

GRASSROOTS LEADER

A Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Volunteer Leader Newsletter

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April 2007

Summer Commodity Conferences; Statewide Dairy Field Day

At presstime, the following Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation summer commodity conferences had been scheduled:

Aquaculture – May 10, Capps Center, Stoneville
Beef - June 15, Bar HR Farms, Collins
Dairy - June 19, Farm Bureau Office, Tylertown
Poultry - June 20, Collins
Forestry - July 17-18, Mississippi State University

For more information, contact Nancy Britt at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4230.

The annual **Statewide Dairy Field Day** will be held May 24 at the Southwest Event Center in Tylertown.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program gets underway at 9:20 a.m. Six educational programs make up the agenda this year.

For more information, contact Walthall County Extension Director Lamar Adams at 601-876-4021.

Bills Signed by Governor

These bills, supported by Farm Bureau, were recently signed by the Governor: **S.B. 2986**, which creates a Peanut Promotion Board for the assessment of peanuts grown in the state; **H.B. 1628**, which increases the maximum amount of the income tax credit for approved reforestation practices for eligible tree species on eligible lands; and **H.B. 861**, which diverts a portion of taxes collected on cotton to the Boll Weevil Management Fund.

These bills are important for Mississippi agriculture and forestry.

Gary Langley

Golf Tournament

The annual Gary Langley Memorial Golf Tournament will be held June 8th at the Refuge in Flowood.

Each summer, the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Program organizes the tournament to raise money for its scholarship foundation.

For more information, contact YF&R Program Coordinator Greg Shows at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4277.

Regional Contests

Regional Talent and Miss Farm Bureau Mississippi contests have been scheduled as follows:

Region 3 - July 14; **Region 5** - July 19

Region 8 - July 21; **Region 1** - July 24

Region 4 - Aug. 11; **Region 6** - Aug. 18

Region 2 - Aug. 25; **Region 7** - TBA

For more information, call MFBF Women's Program Coordinator Clara Bilbo at 1-800-227-8244, Ext. 4245.

Dairy Industry Spotlight

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is working with Southeastern dairymen to address a number of challenges within the industry.

In 2006, MFBF organized a series of dairy crisis meetings on both the state and regional levels. The federation also supported dairy industry-related bills during the 2007 Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

MFBF held a regional dairy crisis meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, that was attended by ten Southeastern state Farm Bureaus. Participants discussed introducing legislation in Congress that would increase the Class I Price Differential on the base price of milk.

"Dana Coale, Deputy Administrator for Dairy Programs, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, reports that meetings about Farm Bureau's proposal have been held with producers and key dairy leaders across the U.S. as a possible solution for producers in the Southeast. That sounds very positive," said

MFBF Regional Managers Coordinator and Dairy Commodity Coordinator Doug Ervin.

For more information, see the upcoming issue of *Mississippi Farm Country* magazine, which spotlights the dairy industry.

Magnolia Beef & Poultry Expo

The annual Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo will take place Thursday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Smith County Ag Complex in Raleigh.

The expo will feature educational seminars, a trade show with agricultural equipment for beef and poultry producers and other valuable information.

Educational sessions include: "Animal Disposal" - Dr. Jim Watson; "Alternative Energy" - John Logan; "Alternative Feeds" - Dr. Robert Stewart; and "Marketing Cattle" - Ken Jordan. Door prizes will be given in each educational session.

Contact your local Extension office or Community Bank for an agenda of the event.

The Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo is sponsored by the Mississippi State University Extension Service, Jasper, Newton, Rankin, Scott, Simpson and Smith counties and Community Bank.

The Smith County Ag Complex is located on Highway 35 South.

Agri-View Schedule

On the next *Agri-View: A Look Around Mississippi*, meet inventors and innovators on farms across the state. These farmers have made things easier for themselves and others.

The program will air May 29 at 5:30 p.m. on RFD-TV. You can get the program on Channel 9409 on Dish Network and on Channel 379 on DirecTV.

Agri-View is a production of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

Youth Safety Seminar registration deadline

Registration deadline for the 2007 Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Youth Safety Seminar is June 29. The seminar will be held July 9-12 at Kamp Kumbaya in Eupora. To participate, young people must be entering the 9th through 12th grades in the fall of 2007.

If you know of a youth who is interested in attending, contact your county Farm Bureau office or call the state office at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4242.

AITC Workshops

Ag in the Classroom Workshops for Teachers and Volunteers are scheduled as follows:

June 19 – Covington County Multi-Purpose Building in Collins

June 20 – Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead

June 21 – Mississippi Farm Bureau Building in Jackson

Teachers and volunteers are encouraged to attend one of these workshops. For more information, contact Clara Bilbo, AITC Coordinator, at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4245.

Southern BioProducts and Renewable Energy Conference

The Sixth Annual Southern BioProducts and Renewable Energy Conference will be held April 16-18, 2007, at the Pearl River Resort's Golden Moon Casino and Hotel in Choctaw, Mississippi.

This year's conference will highlight recent successes in the rapidly-growing renewable energy sector and will examine, from a regional approach, ways in which the strengths and resources of the Southern United States can contribute to the development and implementation of various renewable energy technologies.

The conference agenda will feature several relevant speakers from industry and academia at the national, state, and local levels, as well as a practical workshop on technology commercialization and entrepreneurship. There will also be numerous opportunities for networking, including two evening receptions and a luncheon.

