

Delta Council

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The Delta Council Review

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THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

November 2010

Mid-Year Meeting Highlights Full Delta Agenda



Keenum

Pennington

Lange

Richmond

Delta Council President Cass Pennington is excited about the lineup of speakers for the Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting of Delta Council in Stoneville on Thursday, November 11, 2010, and encourages Board members, members, and guests to take advantage of some excellent presentations on issues that confront the Delta.

“From transportation developments to conserving the Delta’s natural resources, the morning’s meetings and subsequent

general session will cover a lot of territory concerning the current status and future outlook of some fundamental issues that confront the Delta,” said Pennington, a retired educator and executive from Indianapolis. “As we announced earlier, we are glad that Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum can join us as our featured speaker at lunch.”

Pennington said the morning session

MID-YEAR MEETING continued on page 7

Nutrient Reduction in Mississippi: Partnering for Success

Mississippi is blessed with abundant water resources. Accordingly, protection of these resources is essential to ensure sustainability of the State ecosystems and economies.

One of the biggest challenges for Mississippi’s surface waters, the Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico is the presence of nutrients in these waters. The Gulf of Mexico contains a “hypoxic zone” that

is partially credited to upstream nutrients.

Recently, MDEQ hosted a nutrient/hypoxia summit in Tunica, MS to feature the regional and national leadership role that Mississippi is taking in solving water quality problems from excess nutrients. Trudy Fisher, MDEQ Executive Director, opened the summit by highlight-

HYPOXIA continued on page 6



DELTA COUNCIL MID - YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010
CHARLES W. CAPPS, JR. ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER
STONEVILLE, MS

9:00 a.m. Committee Meetings

Education and Health Policy/Highway Improvement and Transportation Joint Committee Meeting
Charles W. Capps, Jr. Entrepreneurial Center, Room A Stoneville, MS

Soil and Water Resources/Flood Control Joint Committee Meeting
Charles W. Capps, Jr. Entrepreneurial Center, Room B Stoneville, MS

Farm Policy/Aquaculture Joint Committee Meeting
B. F. Smith Administration Building Auditorium Stoneville, MS

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. General Session

Welcome and Opening Remarks

God and Country

Adoption of Resolutions

In Memoriam Presentation
*B.A. “Bull” Jordan, Carter
*Will Long, Greenwood
*George Walker, Clarksdale

Veteran’s Day Recognition
Major General Ben Gaston, Indianapolis
Assistant Adjutant General,
Mississippi Army National Guard

Farm Bill Outlook
Dr. Mark Lange, President and CEO
National Cotton Council of America

12:00 Lunch

12:30 p.m. Sponsor’s Message:
Jim Richmond, Director,
Corporate Communications
CellularSouth

12:40 p.m. Keynote Address:
Dr. Mark Keenum, President
Mississippi State University

1:15 p.m. Adjournment

For full agendas, please visit
www.deltacouncil.org

Jackson Named Extension Director at Mississippi State

An administrator with more than 25 years experience in agricultural education has been named director of the Mississippi State University Extension Service.



Jackson

Gary Brown Jackson will assume his duties as head of the statewide educational outreach system Jan. 1, 2011, pending formal approval of the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning.

“Dr. Jackson’s experience and dedication to higher education make him an excellent choice

for leader of the MSU Extension Service’s educational outreach to all Mississippians,” said Greg Bohach, vice president of MSU’s Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. “In addition, Dr. Jackson has established excellent relationships with colleagues at other educational institutions and government agencies, as well as Mississippians engaged in all types of agricultural enterprises.”

In keeping with its

stated mission, the Mississippi State University Extension Service provides research-based information, educational programs, and technology transfer focused on issues and needs of the people of Mississippi, enabling them to make informed decisions about their economic, social, and cultural well-being.

