



# 2010

## ANNUAL REPORT



75th ANNIVERSARY

# MESSAGE

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we note 75 years of progress in the Mississippi Delta through the work of Delta Council, it was reinforced to me this year during my tenure as President what a unique organization we have in our regional development group. Four generations later, Delta Council is still the only organization that wakes up each and every day worried about the unique regional issues of Northwest Mississippi.

This Annual Report highlights just a few of them in 2010. Many of them, as you can see, are unchanged from 1935, while others keep evolving and emerging. I liken what Delta Council has accomplished in these 75 years to my own profession – we wake up every morning identifying the challenges, problems, and opportunities, and we don't quit until the work is done. Thank you for being part of that team.

**Travis Satterfield**

## 2009-2010 OFFICERS



**Travis Satterfield**  
President  
Benoit



**Peter Jackson**  
Vice-President  
Rolling Fork



**Lisa Percy**  
Vice-President  
Greenville



**Jim Robertson**  
Vice-President  
Indianola



**Danny Walker**  
Vice-President  
Greenwood



**Mattson Flowers**  
Vice-President  
Clarksdale



**Davis Owen**  
Vice-President  
Robinsonville



**Gary Gaines**  
Treasurer  
Senatobia

## 2010-2011 OFFICERS



**Cass Pennington**  
President  
Indianola



**Clay Adcock**  
Vice-President  
Holly Bluff



**Buck Clarke**  
Vice-President  
Hollandale



**Angela Curry**  
Vice-President  
Greenwood



**Rodge Rodgers**  
Vice-President  
Clarksdale



**Butch Skipper**  
Vice-President  
Marks



**Nott Wheeler Jr.**  
Vice-President  
Cleveland



**Calvin Dye**  
Treasurer  
Cleveland



# CATFISH INSPECTION

**ALL CATFISH  
SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY!**

**IT'S ABOUT SAFETY!**

**IMPORTED  
CATFISH**

Last year 5.2 billion pounds of seafood were imported into the United States. The FDA inspected only 2% of those imports. That means 98% of all foreign seafood makes it to the grocery shelves and restaurant tables with no inspections.

Concerns over the FDA's low inspection rates prompted Congress to pass a law shifting the inspection of catfish from the FDA to the USDA, which oversees the quality of all meat and poultry sold in America. Nearly 19 months later, American consumers are still waiting the federal government to act on the Congressional demand.

We're not asking that imported fish be treated differently than U.S. farm-raised catfish. We're only asking the federal government to ensure that imported fish be just as safe.

We want ALL catfish and catfish related fish — domestic and imported — to be treated to exactly the same rigorous USDA standards for safety.

We believe safety and quality should be the test for good public policy.

*We don't believe trading safety for commerce is ever a bargain.*



Catfish Farmers of America

LEARN MORE AT  
[WWW.USCATFISH.COM](http://WWW.USCATFISH.COM)

The 2008 Farm Bill included language which directed the United States Department of Agriculture to institute Food Safety Inspection Service requirements for catfish, similar to existing inspection services for beef, poultry, and pork products sold in the U.S. marketplace. The Congressional action called for the inspection services to commence within 180 days of passage, but due to delays and stonewalling of the adoption of the catfish inspection programs because of opposition by foreign countries and U.S. importers, the clock continues to tick. The question remains, "Why should the American consumer not expect equivalent food safety standards to be met by foreign and domestic suppliers of beef, pork, and poultry products, but be denied the same food safety standards through U.S. inspection programs, applied to catfish products they purchase at the grocery store or when they sit down at a restaurant?"

*"I appreciate the partnership of Delta Council with the U.S. Catfish Industry and their effective involvement in our pursuit to make catfish equivalency and inspection a reality. I have seen no greater unity of catfish industry stakeholders on any one issue and Delta Council has complemented this endeavor on many fronts and their support will greatly enhance our chance of success."*

