

Delta State University Ranked in the Top 100 in U.S. News Media Group's 2011 Edition of Best Colleges

Delta State University earned the #63 spot among regional universities in the South in the 2011 edition of Best Colleges by U.S. News Media Group. The exclusive rankings, which include rankings of more than 1,400 schools nationwide, are available today at www.usnews.com/colleges, and will also be published in the September issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, on newsstands starting August 31.



Hilpert

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Over the past two decades, the U.S. News college rankings, which group schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, has grown to be the most comprehensive research tool for students and parents considering higher education opportunities.

"In my initial address as president, I called upon Delta State to become the best regional university in America," said Delta State University President John M. Hilpert. "This ranking proves that we are making great strides toward attaining that goal and recognizes the tireless

efforts of every member of the Delta State family."

The 2011 Best Colleges feature the established rankings of the Best National Universities and Best National Liberal Arts Colleges, while also including rankings of A+ Schools for B Students, Great Schools at Great Prices, and Up-and-Coming Schools, among others.

The 2011 Best Colleges package provides the most thorough examination of how more than 1,400 accredited four-year schools compare on a set of up to 16 widely accepted indicators of excellence. Among the many factors weighed in

determining the rankings, the key measures of quality are: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and, for National Universities and National Liberal Art

Colleges, "graduation rate performance" and high school counselor ratings of colleges. *U.S. News* has made some significant changes to the 2011 Best Colleges' ranking methodology and presentation. For more details on these changes, go to www.usnews.com/collegemeth.

The Delta Council Review

Vol. 6, Issue No. 5 THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL September 2010

Delta Rice Promotion Celebrates 20 Years with Luncheon on September 17

Mississippi chef, food writer and author Robert St. John will be the entertainment at the 20th annual rice luncheon in Cleveland, Miss., on Friday, Sept. 17.

Hundreds of rice dishes will be available for sampling at the luncheon between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Delta State University's Walter Sillers Coliseum.

"This is an anniversary year for the rice luncheon and we are expecting a great attendance. We are particularly excited about having Robert St. John with us," said Laura Giaccaglia, Bolivar County Extension Director for Mississippi State University's Extension Service. The event attracts nearly 2,000 people each September, which is National Rice Month.

More than 300 rice dishes from main courses to side dishes and desserts will be prepared by rice-growing families and Delta restaurants for sampling. A fashion show will take place during the luncheon.

A nationally-known restaurateur, St. John is executive chef of the Purple Parrot Café, Crescent City Grill and Mahogany Bar in Hattiesburg and Meridian. The writer and self-taught cook began syndicating his food/humor columns six years ago. He has been featured on The Food Network, The Travel Channel and the

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Delta Council to Hold Mid-Year Board Meeting November 11

The Delta Council Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting will be held Thursday, November 11, 2010, in the Capps Center in Stoneville.

The day will include the convening of several committees, include a general session highlighted by a special presentation recognizing the contribution of the men and women who have sacrificed for our country on Veteran's Day, and conclude with luncheon and an address by featured speaker, Dr. Mark Keenum, President of Mississippi State University.

"We are looking forward to having Dr. Keenum as our featured speaker, as well as the numerous other speakers and presentations that will be part of the day's activity," said Delta Council President Cass Pennington of Indianola.

More information about the committee meetings and agendas will be released shortly.

The sponsor of the 75th Annual Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting is once again our friends from CellularSouth.

**DELTA COUNCIL
MIDYEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010
CHARLES W. CAPPS, JR.
ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER
STONEVILLE, MS

9:30 A.M. COMMITTEE MEETINGS
11:15 A.M. BREAK
11:30 A.M. GENERAL SESSION
12:15 LUNCH

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
MARK KEENUM, PRESIDENT
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

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Now available for fall applications!

NEW! Residual Rewards™ for fall and spring applications: Apply a qualifying residual solution of Valor®, Valor XLT, Gangster® or Warrant™ herbicides with a Roundup® brand agricultural herbicide and receive a Residual Rewards rebate.