“Dr. Jackson’s variety of administrative roles and a record of teaching innovations are valuable assets as he leads Extension professionals and support staff in continuing a tradition of adapting new technology and methods for statewide educational programs,” said MSU President Mark Keenum.

Jackson earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agricultural and extension

education at Mississippi State. He holds a doctorate from Pennsylvania State University, with a major in agricultural education and a minor in communication.

Jackson began his professional career as an agricultural educator for the Starkville School District. He has been a member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences faculty since 1990 and has served as assistant and associate dean of the college, as well as director of the School of Human Sciences and interim state leader for Extension’s Family and Consumer Sciences program.

In 2010, he assumed the duties of interim associate vice-president of academic affairs in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President at MSU.

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Message from the President



**Cass Pennington, President
Delta Council**

We are excited about the line up for the Delta Council Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting, sponsored by Cellular South. First, we need to express our appreciation to the Cellular South management

team that is working with Delta Council in preparation for the November 11, Stoneville Meeting. Amy Nash, acting as the Co-Lead for Cellular South is a great representative of this Delta-born company. And, it would not be appropriate for us to miss the opportunity to also express appreciation to Hu Meena, Jimmy and Wade Creekmore, for their support of Delta Council in this way. The Creekmores of Louise, and Hu Meena of Clarksdale, are three of the State's top business leaders and everyone in the Delta should take pride in the success of special business leaders who get their start in the Delta.

Top farm policy experts will be on hand at the Delta Council Mid-Year Meeting to talk about the new Congress, its impacts on the 2012 Farm Bill and other policy matters affecting agriculture. Efforts to sta-

bilize the once-Cinderella story of American agriculture, farm-raised catfish, will be a topic of discussion at the Delta Council Aquaculture Committee Meeting.

Transportation Commissioners will talk about the future of I-69, and reports will be given about the exciting and measurable progress which is being made through the efforts of Delta Health Alliance and its many local and Statewide partners.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and YMD Joint Water Management District Commissioner Chat Phillips will give the Soil and Water Resources Committee a report on the current status and future outlook of water use permitting changes being coordinated by these two important water resource agencies.

PRESIDENT continued on page 3

Delta Farmers See Better 2010 Harvest

By Steve W. Martin, Ph.D.
Guest Column



Martin

Delta producers have enjoyed one of the best harvest seasons in recent memory. It brings to mind the saying "what a difference a year makes". This time last year, we were only halfway through harvest and it seemed like it never quit raining. Very little field work was completed last fall. In 2010, however, most producers are close to finishing harvest and many are finished with ground preparation for next year. The 2010 production season was not without challenges. Producers faced drought conditions much of the year as well as excessively high temperatures.

Corn production in 2010 was somewhat mixed. Non-irrigated yields for the most part suffered from the lack of rainfall and high temperatures. Irrigated production was generally pretty decent. Producers did enjoy excellent prices with the highest prices of the year coming at or just after harvest, somewhat different than traditional wisdom.

Cotton production was up slightly in 2010 compared to 2009 but still well below historical levels. One of the biggest topics of conversation has been the recent run up in cotton prices and as the book says "\$1.00 cotton". The price strengthening has prompted many to ask if cotton acreage will return to historical levels in 2011. Certainly cotton prices in the upper \$0.90s are reason for optimism, however cotton prices must be taken in context with competing crops, specifically corn and soybeans. Prices of these grain crops

are historically high as well. Most likely we will see some increase in cotton acreage in 2011 somewhat due to the increase in cotton prices but probably to a larger extent due to the excellent crop that those who grew cotton in 2010 are experiencing. Weather wise, while a little more rain (timely) would have helped, 2010 was an almost perfect year for cotton. A dry early season allowed for the crop to be planted on time and to set a good root system. Additionally, dry conditions, high temperatures and then low humidity allowed the crop to retain and fill a large portion of the plant in a very timely fashion.

