, MDAC Supervisor of USDA Fruits and Vegetables Inspection Division; and Erin Campbell, Inspector with the Missouri Department of Agriculture.**