Be sure to watch the Mississippi Biomass Council's website for updated conference information: <http://ms-biomass.org>. For additional details, please contact Lauren Michaud at (601) 960-3655 or Lmichaud@mta.ms.

Mississippi Wheat and Corn

Mississippi's wheat acreage is estimated at 275,000 acres for 2007, the largest amount of planted acres in several years. The wheat crop outlook looks promising.

Corn acreage around the state is estimated to be over one million acres for 2007. This is the largest corn crop ever, and it could produce record yields. However, this will depend on planting conditions, the availability of seed, and nitrogen fertilizer cost.

Seed will be available to plant the first round but not for those acres needing replanting. Producers could have to settle for some varieties of corn seed that they are not familiar with.

Storage may present itself as the biggest problem facing the state's corn producers with a 150-million-bushel yield statewide. This is a conservative number.

For more information about Mississippi Corn, Wheat and Feed Grains, see the May/June issue of *Mississippi Farm Country* magazine.

Terry Norwood is the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Commodity Coordinator for Corn, Wheat and Feed Grains. Webb Bozeman is the 2007 MFBF Corn, Wheat and Feed Grains Advisory Committee Chair.

Mississippi Forestry Update

Mississippi's forestry industry (including private, nonindustrial landowners, independent harvesters and forest industry) harvested and delivered \$1.21 billion worth of forest products to mills and other processors in 2006.

The total value of Mississippi's 2006 timber harvest delivered to the first point of processing was \$1,213,102,219. This is 16.6 percent lower than in 2005.

Timber is the second most valuable agricultural commodity in Mississippi. In 2006, Mississippi forest landowners collected \$825 million for their standing timber. The estimated value of the logging and transportation sector was \$388,402,626.

For more information about state forestry, see the May/June issue of *Mississippi Farm Country* magazine.

Larry Brewer is the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Commodity Coordinator for Forestry. J.B. Brown is the 2007 MFBF Forestry Commodity Advisory Committee Chair.

Landowners Workshop

Wild Turkey Woodlands is sponsoring a Landowners Workshop on May 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Rhoden Farm in Johns. Professional presentations will include:

- Manage Food Plots for Wildlife
- Apply for State and Federal Land Management Cost Share Programs
- Manage Pine Stands for Wildlife and Timber
- Manage Hardwood Stands for Wildlife and Timber
- Use Prescribed Burning for Wildlife Habitat

Other sponsors include BASF, Bombadier, USDA Forest Service, Georgia Forestry Commission, Monsanto, and Truax.

The workshop is supported by Mississippi Chapter NWTf, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Pre-registration deadline is May 11. For more information, contact Joe Koloski at 601-454-4455.

Mean Mallard & SOS Discount Coupons

Mississippi Farm Bureau members can take advantage of a 10 percent discount on products from two companies: Mean Mallard and Superior Outdoor Supply, LLC.

The Mean Mallard discount is not applicable to guns, optics or ammunition and cannot be used in addition to any other sales or discounts. You must present a coupon at the time of purchase. For more information, contact Dedra Luke at 601-977-4169.

The Superior Outdoor Supply (SOS) discount is applicable only to the "Mobile Hunter" or the "Trail Hunter" hunting stands.

For more information, contact Troy Davis at 601-214-9880 or Kenneth Davis at 601-616-1042. Or visit their website at www.theroadhunter.com

ATV Discount Coupon

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and Got Gear Motorsports, LLC, in Ridgeland have teamed up to offer Farm Bureau members an exclusive \$500 discount coupon on the purchase of new ATVs, motorcycles and 4-wheel utility vehicles.

This discount only applies to ATVs that are 400 cc or greater and motorcycles that are 800 cc or greater and does not apply to any other special promotions. Got Gear is a dealer of Yamaha, Kawasaki and Polaris ATVs and 4-wheel utility vehicles; and Yamaha, Victory, Kawasaki and KTM motorcycles.

To receive the \$500 discount coupon, you must call Dedra Luke at 601-977-4269 or, toll-free, at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4169. Please be aware that you cannot go directly to Got Gear to receive this discount without your coupon.

Upon verification that you are a member, the ATV Discount Coupon will be mailed to you.

Pass Key Solutions Service

Have rising healthcare costs become unaffordable? Are you paying full price for your prescription medications?

A discount card that provides savings on a variety of health care services is now available to Farm Bureau members.

For more information, call Dedra Luke at 601-977-4169 or, toll-free, at 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4169

10% Discount at Power Sports Plus

Power Sports Plus is offering a 10% discount to all Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation members in good standing on any merchandise, excluding any sale or promotional items.

Power Sports Plus, one of the leaders in the mini truck business, also carries mini vans, ATVs, from 50 cc and up, child and adult go carts, motorcycles, scooters and other recreational and utility equipment. In addition, they offer parts and service.

To receive your discount coupon, contact Dedra Luke at 601-977-4169 or 1-800-227-8244, ext. 4169.

To contact Power Sports Plus, call 601-420-3888 or 1-877-420-3888.

Amerlink Log Homes

Mississippi Farm Bureau members are eligible for a 25% discount off the purchase of a log home package from AmerLink Ltd. AmerLink offers a standard line of over 75 residential models as well as garages, commercial designs, outbuildings and barns.

For additional information, contact AmerLink directly at 1-800-872-4254 or visit them at www.amerlink.com/msfb. This website is still in the process of being created, so it may not be up and running yet.

AmerLink will be sending each county office a table-top display that will have a catalog of all the different style homes and coupons for your members.



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