Rice acreage in 2010 was one of the highest in recent history. While the drought conditions caused producers to incur increased production expenses on irrigation, the main cul-

MARTIN continued on page 3

MDCC Holding a Celebration of its New Lineman Training Program

Mississippi Delta Community College will hold a special ceremony recognizing its new Electrical Lineman Training Program on November 5, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. on the MDCC campus in Moorhead and invites everyone to attend the celebration. The morning will include a brief program, tour of the site, and demonstrations from the lineman trainees.



Mississippi Delta Community College's Capps Center began gathering information on a lineman training program seven years ago. Capps Center personnel visited other lineman programs (including a similar program in the region at Holmes Community College), gathered

cost data, employment data, and began compiling information that would eventually lead to the first lineman training program that began on August 30, 2010.

"This is a great example of the Delta's workforce training effort to match needs with jobs for our employees and employers in the region," said Capps Center Advisory Chairman Tom Gresham. "We are grateful for the work MS Delta has done to institute this program, and we also appreciate the Delta Workforce Investment Area for funding the program, the private partners for supporting it, and our friends at Holmes Community College for sharing their expertise."

In seeking support for instituting the program, the Capps Center reached out to a number of partners. Delta Workforce Investment Area and Governor Haley Barbour allocated \$450,000 to start the program, hire instructors, and buy equipment. Initial supplies, equipment, and industry expertise were provided by Delta Electric Power Association, Coahoma



Back row (L-R): Joe Curtis Sims-Instructor, Justin Hitchcock, Brian Logan, Willie Seals, Johnnie Green, Cole Pope, Michael Manor and Randall Whitworth-Instructor; Front row (L-R): Alex Swanagan, J.R. Miller, Stephen Jay, Chris Britt and Ryan Kent

Electric Power Association, Entergy, and Twin County Electric Power Association. Holmes Community College provided the Capps Center with access to their already successful program.

Each trainee receives 640 hours of instruction over a sixteen week period. Trainees receive training and certification in pole climbing, bucket and digger truck

operation, pole top rescue, chain saw safety, first aid and CPR, OSHA forklift certification, 80 hours of electrical training, training in Microsoft Office, transformer banking, line construction, and a commercial driver's license. The lineman program is considered both physically and intellectually challenging and requires determination and fortitude to complete.

MID-YEAR MEETING from page 1

will begin with three joint committee sessions—Farm Policy and Aquaculture will jointly meet in the B.F. Smith Building Auditorium, Transportation and Education and Health Policy will jointly meet in Capps Room A, and Flood Control and Soil & Water Resources will jointly meet in Capps Room B.

For a full agenda of all committees, please visit www.deltacouncil.org.

The **Farm Policy and Aquaculture** meeting will present several key topics related to the agricultural industry in the Delta, including a status of the catfish industry with particular emphasis on activities in Washington aimed at ensuring catfish is treated like all other protein commodities in safety and inspection standards, presented by Ben Noble of Noble Strategies. Other presentations on the agenda include John Maguire detailing the outlook for the 112th Congress and the

challenges and opportunities it might present, Bobby Coats of the University of Arkansas with a crop outlook report, and Carole Engle talking about the economic situation in the catfish industry. Dan Branton of Leland is Chairman of the Farm Policy Committee and Lester Myers of Isola is the Chairman of the Aquaculture Committee.

The **Transportation Committee**, led by Vice Chairman Dave Clarke of Greenville, will highlight a number of critical transportation issues, including a status report by Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall on status reports of priority highways and bridges in the region and Rep. Warner McBride of Batesville discussing railroad revitalization efforts. Meanwhile, Bill Kennedy of Inverness, Co-Chairman of the **Delta Council Education and Health Policy Committee** will moderate an agenda that includes a presentation on drug education efforts in the Delta by Coahoma County

Sheriff Charles Jones of Clarksdale and a report detailing efforts to fight health disparities in the region by Delta Health Alliance CEO Karen Fox.

