

**Mississippi State, Alcorn State, LSU AgCenter, & Southern University
County Agricultural Agents- Professional Improvement Conference**

May 24- May 26, Natchez, MS

Natchez Grand Hotel

111 Broadway Street

Natchez, MS 39120

Phone: 601-446-9994

Toll Free: 1-866-488-0898

<http://www.natchezgrandhotel.com/>

Tuesday- May 24

Golf Tournament

12:00 County Agents Golf Tournament- Natchez City Park- Duncan Park Golf Course

\$40 (pay on site) includes lunch, green fees, and drinks

Register through **Shelby Bearden** @ s.bearden@msstate.edu or 601-892-1809

Registration opens at 3:00 in Natchez Grand Hotel & Suites

4:30 LCAAA Board Meeting

Natchez Grand Hotel & Suites- Meeting Room C

4:30 MACAA Board Meeting

Callon Petroleum Board Room 4th Floor- next door to Natchez Grand Hotel

6:00 Welcome General Assembly- Natchez Grand Banquet Room

Welcome- Mike Lazarus, Adams County Board of Supervisors President

LCAAA President- Donna Morgan

MACAA President- Charlie Stokes

6:30 Crawfish Social - Boiling on the Bluff- Live Music

Broadway Street between Grand Hotel and Riverfront

Wednesday- May 25- Breakfast at Hotel

8:00- Depart for tours- Long pants and closed toe shoes recommended for all tours

OPTION 1- Agronomy Tour- Monterey, LA- 55 people- LSU- Kylie Miller

Angelina Plantation – <http://www.angelinaag.com/>

Angelina Ag Company is a 20,000 acre farm business based in Monterey, LA with operations in Concordia, Tensas, Franklin, and Catahoula parishes. They currently grow rice, corn, soybeans, cotton, milo, popcorn, and oats, but our crop mix is very flexible. In addition to traditional farm storage, Angelina has both a seed plant and a rice dryer and has some of the best duck hunting leases in the south.

Bunge Grain Elevators <https://www.bungenorthamerica.com/>

Bunge operates an extensive and fully integrated grain origination and export platform in North America. They buy, handle, condition and store agricultural commodities produced by North America's growers. Then sell them in domestic markets for further processing or export them to customers around the world.

OPTION 2- Wildlife Tour- Natchez, MS - 39 people- Bill Maily, Dr. Bronson Strickland, Shelby

Bearden Get ready for action as MSU wildlife and fishery specialists Bill Maily, Dr. Bronson Strickland, and Shelby Bearden dive in to 3,500 acres of diverse and changing habitat on Sunnyside Plantation. With a diverse ecosystem Sunnyside stretches from the mighty Mississippi River inland a few miles and is mixed with pine plantation and virgin hardwood bottoms and lakes and streams that makes this learning experience worth the trip.

OPTION 3- Louisiana Master Horseman Program- 15 people- Join LSU Master Horseman

Instructor Howard Cormier as he takes you through a hands on step by step process of starting horses. Feel what it's like to be the trainer. The Louisiana Master Horseman Program began in 2002, and has been growing ever since. Be ready to move as participants on this tour will work with horses get a better understanding of what the Master Horseman Program has to offer.

OPTION 4- Horticulture Tour- Natchez, MS- 32 people- Dr. Lelia Kelly & Gary Bachmann- Join

Mississippi State University Extension Horticulture specialists Drs. Lelia Kelly and Gary Bachman for a tour of Natchez's gardening and landscape horticulture from three different perspectives.

Rosehill Town House- A small town house owned by Ms. Coleen Wilkinson. Rosehill has been recognized in numerous home and garden magazines across Mississippi. It is renowned by its massive gardening and innovative impact in a small area. This home proves size doesn't matter when it comes to making a colorful and tranquilizing impact to guest.

Monmouth Historic Inn- <http://www.monmouthhistoricinn.com/gallery/grounds--gardens>

An early 19th-century antebellum mansion set in 26 acres of manicured gardens. Monmouth Historic Inn is a National Historic Landmark. Reflecting all that is charming about the South,

expect gracious hospitality, excellent cuisine, historic tours of the house and a lovingly restored garden. Come wander around the meticulously nurtured gardens amidst blooming magnolias, roses, azaleas and Monmouth's signature collection of angel statuary, accompanied by the gentle humming of cicadas.

Jerry Krouse's Amazing Courtyards- This amazing home and courtyard was designed by the great Bill Garbo and is one that was recently featured on the Mississippi State University Extension Service's Southern Gardening, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-aFVCt3KxU&feature=youtu.be>. It has amazing designed and planting that will bring new ideas to any home and patio environment.

