

Tuskegee University



One Hundredth Annual Farmers Conference

“100 Years of Progressive Agriculture: Setting the Pace for a New Century”

**February 11-12, 1992
Tuskegee University**

Souvenir Book
with photographs from the Tuskegee University Archives

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY



One Hundredth Annual Farmers Conference

*“100 Years of Progressive Agriculture:
Setting the Pace for a New Century”*

February 11-12, 1992

**Sponsored by the Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension and Continuing Education Programs,
and the School of Agriculture and Home Economics**

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Tuskegee University

Founded by Booker T. Washington



Office of the President

February 4, 1992

GREETINGS!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Centennial Celebration of the Farmers Conference on the campus of Tuskegee University. The theme, "100 Years of Progressive Agriculture: Setting the Pace for a New Century," stresses our commitment to continue the legacy of Booker T. Washington in providing education and helpful techniques for the masses through outreach and service.

The first Annual Farmers Conference was held at Tuskegee University in February of 1892 and was attended by approximately 500 farmers who were looking for solutions to agricultural and community problems. Although the problems 100 years later take on a different scope in terms of their nature and the techniques and procedures for resolving them, they are still in many ways the same--survival and growth in economically difficult times. I know that each of you will bring important insights and suggestions.

The general sessions and workshops have been designed with care to address the concerns of rural development and its revitalization. We sincerely hope that you will enjoy the sessions and that you will have an opportunity to tour our historic campus--the old and the new.

Again, welcome to Tuskegee University and the Annual Farmers Conference. I trust that what you experience here will send you back to your respective areas motivated to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Benjamin F. Payton
President



STATE OF ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tuskegee University was founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington with an appropriation from the Alabama Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Tuskegee University is best known for its agricultural research, its extension work through the preeminent work of Dr. George Washington Carver whose use of the Jessup Wagon, a school on wheels, was the forerunner of the Extension Program as we know it today; and

WHEREAS, the campus staff and faculty of Tuskegee continue in the tradition of Dr. George Washington Carver, having received many citations and awards for their excellence; and

WHEREAS, the applied agricultural acumen of Dr. George Washington Carver virtually revolutionized agriculture, not only in the South, but also worldwide, and many still benefit from his endeavors; and

WHEREAS, through the work of Drs. Washington and Carver, Tuskegee University has extended its service to add night classes in 1883, the start of extension and demonstration classes in rural communities in 1885, and the Annual Farmers Conference in 1892; and

WHEREAS, in February of 1992, Tuskegee University will show special acknowledgement to the Centennial Year of the Farmers Conference; and

WHEREAS, the 1992 Farmers Conference will acknowledge not only 100 years of service, but also will redefine the purpose of the Agricultural Outreach of Tuskegee University for the next century; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Tuskegee University is to serve, instruct and perform research for the betterment of its students and for overall preparation for movement into the 21st century and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the centennial celebration is "100 Years of Progressive Agriculture: Setting the Pace for a New Century;" and

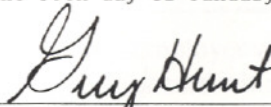
WHEREAS, Tuskegee University, through its present and future efforts, will continue to positively impact the quality of life for rural Americans:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Guy Hunt, Governor of the State of Alabama, do hereby proclaim February 12th, 1992 as

**Tuskegee University's Farmers Conference
Centennial Celebration Day**

in Alabama, in recognition of its contributions to agricultural rural development and commitment to service to all mankind.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND, and the Great Seal of the Governor's Office at the State House in the City of Montgomery on this the 30th day of January, 1992.


GUY HUNT





UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

HOWELL HEFLIN
ALABAMA

January 30, 1992

Congratulations!

I join your community and supporters in saluting the centennial celebration of the Annual Farmers Conference. Since 1892, the Farmers Conference has been an honorable forum for innovations and progress.

I regret that I cannot be there in person to congratulate you, but I wish the best of luck to all the future endeavors of the Farmers Conference.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howell Heflin".