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Sledge Hired as Delta Workforce Pilot Coordinator in Stoneville

Christie Sledge of Cleveland has recently been hired as the Delta Workforce Pilot Coordinator. Sledge will work from the Delta Council office in Stoneville and will serve on the staff of the Mississippi Development Authority.

The Delta Workforce Pilot Coordinator, which was the result of Delta Council policy and subsequent legislation by the Mississippi Legislature, will work closely with the four community colleges in the region, the Delta Workforce Invest-



Sledge

ment Area, WIN Job Centers, Mississippi Department of Employment Services, Mississippi Development Authority, Delta Council and civic leaders and economic development professionals in the region to focus on the workforce training needs of businesses and workers in the Mississippi Delta. Sledge will work to ensure a seamless link between businesses in the Mississippi Delta and the

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NEW Residual Rewards™ Program
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Message from the President



**Cass Pennington, President
Delta Council**

During most of my career, I have spent time in school administration at the local level, as well as higher education. My participation in Delta Council over the past 20 years has brought me a deeper understanding

and appreciation for the complexity of the Delta as a culture, heritage, history and future challenges.

As a high school and college football referee, I learned that there are players with natural talent, but without practice, commitment, team work and hard work, even the gifted athlete just turns out mediocre. The complex issues facing Delta Council in water issues alone—flood control, groundwater supplies and surface water quality—is indicative of just one example of a regional, not local issue that must be addressed in a regional approach.

This is an example of why Delta Council is so important: everyone must buy in or it simply will not happen. To me, this is what makes Delta Council different and there is no substitute for hard work, even if you've got all the talent in the Delta.

Whether it's I-69, the four-laning of Highway 6, the vast array of programs of work of Delta Health Alliance, the challenges of an ever-changing climate surrounding farm programs or the persistent efforts of Delta Council leaders committed to a regional approach for heritage and cultural tourism (National Heritage Area in the Delta), the thing that separates the Delta from other regions is not just the millions of acres of cropland, blues artists, literaries, or famous athletes. Instead, the main ingredient is the pride which accompanies every regional accomplishment in the Delta which is the result of people working hard and most of all, working together.

I am optimistic about the Delta because of its unique tradition of working together.

Please call me if you have questions or suggestions about the regional mission of Delta Council.

Fight for Food Safety in Catfish Continues

Joey Lowery is a catfish farmer from Alabama serving as President of the Catfish Farmers of America



By Joey Lowery
Guest Column

It's now been two years since Congress passed the 2008 U.S. Farm Bill requiring stronger safety and inspection standards for imported and domestic catfish by moving catfish inspections from the FDA to the USDA, with its tougher regulations and more rigorous inspections.

Today, we are still pushing Washington to put the rule on the books even as it continues to bounce among USDA, the Office of Management and Budget (the fed-

eral bean counters) and the office of the U.S. Trade Representative which is becoming far more deeply involved in food safety issues that we, and many others, believe they should. The internal debate among federal agencies has focused on a variety of issues ranging from risk assessments about the dangers of imported catfish to concerns that Vietnam and other countries might challenge new health and safety requirements on catfish and related species as efforts to impede trade.

A continuing controversy has been the "definition" of catfish: Will the law be applied broadly to cover all 39 species of catfish and related fish, or will it be applied more narrowly to include only channel catfish such as those raised here in the United States and China.

That would leave out Vietnamese catfish species. In fact, Vietnam is the largest and fastest growing exporter of catfish species to the United States.

This is ironic at a time that Vietnamese officials themselves have been telling their catfish growers and processors that they need to improve the cleanliness and safety of their products if they want to be accepted in the international market place.

Essentially, the government would be rolling the dice when it comes to food safety.

Food safety for the American consumer has been the overriding focus of the Catfish Farmers of America's campaign to see this rule

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News

Bayer CropScience Cooperates with EPA's Decision to Cancel Temik® Uses in Citrus and Potatoes

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. (August 16, 2010) — Bayer CropScience is cooperating with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) following today's announcement to cancel uses of aldicarb, sold as Temik® brand insecticide/nematicide, on potatoes and citrus. Uses on all other crops will remain, but will be phased out over the next few years.

According to the agreement with the EPA, farmers may continue to use existing stocks of Temik on citrus and potatoes until December 31, 2011, allowing inventories to clear the channel of trade.