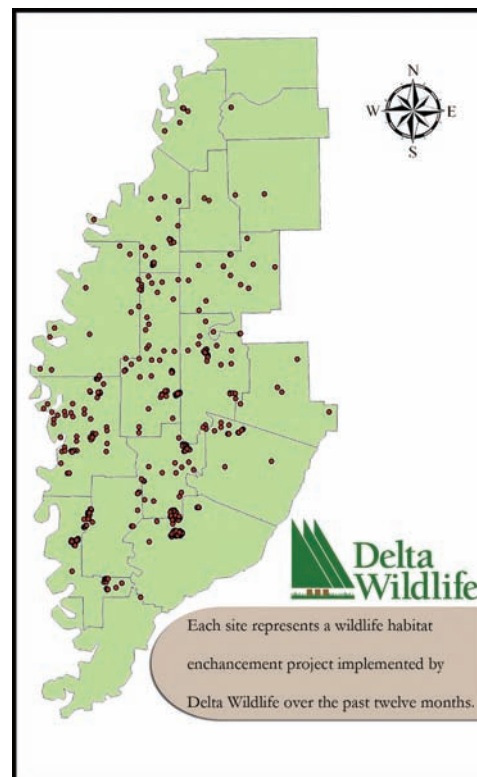
*~ Joey Lowery, Newport, Arkansas,  
Catfish Farmers of America*

# DELTA WILDLIFE

In 1990, 100 Delta Council leaders answered the call to establish an organization solely aimed at fully developing the amenities which the Delta outdoors possess. The abundant and resilient nature of Delta wildlife, waterfowl, and nature's habitat is something that these 100 leaders felt a responsibility to sustain. Twenty years later, in 2010, this is Delta Wildlife and the record is clear, successful, and has produced exactly what those 100 founders could foresee: measurable outcomes that have improved the Delta landscape because it is the right thing to do.

*"Most landowners, farm operators, and hunting club members associate Delta Wildlife with the original concept of taking care of our own business rather than relying on some other agency or organization headquartered somewhere else coming to the Delta and telling us what we already know – we have been afforded one of nature's most coveted gifts – the habitat for fish, wildlife, songbirds and all of the non-game species that inhabit the Delta. So, Delta Wildlife, Inc. was organized and is now managed with a focus on providing resources and energy to a management strategy that makes sense, makes enjoyment, and is doing the right thing for the right reason."*

~ Jim Luckett, Secretary/Treasurer, Delta Wildlife and Forestry Hunting Club, Issaquena County



# DELTA F.A.R.M.

would improve water quality, reduce sediment transport from fields to streams, emphasize safer handling of hazardous farm materials, and generally bring about a higher level of environmental stewardship to Delta farming when compared to any other agricultural area of the country. Standards were developed in consultation with State and Federal resource management and regulatory agencies. Outreach was initiated by farm leaders appealing to their peers and making environmental stewardship a popular thing to embrace. And, the results are now part of written records at every Federal and State resource management and regulatory agency that has responsibility and jurisdiction in the Mississippi Delta. What else could we want or expect for Delta agriculture?

*"I was one of the first people to gather with other agency heads and farm leaders at Stoneville, when the cork was taken out of the bottle and a plan for Delta F.A.R.M. (Farmers Advocating Resource Management) was unveiled. I have been in that room at Stoneville many times before, during my former role with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and I knew there were people in that room who could accomplish everything that was outlined that day. Now, I am in another role with another agency, and I am pleased to reflect on what I believe to be the model program for environmental stewardship in agriculture, in the nation, and that model is Delta F.A.R.M."*

~ Phil Bass, U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program established the Gulf Guardian awards to recognize and honor the businesses, community groups, individuals, agencies and organizations that are taking positive steps to keep the Gulf healthy, beautiful and productive. In 2009, Delta F.A.R.M. won the prestigious Gulf Guardian Award, ranking 1st among all civic and non-profits considered by the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program awards panel. From Left to Right: Bryon Griffith, Director of the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program; Stanley Meiburg, Acting EPA Region 4 Administrator; Mike Sturdivant, Jr., Chairman of Delta F.A.R.M.; Trudy Fisher, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Rex Martin of Syngenta; Rusty Mitchell of FMC Corporation; Dr. Bill Walker, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and Jimmy Palmer, former EPA Region 4 Administrator.



# D.A.R.E.



Delta Council, working alongside local school districts and law enforcement agencies, provides the Drug Abuse Resistance Education® program to middle school students throughout the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties. The program, which is taught by local police officers, teaches youth the steps to use to make healthy lifestyle choices, including abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. In school year 2009-2010, 2,929 middle school students were enrolled in the program, as a result of this collaboration.