A full agenda on water resources is expected, with presentations by Chat Phillips of Yazoo City—a Commissioner for both YMD Water Management District and MS Department of Environmental Quality—on groundwater challenges in the region; a Corps of Engineers update by Kent Parrish on the status of flood protection projects throughout Northwest Mississippi; a special status report and outlook on South Delta flood protection activities by Delta Council Executive Committee member John Phillips of Holly Bluff and Peggy Strand of Washington; and a presentation on some of the competing interests surrounding reservoir operations and maintenance issues in Mississippi by Delta Council Flood Control Vice Chairman Butch Scipper of Marks. Al Rankins of Greenville, Chairman of the **Flood Con-**

trol Committee, and Bowen Flowers of Clarksdale, Chairman of the **Soil and Water Resources Committee**, will preside at the meeting.

The committee meetings will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude by 10:45 a.m. After a break, there will be a General Business Session at 11 a.m., highlighted by a special Veteran's Day recognition and a Farm Bill Outlook by National Cotton Council CEO Mark Lange.

Following the General Session, members and guests will break for a Noon lunch, followed by Dr. Keenum's presentation and a message from Cellular South, who is serving as the sponsor of the meeting.

"It should be a very productive morning, and I want to thank Cellular South for stepping up again this year to sponsor our Mid-year meeting," added Pennington. "They are a tremendous corporate citizen in the Delta and across the State of Mississippi."

*Special thanks to Cellular South, for sponsoring
the Delta Council Mid-Year Meeting*



Reaves Hired as Deputy Chief for Research & Development at USDA

Jimmy L. Reaves, Ph.D. has accepted the position of Deputy Chief for Research & Development at the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Dr. Reaves comes to USDA by way of the Southern Research Station (SRS) where he served as the Station Director. Prior to the SRS, Dr. Reaves served as Associate Deputy Chief for Research and Development. "His more than 29 years of work in the natural resources field and experience in senior-level positions has prepared him well for his role as Deputy Chief, R&D," said Chief Thomas L. Tidwell.



Marshall Hired at Capps Technology Center

Jennifer Marshall of Greenwood has recently been hired as the Workforce Development Coordinator at Mississippi Delta Community College's Capps Technology Center. Marshall comes to the Capps Technology Center by way of Viking Range Corporation where she was the Training and Development Manager. "Workforce training and development is essential to any company's success and the training offered through The Capps Technology Center is extensive. I am excited to assist area businesses in identifying training needs and developing custom training programs. I will eagerly work with each business to meet their training needs," stated Marshall.

Native American Days 2010 at Winterville Mounds

On November 3-6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Winterville Mounds north of Greenville, Native American Days 2010 will be held. Come out and meet Native American members of Choctaw, Seminole, Cherokee, Coushatta, Muscogee, and Houma Nations and experience traditional music, dance, and storytelling. A live auction will be held on Saturday, November 6 at Noon. For more information call 662-334-4684 or email Winterville Mounds at infor@wintervillermounds.com.

Telemedicine and EHR Summit to be Held on November 3

Delta Health Alliance is pleased to host the Telemedicine and EHR Summit, which will include national speakers from the Dartmouth Institute of Health Policy, John Hopkins Medical Center, and The Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program, November 3, 2010. The summit is for healthcare professionals and is focused exclusively on the latest research and technology advances in Telemedicine and EHR.

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ing Mississippi's ongoing partnership efforts to reduce nutrient loading to the state waters. A video, titled "Protecting Our Waters—Reducing Nutrients in Mississippi", was premiered at the Summit to tell Mississippi's nutrient reduction story.