11:30 Return to hotel

11:45- Lunch Natchez Grand Hotel – Sponsored by Sunbelt Ag Exposition

Presiding- MACAA President Charlie Stokes

Natchez Mayor- Butch Brown

Chip Blalock- Executive Director Sunbelt Ag Expo

1:00 Load tours Long pants and closed toe shoes recommended for all tours

OPTION 1-Natchez Brewery & Distilleries Tour-Natchez, MS 24 people -Amanda Walker, MSU

Natchez Brewery Company <http://www.natchezbrew.com/home.html> in historic downtown Natchez, Mississippi. The oldest established city on the Mississippi River, and the hub of the steamboat era. They have proudly brewed the first "Natchez" beer that will be for distribution.

Charboneau Distillery- <http://www.charboneaudistillery.com/> is the first legally distilled rum produced in Mississippi. They use sugarcane from South Louisiana and have attended American Distilling Institute's Craft Distillers Conference and are committed to being one of the little guys and bringing something different and interesting to the community

Old South Winery- <http://oldsouthwinery.com/> has been in business since 1979 with the motto "The Best in Everything Muscadine". Their special Southern grapes are native to the coastal Southeastern USA and are cousins of bunch grapes. The Galbreath family buys only the finest & freshest muscadines from Mississippi growers for their wines, and continues its heritage of winemaking, using the most advanced techniques to capture the true essence of the fruit

OPTION 2- Sidney Murray Hydro Electric Tour- Vidalia, LA- 55 people, Donna Morgan LSU

The Sidney A. Murray, Jr. Hydroelectric Station, also known as Louisiana Hydroelectric (LA Hydro), is the largest prefabricated power plant in the world. It opened in response to a need for a non-polluting, less-costly power source for Vidalia, Louisiana. The 192 MW plant started full-scale operations in 1990. It was designed to rely on the Mississippi River's natural flow and elevation drop at the Old River Control Structure, therefore not needing a large impound dam. It was also built in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers existing water management objective with minimal impacts on the surrounding wildlife and environment.

OPTION 3- Forestry Tour- Gloster, MS-30 people MSU Dr. Steve Dickie

Draxx Biomass, Amite BioEnergy- Gloster, MS- <http://draxbiomass.com/> is a manufacturer of wood pellets produced from sustainably managed working forests. They produce high quality pellets that can be shipped safely and efficiently around the world for use as a renewable, low-carbon fuel. Their manufacturing facilities Amite County, Mississippi and Morehouse Parish, Louisiana opened in in 2015. Combined, they have the capacity to produce almost one million metric tons of compressed wood pellets for renewable power generation each year. Their product is shipped overseas through the Port of Greater Baton Rouge.

OPTION 4- Bee Keeping Tour – 35 people Dr. Jeff Harris, MSU

What’s Really Killing Our Honey Bees? This fully interactive, hands-on, live bee handling time will be a first if you have never suited up to work a live bee hive. With decades of experience teaching and working in the honey bee Dr. Jeff Harris will start by giving give a general presentation on some of the myths surrounding bees and beekeeping. He will give insight into the Varro mite which is probably one of the greatest threats to honey bee production. It will be followed be a hands on approach on how to work bees and identify mites in a live hive. (Bee suit and gloves will be provided)

OPTION 5- (Back Up Plan if needed) Commodities of the Future Tour- Natchez & Vidalia Ports- 30 people

Join Economic Development Directors Chandler Russ and Heather Malone from Natchez Inc. and Concordia Economic Development as they show what trends are changing the world of Agriculture and the bio renewable hot topics of the world today.

Elevance Renewable Energy- <http://www.elevance.com/> Discover a new generation of bio-based specialty chemical products that outperform petrochemicals and enable solutions never before possible. See their new breakthrough technology and transformative approaches.

Genesis Oil Refinery <http://www.genesisenergy.com/>Genesis Energy handles and transport dilbit, a combination of diluent and bitumen, to refineries on the Gulf Coast. Southern Pacific mines the bitumen in the Canadian oil sands and blends the bitumen with diluent, creating dilbit. The dilbit is then shipped nearly 3,000 miles by rail to the Port of Natchez, where it will be off-loaded to Genesis Energy’s terminal. In Adams County, the dilbit will be transferred to barges that will deliver the product as feedstock to refineries on the Gulf Coast.

Great River industries <http://www.greatriver360.com/> Located at mile marker 360 on the Mississippi River, in Natchez MS, Great River Industries is a recognized leader in providing fabrication and construction services to our customers. Our location on a deep water channel give them access to any port in the world through the Panama Canal.

