

# THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



## Wicker Praises Farm Bill's Support for American Agriculture

Congress Passes Five-Year Reauthorization of Farming and Conservation Programs

In the late 1970s, radio broadcaster Paul Harvey delivered what would become a famous speech about farmers. He began by saying, "And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, 'I need a caretaker.' So God made a farmer." Harvey then described the hard work, long hours, strength, compassion, and resourcefulness that characterize a farmer.

### Bill Offers Farmers Critical Support, More Certainty

Many years later, those powerful lines would again capture audiences as part of a popular Super Bowl commercial. They still apply today, underscoring the importance of our farmers to our nation and the world. Because of U.S. farmers, consumers here at home and in distant places have access to the nourishment they need to keep themselves and their families healthy. American farms – including the more than 36,000 in our state – quite literally feed the world. Convenient food access can make it easy to overlook the incredible challenges for our farmers, including the constant risk of extreme weather or market instability. Massive drops in net farm income shed light on the struggles that farmers have dealt with in recent years.

The regulatory reforms of the Trump Administration have no doubt helped minimize some of these challenges, but Congress can do more. I am encouraged that the enactment of a five-year farm bill, titled the "Agriculture Improvement Act," is now within reach. The bill, which has also been passed by the House, would support programs that our farmers turn to when hurt by natural disasters or low commodity prices. It would strengthen public-private research partnerships. For rural communities in Mississippi and across the country, the bill would foster broadband deployment and better water infrastructure, strengthening local economies.

### Precision Agriculture Is Shaping Farms

### of the Future

Broadband expansion in our rural areas is imperative to our nation's agricultural productivity, now

and into the future. When equipped with a high-speed internet connection and a drone or sensor out in the field, our farmers have the capacity to know more information than ever before about their crops and their farmland. They can then use real-time data to guide their planning and operations, taking steps to mitigate costly risks and increase the chances of a positive

output.

Like any industry, unexpected circumstances are bound to happen. However, advancements in groundbreaking technology like precision agriculture can help position our farmers to be prepared and informed. I am glad my colleagues agreed and have included my "Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act" as a provision.

This measure – like the entire farm bill – recognizes the need to invest now if we want to prepare for the demands of a rapidly growing global population. Specifically, my provision would set a goal for 95 percent of cropland and rangeland to have broadband by 2025, and it would task the Federal Communications Commission and the De-

partment of Agriculture to help meet it.

The United States remains the world's leading agricultural exporter, and major agricultural states like Mississippi help drive this success. We all share a stake in ensuring that our farmers do well, making the farm bill's passage into law a matter of both national and international importance.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**3 CEMETERY PLOTS** in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Lexington, known as Lot No. 606 in the 1967 Addition. Includes a Trust Receipt, No. 376, held in trust by the City of Lexington with the interest to be used for the upkeep and maintenance of Lot 606. Call Bruce Hill at 662-417-9944 to arrange for transfer of Trust Receipt and warranty deed for Lot 606. \$1500 total. 2-1ftfn

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**HOUSE FOR SALE: 252** Old Balance Due Road, Lexington, MS 39095. The house has 3 bedrooms, 2 bath rooms, den, living room, dining room and kitchen. The house has a two car carport and covered front porch with swing and two matching chairs. The house also has front and rear security doors with a home security system and metal roof. The house

is in the Watson Addition Subdivision. The house is fully furnished some furnishing is included in the sale price of the home. Directions: Traveling on Highway 17, make a left turn if traveling North at the traffic light at Holmes County Central High School and keep straight until you reach 252 Old Balance Due Road across from Brozville Road, Lexington, MS. Residence is a white and maroon house located on the left side of the road. House shown by appointment only on Saturday's and Sunday's, call Larry Edwards 601-813-7853 or email LarryEdwards405@gmailcom 6-28;7-5,12,19p

The Town of Goodman is currently seeking applicants for the Water and Sewer Maintenance Department. The applicant must have a current and valid MS Driver's License. Work experience preferred:

- 5-7 years in water and sewer line repair and maintenance
- Road and street maintenance
- Drainage maintenance
- Equipment operation
- Hand tools
- Repair parts knowledge
- Ability to read construction plans

Applications are available at Goodman Town Hall Monday-Thursday from 8am-5pm. The Town of Goodman is an equal opportunity employer.

## POLICE OFFICER DURANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

The successful candidate will be dedicated to protecting the safety of the citizens of Durant, and keeping law and order in the community.

Applicants must:

- be at least 21 years old
- possess a valid Mississippi driver's license
- high school graduate
- be a certified officer in good standing with Mississippi Minimum Standards & Training
- be able to pass extensive criminal and personal background check
- have excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- have a high level of physical fitness
- be of good character
- be proficient in various computer programs

Applications can be picked up at Durant City Hall Monday – Friday 8 am - 5 pm. Deadline for applications is July 6, 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact Durant City Hall at 662-653-3314.

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Week of July 08, 2018