

The Delta Council REVIEW

Vol. 9, Issue No. 2

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

April 2013

Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman To Keynote 78th Annual Meeting

Chairwoman **Debbie Stabenow**, of Michigan, will be the Featured Guest and Keynote Speaker for the 78th Annual Meeting of Delta Council to be held on the Delta State University Campus at 10:30 am, Friday, May 17.

Chairwoman **Stabenow** has served in the United States Senate for 13 years.

"In this crucial year when we are trying to write a farm bill which failed to gain passage last year, we are grateful that Chairwoman **Stabenow** accepted our invitation to be the Keynote

Speaker at the 78th Annual Meeting of Delta Council," stated **Bill Litton**, the Leflore County businessman and agricultural leader.

As the Chairperson for the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, her Committee has jurisdiction over commodity programs, conservation programs, crop insurance, research and education programs, food and nutrition programs, and all

agricultural marketing and food inspection programs.



Stabenow

"**Ms. Stabenow** is a capable and strong leader for agriculture and she has one of the best committee staffs assembled throughout the Committee structure of the United States Senate," stated **Dan Branton**, the Washington County farmer who serves as

Chairman of the Farm Policy

MEETING *continued on page 4*

Delta Council Encourages Irrigation Cooperation

Delta Council encourages farm operators and landowners to support efforts being made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District to install meters and collect data on 10% of irrigation wells in each

county by December 31, 2015.

"DEQ and YMD are urging farmers to voluntarily install meters and begin collecting data for self-reporting to the State agency, so that informed decisions can be made about future strategies and actions that can be taken to sustain the asset

value of irrigation waters for the production capacity of Delta agriculture," stated **Bubba Simmons**, Chairman of the Advisory Research Committee of Delta Council.

"We fully support these

METERS *continued on page 7*

2013 ANNUAL MEETING MAY 17, 2013

Schedule of Events

2013 Salute to Delta Honor Graduates 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Mr. William LaForge, President Delta State University, Host
Mike Espy, Former United States Secretary of Agriculture, Master of Ceremonies
Southeast Side of Bologna Performing Arts Center

Business Session 10:30 a.m. -12:00 Noon

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Bill Litton, President, Delta Council

Presentation of Colors

Boy Scout Troop 4200 from Greenwood
Boy Scout Troop 91 from Belzoni

Invocation

Dr. Rusty Douglas
First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood

Patriotic Music

St. Francis of Assisi School Choir
Directed by **Mr. Albert Harrison**
-Recognition of Special Guests
-Achievement Awards
-Recognition of Delta's Top Honor Graduates
-Wear Cotton Recognition
-Good Middling Lady Presentation
-Introduction of New Officers

Keynote Address

United States Senator **Debbie Stabenow**
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Nutrition

12:00 Noon

Delta State University, Quadrangle Lawn



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DELTA COUNCIL

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Vice-President: EMILY CARTER, Glen Allen
Vice-President: ROB FARMER, Cruger
Vice-President: PATRICK JOHNSON, Tunica
Vice-President: STEVE NAIL, Greenville
Vice-President: BILLY NOWELL, Cleveland
Vice-President: BUBBA SIMMONS, Arcola
Treasurer: RUSSELL STEWART, Anguilla

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Send all address changes to
Delta Council
 P.O. Box 257, Stoneville, MS 38776

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 257, Stoneville, MS 38776
Shipping Address:
 433 Stoneville Rd., Stoneville, MS 38776
 Phone: 662-686-3350
 Fax: 662-686-3378
Web Address:
 www.deltacouncil.org
E-mail: info@deltacouncil.org

Outlook

Message From The President

As we enter the final months of our term as officers of Delta Council, and prepare for the May 17, Annual Meeting, I am pleased to report that this organization is on stable footing and continues to impress me



Litton

with the most outstanding voluntary leadership that I have ever witnessed in any organization with which I am affiliated. The many hours of volunteer service extended to the Delta by so many of its people is not only gratifying, but I can assure you, having a positive impact. There is no organization I am aware that has more orientation toward outcomes and impacts than Delta Council, and while we share the utmost confidence in our capable staff at Delta Council,

it is the way that our volunteers respond through the committees and officers that makes the difference in the effectiveness of this organization to produce outcomes.