Howell Heflin

Annual Farmers Conference
"100 Years of Progressive Agriculture"
Tuskegee, Alabama 36088

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250-0100

February 11, 1992

100th Annual Farmers Conference
Tuskegee University
Tuskegee, Alabama 36088

Dear Participants:


On behalf of President Bush and myself, it is a pleasure to send our warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to all of you taking part in the centennial celebration of the Annual Farmers Conference.

Progress, it has been said, begins a step at a time. And the house of success is built brick by brick. Since Booker T. Washington convened the first Annual Farmers Conference in 1892, many historic steps have been taken and bricks added to the foundation he raised.

Your accomplishments of the last century are both tangible and praiseworthy--and we salute you. The challenges of the next century are just as important and critical. It is heartening to know that each step taken toward tomorrow will be fueled by the inspiration you provide. And each brick added to those already in place will mark an important new success.

Again, congratulations on 100 years of achievement. And best wishes for a productive conference this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward Madigan".

Edward Madigan

LOUIS MAXWELL
PRESIDENT, CITY COUNCIL

ROBERT L. IVEY, JR.
PRESIDENT PROTEM, CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS
FRANK H. BENTLEY
ELRICK HARRIS
V. W. SHEPARD

CITY OF TUSKEGEE



JOHNNY FORD, MAYOR
TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA 36083
205/727-2180

February 4, 1992


Happy Centennial:

On behalf of the city council and all of the citizens of Tuskegee, we take this opportunity to extend our sincerest greetings on the occasion of the Centennial of the Annual Farmers Conference being held at Tuskegee University.

Your theme, "100 Years of Progressive Agriculture: Setting the Pace for a New Century" is very much appropriate as we move towards the year 2000. George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington, would be proud of the progress the annual conference has made over the last century in terms of serving as an enrichment experience for farmers who come from far and near to Tuskegee University for this annual event.

Again, our sincerest congratulations and we wish you the very best on the occasion of the celebration of your Centennial.

Sincerely,



Johnny Ford
Mayor

LINDA C. PACE
CITY CLERK - TREASURER

CAL WILSON
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

FRED D. GRAY
CITY ATTORNEY

J. B. WALKER
CHIEF, POLICE DEPT.

LUTHER CURRY
CHIEF, FIRE DEPT.

HATTIE M. KING
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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR &
BUILDING INSPECTION

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SUPT. SANITATION DEPT.
& STREET

ELESE DANIEL
ACTING DIRECTOR, RECREATION

JEANETTE ALEXANDER
DIR. SR. CITIZENS

JEROME MOORE
SUPT. CITY SHOP

JAMES C. B. SAMUEL
COMPTROLLER

**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
100th Annual
Farmers Conference**

Souvenir Book
February 1992

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Paul Young

This book is dedicated to
Dr. Bennie. D. Mayberry whose
contribution to this effort is
invaluable. As always, he is there
when we need him.

A special thank you to the
School of Veterinary Medicine.

