

## Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Company and MSU Announce Marketing Agreement for Transgenic MISCOT 8839

Mississippi State University and Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Co. have signed an agreement allowing Stoneville to commercialize transgenic derivatives of the MSU-developed MISCOT 8839 cotton variety.

“We are really excited about this new collaborative development effort with Mississippi State University,” said Stoneville vice president for research and development Don Panter. “Through this mutual agreement, Stoneville has the exclusive right to produce, distribute, market and develop transgenic derivatives of MISCOT 8839, a new medium maturity variety with premium fiber quality.”

The company has begun the transgenic introgression process, and several MISCOT 8839-derived products may be released by 2007. Additionally, Stoneville’s sales and marketing teams also have the commercialization rights for conventional MISCOT 8839.

The new variety is well adapted to the growing conditions and needs of Midsouth producers, according to MAFES cotton breeder Ted Wallace.

“MISCOT 8839 should contribute variability to what currently is commercially available, as well as add options to fiber quality,” he said. “The ultimate goal of our research is to see producers benefit from the release of this new variety.”

Wallace developed the variety through research at the MSU campus in Starkville and the Delta Research and Extension Center.



Fred Faulk

## MSU advances in national research rankings

Mississippi State continues to climb the ranks of the nation’s top research universities.

According to statistics released in April by the National Science Foundation, the university rose from 84th to 82nd among American universities, both public and private, in total research and development expenditures for fiscal year 2001. In agricultural research, MSU remains at No. 5 in the nation, a level it attained in fiscal year 2000.

In agricultural sciences research, MSU trails only UC-Davis, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina State.

Among public universities, MSU retains its 57th ranking on the basis of FY 2001 expenditures of \$146.9 million, up from \$132.5 million during the previous year. Those figures are among the wealth of data included in the NSF publication “Academic Research and Development Expenditures: Fiscal Year 2001.”

The full report is available at <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/nsf03316/htmstart.htm>.

## North Mississippi R&E Center named for first head



*Dr. and Mrs. Hiram Palmertree*

Marco Nicovich

When the North Mississippi Research and Extension Center was established in Verona in 1984, it marked the beginning of the research and extension center concept in Mississippi.

On May 30, the center was renamed the Hiram D. Palmertree North Mississippi Research and Extension Center in honor of its first head.

“It’s more than fitting that the center be named for an individual who was a leader in promoting the establishment of research and extension centers statewide,” said Reuben Moore, the center’s current head. “His leadership was instrumental in obtaining internal and external support for funding and for legislative authorization to establish the center.”

Palmertree earned his bachelor’s at Mississippi State in 1962 and began his career that same year as a MAFES agronomist. He later completed a master’s and doctorate at MSU.

From 1967-78, he was a statewide extension specialist in forage and turfgrass. He then served in leadership positions at several MAFES branches, including the Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch and the Northeast Mississippi Branch.

He was named director of the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service in 1988. In that position, he continued to promote the research and extension center concept.

“As Extension director, Dr. Palmertree brought a critical mass of extension specialists to the research and extension centers,” said MAFES Director Vance Watson. “He promoted cooperation between extension and research personnel, resulting in a more efficient and productive operation.”

Mississippi’s research and extension centers also include the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, the Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center in Raymond, and the Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi.

### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Aug. 13**

**Cotton Field Day**

Delta Research and Extension Center / Stoneville

**Aug. 14**

**Rice/Soybean Field Day**

Delta Research and Extension Center / Stoneville

**Sept. 20**

**North Mississippi Garden Expo**

North Mississippi Research and Extension Center / Verona

**Oct. 17-18**

**Fall Flower and Garden Fest**

Truck Crops Branch / Crystal Springs