The participating federal/state/non-governmental agencies already agreed to formalize their working relationship to reduce nutrient loadings within the State and to the Gulf of Mexico through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This MOA was signed at this Summit on October 1, 2010, by the following agencies/organizations:

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service; USDA Farm Service Agency; USDA Agricultural Research Service; USDA Rural Development; U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Office; Mississippi Department of



Top row (L-R): Mike Sullivan, Mickey Plunket, Jim Murrian, David Shaw, Al Garner, Dr. Stephen Howden, Peter Nimrod, Dr. Mike Carron, Travis Satterfield, Ed King, Jim Luckett, Rob Coker; Bottom row (L-R): David Wade, Trina George, Trudy Fisher, Phil Bass

Environmental Quality; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission; Mississippi Department of

Agriculture and Commerce; Mississippi State University; University of Southern Mississippi; University of Mississippi; Mississippi Levee Board; Delta F.A.R.M.;

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation; Delta Wildlife; The Nature Conservancy; Delta Council; Gulf of Mexico Alliance; and Northern Gulf Institute.

Among the activities underway in Mississippi to reduce excessive nutrient loadings are the development and implementation of comprehensive nutrient reduction strategies. Development and implementation of these strategies include significant contributions of resources from various State and Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations in Mississippi.

These signatories will continue to work together to collaboratively support the development and implementation of nutrient reduction strategies to benefit the quality of in-state waters and the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, these parties will work to identify and pursue opportunities to leverage available resources to implement these strategies, where possible.

USDA Provides Disaster Assistance to Producers of Rice, Upland Cotton, Soybeans and Sweet Potatoes

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that starting October 22, 2010, up to \$550 million in disaster assistance will be issued to producers of rice, upland cotton, soybeans and sweet potatoes that suffered losses because of excessive moisture or related conditions in 2009. This assistance will be issued by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) through the Crop Assistance Program (CAP).

"Producers of these crops suffered quality and quantity losses caused by excess moisture in 2009," Vilsack said. "They continue to feel the effects of those crop losses and this program will provide timely assistance."

Payments will be made available to producers of eligible crops that received Secretarial disaster designations due to excessive moisture or related conditions in 2009. A list of eligible disaster counties for CAP is located at disaster.fsa.usda.gov. Producers of eligible crops on farms in disaster counties who certify to a 5 percent or greater crop loss in 2009 due to excessive moisture or related conditions will receive a payment based on a predetermined payment rate times the planted acres of the crop. Per acre payment rates will be prorated by FSA in order to keep payments within available funds for the program. Producers will initially

receive 75 percent of their CAP payment and once sign up is complete they will receive up to an additional 25 percent. The predetermined payment rates for the eligible crops are:

- Long grain rice: \$31.93 per acre;
- Medium or short grain rice: \$52.46 per acre;
- Upland Cotton: \$17.70 per acre;
- Soybeans: \$15.62 per acre;
- Sweet potatoes: \$155.41 per acre.

The general eligibility provisions, payment limits and adjusted gross income limits that apply to FSA programs apply to CAP.

MARTIN from page 2

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prit for the 2010 crop was temperature. High temperatures at flowering no doubt hurt producer yields. Additionally, rice prices weakened throughout the year in response to large rice plantings across the nation. Prices have rebounded somewhat this fall but not to levels at this point to support acreage in 2011 at the levels of 2010. Unless prices improve greatly between now and spring, rice acreage in 2011 will likely be

PRESIDENT from page 2

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And finally, I am personally gratified that Dr. Mark Keenum, President of Mississippi State University, accept-

one of lowest in recent years (what a difference a year makes).

Soybean production in 2010 was very good. Producers for the most part harvested an excellent crop. Prices, while good at planting, basically improved throughout the growing season as some of the other crops and were higher at harvest than any other time during the year. Soybean acreage should remain in 2011 somewhere close to 2010.

With the exception of rice,

crop prices are at historically high levels giving producers the opportunity to set 2011 prices at profitable levels. As we move through the winter, the market should sort out which crops are needed the worst by end users around the globe and thus help growers solidify 2011 planting decisions.

Steve Martin is the head of Mississippi State University's Delta Branch Experiment Station in Stoneville.

tory and native roots that tie back to our region.