Uses on all other crops will be maintained with some additional label changes, until an orderly product phase-out is completed, consistent with Bayer's global replacement strategy regarding WHO Class 1 products. The company plans to discontinue marketing aldicarb in the United States and other markets worldwide by 2014.

This decision follows a new dietary

risk assessment process recently completed by the Agency. Although the company does not fully agree with this new risk assessment approach, Bayer CropScience respects the oversight authority of the EPA and is cooperating with them. This decision does not mean that aldicarb poses a food safety concern.

"For nearly 40 years, Temik has provided farmers with unsurpassed control

of destructive pests, without compromising human health or environmental safety," said Bill Buckner, President and CEO of Bayer CropScience. "We recognize the significant impact this decision will have on growers and the food industry, and will do everything possible to address their concerns during this transition."

The company will work with farmers and other stakeholders in the distribution chain during this phase-out process. Customers can contact the Bayer CropScience Customer Interaction Center at 866-992-2937 for further information.



Rev. Herron Wilson (foreground left) of the Delta Mission Ministries talks to Senator Cochran staff members Will Crump (left) and Will Todd (right) as Delta Health Alliance CEO Karen Fox (center) looks on.

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imposed after two long years. We believe the only way to protect the American consumer—and the U.S. catfish industry—is to see that ALL catfish species are subject to the same rigorous inspections and regulations. If a container full of contaminated fish should sicken a group of American consumers, they likely would turn away from buying ANY catfish, imported or domestic. That would be devastating to both our catfish industry and our overseas competitors.

Even within the tiny 2 percent of imported seafood that FDA inspects, labs have found imported catfish and related

species contaminated with dangerous substances including carcinogens, banned veterinary drugs, malachite green and salmonella.

Unfortunately, it is unclear when the USDA, which is the controlling agency, will publish the rule and allow public debate to begin. Some say it could be released any day now.

That will begin an entirely new phase of our campaign. Until now, we have been focused on attempting to convince the federal bureaucracy to do the right thing. During the 90-day period for public comment, hearings will be conducted in several locations. It is likely that at least one and perhaps two will be con-

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workforce services and training available to them through the state's community colleges and the WIN Job Centers.

Sledge comes to Delta Council by way of Delta State University's Small Business Development Center (DSU SBDC), where she served as the Director. Prior to DSU SBDC, she was employed with BDO Seidman, LLP in Memphis, TN as an Assurance Associate. She graduated from Delta State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting. She then earned a Master of Business Administration with emphases in Management and Marketing from DSU.

"We are glad to have Christie on board and begin carrying out the critical work laid out in the Delta Workforce Pilot Program," said Tom Gresham of Indianola,

who serves as the Governor's appointment and Chairman the Cabinet overseeing the project. "We appreciate our legislative delegation, state agencies, and community colleges for working together to make this a reality, and we are excited about enhancing the delivery of these programs to businesses in the region."

In addition to Gresham, other private sector members of the Cabinet, as outlined in the pilot legislation, include; Cobie Collins of Yazoo City (appointed by the Lt. Governor), Al Rankins of Greenville (appointed by the House Speaker), Butch Scipper of Marks (appointed by House Speaker), and Kent Wyatt of Cleveland (appointed by Lt. Governor). They are joined on the pilot cabinet by the Presidents of the four community colleges in the region, the Delta Workforce Investment Area, MDA, and MDES.

ducted in catfish-growing regions. A third hearing almost surely will be held in Washington, D.C.

In addition, interested parties and members of the public will be allowed to submit written comments about the proposed rule.

Once the rule is published—regardless of its content—this will be an extremely important period. We will be calling on all our supporters to submit comments to the USDA and asking as many as possible to appear at the public hearings.

However, our mission will be far more difficult if the rule is published with its narrow definition. Agencies are always predisposed to enact rules as they first

publish them, rather than change the rule after the public debate has concluded. That is why our efforts, with the help of some of our strong Congressional and Senate supporters, to convince federal agencies of the need for the broader definition have been so critical.

