



Jamaica Agricultural Society

Empowering the Agricultural Sector since 1895

the field

NEWSLETTER

“CULTIVATING INSIGHT, ONE ISSUE AT A TIME”



Featured

- 130TH ANNIVERSARY
- FARMERS MONTH
- DENBIGH SHOW
- JAS IN THE MEDIA

The Minister's Message



Honourable Floyd Green - Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Mining

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining is pleased to embark on a new era of Agriculture, one of transformation and resilience. As we embark on this journey together, I am happy to see improved communication among our agencies and we continue to share our success stories. Amidst challenges, concerns, and an ever-changing landscape, the launch of **'The Field'** is a reminder to us that we are still harvesting hope. As a Ministry, we remain focused on supporting our sector through policies that encourage investment, modernization, and the adoption of climate-smart practices.

Food security, climate resilience, and youth engagement are part of our movement to establish a new F.A.C.E. of food in our country.

As we look ahead, I urge all of us to continue working together to ensure that agriculture is not only a source of livelihood but a source of national pride. While we continue to eat Jamaican, let us also aim² to build Jamaica.

The Presidents' Message



Mr. Owen Dobson

Hello Readers!

I am elated to see the launch of **'The Field' Newsletter**. Created for us, by us, to share our success stories with all of you. A part of my mission as President is to improve communication among all branches.

In our mission to empower, inspire and advocate for our nations' food heroes, we are also dedicated to creating better opportunities for them. I want to take a moment to thank my team, and every ABS for your continued commitment to the work we do together. I have always believed that agriculture is more than just planting and reaping; it's a way of life rooted in stewardship, resilience, and community.

The challenges we face, from unpredictable weather patterns to changing market demands, they all require us to stay informed and adaptable.

This edition of **'The Field'** is filled with our success stories as an organization. I encourage you to take a few moments to explore what the JAS is doing and consider how you might bring new ideas to your own work.

Thank you for the vital role you play in shaping the future of agriculture. Together, we grow stronger, while we grow what we eat, and eat what we grow.

The CEO's Message

"A strong Jamaica needs a strong JAS", is a statement I find myself saying quite frequently. Not only because it is true, but as a reminder to myself and the entire organization that our mission is a great one that requires constant action.



Mr. Derron Grant, J.P.

As we launch **'The Field'**, I applaud our work and encourage us all to press forward, keep pushing boundaries and striving for more. Since farmers' month, we have been highlighting the work of our food heroes, and we continue to cater to them, from agriculture shows to our upcoming Annual General Meetings. We want to ensure that the men and women at the heart of the agricultural industry are well taken care of. As this year continues, I commend the JAS for 130 years of dedicated service and unwavering grit, and implore us to be adaptable and receptive to change and transformation, as in this way, we will be able to renew our efforts to combat the issues we face. While we prepare for our upcoming events, I am confident that they will be better than ever before, with the help of each and every one of you. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to accomplishing our goals, together.



Jamaica Agricultural Society

the field

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Jamaica Agricultural Society Newsletter, your go-to source for recaps, updates, insights, and news in the organization. At the JAS, we're dedicated to providing the best support to our farmers, and advocating for their rights even after 130 years. #JASStrong!

**"EMPOWERING
FARMERS SINCE 1895"**

April was celebrated as Farmers' Month, under the theme, "Celebrating our Food Heroes". As such, the month saw the JAS hosting events that catered specifically to our farmers. Here is a recap of some of these events in case you missed them, as well as a little reminder if you were there!

'THANK A FARMER' CAMPAIGN AND FARMERS' MONTH LAUNCH

This year, Farmers' Month kicked off with a twist. For the first time, Farmers' Month had its very own campaign, dubbed **'Thank A Farmer'**. This was dedicated to truly giving back to the ones who feed us, and in the words of our Honorable Minister, Floyd Green, "every month is farmers' month".

Take a look at some photo highlights >



"CELEBRATING OUR FOOD HEROES"



Jamaica Agricultural Society

Celebrating **130** *Years*

The Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) is proud to celebrate 130 years of service to our nations; food heroes. Formed in 1895 under the instruction of the then Governor General of Jamaica, Sir Henry Blake the JAS was born to stimulate interest of all categories of farmers in the island in agricultural pursuits, and to establish a forum where all farmers could meet, discuss their problems to initiate plans, elect officers and to do all other things necessary for the welfare of the farming community. It is the oldest most deeply rooted organization in rural agricultural development in the Caribbean. In 1941, the JAS was incorporated as a private voluntary organization. Today, we have a stronghold in every parish, creating a field for farmers to better our nation.