We hope that Delta Council Directors, committee members, and guests will join us on November 11 in Stoneville.

Deltan On The Move: Dr. Lynn House

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Delta native Lynn House, currently serving as Deputy State Superintendent for the Mississippi Department of Education, was raised in Horn Lake. She presently resides in Madison with her husband of 32 years, Stanley House.

After her school days in Desoto County, she went on to attain a number of degrees and awards. She received a BA degree from University of New Orleans, M.A.E. from Furman University and a Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi.

After a long career in education beginning as a local teacher, she climbed the ranks and eventually she served as Dean of the College of Education at Delta State University.

She and her husband Stanley have two sons: Matthew, who resides in Orlando, FL, and Stewart, who resides in Singapore with his wife Schuyler and three grandchildren.

CURRENT JOB TITLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Currently, Lynn serves as a Deputy State Superintendent for MS Department of Education (MDE). There, she is responsible for overseeing the operations of the following departments: Curriculum & Instruction, Federal Programs, Healthy Schools, Research and Statistics, Special Education, Student Assessment, Business Services and Vocational Education/Workforce Development. She serves as a member of the Executive Cabinet for Dr. Burnham, our State Supt., and also works as a liaison to the districts representing him and the State Board of Education.

Previously, she served as Assistant Commissioner of Academic and Student Affairs



for Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Dean of the Department of Education at Delta State University, Bureau Director for the Office of Innovative Support at MDE, College Professor, Principal, teacher and educational consultant. She has served as an educator in MS, LA, and SC and as an educational consultant in MO, AR, TN, and MS.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

When asked what she likes most about her job, with joy, she responded with the following reply: "Serving the students, teachers, administrators, parents and communities of Mississippi. I feel most fulfilled when I have been able to help an educator or parent be more successful in guiding a student to higher levels of achievement."

WHAT DOES THE DELTA SAY ABOUT LYNN?

Dr. Cass Pennington, retired educator and administrator who serves as Delta Council's president, describes Lynn as being "bright, energetic, enthusiastic, organized, warm, caring and very, very knowledgeable." He further states, "She's knows her business!"

UPDATE

William Gillon Selected as Cotton Board President and CEO

The Cotton Board announced William A. "Bill" Gillon as its new President and CEO. Cotton Board Chairman Craig Shook, a producer from Copus Christi, Texas stated "Bill brings an outstanding record of achievement and service within the cotton industry to the Cotton Board. He is respected throughout agriculture as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He shares our goal of ensuring the Cotton Research and Promotion Program is utilized to increase consumption and enhance demand of cotton for the benefit of brands, retailers and cotton producers."



Gillon is currently the principal of Gillon & Associates, PLLC, a law firm specializing in agriculture and business law. He has been active in agriculture law and policy for more than 25 years, having served as General Counsel to the National Cotton Council of America, Senior Counsel for the Committee on Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry of the U.S. Senate, and as an attorney in the office of General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Gillon has also served as an official advisor to the U.S. Government on agricultural trade matters and as a board member of several local organizations.

Dr. Ying Ouyang Joins MSU as a Research Hydrologist

Dr. Ying Ouyang will be joining the Mississippi State University team in November 2010 as a research hydrologist for USDA Forest Service at the Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research with a duty station located in Starkville, MS. Dr. Ouyang is currently a graduate faculty member of University of Florida and has experience in watershed hydrology, water quality, and soil and plant systems.

Delta State's College of Business Establishes the Center for Economic Education and Research

Delta State University's College of Business has established the Center for Economic Education and Research (CEER) which is associated with the Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE). The mission of the CEER is to provide an academic resource for public and private schools, K-12 teachers and students, as well as adult learners in the Mississippi Delta. The CEER will conduct economic education professional development programs for K-12 teachers and will act in a consulting capacity with public and private school systems. This will allow

students to leave school prepared for their economic roles as workers, consumers, citizens, savers, investors and lifelong decision makers.