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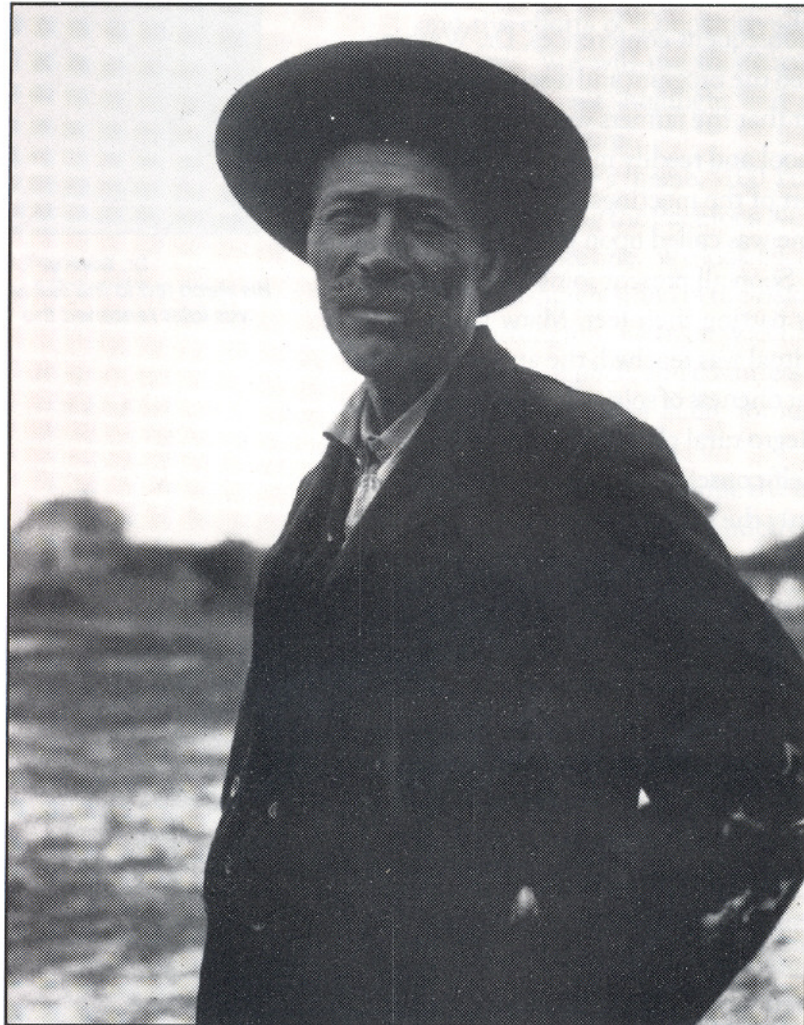
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L. Ballard-Staway 1992
Aldus Freehand 3.0



1892

"To Dr. Washington's surprise, this first conference brought five hundred farm people to Tuskegee Institute. To this gathering many came afoot. Great numbers, in order to be on time for the opening session, left home as early as midnight prior to the meeting, in various types of vehicles and conveyances, including wagons drawn by oxen.

At this and at subsequent conferences, Dr. Washington always conducted the program and discussions in such an informal manner that the farmers were assured of their welcome to the school and readily made to feel that they were an integral part of the meetings.

Usually someone was called upon to lead an old time plantation melody. Soon all present joined in, humming, nodding, and softly patting their feet. Many times when the climax of a spiritual was reached, the atmosphere was surcharged with that oneness of spirit which so completely characterizes the Negro rural church gathering. The constraints of fear and self-consciousness were swept away, and kindred souls felt only the stir of emotion which served to open their hearts and minds to the inspiration that was to follow.

Dr. Washington, in his tactful way of approaching the most delicate subjects, would launch into his program, calling the attention of the people to the vital facts affecting their lives, without offending or embarrassing them.

Of all the important events that crowded Dr. Washington's calendar as the years passed, none received more consideration, none was more important to him than the annual home-coming of the Negro farmers to Tuskegee. There was no group of people in the whole country whose cause lay nearer his heart than that of the Negro farmers."

**From the book *The Movable School Goes to the Negro Farmer* by Thomas Monroe Campbell,
Published by Tuskegee Institute Press, 1936**



Dr. Booker T. Washington
His vision led to the first Negro Conference which was later renamed the "Farmers Conference"



Farmers Conference Parade



Dr. Benjamin F. Payton
President of Tuskegee University

I am pleased to welcome you to this annual meeting of farmers, community leaders, rural ministers, professional agencies, and other persons who have a very special interest in improving the life and lifestyles of rural Americans. Today, Tuskegee University celebrates its 100th year observance of the Farmers Conference. This celebration marks a milestone for Tuskegee University and the efforts of Cooperative Extension over the last century. We will use this occasion in our history to review our past, highlight and assess our present, and project our future.

This year's theme, "100 Years of Progressive Agriculture: Setting the Pace for a New Century", is certainly an appropriate one. We look back with great pride in our accomplishments; and in the vision of our leaders, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Thomas Monroe Campbell, and countless others who did so much with so little for so many throughout the rural South, nation and world.

After 100 years, while the issues and problems may have changed, the basic underlying purpose of the conference remains the same. For we are still concerned about people's involvement in the identification and solutions of their own problems as we work together to improve the human condition.

