

# from the **DIRECTOR**



Ask the average person what goes on at any particular university and you'll likely get answers that include teaching and athletics, not necessarily in that order.

Ask a farmer or anyone else closely involved with agriculture the same question and you'll probably get the same answers, plus research.

MAFES researchers and their counterparts at universities across the nation serve society in a variety of ways. Sometimes they work to head off problems before they occur. That's the case with work being done by MAFES scientists to find ways to control soybean rust before the disease becomes a problem in Mississippi.

Other MAFES scientists are working with colleagues in Mississippi State's College of Engineering to find viable alternative energy sources that can be used to ease the nation's dependence on petroleum products. A promising breakthrough in biodiesel research has been made in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Biodiesel is the subject of the article beginning on page 10.

The ultimate goal of research is to use discoveries made in the laboratory to improve some aspect of society. The process is called technology transfer. The results of MAFES research with tunnel ventilation are paying off for dairy farmers, including one Scott County producer who recently installed a tunnel ventilation system in his dairy barn. The story is on page 16.

While football and a new academic year are stirring up a lot of excitement on the MSU campus, there's also exciting things going on in labs on campus and at branch experiment stations throughout the state.

*Vance H. Watson*

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Volume 67, Number 3 SUMMER2004

## MAFES RESEARCH **HIGHLIGHTS**

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#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

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