

2005 National Plant Board Annual Meeting
August 7 – 11, 2005
Biloxi, MS

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce is honored to host the 79th Annual Meeting of the National Plant Board in Biloxi, Mississippi. The meeting will run from Sunday, August 7th through Thursday, August 11th and will be held at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino (www.beaurivage.com) located at 875 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530. The General Session will begin Monday morning and end Thursday afternoon.

Accommodations

The hotel rate for Friday and Saturday is \$169 plus 12% tax, for the rest of the week the rate is \$129 per night with a 12% tax. Check-in time is 3:00 PM with checkout time at 11:00 AM. Attendees are required to guarantee their reservation with one night's prepaid room and tax with a major credit card. The deposit is non-refundable if cancellation occurs within 72 hours of arrival. To book your reservation at the rates above, please contact the hotel directly at 1-888-383-7037 and refer to "National Plant Board 2005 Meeting." Rates cannot be changed at check-in or checkout for guests who failed to identify their affiliation at the time the reservation is made. All reservations must be received no later than July 1, 2005.

Please make reservations early because there will be no guarantee that rooms will be available after July 1 due to the busy summer season.

Transportation

Air service to Biloxi, MS is provided by the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport (www.gulfcoast.org/gpt). The approximate travel time from the airport to the hotel is 20 minutes. The *Coastliner* Airport Shuttle offers guests roundtrip ground transportation to and from the hotel for \$17. A listing of taxicabs and car rentals are listed on the airport website.

Registration

The registration fee is \$300 for meeting participants and \$100 for spouse/companions.

Single day registration for attendance on August 8, 9, 10, and 11 is \$100.

The deadline for meeting registration is July 1. ***Payments are to be made by checks only.*** Please make checks payable to "National Plant Board – Mississippi".

There will be a \$50 late fee for registrations received after July 1.

Temperature

HOT!!! In August, the average high temperature is in the 90's while the average lows are in the 70's. The humidity will range from 70 to 80 percent. Detailed weather information can be found at WLOX-Weather (www.wlox.com).

Events

On Sunday evening there will be a welcome reception at the Beau Rivage and Monday evening there will be a "Southern Style" reception on the grounds of a local historical site featuring the local cuisine of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Spouses and families will have the opportunity to visit local attractions during the scheduled meeting sessions. There will be an individual specifically located at the registration table to assist with the above.

Door Prize Certificates

If you would like to donate a prize to be raffled off to meeting registrants, please fill out and return the enclosed form.

We look forward to your attendance and participation. If you have any questions, please contact Harry Fulton Harry@mdac.state.ms.us or Laura Vollor LauraV@mdac.state.ms.us or call 662-325-8396