



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

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

Press Release

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October Marks High Season For Agritourism Industry

JACKSON, Miss. — October marks Agritourism Month in Mississippi, which means corn mazes, hay rides and pumpkin patches are open for business. Agritourism serves as a business on a working farm, ranch or other agricultural enterprise that offers an educational and fun experience for visitors while generating supplemental income for the owner.

Most agritourism farms in Mississippi are open to visitors throughout the year, but the high season occurs in the fall. Potential agritourism activities include petting zoos, horseback riding, wagon rides, U-picks and festivals celebrating sweet potatoes, pecans and peanuts.

“Approximately 23 million people travel to and around Mississippi each year,” Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith said. “We want those visitors to enjoy the adventure, fun and entertainment Mississippi’s working farms have to offer through agritourism. October is the perfect month to get out there and make memories while supporting our local farmers and ranchers.”

Celebrate the top two driving forces — agriculture and tourism — in Mississippi’s economic development efforts this October and learn more about the history, customs and culture of a working farm by visiting an agritourism operation.

Mississippi has 70 agritourism operations registered with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC). For more information about the registered agritourism venues in Mississippi, visit www.mdac.ms.gov or download the Mississippi Agritourism mobile app.

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