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## On the Cover

Western artist Orren Mixer's 1963 mural contains scenes from the South Farm. See page 20 for more on the artist and his work.

## Back Cover

Bluff Lake in the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge near the MSU campus.

## 4 Research turns waste into energy

Mississippi State scientists are finding ways to turn wood chips, gin trash and other waste products into usable energy.

## 6 Horses have big economic impact

It takes more than just a few oats to power Mississippi's horse industry. An economic impact study shows the state's horse owners have almost \$1 billion invested.

## 8 Expo draws garden enthusiasts to Verona

Beautiful flowers and creative scarecrows drew hundreds of gardeners and others to the 2003 Garden Expo at the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center.

## 10 Producers tour Pontotoc Branch

Research with northeast Mississippi's major crops was on display during the annual Agronomic Research and Demonstration Tour at the Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch.

## 11 Holly Spring Beef/Dairy Day

Producers had the chance to visit with researchers and to see the North Mississippi Branch's demonstration beef herd up close and personal during the annual Beef/Dairy Day.

## 12 Cotton Field Day

A few showers didn't dampen enthusiasm during the 2003 Cotton Field Day at the Delta Research and Extension Center.

## 13 Rice and Soybean Field Day

Tours of rice and soybean research plots were provided for almost 200 attendees of the 2003 field day devoted to those important Delta crops.

## 14 Project shows deeper is better

The initial cost may be more, but research shows deeper catfish ponds save producers money in the long run.

## 16 Hay Day program showcases profitable practices

The sun wasn't shining, but making hay was the topic of the Brown Loam Station's annual field day.

## 18 Mini gin big plus for research and education

The nation's first fully operational gin on a college campus finds multiple uses at MSU.

## 20 In Brief

A quick look at research and events at the Experiment Station.

## 22 Updates

Meet new and award-winning MAFES personnel.