*"People can debate all they want about the effectiveness of drug education programs for youth, but anytime a group like Delta Council is able to get law enforcement officers in the classroom to talk with kids on an intensive, yet non-confrontational setting, there is nothing but positives that can come out of it for the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties. I also applaud the fact that the Delta Council D.A.R.E. effort will be one of the first in the Nation to do a thorough analysis of the effectiveness of this program so future efforts can be even more targeted."*

*~ Marshall Fisher, Director, MS Bureau of Narcotics*



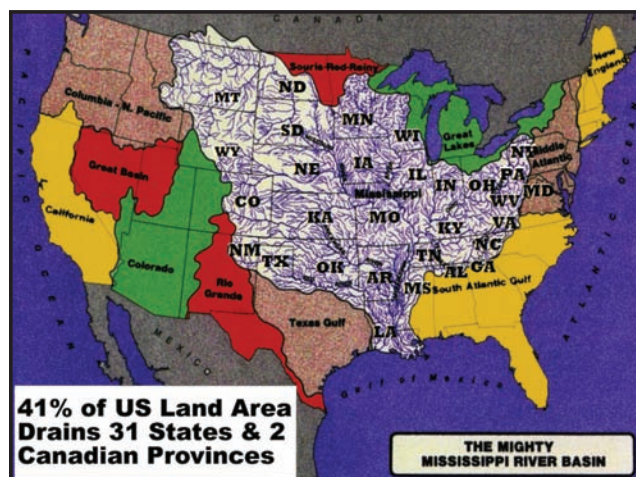
# FARM DISASTER

According to "old timers", it has been more than 50 years since the Delta experienced a drought or rainfall occurrence which measures with equal impact to the fall harvest conditions of 2009. More specifically, according to National Weather Service records, August 15-October 15, 2009 precipitation records acknowledge that there were less days (fit for harvest) in the Mississippi Delta during 2009 than in any previous year of their record keeping. In farm country, this describes an emergency disaster which is precisely why the Secretary of Agriculture made a disaster declaration for every county in the Delta Council area in October 2009. Every member of the Mississippi Congressional Delegation, as well as other Midsouth Congressional leaders have stepped forward to extend their support for federal aid to offset financial losses experienced during this occurrence of nature's wrath.

The effort continues for successful passage of weather-related disaster assistance for Delta agriculture, and in the words of the Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman, "the fight is not over".

***"Persistence is the virtue of having an organization like Delta Council. I think that it would have been fairly simple for the Congress, the National commodity groups in Washington, and Congressional staff to just move on to other higher priorities when we did not get action on the disaster last fall, but because of the organized and consistent message from the Delta, which essentially said, 'the economic damage of '09 will not be recovered if we do not keep pressing for disaster assistance,' that issue is still alive. That is the role we expect and the one we get because we have Delta Council"***

~Bruce Brumfield, Inverness



During one of the floods of record in the past 20 years, an engineer with vast experience on the Mississippi River was presented with the question, "how much water was passing under the Vicksburg bridge on Interstate 20 during the high-water stages of this flood?" The response was one which graphically explains why Delta Council was founded on the principal of flood protection, as fundamental to the very existence of the Mississippi Delta.

The Response:

According to National Weather Service records, "I extrapolated the volume of water going under the Vicksburg bridge, where the watershed of 31 States and parts of two provinces of Canada collects, and the best way I can describe it is like this: if you took 18 football fields and laid them out together, and you placed a 9-story building on top of that surface area, ... that is just about the volume of water that was passing under the Vicksburg bridge every second for almost a month."

