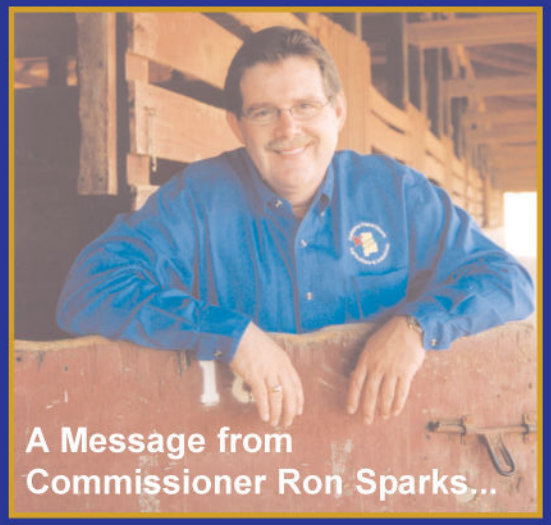

A Message from Commissioner Ron Sparks...

As Commissioner, my goal is to serve the farmers and consumers of this state to the best of my abilities. Farmers work hard every day to provide our nation with the safest, most abundant and affordable food supply in the world. Our department has a responsibility to help the few family farmers that remain in business in any way that we can.

This department also has a tremendous responsibility to consumers. Our inspectors and lab personnel work hard every day to increase consumer confidence in the safety of our food supply. The work of this department touches the life of every person in the state each day. We consider it a privilege to work for the people of Alabama, and if there is anything this department can do to better serve you, please contact us.

Ron

Accounting	240-7110
Ag Compliance	240-7182
Ag Economist	240-7245
Ag Protection	240-7249
Ag Statistics	279-3555
Alabama Chemical Lab (Auburn)	844-5244
Animal Industry	240-7255, Ext 2
Auburn Pesticide Residue Lab	844-4705
Auburn Veterinarian Diagnostic Lab	844-4987
Audits & Reports	240-7122
Boaz Veterinarian Diagnostic Lab	256/593-2995
Center for Alternative Fuels	240-7287
Center for Rural Alabama	240-7272
Commissioner's Office	240-7100
Elba Veterinarian Diagnostic Lab	897-8813
Emergency Preparedness	240-6596
Fairview Farmers Market	263-7759
Food & Drug Lab	240-7155
Food Safety	240-7202
Garrett Coliseum	242-5597
Gins & Warehouses	240-7183
Hanceville Veterinarian Diagnostic Lab	256/352-8036
Information Technology	240-7200
International Trade & Market Development	240-7311
Investigations	240-7208
Legal Services	240-7117
Market News	240-7180
Meat Inspection	240-7210
Personnel	240-7120
Pesticide Management	240-7239
Pesticide Testing	240-7243
Petroleum Commodities	240-7127
Plant Protection	240-7225
Public Information/Press Office	240-7103
Public Relations & Farmers Bulletin	240-7125
Seed Lab	240-7140
Shipping Point	240-7231
State Farmers Market Federal Drive	242-5350
State Veterinarian	240-7255, Ext 1
Stockyards & Brands	240-7263
Weights & Measures	240-7133

(Area Code 334 unless otherwise noted)

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Serving Alabama's Farmers and Consumers

Ron Sparks
Commissioner

The Richard Beard Building
1445 Federal Drive
Montgomery, Alabama 36107
(334) 240-7100

www.agi.alabama.gov

Farmer and Consumer Services

• **Alabama Chemical Lab (Auburn)** - is responsible for performing analytical determinations on feeds, fertilizers and liming materials marketed in Alabama.

• **Ag Compliance** - inspects and enforces all laws pertaining to feed, seed, and fertilizer, audits all public warehouses and grain dealers and inspects all cotton gins.

• **Ag Protection** - provides outreach, marketing, mediation services, market news, assists farmers markets, and collaborates with land grant universities, farmer organizations, USDA, and others to improve agricultural production.

• **Ag Statistics** - gathers, analyzes, and publishes statistics on most Alabama agricultural commodities.

• **Animal Industry** - is responsible for protecting the health of livestock and poultry in Alabama by administering programs to prevent, control, and eradicate diseases.

