

FARM & BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Allen chosen to be chairman of Annet

Meredith Allen, former president and CEO of Stapleton, has accepted the role of chairman of Annet, a trade association.

He became chairman Sept. 1, succeeding William Doreville, the former president and CEO of Plains Cotton Cooperative Association. Allen was elected by Annet's board of directors during their meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, on Aug. 30.

Annet includes the four major cotton cooperatives in the United States. The others besides Stapleton are Plains Cotton Cooperative Association (PCCA), which is based in Lubbock, Texas; Calcot, based in Bakersfield, California; and Carolina Cotton Growers Cooperative, based in Garner, North Carolina.

The board of directors is composed of the chairman and chief executive officers of the four cooperatives. Stapleton's new president and CEO, Hank Reichle, was elected to the board to replace Allen.

Brewer wins GLM employee honor

Scottie Brewer, a nurse at Leflore Rehab, has been named Greenwood Leflore Hospital's Employee of the Month for September.

"Loved by all who come in contact with him,

Scottie is all things you would expect a nurse to be," the hospital said in a statement. "He is friendly, shows empathy when needed but can be tough when necessary. Scottie is patient but can be very persistent and 'pushy' in the right situation. Compassionate, respectful, calm under pressure and detail-oriented are just a few adjectives to describe him."

Mills part of group to visit with Harper

Jonathan Mills of Greenwood recently visited with U.S. Rep. Gregg Harper in Washington, D.C., as part of a group representing the Cattish Farmers of America.

They met to discuss issues such as the Farm Bill and cattle inspection.

Farm-to-school market discussed

Mississippi producers can learn how to serve the farm-to-school market at an Alliance of Sustainable Farms event Oct. 19.

The alliance will host "Farm-to-School: Linking Farms to the Cafeteria" at the Institute of Child Nutrition in Oxford.

The workshop will highlight the work of this institute and provide growers a networking opportunity with school officials interested in locally grown food.

The Institute of Child Nutrition is located at 97 Jeanette Phillips Drive. The field day is free, but pre-registration is required. Onsite check-in begins at 10 a.m. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. To register, send email to AllianceofSustainableFarms@gmail.com.

Lunch and visitor parking passes will be provided.

Rains batter cotton, soybeans mid-harvest

By NATHAN GREGORY
MSU Extension Service

STARKVILLE — Most of Mississippi's corn and rice crops had been harvested when prolonged, late-September rains soaked much of the state, but the wet weather could not have come at a worse time for soybeans and cotton.

Producers had harvested nearly half of the state's soybeans and a fifth of the cotton before the rainfall — as much as 7 inches in some areas. Rain shut down nearly all harvesting for a week, compromising some fields where mature pods and bolls were waiting to be picked.

"Up until the last week of September, there was only slight damage from previous rains, but now it's more widespread," said Trent Ibray, soybean specialist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. "We had fields that should have been harvested during September, but the field conditions didn't allow it. Some growers were able to resume harvesting on the last day of September, but others had to wait a little



Excessive late-September rainfall forced seed cotton out of bolls in some Mississippi fields, with some sprouting on the ground.

longer for drier ground."

Unusually high temperatures and a lack of rain in early October helped a lot of row crop growers catch up. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated half of the state's soybeans and nearly a quarter of its cotton had been harvested as of Sept. 30. Ibray and Extension regional agronomist Dennis Reginelli pushed that estimate to around 70 percent for soybeans by Oct. 5.

"Tillers and combines are running wide open right now in northeast Mississippi trying to get beans and cotton out of the fields," Reginelli said. "When soybeans are ready for harvest and then you get a week of rain, you see general deterioration of the seed and beans shattering and falling out of pods. That's an issue in some areas, but some fields were not that bad off and got the sun they needed the first week of October to dry out."

Grain elevators are purchasing salvaged beans for less money.

"Producers face price discounts for lower quality beans resulting from rain and weather damage," said Extension agricultural economist Josh Maples. "The amount of discount can vary based on location and quality."