We are honored that Chairwoman **Debbie Stabenow**, of the Senate Agriculture Committee, has accepted our invitation to offer the Keynote Address at the 78th Annual Meeting of Delta Council on Friday, May 17, at Delta State University. Her colleague and friend in the Senate, U.S. Senator **Thad Cochran**, who serves as the Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, will introduce her and we always welcome him to the Delta. Chairwoman **Stabenow** and Senator **Cochran** will guide the process for the Commodity Title, the Conservation Title, the Nutrition, Crop Insurance, and Research provisions that

affect virtually every quality of life aspect here in the Mississippi Delta. Whether you work for the Mississippi Department of Human Resources, or you are a faculty member at one of our universities, or elementary schools in the Delta, these two Senate leaders will have a significant role in determining the future of programs that affect all of us while drafting the 2013 farm bill. Farmers, allied agricultural businesses, and those who interact with the world-renowned Stoneville Agricultural and Forestry Research Complex will be impacted by these two prominent leaders. In my judgment, it is positive for our region to have these two leaders come together at the occasion of our Annual Meeting to send the message that all of us are working

PRESIDENT *continued on page 4*

GUEST COLUMN

Cochran: Farm Bill Must Be Fair

By **Thad Cochran**
U.S. Senator of Mississippi



Cochran

This spring and summer, as farmers throughout Mississippi cultivate the soil and plant the seeds, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives will be working on a new, multi-year Farm Bill that establishes federal policies for American agriculture. Given its importance to Mississippi's economy, the success of this legislative endeavor is very important.

A Farm Bill is a comprehensive and complex piece of federal legislation that governs the wide variety of agriculture and nutrition programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Over the years, the Farm Bill has grown to address many new areas including conservation, horticulture, agriculture research, and bioenergy, among others. Farmers in the Delta and throughout Mississippi have embraced these

opportunities to strengthen our state's role in the national and global agricultural marketplace.

The agriculture committees in the Senate and House are proceeding with the understanding that the nation needs a long-term Farm Bill that gives producers confidence through greater certainty. Short-term extensions, like the one now in place through September, cannot provide the security that farmers and their lenders need to make investments for the future.

I am optimistic about developing legislation that is fair and equitable to all farmers — a law that strengthens the United States' role in meeting domestic and global nutritional needs. But, the challenges to enacting a 2013 Farm Bill should be acknowledged.

First, let's admit it will be very difficult to adjust the expanded scope of a modern Farm Bill within very tight budget constraints. We will have to make hard choices, but I am hopeful that the members of the Agriculture Committee, as well as the different farm and commodity groups, can work

together to agree on fair and responsible legislation that can become law.

In order for us to accommodate the budgetary limitations and get the bill through both houses of Congress, some current policies must change. The administration and many members of Congress have asked the agriculture committees to address the structure of the federal farm safety net. I am willing to consider changes to commodity programs with the understanding that a strong safety net is required to help farmers manage the risks associated with uncertain weather and market conditions. Since these risks are often outside of their control, I am committed to ensuring that any changes will enhance the efficiency of the farm safety net without jeopardizing its overall effectiveness.

Chairwoman **Debbie Stabenow** and I, with other members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, are now working to develop a 2013 Farm Bill that provides producers with commod-

GUEST *continued on page 3*

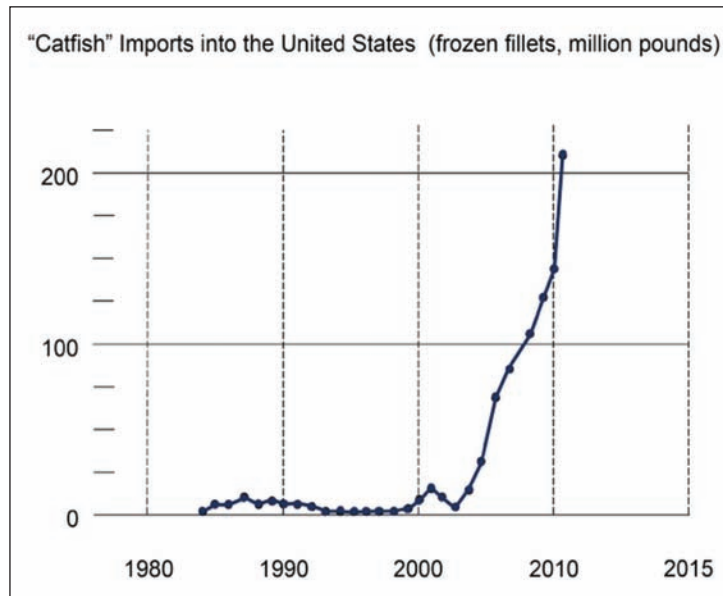
Challenges Formidable For Catfish Industry

The once-Cinderella story of American agriculture, farm-raised catfish, has been the victim of an onslaught of circumstances which have resulted in enormous shrinkage of one of the most promising enterprises ever before to establish in the Mississippi Delta.

