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MEDIA ADVISORY:

Agri-Business Marketing Conference set for March 19
La. Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry Mike Strain to Speak

ELTON, LOUISIANA (March 13, 2013) – The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana’s Department of Commerce, along with the Imperial Calcasieu Resource Conservation and Development Council, will present a major Agri-Business Marketing Conference on Tuesday, March 19. This half-day conference will take place at the Coushatta Multi-Purpose Complex, 1974 C.C. Bel Road, in Elton, La. It will feature sessions on a variety of topics, including agricultural trends in Southwest Louisiana; farmers’ markets; agricultural tourism and marketing; the Coushatta Tribe’s hydroponic gardening project and Longleaf Pine tree farming operation; and successful 4-H and Future Farmers of America efforts in Allen Parish and Jeff Davis Parish. Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry Dr. Mike Strain is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the event.

Other speakers will include Stacy L. Leeds, Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas School of Law; Gardner Rose, Natural Resources Manager for the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana; and Dr. Carrie Castille, Associate Commissioner for
Governmental Affairs and Science Advisor with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The full conference agenda is attached below.

**Details**

**What:** Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Agri-Business Marketing Conference

**When:** Tuesday, March 19, 2013
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Lunch served during Keynote Address at Noon.

**Where:** Coushatta Multi-Purpose Complex
1974 C.C. Bel Road,
Elton, La.

Attendance is open to the public, but registration is required and the cost is $10 per attendee. To register, visit [http://coushattaagribusiness.eventbrite.com](http://coushattaagribusiness.eventbrite.com) or contact Shana Harmon of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Department of Commerce at 337-584-1435 or shanajohn@CoushattaTribeLA.org.

**Agri-Business Marketing Conference Agenda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>Coushatta Multipurpose Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Welcome and Conference Overview                   | David Sickey, Council Member
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana |
|                  | Prayer                                            | Bertney Langley, Executive Administrator
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Heritage
Department |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Coushatta Tribe Hydroponic Farming Program        | Gardner Rose, Natural Resources Manager
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana |
| 9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. | Coushatta Tribe Longleaf Pine Restoration Project | Gardner Rose, Natural Resources Manager
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana |
| 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative       | Stacy L. Leeds, Dean and Professor of Law
University of Arkansas, School of Law |
<p>| 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Networking Break                                 |                                               |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Regional Agri-Tourism Opportunities</td>
<td>Dr. Carrie Castille, Associate Commissioner Governmental Affairs &amp; Science Advisor Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Louisiana Market Maker</td>
<td>Todd Cooper, Extension Associate Department of Ag Economics &amp; Agribusiness LSU AgCenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Financial Assistance Available Through USDA - FSA Programs</td>
<td>Wendell Bertrand, Farm Loan Manager USDA - Farm Service Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Commodity Loans and Insurance for Non-Insurable Crops</td>
<td>Beau Fontenot, County Executive Director Jefferson Davis Parish – Farm Service Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Assistance Available for Small Farmers Through NRCS Programs</td>
<td>Randolph Joseph, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Current Status of Agricultural Education</td>
<td>Dr. Chip LeMieux, Department Head Department of Agriculture McNeese State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m. – 12:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Introduction of Keynote Speaker</td>
<td>David Sickey, Council Member Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Regional Agriculture and Forestry Opportunities in Louisiana</td>
<td>Mike Strain, DVM, Commissioner Louisiana Department of Agriculture &amp; Forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:05 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
<td>David Sickey, Council Member Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana</td>
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1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Guided bus tour of Coushatta Hydroponics Greenhouse, Longleaf Ridge, Cattle Program, and Crawfish Farm.

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About the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana

The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana was officially recognized by the Federal government in 1973 and marked a major turning point in tribal history in 1985 with the election by popular vote of the first Coushatta tribal government.

From their earliest days as a proud, hard-working people struggling to maintain long-standing traditions in the face of possible relocation, the Coushatta Indians have endured and overcome every hardship they have faced and have remained on tribal lands in and around Elton, Louisiana, since the 1800s. Despite serious setbacks and some population dispersal, the tribe’s character and ideals have not only held fast, but have been strengthened. The Coushatta language, Koasati, is now considered unique among Native Americans because it has survived in its purest form and is still spoken fluently in the Coushatta community today.

The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana owns and operates Coushatta Casino Resort, which employs more than 2,700 area residents. For more information, visit www.coushattatribela.org.