Anyone who admires the abundant recreational amenities of the four flood control reservoirs (Arkabutla, Sardis, Enid and Grenada.) The beauty of the meandering Yazoo River system straddled by quaint hillsides to the east and gently sloping terrain of the Mississippi Delta to its west, or the Sunflower River and its slow-moving water as it creeps through the largest bottomland hardwood tract in the Park system of the U.S. Forrest Service at Delta National Forest, appreciates that all of these waters converge each day with another sunset on the Mississippi River. It would be simple for the Mississippi Delta, its communities and its private-sector investments to become lulled into a slumber when someone tries to awaken the Delta with the ever-present threat of these waters doing anything to harm them. But, it is instructive that through the organization of Delta Council, business, agriculture and public officials remain vigilant about flood protection in the Delta, because when the flood occurs, it is too late to wake up and do anything about it, just as it has been in, Jackson, MS; New Orleans; Dubuque, IA; or Johnstown, PA.

***"We have experienced three damaging and significant floods in our county and right here in the City of Marks during the past 20 years, and these events adversely impact the budgets of every basic service this county can sparingly provide, ... schools, roads, emergency services, garbage pickup, and maintenance of our public infrastructure, such as the courthouse, fire stations, community centers and other public facilities. There is a solution and Delta Council has consistently, without distraction, kept its eye on the target, which is providing a way to safely and in a system wide approach, convey Delta rainfall runoff throughout the entire region, while constantly striving to solve flooding problems, rather than simply transferring them downstream."***

~ Butch Skipper, Chancery Clerk, Quitman County

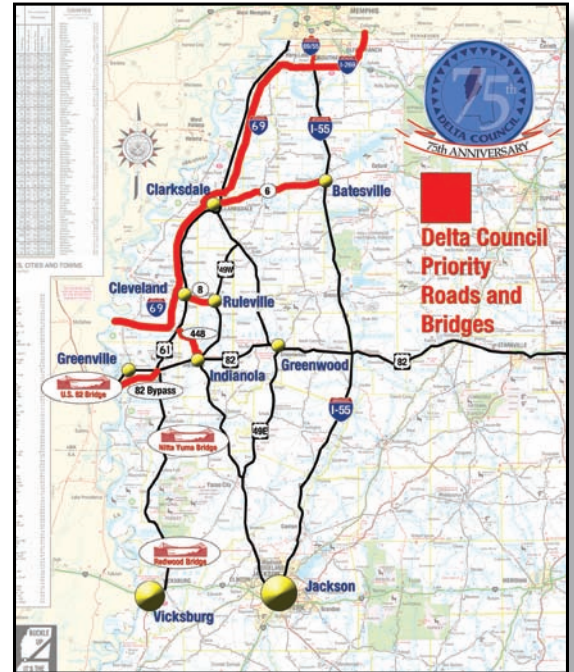


# HIGHWAYS

Whether confronted with a bridge realignment on U.S. Highway 61 in the small hamlet of Nitta Yuma aimed at improved safety for the citizens of Sharkey and adjoining counties, or lifting a major, comprehensive public effort to bring a new interstate highway through Northwest Mississippi, Delta Council uses the tools of cooperation, organization, consensus-building, and persistence to cause these developments to occur over time.

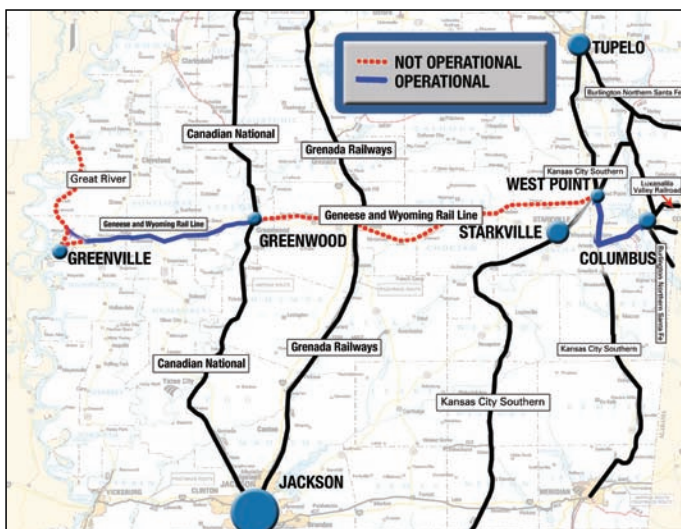
*"There is no area of the State which gets more done in transportation developments through a regional approach than the Mississippi Delta, and it has been my experience that this occurs because of one difference ... and that is Delta Council."*