The escalating prices of grain has impacted input costs for catfish farmers in a similar way that seed and fertilizer prices have affected row crop agriculture in the Delta. However, demand for soybeans, corn, wheat, and other feed grains has brought about stronger market prices for these crops in recent years, while at the same time, catfish prices have remained at or below the cost of production. With the demand for more protein and healthier food in the diets of U.S. consumers, why would catfish suffer weak market prices during a time that seafood and fish consumption is at an all-time high across the U.S. consuming public?

Public policy and the lack of a definitive plan to manage international trade disputes in a way that enforces current law and trade rules, has exacerbated the downward trend of the US Catfish industry. Continuing anti-dumping cases have been ruled against our foreign competitors during the past decade. But, these successive rulings and the fines levied against these poachers from abroad have not occurred until yet, one more layer of the U.S. catfish industry was successfully peeled away—so much so that Mississippi catfish production has been reduced by more than 50% in the same period.

The failure of USDA to carry out similar inspection on catfish, which is already imple-



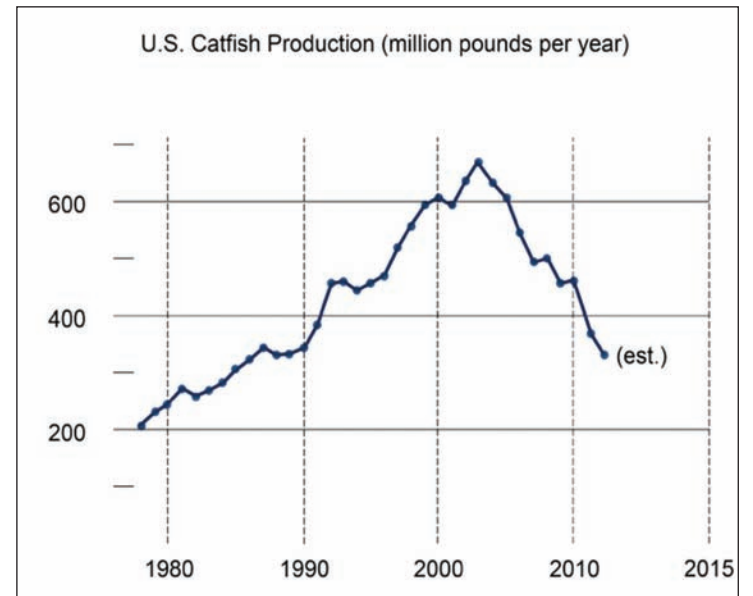
mented on all beef, pork, poultry and egg products that the U.S. consumer purchases, has broken the confidence of the U.S. catfish industry in future reinvestment. The Congress directed USDA to implement food safety inspection on all U.S. and imported catfish products in the 2008 Farm Bill. However, even though the 2008 bill mandated that USDA implement inspection within 18 months of passage, as we observe the dawn of the 2013 Farm Bill debate, the U.S. catfish farmer has been stonewalled by its own government.

Public-sector and third party analyses of imported catfish have clearly indicated that therapeutics and antibiotics illegal to apply on U.S. catfish are regularly detected. Would this possibly be the reason foreign governments,

U.S. importers of foreign catfish, and associations which represent importers have fought so fiercely, and successfully to use their political clout and their financial resources to stymie any action 55 months after the Congress enacted mandatory inspection?

For those who would argue that implementing food safety inspection on catfish is nothing more than a protectionist ploy of the U.S. catfish industry, we should only respond by asking, "if it is not protectionist to inspect a broiler from Mexico, a piece of beef from Latin America, or pork from Asia or Iowa for U.S. food safety standards, why would we not want to apply the same U.S. standards being applied to catfish?"

The consequence of inspection for other



protein products consumed by the American public is answered in one revealing statistic: When was the last time you ate chicken that was grown and processed in Mexico? Or when have you seen "made in China" on a menu at your favorite steak house; and finally, an egg "made in Vietnam?"

There is a good reason you haven't seen any of the above—these competing foreign interests in the world food and agriculture trades will not submit to USDA inspection of their products.

