



Lea Bell of Bell Dental Clinic is officially open in her Durant location to serve the dental needs of western Holmes County. Bell Dental Clinic held its ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 30 at 360 East Mulberry Street. Pictured above are (from left): Dan Howard, DMD, Brooke Bell, Hannah Suratt Johnson, Lea Bell, Sherry Goss, Samantha Giles, Breann Bell and Blake Bell. Lea also operates Bell Dental Clinic in Lexington. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

*Plantings

(Continued from page 1.) national crop may be down 1.16 million acres for a total of almost 89 million acres.

Extension soybean specialist Trent Irby said he did not expect a major change in planted acreage compared to last year for the state's largest crop. Commodity prices will usually dictate any major shifts in soybean planting decisions. Planting began one to two weeks ahead of normal, and most soybeans will go into the ground in April and May, depending on weather conditions.

"Soybean growers had a record-breaking state average yield of 53 bushels per acre last year, thanks to weather conditions that allowed for early planting and favorable rainfall through much of the growing season as well as overall good crop management," Irby said.

Williams said Greenville soybeans are trading at \$10.04 per bushel, compared to \$9.36 a year ago at this time.

"The main driver behind this is continued strong export demand for soybeans," he said. "We should see a few more acres of soybeans this year for a couple of reasons. First, soybeans have seen more strength in the markets due to the strong demand, but also soybeans are a lower-cost crop to produce. The low cost of production makes soybeans look more favorable when margins are tight to begin with."

Corn... USDA predicts a national decline of 2.1 million acres of corn to 88 million acres. Mississippi acreage may be down 30,000

acres for a total of 490,000 acres.

Erick Larson, grain crops specialist with the MSU Extension Service, said considerable corn planting started the third week of March, especially in the Delta, or other regions that didn't get much rain the week prior.

"Farmers know early planting is key to high yields, but often struggle to make progress when spring rains keep fields too wet to plant," Larson said. "We had a favorable planting season in 2017, along with low nighttime temperatures and plenty of rain during the reproductive stages in June and July. All of those factors contributed to record corn yields last year."

Williams said Greenville cash corn is trading for \$3.81 per bushel compared to \$3.83 at this time a year ago, so prices are hovering at about the same level.

Rice... "On the other hand, rice prices are higher when compared to a year ago," Williams said. "Prices are trading just under \$12.50 per hundredweight compared to closer to \$9.50 a year ago at this time. As a result, I expect to see more rice planted this year compared to 2017."

USDA is forecasting 120,000 acres of rice in Mississippi, up 5,000 acres.

Bobby Golden, rice specialist at the MSU Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, said the 2017 rice yields were around 164 bushels per acre, just under the state record and one of the best years in the last few seasons.

"Most enthusiasm for rice is

likely coming from our success last year," Golden said. "Planting started about five days ahead of normal. Heavy rains could cause some significant planting delays."

Peanuts... Williams described predicting peanut acreage as "tricky," but he said the addition of a new cottonseed policy may be to blame for fewer acres available for peanuts.

USDA is forecasting 30,000 acres of peanuts in the state, down 14,000 acres or 32 percent. The national decline is 18 percent from 2017.

Grain sorghum... Grain sorghum, which is the last crop to be planted in the spring, will not see an increase this year. Low prices and production challenges have discouraged growers from planting grain sorghum in recent years. USDA estimates Mississippi farmers will plant 5,000 acres.

Sweet potatoes... Sweet potato acreage is level with 2017 at 30,000 acres. Nationally, acreage is down 2 percent.

Thank You

The family of Nathan Brown would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and food during our time of bereavement. We truly appreciate you all for the support you gave to us.

Mary Francis Brown and Family

Happy Anniversary

April 5 - Jimmy and Ina Rigby, Jim and Jan McCrory

April 6 - Jessie and Rhonda Young

April 7 - Scott and Margie Binegar

April 8 - David L. and Mary F. Meeks

April 9 - Bill and Tammie Burrell

April 10 - Jeff and Jerry James

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email to hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

Bridal Registry

Hallie Murtagh
Bailey Rutledge
May 25

Anna Weems
Reid Sumrall
June 2

Peoples Drug Store

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Harland Creek Community Water Association
will have its annual meeting
Monday, April 16, 2018, 7:00 P.M.
in the Coxburg Community Center.

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