5:00 return to Hotel

6:00 LCAAA- Business Meeting & Dinner- The Carriage House

6:30 MACAA- Business Meeting & Dinner- Bowie’s Tavern

8:00 Karaoke night and joint social- Bowie’s Tavern- Barrel Room

Thursday May 26

7:00- LCAAA Memorial Breakfast

8:30 General Assembly –

Presiding LCAA President Donna Morgan

Dr. Bill Richardson- Vice President of Agriculture and LSU

Keynote Speaker- Dr. Fred Whitford

You've heard the old saying "A pint a pound the world around." A pint might be a pound, but is a pint always a pint? Come hear Louisiana native transplanted to Purdue University Fred (aka Scarhead) Whitford, Pesticide Program Coordinator, unfold one of the mysteries of science as he answers this question.

9:30 Break

9:45 Break Out Sessions 1

Option 1- Controlling Feral Hogs with Sodium Nitrite - Dr. Glen Gentry, LSU Ag Center

This presentation will discuss how feral pigs arrived in North America and why we now have a problem. The feral pig's impact on Louisiana's agricultural economy will be presented along with an update on LSU AgCenter's research objective on the development of a toxic bait for feral swine. Our extension objective, the trap loaner program will also be discussed along with the costs of upkeep and operation of the Jager Pro and Wireless trapping systems.

Option 2- Spray Tank Cleaning- Dr. Fred Whitford, Purdue University

Cleaning a spray tank ain't as easy as putting supper dishes in the dishwasher. Come listen, laugh, and learn as Purdue University Pesticide Program Coordinator Fred (aka Scarhead) Whitford emphasizes the do's and don'ts of cleaning a sprayer tank.

Option 3- Protecting your Client's Homes from Termites! - Dr. Blake Layton, MSU

Termites are arguably the most economically important insect pests in the southern US. When a client ask questions about termites you have a chance to make a significant economic impact. Termite treatments can cost \$1000 or more and damage repair costs can be in the \$10s of thousands. This session will help you be better prepared to answer client's questions about termites and how to protect their homes from these damaging pests. Topics include: differences in the three major species of termites we have in MS and LA, termite biology, signs of infestation, ways to make buildings less susceptible to termite attack, and termite treatment recommendations.

10:45 break

11:00 Break Out Sessions 2

Option 1- An Overview of the Louisiana Master Gardener Program- Mariah J. Simoneaux, Sara Shields, Stuart Gauthier LSU AgCenter

Since 1994, the Louisiana Master Gardener (LMG) Program has provided trained volunteers to increase the capacity of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service to deliver basic horticulture information. As the demand for research-based information continues to increase and nutrient management and water quality related concerns rise, Extension Agents and LMG Program participants identified a need for advanced state-wide horticulture training.

Option 2- Alcorn State University-

Option 3- Drugs and Bugs: Growing and Strengthening Your Cattle Health Programs- Dr. Carla Huston, MSU

Agriculture is a major industry in the southeast, and cattle operations play a huge role in Mississippi and Louisiana farm systems. New livestock drug laws will be coming into effect at the end of 2016, and clients will be coming to you for guidance. Offering trainings such as the Beef Quality Assurance program and working with your local veterinarian can help to strengthen and grow your livestock health programs, while promoting a safe and wholesome food supply. Learn about current and new drug laws, management factors that can help prevent many of the livestock pathogens producers encounter, and how you can help your clients adapt to changes and comply with the new federal drug guidelines.

12:00 Lunch & Closing Assembly - Natchez Grand Banquet Room

Presiding- MACAA President Charlie Stokes

Southern Regional Speaker- Bill Burdine

1:00 -MACAA & Alcorn Adjourn

1:00 LACAA Business Meeting Ballroom A

Presiding- LACAA President Donna Morgan

2:00- County Agent Trap Shout-Out- Sunnyside Plantation- Sponsored by WT Drilling

To shoot, register with Bill Maily @ bill.maily@msstate.edu or 601-857-2284

Spouses Tours

Wednesday, May 25- (\$45)

8:00 Pick up at hotel on city Trolley

8:15 Natchez Visitors Center- The Natchez Story (video)

GET TICKETS FOR HOUSE TOURS

8:30-12:00 Visit (3) Antebellum Homes-

Longwood, Melrose, Dunleith

Noon- lunch at the Castle

1:30- Return to Hotel- Shop and walking tour of downtown

Thursday, May 26-(\$20)

10:00- Walk to old railroad depot

10:15- Old South Carriages Tour- Horse & buggy-

11:15 Return to hotel