The mystery is, why would they not want inspection of their meat and dairy products, similar to U.S. grown food products?

The victim is the former Cinderella Story of American agriculture?

Delta Wildlife Welcomes New Officers And Board Member

Randy Sewall of Moon Lake was recently elected to serve as President of Delta Wildlife. **Randy** has been on the Board of Directors for nearly a decade, serving as Chairman of the Wetlands and Waterfowl Committee as well as the Wildlife Plantings Committee. **Sewall** will find help from returning Vice-Presidents **Emily Carter** of Rolling Fork and **Allan Grittman** of Drew and newly elected Vice-President **Gibb Steele** of Hollandale. In addition to new Officers, **Woody Woodson** of Tchula was elected as a Director and will join the 25 member Board.



Randy Sewall, Delta Wildlife President of 2013-2014

GUEST from page 2

ity programs that will complement an improved federal crop insurance program. We are looking closely at issues like payment limits and the potential effects on different commodities and regions. All farms, large and small, should be considered. This legislation should also address our unique problem with Brazil over cotton by including the solution proposed by the National Cotton Council. And, the Congress should come together on a farm bill that

has bipartisan support.

A consensus can be built by continuing to listen to our producers and others affected by our decisions, as we consider making safety net changes more efficient and effective. In recent months, I have met with rice, cotton, corn, soybean, wheat and peanut farmers, as well as livestock, dairy, poultry and catfish producers. The insights of Mississippi agriculture and livestock producers have been particularly helpful to me and will be useful as we develop the legislation to

address the agricultural, natural resources and food needs of our country.

The importance of agriculture to Mississippi, the United States and the world is undeniable. It affects virtually every aspect of our economy and our daily lives. As we continue to work on the 2013 Farm Bill, I am dedicated to doing my best to support policies and programs that are fair and equitable, and that meet the agricultural, nutritional, and conservation interests of our state.

Stoneville Celebrates Black History Month

USDA along with its partners, the Forest Service, Delta Council, Delta Health Alliance, and Delta Research and Extension Center, hosted its 36th Annual African American History Program recently in the Charles W. Capps Entrepreneurial Center of the Delta Research and Extension Center.

This year's national theme was, "At the Crossroads of Freedom" and featured Keynote Speaker **Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young**, ARS Associate Adminis-

trator for National Programs located in the George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, MD.

Jacobs-Young reminded the audience of the past accomplishments of African-Americans in agriculture but stressed the importance of strong participation from African-Americans in those fields in the future.

Jacobs-Young said that today, African-Americans make up less than 5 percent of all science and engineering professionals in the

U.S. She said she hopes to stand as a example for young African-American students who are considering careers in agricultural science.

As ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs, **Dr. Jacobs-Young** leads the Office of National Programs which manages the research objectives of the Agency. She also leads the Office of International Research Programs which is responsible for ARS' liaison with its international partners.



Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, ARS Associate Administrator for National Programs addresses the crowd at the 36th Annual African American History Day on the Stoneville Campus.

Reception Held For Battelle At Delta Council Office

The Mississippi Energy Institute and Delta Council recently held a reception to meet with representatives from Battelle Memorial Institute who were in the area conducting research on opportunities for renewable energy. Local business and industry leaders were on hand to meet with the officials and highlight resources available in the region. The reception was part of a brief visit by Battelle to learn more about Mississippi bio-energy resources. "We are grateful to **Patrick Sullivan** and the MEI for bringing the top

technology firm in the Country to the Delta we hope Battelle will continue to keep the Delta in the crosshairs of their future plans," said **Tom Gresham**, Chairman of the Delta Council Development Department.

Battelle is the world's largest non-profit, independent research and development organization and has been working closely with both Governor **Phil Bryant** and former Governor **Haley Barbour**, as well as the Mississippi Energy Institute to investigate the feasibility of a bio-energy



Area leaders and guests welcome officials from Battelle to the Delta.

technology commercialization projects in Mississippi. Battelle is the world's fore-

MEETING *from page 1*

Committee of Delta Council.

Ranking Republican Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, U.S. Senator **Thad Cochran** from Mississippi, will introduce Chairwoman **Stabenow** to the Delta Council audience.

In addition to the Keynote by Chairwoman **Stabenow**, Delta Council will honor more than 100 high school seniors as Delta Honor Graduates with the ceremony beginning at 9:30 a.m., located 'under the tent' next to the Bologna Performing Arts Center. Dignitaries such as former Secretary of Agriculture **Mike Espy** and Delta State University President **Bill LaForge** will welcome the honor graduates to the

Annual Meeting of Delta Council and present them with engraved certificates recognizing them as 2013 Honor Graduates.