~Dick Hall, Central District Transportation Commissioner



# RAILROADS

Since 1972, when the Columbus and Greenville Railway was threatened for abandonment and local businessmen purchased the line, it has been a financial struggle to sustain the vitally-important "rate maker" that connects the Ports of Rosedale and Greenville to five major national rail systems that serve the entire Eastern United States, 21 Gulf and Atlantic seaports, and the greater international marketplace. By an act of the Mississippi Legislature, renewed hope and a strong commitment has been presented for re-opening the rail line which extends the opportunity to all communities in the pathway of this railroad to regain their competitive position in attracting industrial investments by those who require competitive transportation rates. Regional approaches were used to save the C&G Railway in 1972 and the same will be needed to bring about successful completion of the effort which the Mississippi Legislature has begun.



*"We believe this is the single, most important economic development activity for the future growth of commerce at our port and jobs for our region. And, this is why we want Delta Council to provide the leadership and coordination with Federal, State, and local officials to get this job done in coordination with those of us who serve on the North Central Mississippi Rail Authority"*

~ Tommy Hart, Port Director, Greenville Port and Member, North Central Mississippi Rail Authority

# WORKFORCE

Simple, common sense principles of business and economic development drive the Delta Workforce Training Pilot Project – give the client what they want, when they want it, and reap the rewards. In this case, entities in Mississippi sell the greatest set of workforce training tools in the United States to a client – business and industry – whose margins are so thin that any productivity issues have major ramifications.

These ramifications are not only felt by the company, but by all of the employees and the communities that depend on well-paying jobs. That is why Delta Council views workforce training as fundamental to any success in growing jobs from within the Delta. The Pilot Project is an avenue to sustain and enhance our economy in the region.

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

THE GREENWOOD  
Commonwealth

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## Program improves training of Delta workers

By TIM KALICH  
Editor

In 2005, Textron Fastening Systems announced that, after only a year of operating in Greenville, it was moving its production to China. The General Motors supplier blamed the exodus on an inferior workforce.

Soon afterward, Faurecia, another recently landed automotive supplier, let Mississippi officials know that its plant in Cleveland was struggling.

The French-owned company said it was losing \$12 million a month there, in large part because it was having to hire twice as many workers as it should to run its operation.

"It was a dire situation," Frank Howell, director of development for Delta Council, told the Greenwood Rotary Club Monday.

"If Faurecia left, we were going to have a hard time convincing another

automotive supplier to locate (in the Delta)," he said.

Delta Council and a consortium of private and public partners, including Gov. Haley Barbour, delivered one message to Faurecia.

Howell said. "What are your needs? We're here to help."

Within a year, thanks in part to a coordinated effort to raise the skill level of its workers, the plant was making money. Today, according to Howell, the Cleveland facility is Faurecia's best-managed and most-profitable location in North America.

That experience led the Legislature in 2009 to authorize a pilot program in the Delta to see if there was a better way to coordinate the training support that state agencies, commu-

nity colleges and universities provide to industry.

"We've got the best workforce training programs in the country here in Mississippi, but sometimes they can be hard to access," said Howell.

The idea, Howell said, is to have one point person work with the industry and coordinate the various public resources, rather than leaving the company to try to navigate its way around all the various state programs.

The pilot project, said Howell, has been slowed by a glitch in the enabling legislation, but that is being worked out. He expects the program to begin in earnest over the next couple of months.

"We're excited about this," Howell said.

Delta Council, an 18-county economic development organization, is also involved in trying to help the

region secure designation as a "national heritage area."

The federal government is providing \$150,000 a year for the next three years to assist a 15-member governing board as it proceeds to catalog the cultural and heritage treasures and opportunities of the region. That report, which Howell said could run better than 3,000 pages, will be reviewed by the Department of the Interior. If the application is approved, the Delta will become eligible for additional grant money and be allowed to use the "national heritage area" designation in its marketing efforts.

"What we want to do is get people off I-40, off I-20 and out of the casinos and into the Delta to spend their money," Howell said.

The casinos in Tunica attract 12 million visitors a year alone, according to Howell. "If we can get just a fraction of those" to check out the

music, history and other attractions of the Delta, he said, the financial impact will be significant.

