



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE – BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
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Mississippi Department of Agriculture Takes Important Step in Invasive Weed Prevention

Commissioner of Agriculture, Lester Spell, has announced a new cooperative initiative to fight against invasive weeds in the State of Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) is spearheading a statewide Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) that will help prevent the infestation and spread of invasive and noxious weeds across Mississippi. The inaugural meeting of the CWMA will be hosted by MDAC at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

The CWMA will partner federal, state, and local governmental and private programs to pool resources, share knowledge, and coordinate efforts to combat invasive and noxious weeds that disrupt agriculture and damage the eco-systems of the state.

Information presented on October 14 will include the positive impacts of the CWMA on the future of noxious weed management and preservation of Mississippi's natural eco-systems and agriculture. A Memorandum of Agreement will be signed by approximately 30 representatives of the cooperating organizations to establish this proactive, comprehensive, and cohesive approach for public education, research, and control efforts of recognized noxious weeds in the state.

The Mississippi Legislature, in the 2008 Session, designated BPI to be the lead agency of the statewide CWMA. For more information, contact BPI at (662) 325-3390 or toll free at (888) 257-1285.