#JASstrong



Key take-aways from the **SECTORAL** **PRESENTATION**

<p>JAS farm stores expansion! Major upgrades to Kingston store and new stores in Manchester & Trelawny All to give registered farmers better access to supplies at lower prices!</p>	<p>\$1Billion start-up fund to launch the Agricultural Workers' Pension Scheme</p>	<p>No restrictions on buying, selling, eating & possessing legally caught spiny lobster during the closed season (fishing still prohibited)!</p>
<p>\$7.5M to support our farmers and fishers, accessing further coverage under the GK insurance scheme.</p>		<p>Under the CARICOM/New Zealand BOOST cold storage project we are establishing renewable energy powered cold storage in Flagaman and Pedro Plains.</p>
<p>Special Agricultural Economic Zone Initiative will designate zones for large-scale agricultural investments supported by targeted tax breaks, structures and incentives.</p>		<p>In 2025/2026, RADA will rehab 60 roads for \$855M and maintain 15 more for \$45M improving access for farmers across Jamaica!</p>
<p>A new model aquaculture park in Mitchell Town, set to become the Caribbean Aquaculture Centre.</p>		<p>Over 250 top-quality dairy cows will be imported under a \$300M programme to boost milk production and improve genetics. PLUS, we're expanding beef production, for local use and regional export!</p> <p>Introducing 3 high-yield, disease-resistant varieties from Cuba: FHIA1, FHIA4 & Formosana, strong against TR4 disease!</p>

FARMERS' MONTH EVENTS

Here are a few highlights from April events including the following events:

- 1.Montpelier Agricultural Show
- 2.St. Mary Agri Expo
- 3.Farmers Market
- 4.Westmoreland Farmers' Month Church Service
- 5.Clarendon Farmers' Month Run/Walk

Honorable mention goes to Manchester for hosting for the first time in the parish, a **Food Festival!**





Thank A Farmer' **HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR**

The 'Thank A Farmer' Health & Wellness Fair was held for the very first time and was a success! This event featured over 18 exhibitors that catered to our farmers. It was a day of fun and festivities, designed to show appreciation to the men and women who continue to toil for our sake, the ones who feed us. From health checks, to massages, food, games, and jokes, our farmers were all smiles!



AT HI-PRO FARMING IS IN OUR DNA



LET'S
GET IT DONE
TOGETHER

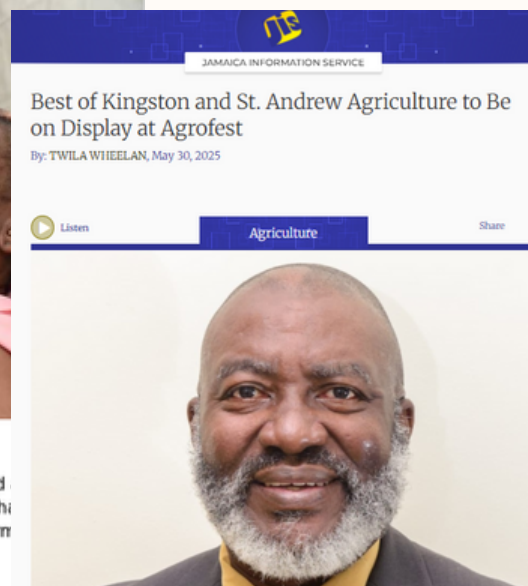
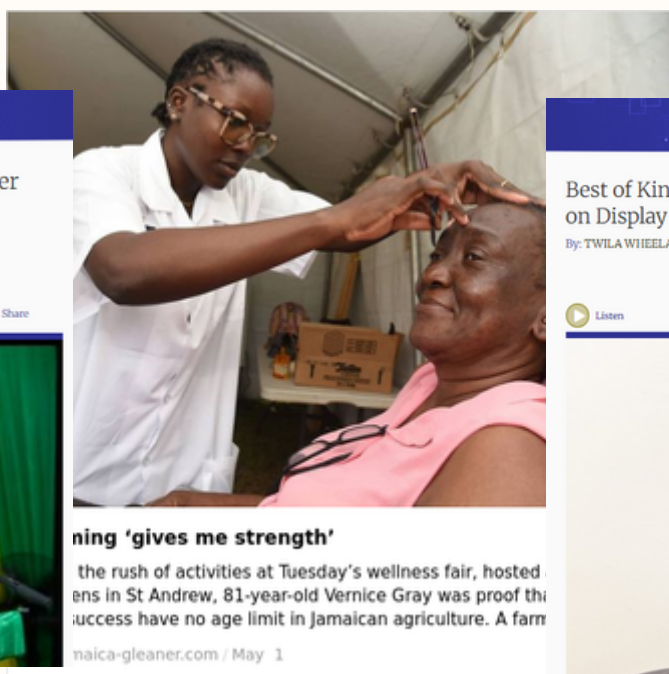
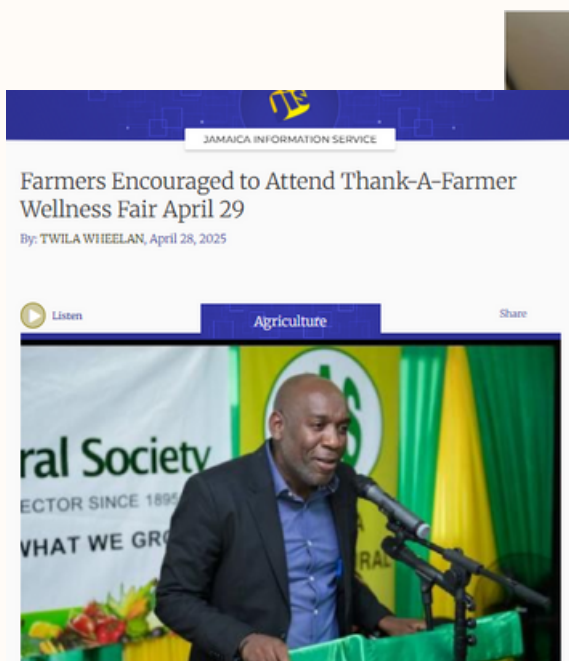
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The JAS in the Media