"The Delta Honor Graduate event is designed to raise the level of awareness of parents, teachers, and our local communities of the importance of bringing these bright young minds back to the Delta after they have completed their formal and advanced education," stated **John Hilpert**, who serves as Chairman of the Delta Council Education and Health Policy Committee.

A fried catfish luncheon will conclude the program for the 78th annual event on the grounds of the Quadrangle on the Delta State University Campus.

PRESIDENT *from page 2*

.....
together for a better rural America.

In closing, I would not want to pass up the opportunity to stress the importance of the Delta Honor Graduates Event which begins around 9:00 a.m. on the date of the Delta Council Annual Meeting. If you have never been to this event, or if you are a parent or grandparent of one of those distin-

guished high school seniors who were selected to receive this recognition, I strongly encourage you to attend and witness this part of our Annual Meeting program. More than 100 top students from public, private, and parochial schools will gather to be recognized by former Secretary of Agriculture **Mike Espy** and the new President of Delta State University, **Bill LaForge**, for their accomplishments and their contribu-

tion to the quality of life in the Delta. If you have doubts or questions about the future of our region, by attending this event, your confidence will be restored because these young people are the top achievers of the future of the Delta and they want to remain in the Delta. One of these students will be chosen to receive a \$2,500 scholarship that will be announced during the Business Session at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you for allowing **Ann** and me to serve in this capacity this year, and as I was told when I accepted this job, it is a lifetime experience, not a 1-year term of office. I fully intend to continue my active involvement in this organization because I can see that the time invested pays off for my business, the region, my community, and every aspect of the economy of the Delta.

The Delta... working together.



Central District Transportation Commissioner **Dick Hall** and Delta Council President **Bill Litton** visit at a recent Officers Meeting.



The Governing Board of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and consultants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation continued public meetings recently to shape the future of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Mississippi Delta.

2013 DC Membership Campaign ahead of 2012

The Delta Council Membership Campaign is in full swing and the Overall Chairman of the effort notes the 2013 effort is shaping up to be the best in the organization's history.

"We are 15 percent ahead of last year's campaign at the same point - the five week mark - and I am pleased that we already have an 80 percent renewal rate on memberships," said Overall Chairman Frank Mitchener of Sumner.

"The strength of the Delta Council Membership Campaign lies in the men and women who serve as the local Membership Chairs in our counties and communities. They are the front line and local face of our regional mission, and our efforts are greatly enhanced by their service," added Mitchener.

County	First Name	Last Name	
Bolivar	Travis	Satterfield	Co-Chairman
Bolivar	Scott	Coopwood	Co-Chairman
Coahoma	Tripp	Hayes	Co-Chairman
Coahoma	Rusty	Bennett	Co-Chairman
DeSoto	Sluggo	Davis	Chairman
Holmes	Milton	Parrish	Chairman
Humphreys	Bill	Allen	Co-Chairman
Humphreys	Hue	Townsend Jr.	Co-Chairman
Issaquena	Clifton	Porter	Chairman
Leflore	Wade	Litton	Chairman
Leflore	John	Bush	Co-Chairman
Panola	Sledge	Taylor	Chairman
Quitman	Butch	Scipper	Chairman
Regional	Frank	Mitchener	Membership Chairman
Sharkey	Merlin	Richardson	Co-Chairman
Sharkey	Paul	Hollis	Co-Chairman
Sunflower	Hugh	Arant, Jr.	Co-Chairman
Sunflower	Tom	Robertson	Co-Chairman
Sunflower	Austin	Jones	Co-Chairman
Tallahatchie	Mike	Rounsaville	Chairman
Tate	Marty	Allison	Chairman
Tunica	Curtis	Berry	Co-Chairman
Tunica	Patrick	Johnson	Co-Chairman
Warren	Jan	Daigre	Chairman
Washington	Bubba	Simmons	Co-Chairman
Washington	George	King	Co-Chairman
Washington	Fred	Ballard	Co-Chairman
Washington	Dave	Clarke	Co-Chairman
Yazoo	Bernie	Jordan	Co-Chairman
Yazoo	Bryan	Jones	Co-Chairman



Membership chairmen from all across the 18 counties of Northwest Mississippi meet in Stoneville.