I have traveled to Washington several times to meet with members of Congress and Senators, and representatives of the federal agencies now debating this rule. We will continue to fight on behalf of food safety for the American consumers and the safety of all catfish here and overseas. We believe all catfish should be treated equally.

CQ Weekly Article on Cotton Policy Sparks Debate

Below is a response from National Cotton Council CEO Mark Lange to an article published in an August edition of Congressional Quarterly. That article is excerpted to the right and you can go to Delta Council's website for the entire article

The CQ Weekly cover story on U.S. cotton policy and the U.S. cotton industry is steeped in error, surprising bias, and fallacy. The author used every tried and true tactic to distort the picture—from sentence structure to carefully missing facts.

The Brazil WTO case was based on U.S. farm policy enacted in already-expired farm laws. The U.S. is already on a different page. U.S. cotton acreage and production have dramatically declined over the past five years due to cotton support changes, Chinese market distortions, and mandated corn ethanol demand. The vast cotton fields of Mississippi have been largely replaced by vast corn fields.

The author's attempt to link modern cotton with slavery is embarrassing to read and amazingly purposeful. The CQ has retreated from an informational journal to a sensationalist approach to federal policy discussion.

From wrong-headed facts (overstating average subsidies involved in the Brazil case by \$1.5 billion per year), to callous disregard of facts and history (600,000 textile jobs in the U.S. lost since 2000 as a result of competition by child-labor-pro-

duced apparel products), to complete fabrication (West African cotton producers are not, and have never been, a competitive threat to U.S. cotton producers), to deliberate misstatement of facts (of the \$829 million Brazil is authorized to retaliate, only \$147 million is due to cotton subsidies), the author and the publisher have written an article designed to distort the policy debate with respect to cotton. Of all the professed cotton experts who have written on the Brazil WTO case, only the CQ believes a one hectare West African cotton farm is competitively identical to a 10,000 acre Brazilian plantation—an assertion that is ludicrous on its face.

When Congress, the Administration, and the U.S. cotton industry begin to consider new farm policy in the light of the next farm bill, we are confident that debate will not lose sight of the importance of agriculture to America and the importance of cotton to agriculture in the United States. Hopefully, by that time, the Congressional Quarterly's hatchet job on a huge portion of rural America will just be white noise, indistinguishable from a string of one-sided, biased attacks on farm programs.

*Excerpts from CQ WEEKLY - COVER STORY
Aug. 9, 2010 - Page 1918
The Very Fabric of Farm Policy
By Finlay Lewis, CQ Staff*

A chance encounter in a Capitol hallway this spring between two ideological opposites may one day be seen as a pivotal moment in U.S. farm and trade policy. Barney Frank, the liberal Democratic stalwart from Massachusetts, ran into Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, an influential young Republican with equally strong credentials as a conservative. And by the time the two—who recognized each other as dedicated foes of most agricultural assistance programs—parted company, they had agreed to press President Obama to lend a strong hand to overhauling farm subsidies and, in particular, to eliminating money for cotton farmers.

The focus on cotton was deliberate: Payments to U.S. cotton farmers aren't only wasteful in the eyes of the two lawmakers, they also threaten to harm other American industries by sparking a retaliatory trade war. Their concern was sparked by the response of the Obama administration to a World Trade Organization declaration that cotton subsidies violate global trade rules. That judgment, based on a belief that subsidies induce excess production and depress world prices, harming producers in developing countries, came on a complaint brought by Brazil against the United States. And it led to the likelihood that the South American country would impose millions of dollars in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports if cotton subsidies weren't significantly altered or eliminated.

The WTO ruling has changed the debate, however, by setting up cotton as the focal point for a broad attack on all crop subsidies. Those paid to the growers of wheat, corn, soybeans and rice share characteristics with those paid to cotton farmers, and may likewise be subject to successful challenge that they distort global trade. That raises the possibility that other players in the U.S. economy—manufacturers, service providers, and those who own patents and other intellectual property—will join in the opposition to crop subsidies to avoid widespread retaliatory sanctions against U.S. exports.

