

May 23, 2001

TO: Governor Musgrove

FROM: John Sewell

RE: Delta Council / Meeting with USDA Secretary Ann Veneman

I did not have an event sheet for this meeting. The only information Shanta had to share with me was the attached agenda. She has spoken with Debbie Keen and was told you will be reading the proclamation after a slide show, and just prior to Secretary Veneman's remarks.

A bio on Secretary Veneman is attached FYI.

Michael Boyd forwarded a list of policy points for discussion with Secretary Veneman:

- Develop a fairer Federal Farm Bill in 2002 that supports our family farms and provides better opportunities for our farmers to succeed (I have attached an editorial column from Tuesday's *Clarion-Ledger* on the '96 farm bill that was supposed to end farm subsidies).
  - You should ask to be involved in the development of the 2002 farm bill
- Increase funding for biotechnology research, especially for crop production and pharmaceuticals
- Expand overseas markets for agricultural trade, including Cuba
- Increase research funding for biomass energy production
  - Biomass is organic non-fossil material of biological origin constituting a renewable energy source (i.e., waste wood products, sugar cane bagasse, animal wastes, ethanol, biogas from landfills and sewage treatment facilities).

Boyd also suggested mentioning the Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources Board established as part of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative.