(l-r) **Clint Dunn** from Itta Bena, **Collier Tillman** from Minter City, and **Clifton Johnson** from Tunica at a recent meeting of Delta Council Officers and Executive Appointments.

Eastland Receives Cotton Service Award

Woods Eastland, board chairman of Staplcofn Cooperative Association and Staplcofn Discount Corporation in Greenwood is the recipient of the 2012 Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award. He was honored on February 10 during the National Cotton Council's 2013 annual meeting here.

The award, named for the late California industry leader and past NCC President **Harry S. Baker**, is presented annually to a deserving individual who has provided extraordinary service, leadership and dedication to the U.S. cotton industry.

"**Woods Eastland** has been a leader in the U.S. cotton industry, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor," stated **Bruce Brumfield**, of Inverness, a former President of

Delta Council and the National Cotton Council, who is also a past Baker Award recipient.



Outgoing NCC Chairman **Chuck Coley**, left, a Georgia cotton producer/ginner, presents the loving cup to **Woods Eastland**.

Delta Council To Salute Honor Graduates At Annual Meeting

On May 17, 2013, Delta Council will hold its 10th Annual Delta Honor Graduates Event during the 78th Annual Meeting of the regional organization at Delta State University. The Honor Graduate event, slated for 9:30 a.m. in a tent adjacent to the Bologna Performing Arts Center, is designed to bestow special honor upon two exemplary

students from each of the seventy-three high schools throughout the Mississippi Delta Region, including public, parochial and private schools. A total of 144 students were selected by school administrators based on grade point average, extracurricular activities, and community service.

Delta State University President

William LaForge will host the event and former United States Secretary of Agriculture **Mike Espy** will serve as the emcee for the event. We look forward to an overflow crowd of students and their loved ones, along with many community members at this special event.



Lt. Governor **Tate Reeves** presents two 2012 Honor Graduate students their certificates, as **Dr. Cass Pennington** called the students' names.

