



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food

(Jackson, MS), March 16, 2010 - American agriculture is responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life ... food, fiber, and even fuel. That's the message of National Ag Day, which is celebrated March 20, 2010. According to Orlando C. Kilcrease, State Committee Chairman of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Mississippi, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America will gather to celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture on this first day of spring.

“The National Ag Day program is committed to increasing public awareness about American agriculture,” said Kilcrease. “As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources that the United States produces. Even here in Mississippi, it is imperative that we know where our food derives. Ag awareness is vital to our state.”

The Agriculture Council of America, organizers of National Ag Day, says that every American should understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced and should value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy. Consumers should appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. National Ag Day will focus on educating Americans about the industry, so they may also acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industry.

“Today each farmer feeds an average of 144 people,” said Kilcrease. “In 1960, that number was 25. More than 15 percent of the U.S. population is currently employed in farm or farm-related jobs.”

Each year, the National Ag Day program gathers members of the agricultural industry in an effort to promote American agriculture. Focused on sharing how agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, the National Ag Day program helps educate millions of consumers each year. Join this effort to promote American agriculture to everyone during National Ag Week, March 14-20, 2010. For more information contact your local USDA Service Center or the Agriculture Council of America.

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