Extension cotton specialist Darrin Dabbs said rain delayed cotton harvest by up to 10 days.

"Issues arising from excess rain included cotton knocked out of bolls and onto the ground, which ultimately results in yield loss, potential reduction in fiber quality and significant regrowth issues. In some cases, this will necessitate another harvest aid application," Dabbs said. "Late-season rains resulted in significant emergence of grassy weeds in row middles. While this will not impact yields, it is very unsightly, and a number of folks will likely try to address this with an herbicide application."

Reginelli said several cotton growers in northeast Mississippi are realizing good yields despite the rain.

"We're seeing a lot of regrowth this week because it's extremely hot for this time of the year," he said. "We did have a lot that was ready to be picked before getting constant rain for four days. Cotton that has sprouted since then has died in the open cotton bolls. It's taking more gluing to get the moisture out of the cotton."

The USDA reported 86 percent of the state's rice had been harvested by Sept. 30, but rain is slowing harvest for late-season rice.

"No real losses were associated with the rainfall other than a few rotted fields that will take extra work to get back into shape for next year's rotational crop," said Extension rice specialist Bobby Golden.

Corn was 92 percent harvested, so very little of the crop was exposed to the rain.

"Corn has generally proven to be relatively tolerant of extended rainy weather compared to soybeans and cotton in the past," said grain crop specialist Erick Larson. "I do expect growers may have some additional stalk lodging with the remaining corn crop in the field."

Miss. Business Journal honors Viking CFO Moss

Jane Moss, chief financial officer for Viking Range, LLC, was recently selected as one of Mississippi Business Journal's 50 Leading Business Women.



Moss

This selection honors the most powerful and influential women business leaders in Mississippi who are senior decision-makers and are making a significant impact on the economy.

In addition to being tasked with optimizing Viking's financial performance, Moss also leads human resources, governmental relations and information technology resources as well as representing Viking in various community organizations and events.

A native of Greenwood, she began her career with Viking Range, LLC in 1994 as accounting manager. She has served as chief financial officer

since 2013.

She attended both Mississippi State University and Delta State University, receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1991 and a Master of Professional Accountancy degree in 1998 from Delta State. She passed the Certified Public Accounting examination on her first sitting in 1992.

"Viking, Greenwood and the Mississippi Delta are so fortunate to have a talented business leader like Jane Moss," said Kevin Brown, president of Viking. "Jane's leadership and dedication have helped Viking become one of America's most iconic brands."

She was instrumental in leading Viking through a restructuring that began in 2008, and after Viking was purchased by The Middleby Corp., she was given additional responsibilities of leading several other departments including human resources, governmental relations and information technology.

Beth Tackett, director of human resources for Viking, said, "Jane's unique ability to combine her financial expertise with the compassion needed to effectively manage the 'people side' of the business allows us to provide for our greatest asset — Viking's 650+ employees."

Moss also is active in the community. She was the first woman to serve on the Greenwood Country Club's Board of Governors and served as its first female president. She is the past president of the Rotary Club of Greenwood and served on Mississippi State University's Adkerson School of Accountancy Advisory

Council from 2008 to 2012. Having previously served on the Executive Board of Directors for The Greenwood-Leflore County Chamber of Commerce, she serves on the President's Circle Advisory Council for the chamber. She is a life member of the Junior Auxiliary of Greenwood.

In 2005, Moss was selected by the Mississippi Business Journal as one of its Top 40 Under 40 Mississippi Business Leaders.

She has been married to Randle Moss for 32 years, and together they have two adult children, Jason and Valerie. She is a member of North Greenwood Baptist Church.

In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis, traveling and Mississippi State athletics.

The new class will attend a two-day retreat of seminars, guest speakers, roundtable discussions and an awards luncheon. In September, The Mississippi Business Journal will feature the contributions of these women in a special magazine.

A Business Woman of the Year luncheon will be held in February 2019, and 11 finalists for Business Woman of the Year will be selected. The finalists will be honored during the luncheon, and a Business Woman of the Year will be selected.