Dr. Gokhan Karahan and Dr. Michelle Matthews, Associate Professors of Economics, will facilitate and oversee the operations of the CEER as director and associate director, respectively. "Dr. Karahan and Dr. Matthews bring a wealth of experience and expertise to these positions. Their commitment to economic development and enhancing financial literacy will greatly benefit the Mississippi Delta communities," said Dr. Billy C. Moore, Dean of Delta State's College of Business.

Beltwide Cotton Conferences

The National Cotton Council of America will hold the Beltwide Cotton Conferences January 4-7, 2011 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia.

Delta Health Alliance Receives \$332,630 Federal Grant for the Indianola Promise Community

Delta Health Alliance is one of 21 organizations from around the country that will receive a "promise community" planning grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant will be used to build on the planning and operation of the Promise Community that DHA sponsors in Indianola. The Indianola Promise Community, modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone, will plan and partner with a variety of local and state organizations to operate programs to improve the health, safety, and stability of neighborhoods and promote family engagement in student learning.



According to Karen Fox, Delta Health Alliance CEO, "More than anything, this grant award recognized the great work the people of Indianola have done over the last year, as we have all moved to create the Indianola Promise Community. When people work together toward a common goal, others will recognize it and applaud it."

Waldrop Hired by Jimmy Gouras Urban Planning

P.J. Waldrop has recently been hired by Jimmy Gouras Urban Planning in Vicksburg as an Economic Development Consultant. Waldrop will work with developers and local government officials to finance economic development projects.



Waldrop comes to Jimmy Gouras Urban Planning by way of the office of Senator Thad Cochran where he served as a Legislative Assistant.

Clarke Hired by Cochran

Senator Thad Cochran has hired Carlisle Clarke as his legislative assistant with oversight of agriculture. Clarke is a native of Hollandale, MS, and a graduate of the University of Georgia. Clarke has worked for Senator Saxby Chambliss on the Senate Agriculture Committee since 2007, most recently as a Professional Staff member.



Staplecot's Woods Eastland Retires; Allen New President & CEO

After serving as President and CEO for the past 24 years, Woods E. Eastland, of Indianola, has retired from Staple Cotton Cooperative Association (Staplecot) and Staple Cotton Discount Corporation (Stapldiscout) as of September 15, 2010. Founded in 1921, Staplecot is the oldest cotton marketing cooperative in the United States and has its home office in Greenwood. Staplecot currently has more than 13,000 farm accounts in an 11-state area in the Mid-south and Southeast and a warehousing operation with 14 locations in four states.



Eastland has been involved with Staplecot and Stapldiscout since 1977 when he was first elected to serve on its board of directors as a farmer from Sunflower County. Eastland's service and dedication to the company is far from over, however. For the first time in Staplecot's 89-year history, a former Board Chairman, turned President and CEO, has been reinstated as Board Chairman. Eastland replaces Ben Lamensdorf of Cary who also retired on September 15 after serving as its chairman since 2003.

Selected by the board to take over the position of President and CEO is Meredith Allen of Greenwood, formerly Executive Vice President of Staplecot and Stapldiscout. Allen joined Staplecot in 1985 as the head of the domestic sales department and within a year, he was promoted to Vice President of Marketing. Allen held that position until 2008 when he was named to the Executive Vice President position.



USDA Counter-Cyclical Payments

The Commodity Credit Corp. will not issue any 2009 counter-cyclical payments for wheat, barley, oats, corn, soybeans, grain sorghum, dry peas, and lentils since the effective price of these crops exceeded the target price. The Secretary said that a final peanut counter-cyclical payment will be made in October which, when summed with the advance payment, totals \$25 per ton. Pending an official announcement by USDA, the 2009 upland cotton crop also will receive a counter-cyclical payment of 1.68 cents.