In the next year, as Congress reviews the role of the government in promoting agriculture, the chance exists not only to alter the long-standing system of subsidies but also to revive stalled global trade talks, which are intended in part to spur economic development in impoverished regions, and to provide a boost to the goal of redirecting government fiscal policy and reducing growth of the federal debt. At the very least, that seems to be the hope of the four lawmakers and an array of allies on and off Capitol Hill.

The Dedication of the U.S. 82 Bridge



The new U.S. 82 Bridge was dedicated last month with much fanfare. (From left) Senator Roger Wicker, Senator Trent Lott, Commissioner Dick Hall, and Commissioner Bill Minor were among the key principles celebrating this new world-class bridge.

Record of Decision on I-69 Nearing

During the summer of 2010, the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of Interstate 69 was distributed to all federal, state and local agencies for review, and a Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared and approved. This Record of Decision will, among other things, identify the selected alternative (see MDOT map), provide information on the alternatives considered and address any substantive comments that may be received during the review. Once the Record of Decision has been approved, a major landmark in the development of I-69 will have been achieved and transportation officials may then focus attention on I-69 right of way and construction activities. Another significant step in the process of making this landmark project a reality!



P.J. Waldrop (far left), and Daniel Ulmer (second from right) of Senator Thad Cochran's Washington office, recently visited Standard Industrial Corporation in Clarksdale as the guest of Clarksdale-Coahoma County Industrial Foundation director Ron Hudson (third from right), Standard principals Steve Hayes (second from left) and Vance Hayes (far right).

Benefits of Aquaculture to the U.S.



JOB CREATION
Fish consumption in the U.S. is expected to increase to 15 billion pounds by 2015. Production to meet this increased consumption could create 60,000 new jobs for unemployed in rural America.

FOOD SAFETY
U.S. Aquaculture can control food safety and ensure high quality products for the American consumer. Fish are raised in clean, fresh well water and fed only a high quality, nutritious feed. When processed for the market, farmed fish go from fresh to the frozen product in only 10 minutes.

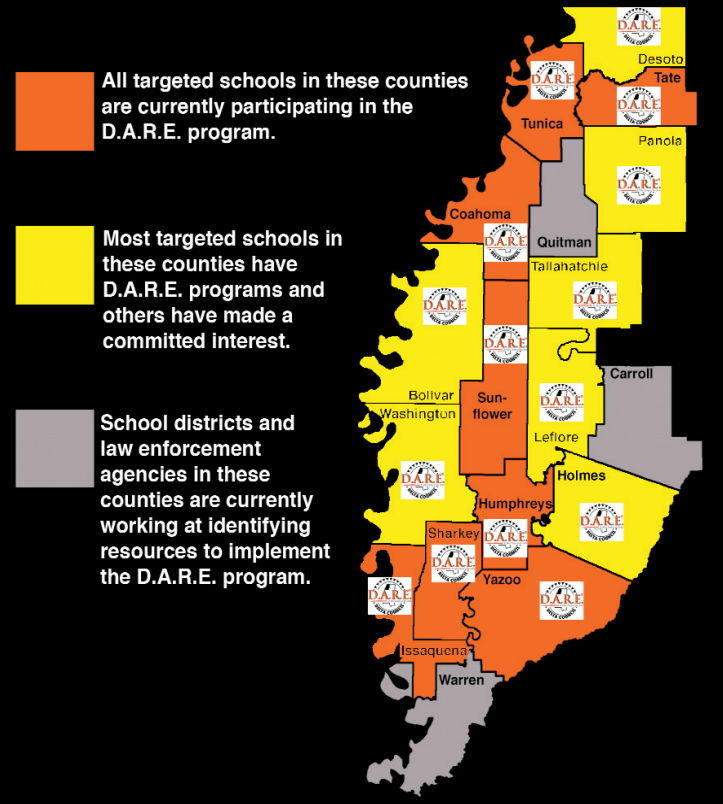
BENEFITS TO AGRICULTURE
Annually, 88,045 acres of corn, 504,743 acres of soy-

beans, and cotton seed meal from 228,241 acres of cotton are used to supply components for catfish feed.

REDUCTION OF TRADE DEFICIT
Production of farmed fish can lower the trade deficit by reducing imports and increasing exports. Typically, the U.S. imports over \$9 billion in fishery products a year.

