



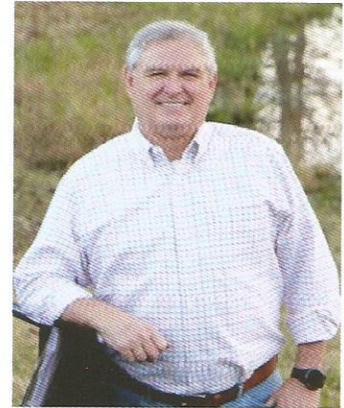
Rick Pate
Commissioner

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & INDUSTRIES

1445 Federal Drive • Montgomery, Alabama 36107-1123

Dear Horsemen, Guests and Participants,

Welcome to Montgomery, Alabama, and to the highly anticipated Annual Alabama Open Horseman Association (AOHA) State Championship Show!



Alabama's horse industry is one of the strongest in the Southeast, contributing more than \$2 billion to our state's economy and supporting thousands of jobs. I am proud that AOHA hosts one of the largest and most competitive horse shows east of the Mississippi River. Montgomery becomes the annual gathering place for the state's finest four-legged athletes and talented riders, all competing for some of the most prestigious titles in the region.

As Commissioner of Agriculture, I want to thank every competitor, trainer and family member for your dedication, discipline and passion. It's because of you that this show continues to thrive showcasing everything that makes Alabama's equine industry strong. If I or the Department of Agriculture & Industries can ever assist you, please don't hesitate to contact us at 334-240-7100.

It is our honor to support the AOHA State Championship Show. I wish each of you the best of luck as you compete in the 39th Annual AOHA Championship Show. May your rides be smooth, your horses steady and your experience unforgettable.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Rick Pate