The Delta will be getting an economic boost this summer, said Howell, when Teach for America opens its summer training institute at Delta State University. It will be the eighth training site and the first in a rural area for the national teaching corps. Teach for America recruits recent college graduates who did not major in education to commit to teaching for at least two years in underserved public schools.

This summer, an estimated 1,500 teachers and support staff will be involved in the training institute in Cleveland.

"It's great for Delta State. It's great for education. It's great for the economy," Howell said.

Contact Tim Kalich at [thkalich@grecommonwealth.com](mailto:thkalich@grecommonwealth.com).

*"I don't know that we will ever know what the real impact of the Delta Workforce team coming together to work on our major issues three years ago was, but I do know that none of us at Faurecia would like to imagine the result if we did not work hand-in-hand with the Delta team."*

~ Kim Draga, Human Resources Director, Faurecia, Cleveland

Delta Council remains committed to the effort to designate and brand the Mississippi Delta as a National Heritage Area, operated under the auspices of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior. The 15-member Governing Board, led by Governor Haley Barbour's appointee Ken Murphree of Tunica, has met since 2009 and is making significant progress in following the ambitious timeline and rigorous process to receive official designation by the Secretary of the Interior as a certified National Heritage Area within three years. Working with little local money and big goals makes this effort a challenge, but with everybody pulling together, there is a lot that can be achieved with this designation over the next 10 years...and you can be assured Delta Council will take its share of the load.

## HERITAGE AREA

*"How do we take cultural heritage tourism to the next level? In the Delta, the seeds of this effort were sown many years ago, by leaders who knew how important it could be to have a coordinated effort to promote our heritage. This is why I am proud to have worked from the beginning with Senator Thad Cochran to have this region of rich cultural resources designated as a National Heritage Area by the U.S. Congress in a program administered across the nation in 48 other areas by the National Park Service. It wasn't easy. But I am pleased to report that after many years of pushing, the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area was created as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama, last year. This is real and significant legislation. Now we have a roadmap for pulling together the Delta National Heritage Area Partnership – both public and private sector leaders – to focus energy on this issue and maximize our opportunities."*

~ Congressman Bennie Thompson

Members of the Governing Board as outlined in the Federal Congressional Act include:

Alcorn State University  
Delta Council  
Delta Foundation  
Delta State University  
Governor Haley Barbour's Appointment  
Mississippi Arts Commission  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Mississippi Humanities Council  
Mississippi Valley State University  
Smith Robertson Museum  
5 members appointed by Delta Boards of Supervisors





# WATER SUPPLY

What an irony that a region that was re-claimed from a Mississippi River floodplain would also focus its mission on sustaining its prolific supplies of groundwater and surface water? An irony? Maybe. Surprising? No, not if you consider that the sustainability of an estimated 30,000 jobs, \$2 billion in income, \$225 million in local and state tax revenues annually, and the largest agri-industrial complex in the Mid-South relies on the availability of a plentiful supply of water that can be delivered to agriculture to keep this industry operating efficiently.

Due to the priorities of the Delta Council Water Resources Committee, working in coordination and support of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Water Management District, and in cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the region is asserting itself in meeting the predictable challenge to avoid the day when the Delta might otherwise face a greater need than capacity, to fill the demand for adequate water supplies.

*"When it comes to enlightened discussions about how it was, where we have been, and where we are today in terms of managing our way out of any potential challenges to the availability of water for irrigation in the Delta, there is really only one organization which was there in the beginning, has remained unchanged in its commitment to provide responsible input, and is still making a valuable contribution to leadership in the area of Delta water supplies, ... and that is Delta Council."*

~ Sam Mabry, Director, Office of Land and Water Resources, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality



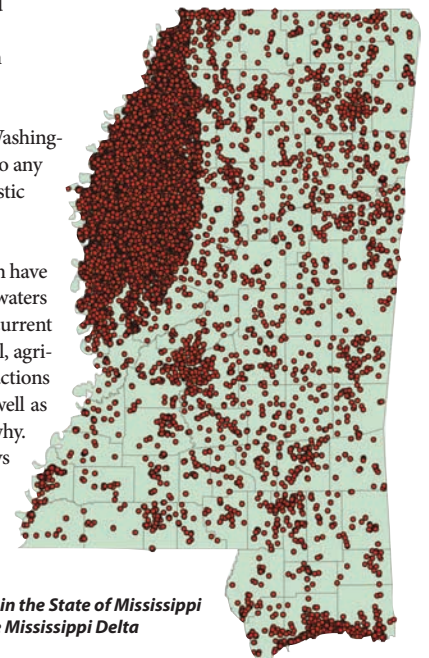
## WATER QUALITY

When water supplies in South Washington County were reported to have a brine taste to them in 1952, the natural thing to do would have been to drill more wells in search of water which did not produce the salty flavor. That did happen, but similar to the many illustrations of water quality issues which confront the Mississippi Delta in 2010, one organization stopped before it advocated further well drilling and instead, asked the U.S. Geological Survey to investigate the scope, the cause, and the potential effects of the salt water intrusion experienced in those South Washington County wells in 1952. Even today, the data from those U.S.G.S. studies is utilized as a baseline for the studies related to any potential exchanges between the shallow, Mississippi River alluvial aquifer and the deeper formations that provide domestic drinking water in the Mississippi Delta.

Sixty years later, the organization of Delta Council and the foresight exhibited by water resource leaders in the organization have contributed toward the accumulation and documentation of water quality data in the Delta's groundwater and surface waters which is unsurpassed, when compared to other regions of the country. This water quality science has the capacity to solve current and future problems related to the persistent questions about the impacts of development, whether business, commercial, agricultural or silviculture. Fish advisories on Delta lakes and streams will be lifted, in 2010, because the data supports these actions by the regulatory agencies. Increased fish populations and species diversity is being documented in Delta streams, as well as the reasons for this phenomenon. It is desirable that these improvements are occurring, but it is essential that we know why. And, because the people of this region have dedicated themselves to the science, whatever the outcome, the Delta enjoys the capacity to make better-informed decisions.

*"The amount of science which has been accumulated and is currently ongoing in the Mississippi Delta water resource base is astounding. And because of the work, the sharp focus, and the purpose-driven input of Delta water resource leaders, I am confident that the Delta will address their own challenges, rather than waiting for a State or Federal agency to tell them how to do it."*

~ Al Garner, Assistant State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service



21,424 wells in the State of Mississippi  
15,303 in the Mississippi Delta

# HEALTH & EDUCATION

In the early 1990s, the Committee on Education and Health of Delta Council embarked on a joint effort with Dr. Kent Wyatt, then-President of Delta State University, to confront an acute shortage of classroom instructors throughout the more than 50 school districts spanning the entire Delta Council region. The results are in and today, a dozen years later, the Delta has more than 100 additional teachers located in the Delta that this effort produced.

A certified and accredited school administrators training program was also established 15 years ago. There was no formal training as such, in close proximity of Delta primary and secondary school systems. Again, the problem was mutually identified as a priority through a cooperative effort between Delta Council and Dr. Wyatt. Last year, a Stanford University study identified the Delta State University Administrators Leadership program as one of the top three programs of its kind in the Nation.

