

from the **DIRECTOR**



Each year, the summer issue of Research Highlights serves as the annual report for the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

In addition to the usual financial information, this year's edition contains sections dealing with eight major areas of work. MAFES scientists are engaged in research that benefits every Mississippian because their work involves almost every aspect of the food supply, as well as health and environmental issues.

MAFES research supports the Mississippians engaged in production agriculture through work with the products, production practices and management practices needed to produce food and fiber. Research aimed at adding value to Mississippi products is another important part of the work of MAFES scientists.

MAFES research is made possible in part by the Mississippi Legislature, and I would like to thank that group of Mississippians for giving priority to research and education funding during the challenging 2002 budgeting process.

The cost of agricultural research at Mississippi State is a bargain—only a half a penny of every state-appropriated dollar. Those funds, however, are enhanced with federal funds and competitive grants and contracts to the extent that MSU has the nation's fifth-best-funded agricultural research program. That level of funding is possible because of the nationally recognized expertise of our scientists and their success in applying that expertise to important areas of research.

As you read this issue of Highlights, you'll learn how MAFES scientists are helping livestock producers, row crop farmers, food processors and others meet the challenges facing their industries. Keep in mind, however, that the work featured here is only a small percentage of the hundreds of projects being conducted by MAFES personnel around the state.

You can see MAFES research in action at any one of our branch stations. The map on the back cover shows their locations.

Vance H. Watson

Vance H. Watson
Director

Volume 66, Number 3 SUMMER2003

MAFES RESEARCH **HIGHLIGHTS**

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Vance H. Watson Director
J. Charles Lee President
Vance H. Watson Interim Vice President
Mississippi State University

EDITOR

Bob Ratliff

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Robyn Hearn

GRAPHIC DESIGN & LAYOUT

Annette Woods

PHOTO EDITORS

Jim Lytle Marco Nicovich

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Holli Hitt

PHOTOGRAPHY

Bob Ratliff Tom Thompson
Russ Houston

MAFES Research Highlights, a quarterly publication of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, is available free to Mississippi residents upon request.

Mention of a trademark or commercial product does not constitute nor imply endorsement of the product by the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station or approval over other products that also may be suitable.

Requests for this, other MAFES publications, or change-of-address notification should be addressed to:

HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Agricultural Communications
Box 9625
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9625

Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status.

Available on the World Wide Web
msucares.com/pubs/highlights