Mississippi Delta 2013 Honor Graduates

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Cody Alleman - Humphreys Academy | Hunter Gibbs - Southern Baptist Educational Center | Kordarius Parker - Williams Sullivan High |
| Shelby Babb - Lee Academy | Ryne Golden - Desoto Central High | A J Parmley - Lewisburg High |
| Amelia Bailey - South Panola High | Alkeira Gooch - West Tallahatchie High | Mallory Payne - Senatobia High |
| Will Ballard - Warren Central High | Raven Gordon - Senatobia High | Olivia Peyton - Deer Creek School |
| Emily Ballhelmer - Magnolia Heights School | Diana Grindlay - Strayhorn High | Holly Pitts - Indianola Academy |
| Peyton Banes - Carroll Academy | Caitlyn Hamilton - Hernando High | Michael Portner - Bayou Academy |
| Kemary Barnes - Olive Branch High | Grace Hamm - Lewisburg High | Daniel Reed - Humphreys Academy |
| Krista Barrett - Washington School | April Harris - John F Kennedy High | Lyncyn Reliquias - Manchester Academy |
| Shanecia Beckworth - Leflore County High | William Hawkins - Cleveland High | Mikia Rich - Amanda Elzy High |
| Ashley Blackburn - Coldwater High | Tabitha Hayden - Vicksburg High | Julia Roberson - Lake Cormorant High |
| Lauren Bostic - St Joseph High School | Emma Haynes - Delta Academy | Cubdeerix Robinson - Yazoo City High |
| Laura Hayden Bowen - Bayou Academy | Haley Hobart - Deer Creek School | Kaneesha Roby - Durant High |
| Kelsey Boyd - Olive Branch High | Kasey Holman - J.Z. George High | Alexis Ross - Charleston High |
| Christian James Bradshaw - Greenville Christian School | Hunt Howell - North Delta School | Alexandria Rowland - Strayhorn High |
| Keshia Brady - Riverside High | Taylor Howle - Sharkey-Issaquena Academy | Artrista Saffold - J.J. McClain High |
| Rachel Brewer - Carroll Academy | Brandi Hudson - S.V. Marshall High | Claire Schubert - Tunica Academy |
| Dallas Bright - Southaven High | Colleen Hughes - Hernando High | Justice Scott - Ruleville Central High |
| Jamal Brock - Charleston High | Jay Jackson - Pillow Academy | Chris Seto - Indianola Academy |
| Jacquelyn Brooks - Strider Academy | Mary Parker Janoush - Cleveland High | Tamara Sly - J.J. McClain High |
| Courtland Brown - Simmons Jr/Sr High | Antonia Jetts - Ruleville Central High | Ashley Smith - Coahoma County High |
| Mitzi Busby - Porter's Chapel Academy | Anastasia Johnson - North Panola High | Austin Smith - Riverside High |
| TeKierra Bush - East Side High | Regina Johnson - John F Kennedy High | Brittany Smith - Rosa Fort High |
| Steven Cialone - St Aloysius High School | Claire Kendall - Warren Central High | Shannon Smith - Ray Brooks |
| Cierra Citchens - Coahoma Co. Agricultural High | Antwanette Keys - Broad Street High | Jeremy Sorel - Southern Baptist Educational Center |
| Marvin Conrod - Leflore County High | Marissa Kizer - Desoto County Academy | Brett Spell - Central Holmes Christian School |
| Charla Darby - North Delta School | Hannah Krapac - Porter's Chapel Academy | Ivy Spradling - Delta Academy |
| Byron Davis - Horn Lake High | Fatima Leaks - West Bolivar High | Jakirah Starks - Coahoma County High |
| Nora Grace Davis - Benton Academy | Raul Ledesma - J.Z. George High | Jamal Stevenson - Rosa Fort High |
| Roger Davis, Jr. - South Delta High | Marquisha Lester - Coahoma Co. Agricultural High | Larry Strickland - M.S. Palmer High |
| Richard Carter Deangelo - St Joseph High School | Andra Lewis - Clarksdale High | Melanie Stuckey - Gentry High |
| Jenquil Dent - Yazoo City High | Victoria Lewis - Vicksburg High | Ben Stump - Independence High |
| Terradestra Dixon - Gentry High | Isaac Lias, Jr - Southaven High | Royce Swayze - Manchester Academy |
| Melissa Dollar - Center Hill High | Amber Love - Simmons Jr/Sr High | Naomi Taylor - Desoto Central High |
| Keyoshia Donelson - S.V. Marshall High | Stephen Matory - Yazoo County High | Alice Thornton - Yazoo County High |
| Kathryn Homel Dooley - Benton Academy | Lily Fran McCrory - Central Holmes Christian School | Joseph Tillman - Pillow Academy |
| Lavenus Dudley - East Side High | Letia McGee - Coldwater High | Jonathan Uksas - Horn Lake High |
| Parker Durham - Magnolia Heights School | Samuel McGee - Tunica Academy | Kennedy Washington - Greenville Weston High |
| Candi Ellis - Clarksdale High | Mallory McGuffee - St Aloysius High School | Jennifer Weeks - Center Hill High |
| Seopreta Ellis - West Tallahatchie High | Jasmine McRoy - Shaw High | Jamelia Whitehall - Amanda Elzy High |
| Victoria Ferguson - Lake Cormorant High | Christopher McWright - Leland High | Tearny Whitney - North Panola High |
| Amber Ford - South Delta High | Hailey Melton - Washington School | Dalvin Williams - West Bolivar High |
| Maleena Frazier - Broad Street High | Lauren Middleton - South Panola High | Demerrius Williams - Shaw High |
| Cayla Freeman - Greenwood High | Scanita Miller - O'Bannon High | Keyondria Williams - O'Bannon High |
| Tayla Frizell - Humphreys Co. High | Briana Mitchell - Lee Academy | Bradley Williamson - Strider Academy |
| Laren Fulton - Sharkey-Issaquena Academy | Destiny Mitchell - Durant High | J B Willingham - North Sunflower Academy |
| Hannah Gammill - Greenville Weston High | Zoe Moore - Greenwood High | Shanice Wimsett - Williams Sullivan High |
| Peyton Garrett - North Sunflower Academy | Keyanna Nealon - Leland High | Tericka Wright - Ray Brooks |
| Kassie Geeslin - Independence High | Alexius Paige - Humphreys Co. High | Akeyla Young - M.S. Palmer High |

Sponsors



For over 100 years, BankPlus has served the people and businesses of Mississippi. BankPlus has over 60 banking offices in 33 Mississippi communities. As a bank that started in the Delta and maintains strong community values, BankPlus is proud to sponsor Delta Council.

BankPlus offers cutting-edge services and products coupled with the best in customer service and customer care. For additional information on BankPlus, please visit www.BankPlus.net.



Jimmy Sanders, Inc., established in 1953, is one of the largest agricultural input supply and distribution businesses in the Mid-South. Family owned and headquartered in Cleveland, Mississippi, the company currently services growers through 70 retail locations in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia.

