

from the
DIRECTOR



Travel Mississippi's highways and byways and you'll find yourself in the midst of some of the world's highest technology. No, it's not just in the telecommunications industry, nor in our space industry, or not even in our growing automotive industry.

It's in the state's fields and forests.

That's right. High-tech Mississippi can be found in the world's oldest industry — agriculture.

Consumers owe the American farmer a debt of gratitude because it takes only about 40 days for most Americans to earn enough to pay for their year's food supply. In 1950, each farmer produced food for 27 other people. Now one farmer feeds more than 130 others around the world. That increased efficiency is due in large part to the nation's emphasis on agricultural research. In the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, we take that responsibility seriously.

This MAFES annual report highlights the work of the nation's fifth-best-funded agricultural research program. And, we're climbing the resource ladder among the world's research institutions by taking less than half a penny of every state-appropriated dollar and enhancing it with federal funds and competitive grants and contracts to make Mississippi a leader. In recent months, we have been refocusing our research priorities to gain efficiencies in a slowed economy and have leveraged the state resources in other sectors.

This issue of *Highlights* summarizes new poultry research efforts, describes a way to focus our Division-wide food research and outreach programs, and outlines two high-tech approaches to producing the old-time commodities of corn and sweetpotatoes.

Summer is a busy time at all of our Experiment Station sites. We hope that you, as important stakeholders in our research programs, will take time to attend one of our many field days or visit with individual scientists on specific program emphases. We value your input and judgement concerning all of our programs.

Vance H. Watson

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Director

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MAFES RESEARCH
HIGHLIGHTS

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HIGHLIGHTS

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