Through its Cooperative Extension and Continuing Education programs, Tuskegee University, in partnership with other campus units and community agencies, has a commitment and mission to extend its knowledge to the larger community through its research, teaching and Extension programs. Our programs that address human capacity building, leadership development, alternative enterprises, youth at risk, water quality, and health, nutrition and family well being all attest to Tuskegee's continuing commitment to expand Extension's outreach to limited resource audiences, to ensure a healthy, productive and informed citizenry in the years ahead.

Many of you have been active participants in Farmers Conferences for many consecutive years. Congratulations are in order to you. Welcome to Tuskegee University and the centennial celebration of the Farmers Conference.

Velma L. Blackwell



Dr. Velma Blackwell
*Administrator, Cooperative Extension
Program and Associate Provost,
Continuing Education*

History

The First Tuskegee University Farmers Conference

February 1892

An excerpt from
The Role of Tuskegee University in the Origin, Growth and Development of the Negro Extension System: 1881-1990

by Dr. B. D. Mayberry



Dr. Washington's monthly group meetings led to the first annual Negro Farmers Conference which was held in early 1892. The aim of the conference was to bring together for a quiet conference—not the politicians—representatives of the common, hard working farmers and mechanics and the ministers and teachers. There were two objectives: first, to find out from the people, themselves, the facts as to their condition and to get their ideas for remedies; and secondly, to get information on how the young men and women now being educated could best use their education in helping the masses.

The first, "Annual Farmers Conference" was held at Tuskegee University in February, 1892, and was attended by approximately 500 farm people. Dr. Washington presided and gave those present the opportunity to present their problems and helped them find solutions to them. This conference became an annual affair which, in later years, attracted farmers and rural leaders from all parts of the South. This conference was the forerunner of the many modern farm congresses held at numerous agricultural colleges for both black and white people in various parts of the country.

The significance and achievements of this conference have been discussed by almost every writer or historian interested in documenting the evolution of the American agricultural extension system. It is safe to say that no writer who is

interested in and/or knowledgeable of Negro extension has failed to elaborate on the influence of the farmers conference idea initiated at Tuskegee University in 1892. Although many have written about the Tuskegee Farmers Conference, I quote one of the best known and most widely read historians on the question of agricultural development among Negroes, as well as others, Dr. Allen Jones of Auburn University, as published in *The Journal of Negro History* 60:252, April 1975:

On his many buggy trips into rural areas of Black Belt Alabama during the 1880's, Booker T. Washington witnessed the extreme poverty and ignorance of the black farmers who had never

enjoyed the benefits of education. Washington was impressed, however, by "the unusual amount of common sense displayed... (by) the uneducated black man in the South, especially the one living in the county district." Any people with such "natural sense," said Washington, "could be led to do a great deal towards their own elevation." Thus, he issued an invitation to about seventy-five "representatives of the masses—the bone and sinew of the race—the common, hard working farmers with a few of the best ministers and teachers" to come and spend the day of February 23, 1892, at a Negro Conference on the campus of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. The purpose of this meeting was to arouse public sentiment among the farmers and create among them a real interest in the common, mundane and practical affairs of life.

To this surprise of Washington, over 400 men and women, mostly farmers, "of all grades and conditions" attended the First Tuskegee Negro Conference. In

order to find out the "actual industrial, moral and educational conditions of the masses," delegates were urged to speak. They spent the morning telling about their problems of owning and renting land, living in one-room log cabins, mortgaging crops, paying debts, educating children, and living a moral and religious life. The farmers reported frankly and simply that four-fifths of them lived on rented land in small one-room cabins and mortgaged their crops for food on which to live. Their three-months schools were conducted in "churches or broken down log cabins or under a bush arbor."

The afternoon portion of the conference focused on remedies. After an extensive exchange of views on how "to lift themselves up in their industrial, education, moral and religious life," the delegates adopted a very optimistic ten point declaration which recognized the problems and evil conditions facing rural black people and pledged support to a program of self-improvement.

The declaration was in fact an address to the Negro farmers of the South advising them what to do, and such resolutions were adopted each year by the annual conference.

