

COMMODITY GROUP SUMMARY REPORTS

**2026 Central Producer
Advisory Council Meeting**



EXTENSION

AGRONOMIC CROPS

Priorities

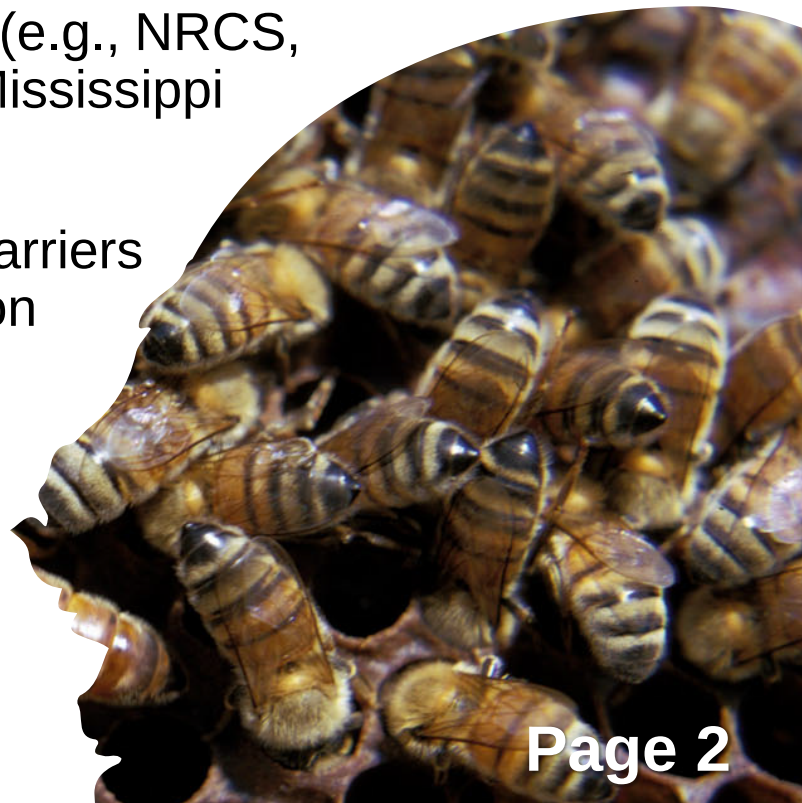
- Continue to evaluate deer damage research and improve crop depredation strategies in all row crops
- Evaluate row crop seeding rates that can be adjusted in low commodity price years that still maintain high yield potential
- Evaluate corn fertility management options (e.g., number of applications, nitrogen source and rates)
- Provide a specialist outlook on the 2026 growing season



APICULTURE

Priorities

- Develop an Extension publication discussing biocontrol agents (e.g., Certan and BT) for greater wax moths and small hive beetle
- Develop an Extension publication on best management practices for gardening for pollinators
- Develop a beekeeping curriculum for 4-H
- Facilitate interactions between providers of seeds of important pollinator plants, clients that want them, and/or entities working towards the dissemination of pollinator-friendly plants (e.g., NRCS, Master Gardeners, Make Mississippi Beautiful, etc.)
- Test the use of treatment barriers on bee stands for prevention of Argentine ants



BEEF, FORAGE, AND EQUINE

Priorities

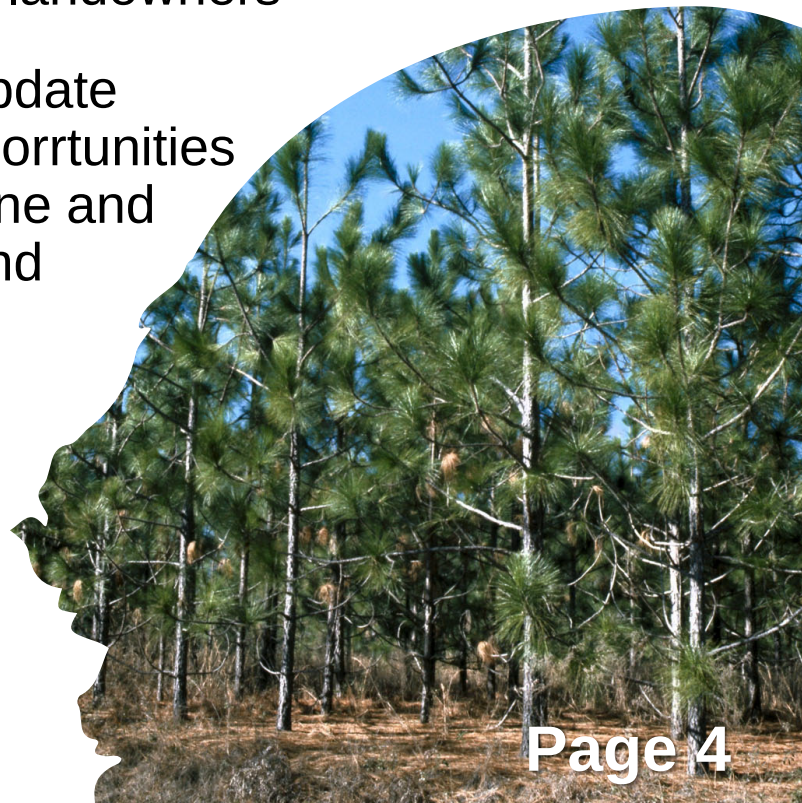
- Heifer retention and development in today's market
- Beef demand by consumer/price
 - How much is too much?
 - When will the consumer quit buying beef?
- Marketing cattle directly to the feedyard
- Economics of backgrounding calves
- Feeding whole cottonseed to cattle



FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

Priorities

- Retool or develop a novel approach to research and programming on the pros/cons of disturbance management activities for wildlife/forestry-related invasive species encroachment post-disturbance
- Continue to fill Wildlife/Forestry Extension positions (e.g., Natural Resource Enterprises) with quality professionals that are focused on landowners and producers
- Develop closed canopy/density non-commercial thinning practices for small landowners
- Continue to develop and update programming to recent opportunities of carbon sequestration (pine and hardwood management) and other markets education programming for CFAs, forestry professionals, etc.



FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

Priorities (continued)

- Continue to encourage to keep the Christmas tree cultivar project moving forward
- Continue to support the partnership between the MSU Forest Products Lab and the Department of Architecture, particularly supporting the effort of marketing (MDA) and continuing education for architecture professionals' policy makers related to mass timber products
- Continue to support collaboration among MFC, MDWFP, and MSU Extension urban forestry and wildlife programs and staff
- Support a feasibility study of using forest products for future power generation (e.g., micro-power plant) as potential new market and rural community development.



SMALL RUMINANTS

Priorities

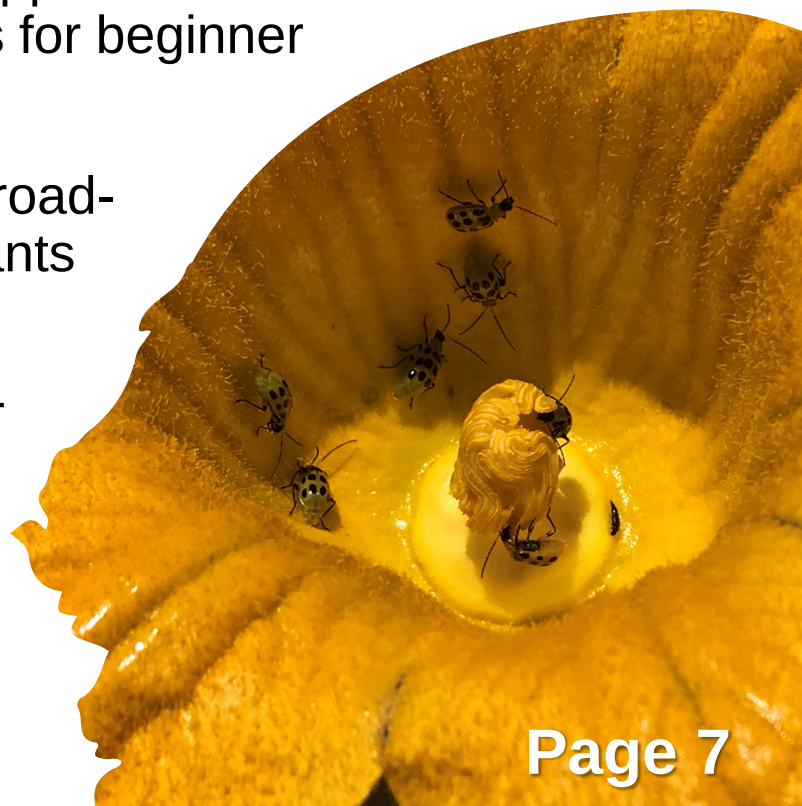
- Production of factsheets and infographics related to small ruminants
- Conduct research comparing meat goat production (e.g., Kiko vs Spanish)
- Focus efforts on reproduction – artificial insemination, breeding, and kidding
- Evaluate solar grazing with sheep (e.g., sheep breeds and forage varieties)
- Conduct research on lidocaine bands for castration and tail docking



VEGETABLES, FRUITS, AND NUTS

Priorities

- Generate more information on herbal-based products for pest and disease management
- Develop resources that focus on information pertaining to soil health management (e.g., soil health, crop rotation, cover crops)
- Create additional opportunities for youth education focused on horticulture (potential to incorporate with 4-H, FFA, hands-on events, library programs/displays)
- Create additional training opportunities on insect management of vegetables for beginner and experienced farmers
- Conduct research on the broad-scale management of fire ants
- More effort in incorporating information about pollinator benefits and safety into resources



CREDITS

Report Editors

Rebecca A. Melanson and Ashley Tucker Patterson

University and Producer Chairs/Co-chairs

Agronomic Crops

University Chair: Kyle Lewis
University Co-chair: Dr. Tyler Soignier
Producer Chair: Dan Prevost

Forestry & Wildlife

University Chair: Dr. Curtis VanderSchaaf
University Co-chair: Dr. Adam Rohnke
Producer Chair: Jack Stephens

Apiculture

University Chair: Dr. Jeff Harris
University Co-chair: Vicki Gannan
Producer Chair: Derwin Thrash

Small Ruminants

University Chair: Dr. Leyla Rios de Alvarez

Beef, Equine, & Forages

University Chair: Shelby Bearden
University Co-chair: Dr. Genevieve M. D'Souza
Producer Chair: Jay Germany

Vegetable, Fruit, and Nuts

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Photos

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EXTENSION

TAKING CARE OF WHAT MATTERS