April 2025

Breaking News

The Jamaica Agricultural Society was featured a number of times in the media for the work we have been doing. As part of our mission to be the voice of our farmers, we have been working to ensure that our initiatives are reaching the eyes and ears of the nation. You can take a look!





AGRO-INVEST
JAMAICA'S AGRIBUSINESS AGENCY

Breaking New Ground: 50 Acres at Parnassus Agro Park Now Open to JAS Members

Agro-Investment Corporation and Jamaica Agricultural Society Forge Landmark Partnership



The Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS), in collaboration with the Agro-Investment Corporation (Agro-Invest), is proud to announce a major new opportunity for its members, with access to 50 acres of irrigated farmland within the newly launched Parnassus Agro Park in Clarendon.

This first-of-its-kind collaboration between JAS and Agro-Invest is designed to give qualified JAS members formal access to prime agricultural land, complete with infrastructure, technical support, and market linkages. The initiative aligns with national priorities to increase local food production, create rural employment, and build a new generation of Agri-entrepreneurs.

Developed under the Southern Plains Agricultural Development Project (SPADP), the Parnassus Agro Park is a key zone for increasing national food production, creating rural jobs, and empowering local farmers with infrastructure, technical training, and market opportunities.



World Milk Day

June 1, 2025

On World Milk Day, we're celebrating the greatness of dairy and the hardworking hands that bring it from farm to table. Let's honour our farmers, recognize the value of local dairy, and share the joy of milk with the world.





**NATIONAL
FISHERIES
AUTHORITY**

International **Fisherman's Day** *Celebration*



**“Empowering our Fishers, Ensuring
our Future”**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

10am, Folly Cricket Oval, Portland

14

<https://www.fisheries.gov.jm>



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES & MINING



Jamaica Agricultural Society



**“A New Era: Overcoming challenges,
building resilience, securing our
future”**

**August 1-3
Denbigh Showgrounds,
Clarendon**



Featuring:

- Agricultural Displays
 - Parish Pavilion Display Competition
 - Children & Family Village
 - National Farm Queen Competition
 - Livestock Competition
 - Ornamental Village
 - Jamaica 4-H Clubs Youth in Agriculture Village
 - Health & Wellness Village
- and more!*

In Other NEWS

Strawberry Cluster **OPEN DAY**

Four farms, united to innovate and transform farming in Jamaica, through climate-smart technology. This initiative, championed by our very own CEO, Derron Grant, is also endorsed by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) who through their BIGEE Grant has created an avenue for businesses to thrive.

Synergy Business Solutions, Abbey Garden Farm, The Jikoni Table of Jamaica Ltd. and Adams Valley Farm were able to secure the BIGEE Grant and have been reaping their rewards. Through their greenhouses, they are utilizing climate-smart technology to impact their production. Here's to revolutionizing farming through technology!





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- ✓ Right place

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Upcoming events

MAY
30

**HANOVER
AGRICULTURAL
SHOW**

Watson Taylor Park

JULY
9

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Denbigh Showground

MAY
31

**KINGSTON & ST.
ANDREW
AGROFEST**

Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries
& Mining Playfield

AUGUST
1-3

**DENBIGH
AGRICULTURAL,
INDUSTRIAL &
FOOD SHOW**

Denbigh Showground

JUNE
29

**WESTOMORELAND
AGRICULTURAL
SHOW**

Bay Road Sports
Complex

**FROM THE
DESK OF THE
PR OFFICER**



**FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR TO
BE FEATURED, CONTACT:**

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