State-by-state results of the U.S. Cotton Crop, '10-11

State-by-state results of the US Cotton Crop, '10-11						
US Cotton Crop, '10-11						
	PLANTED ACRES	HARV. ACRES	YIELD PER HARV. ACRE	5-YEAR AVG. YIELD	480- POUND SALES	
	Thou. 1/	Thou.	Lb.	Lb.	Thou.	
UPLAND						
SOUTHEAST	2,602	2,584	742	792	3,995	
Alabama	345	343	616	653	440	
Florida	92	89	647	771	120	
Georgia	1,330	1,325	761	840	2,100	
North Carolina	550	545	766	814	870	
South Carolina	202	200	840	721	350	
Virginia	83	82	673	879	115	
MID-SOUTH	1,930	1,910	975	915	3,880	
Arkansas	545	540	1,067	1,011	1,200	
Louisiana	255	250	845	872	440	
Mississippi	425	420	949	859	830	
Missouri	315	313	1,043	976	680	
Tennessee	390	387	905	822	730	
SOUTHWEST	5,931	5,713	792	715	9,425	
Kansas	51	48	700	602	70	
Oklahoma	280	265	824	731	455	
Texas	5,600	5,400	791	716	8,900	
WEST	366	359	1,437	1,350	1,075	
Arizona	195	193	1,492	1,410	600	
California	124	123	1,483	1,363	380	
New Mexico	47	43	1,060	1,026	95	
TOTAL UPLAND	10,829	10,566	835	816	18,375	
TOTAL ELS	209	207	1,154	1,245	498	
Arizona	3	3	960	891	5	
California	185	184	1,174	1,310	450	
New Mexico	3	3	928	825	6	
Texas	18	18	1,015	821	37	
ALL COTTON	11,038	10,773	841	826	18,873	

Cotton Appointed to Delta Heritage Area Board of Directors

Alcorn State University has appointed Dr. Bernard Cotton to the Delta Heritage Area Board of Directors.

Hunter Engineering Company Donates Lift to HCC

Holmes Community College in Goodman recently unveiled its new Hunter RX-9L Scissor Lift, a \$22,000 donation from Hunter Engineering Company of Durant. The lift is used to pick up vehicles up to 9,000 pounds so work can be performed underneath vehicles. "With this addition to the Automotive Technology department, Holmes students will have the opportunity to train on the class equipment they may encounter in their career," said Hunter Plant Manager Wayne Bowling.



Delta Council President Cass Pennington (second from left) and Development Department Chairman Tom Gresham (third from left) recently met with Bloomberg Media CEO Andy Lack (far left) and Gene Dattel (far right) and his wife Lecia Hahn (third from right). Allan Hammons (second from right), along with other Delta leaders, joined in the meeting.



Community leaders from around the region came to Stoneville recently for a presentation organized by the Mississippi Delta Developers Association concerning the installation of enhanced broadband by InLine, an Alabama company that was awarded stimulus funding to connect schools, public facilities, and other locations around Northwest Mississippi.



Delta F.A.R.M. held its Board of Directors meeting recently in Stoneville and Dr. Bill Walker, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, was the featured speaker.



Delta Health Alliance CEO Karen Fox (far right), Indianola Promise Community Director Eligah Johnson (far left), and Promise Community Steering Committee member Herron Wilson recently gave a presentation to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Board of Directors about some of their work in Indianola. At the same meeting, Delta Council President Cass Pennington and Development Department Chairman Tom Gresham discussed the role of Delta Council in supporting early childhood work in the region, including the Promise Community.



The Port of Greenville recently held a Customer Appreciation event on the port property. Port Director Tommy Hart is shown addressing the crowd of customers, employees, and friends of the port.



At press time, we learned that a Delta Council Transportation Committee priority bridge—the bridge on U.S. 61 at Nitta Yuma—was going to be let to contract in January, 2011.