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES
Meeting consumer demand with farmed products will reduce pressure on natural populations and preserve them for future generations. Creation of new wetland habitat for waterfowl and preservation of environmental integrity can help ensure the survival of endangered aquatic species.

DELTA COUNCIL D.A.R.E. COVERAGE MAP



Delta Council is working along with local law enforcement agencies and school districts to implement a nationally renowned drug prevention program called Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.®), in middle schools throughout the eighteen Mississippi Delta and part-Delta county region. This map depicts the progress this program has accomplished during the last two years. If you have any questions, please contact the Delta Council D.A.R.E. staff at 662-686-3350.



USA Rice Scholarships Await This September

This September, scholarship opportunities await high school seniors in rice-growing states as they head back to school. The USA Rice Federation's National Rice Month scholarship contest, sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, offers \$8,500 in total scholarship awards.

chaperone to the 2010 USA Rice Outlook Conference in Biloxi, MS, for the award presentation on Dec. 9. The second-place winner will receive a \$3,000 scholarship and the third-place winner a \$1,500 award.

Initiated by an act of Congress in 1991, this September marks the 20th annual National Rice Month celebration when America salutes its rice farmers, millers and everyone involved in the U.S. rice industry.

The contest encourages eligible students in Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas to conduct a promotion activity in September with U.S.-grown rice as the central theme.

For more information, tips on planning NRM promotions and a scholarship application, visit www.usarice.com.

Walker to Headline Delta F.A.R.M. Annual Meeting

The 2010 Annual Meeting of Delta F.A.R.M. will be held at 10:30 a.m. on October 5th in the Delta Council/Delta Wildlife Conference Room, according to Delta F.A.R.M. Chairman Rob Coker of Yazoo City. Coker said he was pleased that Dr. Bill Walker, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, will be serving as the guest speaker. Dr. Walker will discuss various topics, including Gulf Hypoxia, the importance of efforts in the Delta to reduce nutrient loading into the Mississippi River, and the effects of the Deep Water Horizon accident.



Walker

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Turner South network. *Mississippi Magazine* named him the state's top chef in 2006 and 2007.

The rice luncheon promotes the importance of rice production in Mississippi. Last year the state's rice production was valued at \$214 million. Delta Rice Promotions, Inc., is also involved with the promotion

of rice for the upcoming Rice Outlook Conference that will be held in December at Biloxi's Beau Rivage.

Luncheon tickets are \$2 and will be sold at the door or may be purchased in advance throughout the Delta at Farm Bureau and Extension Service Offices. For more information, call the Bolivar County Extension Office at (662) 843-8371.

Delta Council Officers Meet



Pennington and Delta State President John Hilpert, who hosted the meeting in his conference room, spoke to the Officers about the successes and challenges facing Delta State and higher education in the State of Mississippi.



Delta Council Vice Presidents Clay Adcock of Holly Bluff and Buck Clarke of Hollandale at the August meeting.



Delta Council Vice President Rodge Rodgers of Clarksdale and Delta Council President Cass Pennington.

MEC Leadership MS Class Visits the Delta



More than 50 members of the Mississippi Economic Council's Leadership MS class recently visited the Delta as part of their education about different regions of the state. During their visit, they toured Stoneville, Greenville, and Indianola. They rotate their visits to other areas of the region in alternating years.

Governor, Yazoo Attract Call Center



Delta Oil Mill Opening



Delta Oil Mill President Scott Middleton, Chairman of the Board Cliff Heaton, and Greenwood Mayor Carolyn McAdams at Delta Oil Mill's recent ribbon-cutting for their new facility in Greenwood purchased from PYCO Industries.

From left to right: Henry Cote, Executive Director for the Yazoo EDD; Walley Naylor Division Director, Child Support Division, MDHS; Lucien Smith, Counsel to Governor Barbour; Mayor McArthur Straughter; Rob Wells, CEO Young Williams Child Support Services; Cobie Collins, President Yazoo Board of Supervisors, cut the ribbon for the new Young Williams Call Center in Yazoo City. The company has invested five million dollars and created 80 jobs. The company averages 120,000 child-support related cases per month.