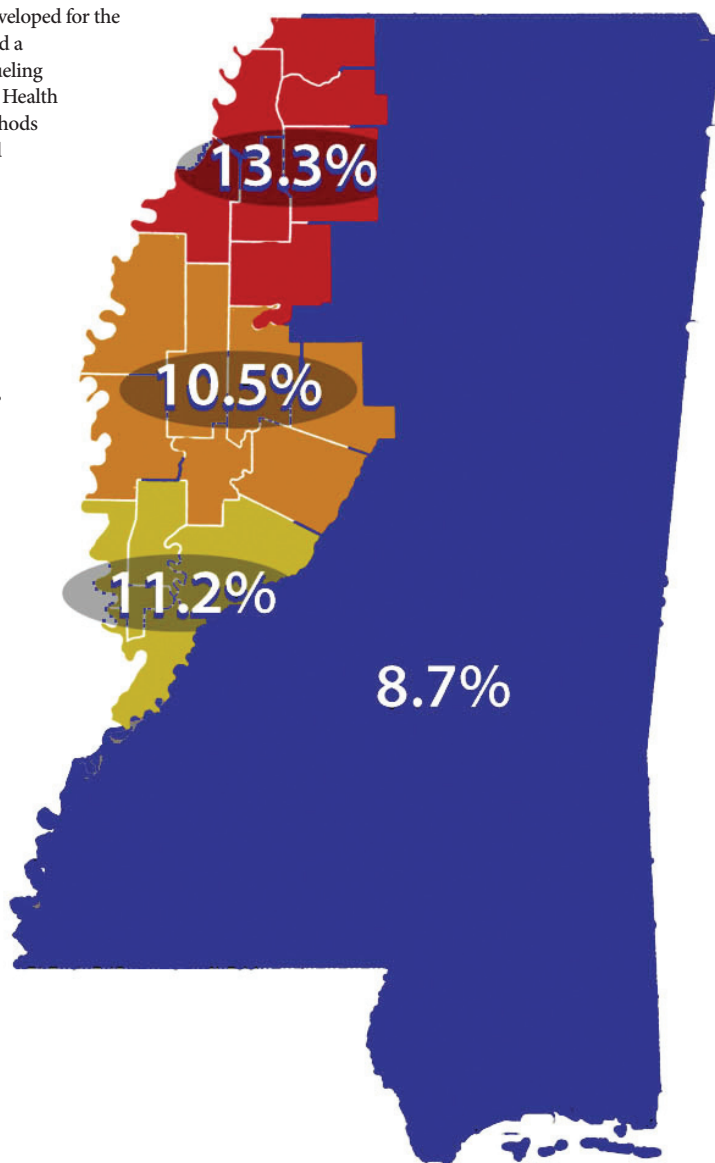
And, in no other area of the country is there a comprehensive initiative that has been developed for the sole purpose of improved access, the utilization of proven health education methods, and a requirement for rigid outcomes measurements aimed at rural health disparities. The grueling and long-range exercise of changing the health profile of the Delta has begun, and Delta Health Alliance holds the promise of a professional approach, a commitment to testing the methods for improved health among the Delta citizenry and a measurement to separate the failed methods from the successful methods.

*"It appears that it has been several generations since the civic and business leadership of this region have been deeply involved in the status, or status quo, of education and healthcare. In recent years, there is a commitment among the regional leadership of the Delta toward changing that, and whether it is a high level of support for higher education opportunities in the Delta, or early childhood education, it is becoming clear to all of us in the field of healthcare and education that something is changing in the Delta and I think it is changing for the better. And, that change is being caused by Delta Council and the positive actions that it uses to reach into the local community to help with the heaviest lifting."*

~ Margo Rosenbach, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Cambridge, MA



**DELTA HEALTH ALLIANCE**  
Today. Tomorrow. Together.



**NURSING SHORTAGES  
IN THE DELTA**



# 2010 SPONSORS

## BankPlus:



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 the 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](http://www.BankPlus.net).

## Southern Ag Credit/Mississippi Land Bank:

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 90 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 10 locations across north Mississippi. Southern Ag Credit also has 10 offices located throughout south Mississippi. 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](http://www.MississippiLandBanks.com).



## Jimmy Sanders:

Founded in Cleveland, Mississippi, in 1953, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., has become one of the leading farm supply distribution businesses in the Mid-South with locations in four states and 35 branch offices & distribution centers. The company is multifaceted in its operations, which include agricultural chemical distribution, seed production and sales, bulk handling of fertilizer, the exporting of grains, variable rate technology, and other agronomic services.

## Voices of MS AG:

"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 engine that drives our economy in the region, producing several billion dollars annually of economic activity and over 31,000 jobs. Delta agriculture accounts for more than \$580 million in local, State, and Federal tax revenues to support basic services for all Mississippi citizens 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 Mississippi Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to generate a positive cash flow on the farm and provide a major contribution to the State's economy.



## WABG-TV 6

Since its first broadcast on October 20, 1959, WABG-TV 6 has remained one of Delta's most valued news sources and it's highly rated newscasts are the key to WABG-TV's continued success in the market place. With over four decades of serving the residents of the Mississippi Delta, WABG-TV remains a valued source for television entertainment and news concerning the Mississippi Delta region. Commonwealth Broadcasting Group, WABG's parent company, also owns the market's newest station, DeltaFox10.



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