• **Auburn Pesticide Residue Lab** - protects the public health by testing eggs, milk, poultry, beef, fish, fruit, vegetables, water, soil, and value added foods for the presence of harmful pesticide residues.

• **Audits and Reports** - issues permits and licenses, conducts audits and collects fees for the Cooperative Marketing Associations, the commodity check-off programs, manufacturers of feed, fertilizer, and liming materials.

• **Center for Alternative Fuels** - assesses the current status and development of sources of alternative fuels. Acts as an information clearinghouse for available federal grant funds and provides information regarding these grants to those interested in developing sources of alternative fuels. Promotes alternative fuels as a viable energy source in the state and ensures that alternative fuels sold in Alabama meet American Society of Testing and Materials standards.

• **Center for Rural Alabama** - develops, promotes and implements strategies to improve the quality of life in rural Alabama. This provides a venue for members of agriculture and natural resource-based industries, health care, education, economic and community development organizations, businesses, financial institutions, non-profits and governmental agencies to share information and exchange ideas to address special needs and opportunities in rural Alabama.

• **Emergency Preparedness** - manages all preparedness activities for agriculture, including disease outbreaks in plants/animals, food security threats, natural disasters, disaster animal sheltering, geographical information systems (GIS) and overall agriculture emergency management.

• **Farmers Markets** - the Fairview Avenue and Federal Drive locations in Montgomery provide "Alabama A+" farm fresh produce to the public.

• **Food & Drug Lab** - analyzes foods and over the counter drugs from the retail market to ensure the consumer of a safe and wholesome food supply.

• **Food Safety** - assures the quality and safety of food products for Alabama consumers.

• **International Trade and Market Development** - provides outreach and assistance to Alabama agribusinesses interested in prospecting the global marketplace as well as developing additional sales of Alabama value added products within our state and across the nation.

• **Investigations** - investigates cases involving missing or stolen livestock, stolen farm equipment, improper disposal of dead poultry, and improper burial of dead livestock, and issues quarantines on livestock.

• **Market News** - provides unbiased livestock feedstuff and production cost market information for farmers/ranchers, interested parties, and industries.

• **Meat Inspection** - inspects meat and meat food products prior to slaughter, during slaughter, and during the process of preparing these products for human consumption. Assures consumers that when products leave the processing plant they are clean, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled.

• **Pesticide Management & Professional Services** - regulates and educates individuals or companies that: sell, use, or supervise the use of restricted use pesticides, engage in the commercial application of pesticides, and structural pest control and horticultural activities. Registers all pesticide products, permits all categories of pesticide applicators as well as issues business licenses for professional services companies. Offers environmental protection programs.

• **Petroleum Commodities** - collects inspection fees on all petroleum products sold in Alabama.

• **Plant Protection** - protects Alabama's native flora and commercially grown plants by inspecting and licensing live plant growers and plant dealers, conducting early detection surveys for harmful plant pests and noxious weed introductions through Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys (CAPS), and protecting Alabama's beekeeping industry.

• **Public Relations** - provides information to the public pertaining to agriculture, including the ***Alabama Farmers and Consumers Bulletin***

• **Seed Laboratory** - performs purity and germination tests on seeds for Alabama farmers, home gardeners, and seed samples collected by department inspectors.

• **Shipping Point** - is responsible for peanut inspection; grain inspection and weighing, aflatoxin analysis, and fruit, vegetable, and tree nut inspection.

• **State Veterinarian** - administers extensive programs of prevention, control and eradication of livestock and poultry diseases through Animal Industries, Vet Diagnostic Labs, and Meat Inspection

• **Stockyards and Brands** - issues permits, licenses, and certificates for livestock markets, livestock dealers, livestock weighers, and livestock brands.

• **Veterinary Diagnostic Labs** - provides diagnosis and surveillance of diseases of livestock, poultry, wildlife, and companion animals. Locations in Auburn, Boaz, Elba & Hanceville.

• **Weights & Measures** - tests the accuracy of vehicle scales, large capacity scales such as platform scales, stockyard scales, hopper scales and monorail scales and checks proposed sites for new scale installations as well as the accuracy of small capacity weighing and measuring devices such as supermarket scales, gasoline pumps, feed, seed and fertilizer scales, and universal price code scanners.