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News

Heritage Area Plan Nears Completion

The Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area Partnership continues to refine the Management Plan that will govern the operation of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area (MDNHA) for the next 10-15 years. The Plan has completed its period of public commentary, and been approved by the National Park Service's Southeast Office. The next step is adding the graphic design elements and the numerous appendices, and then the Plan will be submitted to the Park Service's Washington Office for their approval. The final draft of the Plan will be signed by the Secretary of the Interior, making our Heritage Area fully functional, although that final approval may still be months away. The current draft of the Plan can be read at www.msdeltaheritage.com/index.html.

The Plan requires Letters of Commitment indicating the willingness of Delta organizations and individuals to be partners during the implementation of the Plan. Over fifty organizations have submitted letters, and the Partnership thanks everyone for this overwhelming response, which truly reflects the diversity of interests throughout the eighteen Counties that make up the MDNHA. There is still time for other organizations to submit letters, but time is running short.

Letters should be sent to:
Dr. **John Hilpert,** Chairman, Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area Partnership
c/o Dr. **Luther Brown**
Delta Center for Culture and Learning
P.O. Box 3152
Delta State University
Cleveland, MS 38733

If you have any questions, please contact **Luther Brown** at lbrown@deltastate.edu

Delta Heritage Board of Directors meet in Stoneville.

DELTA COUNCIL MEMBER FOCUS

RICHY BIBB a Farm and Civic Leader from Tunica

Business

Richy Bibb is a managing partner of The Bibb Company, along with his two sons – **Owen** and **Jon Koehler**. The company is located in Tunica (Tunica County). He is also a co-owner with his wife, sister and brother-in-law of the Bar-B Properties.

Hometown

Bibb was born in Tunica and has stayed there most of his life. He humorously mentions that his family once moved eight miles outside of town. He and his wife the former **Patricia Potter** reared their two sons in Tunica. Now, he has an enriched life where he has the opportunity of working with his family. **Richy** is a Tunica community champion. He works and employs others in Tunica County.

Affiliations

Richy is connected with several organizations. Among those organizations, he is a member of the Tunica Gin Corporation, Norfolk Corporation, Tunica Rotary Club, and a board member of the Tunica Museum Board of Directors. Along with those affiliations, he still finds time to be an active member of the Farm Bureau. He is a Past President and now serves on the Farm Bureau Board of Directors and the Delta Council Board of Directors. He serves on several state committees also, within the Farm Bureau. Bibb is currently Vice President of Delta Council

What people say

"**Richy** and his family have been a big part of Delta Council, and our community in Tunica County for several generations, and **Richy** has stepped up to answer the call of leadership in every way to help his fellow farmers and his community," stated **Dick Flowers**, a Tunica County neighbor and Past President of Delta Council.

Bibb

FARM *from page 1*

• Crop receipts are expected to decrease more than 12 percent in 2014, with an almost $11-billion decline in corn receipts and a decline in soybean receipts of more than $6 billion.

• The elimination of direct payments under the Agricultural Act of 2014 and uncertainty regarding enrollment and payments during calendar-year 2014 result in a projected 45-percent decline in government payments.

• Farm equity is projected to reach another nominal record, despite the substantial slowdown in asset growth and the expectation of higher debt levels.

Production Expenses Expected to Decline Moderately: USDA

• Total production expenses are expected to constitute 78 percent of gross farm income in 2014, up from 73 percent in 2013, indicating a return to much tighter margins.

• The three major crop-related expenses – seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides – are expected to drop a combined $2.9 billion (4.7 percent). The driving force in the decline is the 12.4 percent fall in the annual average prices paid index for fertilizer.

Farmer Operating Attitudes: USDA

• Large anticipated declines in the 2014 price of corn are impacting farm operator decisions.

• Soybean receipts and value of production are expected to decline significantly (19.3 percent) in the annual price.

• U.S. cotton farmers face a world market dominated by large stocks.

• Marketing decisions by China regarding its large stocks add to the price risk faced by U.S. cotton producers.

PRESIDENT *from page 2*

the State Department of Revenue and MSU Agricultural Economics Department to review the current assessment on cropland use-value.

- Hog Damages: Senate Chairman **Giles Ward** (Louisville) is guiding a bill which addresses the transport of hogs for release. The Senate Measure will move to the House for future action. The transport and release of wild hogs contributes to the rapid population growth of wild hogs and the damages they cause throughout the State, according to wildlife specialists.

And finally, there is no greater tribute to an individual than to be recognized by those who know you best, in your own community. I want to congratulate **Jimmie Dick Carter** and **Merlin Richardson** for the recognition given to them by the Cary Christian Center and join the people of Sharkey County in celebrating the leadership they have provided over many years throughout the Delta, and not only in the Sharkey area.