Sanders is multifaceted in its operations, which include seed production and sales, agricultural chemical distribution, bulk handling of fertilizer and, through its award-winning OptiGro® program, variable rate technology and other precision agriculture services. The company also provides wildlife food plot products and services through its Wildwood Genetics™ brand.



Part Of The Farm Credit System

Mississippi Land Bank and Southern Ag Credit provide long term and short term financing solutions for land, operation capital, equipment and farm equity. From a few acres to a few thousand acres, these Farm Credit Association lenders have been working with growers and rural land owners in Mississippi for over 95 years. They offer flexible loan programs, knowledge of the territory, expertise in land values and agricultural operation needs. As cooperatives, the borrowers are the owners of these banks and, as such, share in the profits through a patronage refund at the end of each successful year. Mississippi Land Bank has ten locations across north Mississippi. Southern Ag Credit also has eleven offices located throughout south Mississippi and North Louisiana. Both of these financial institutions are proud to support Delta Council and welcome the opportunity to discuss a financing solution designed to help you grow. Visit them online at www.MississippiLandBanks.com.



“Voices of Mississippi Agriculture” represent the farmer-funded research and market development efforts of the five major commodities produced in the Mississippi Delta — catfish, corn, cotton, rice and soybeans. Combined, these industries account for the economic chassis that the economy of the region rides upon, producing over 31,000 jobs and accounting for more than \$580 million in local, state, and federal tax revenues to support basic services, from school teachers to garbage pick-up. These farmer funded programs work to invest in the future of agriculture, so that the ag part of our Delta Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to generate a positive cash flow on the farm and provide a major contribution to the State’s economy.



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Bernard A. “Bernie” Jordan, Jr., Yazoo City
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Lawrence Long, Indianola

METERS *from page 1*

efforts by DEQ and the YMD Water Management District and we encourage interested growers to contact them if you would like to learn more about enlisting as a cooperator for this voluntary program. The goal set for voluntary installation of meters and collection of data by-county is estimated by YMD to be as follows:

County	Estimated Number of Groundwater Wells	5% by 6/30/2014	10% by 12/31/2015
Bolivar	3011	151	302
Carroll	73	4	8
Coahoma	1193	60	120
DeSoto	96	5	10
Holmes	296	15	30
Humphreys	1074	54	108
Issaquena	310	16	32
Leflore	1580	79	158
Panola	198	10	20
Quitman	846	42	84
Sharkey	683	34	68
Sunflower	2677	134	268
Tallahatchie	967	48	96
Tate	29	1	2
Tunica	922	46	92
Washington	2200	110	220
Yazoo	411	21	42

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DELTAN ON THE MOVE: *Chris Champion*

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Chris Champion, a Greenwood (Leflore County) native is a graduate of the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Banking and Finance. He is a member of the Friends of the Southern States Energy Board and Ole Miss Alumni Chapter.

Chris and his wife, the former **Olivia Lusco**, live in Jackson where they are anticipating their firstborn in July, 2013. He continues to serve the MS Delta through his role as Policy Advisor to Mississippi Governor **Phil Bryant**.

CURRENT JOB TITLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chris is a policy advisor in the office of Governor **Phil Bryant**. **Chris** comes to the Governor's office by way of Senator **Roger Wicker's** office where he served as Legislative Correspondent, Assistant Scheduler, and

Special Assistant.

Currently, as policy advisor to the Governor, he advises the Governor on energy, transportation, agriculture, environmental, fish and wildlife, and marine resource related issues. In addition, he also serves as the Governor's designee to Delta Regional Authority, Appalachian Regional Commission, and Southern States Energy Board.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

When asked what he likes most about his job, he responded, "The great aspect about my job is that Governor **Bryant** has provided me with a portfolio that includes a wide range of responsibilities. So, everyday is different. One day it may be an

energy issue and the next day it's an agriculture related issue, meaning my job is never boring. In addition, I get to interact with people daily from all areas of the state. The job has exposed me to areas outside of the Delta, where I grew up, and has opened my eyes to just how great our state is."



Champion

WHAT DO OTHERS SAY ABOUT CHRIS?

"**Chris** grew up in Greenwood and it doesn't surprise me at all that he is exceptional at his job on behalf of Gov. **Bryant**. He has always been tenacious and gifted when presented with a challenge," stated **Bill Litton**, who is from Leflore County and is President of Delta Council.



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