The 1892 conference was highly successful in focusing the attention of the poverty-stricken farmer upon the things they could do in their homes, on their farms, and in their schools and churches for self-improvement. The stories heard at the conference were carried home by the delegates and became a sort of oral literature that spread gradually over the entire black South. The conference drew praise from those farmers and teachers who attended. A teacher from Notasulga, Alabama wrote Washington that the conference had done "untold good...among the farmers" of his community and that it had "put new life in our Farmers Club...which had been disbanded ever since January 20, 1891." After promising to attend all future conferences at the Institute, the teacher described how his club had appointed a committee to visit the farmers in the district and "advise them to plant more corn, peas, and potatoes, and to find out, as nearly as possible, the true condition of the farms."

Washington was so overwhelmed by the success of the first Negro Conference that he established it as an annual affair. He saw its continuation as an "opportunity for service and a chance to build a personal machine of support for himself, his school and his cause." But to the black farmers of Alabama, the annual conference was a chance to come home every year "to the Tuskegee Mecca for a new baptism of thrift, industry, and the kindred virtues of sober, contented and decent living."

The second conference in February, 1893 was attended by some 800 persons representing almost every section of Alabama and the South. In 1894 and 1895 the attendance increased to over 1000 and by 1898 the attendance exceeded 2000. Because of the growing attendance, Washington held a two-day conference in 1894. The first day was the Farmers Conference and the second day was the Workers Conference that



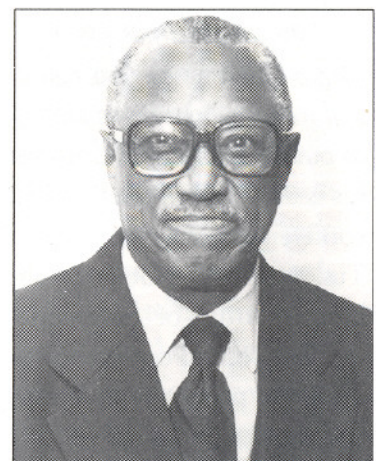
was composed of teachers from Negro institutions of higher education in the South. The expansion of the conference brought changes in the program: a portion of the meetings was devoted to a Women's Conference; prominent persons from throughout the country spoke at the conference; and an evening barbecue became a regular feature.

The Tuskegee Negro Conference was one of the most significant projects for black farmers that Washington inaugurated. It was the beginning of agricultural extension work among Negroes of the South, and out of it grew all of the other extension activities of Tuskegee Institute. The approval and the publicity given to the Negro conferences by both the Southern and Northern press were extremely helpful to Washington in his crusade to spread the "Tuskegee Idea."

From this central conference at Tuskegee grew a large number of state Negro conferences which were organized by black educational institutions from Virginia to Texas. There were hundreds of local conferences which sprang up in the

rural areas of Alabama and other states in the South. It is difficult to determine exactly how much the Negro conferences contributed to the progress of the black farmers in the South from 1892 until 1920, but it is a fact that during these three decades the number of blacks who owned farms more than doubled the value of their land and buildings from \$69,636,420 in 1900 to \$522,178,137 in 1920."

Mayberry, B. D. (1989) *The Role of Tuskegee University in the Origin, Growth and Development of the Negro Cooperative Extension System: 1881-1990*, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama, pages 39-41.



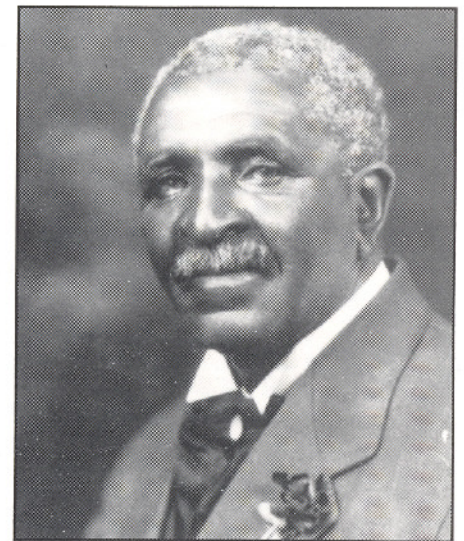
Dr. Bennie D. Mayberry

History

Chronology of the Farmers Conference and Associated Programs and Activities Including the Cooperative Extension Program and the Movable School

by Dr. B. D. Mayberry

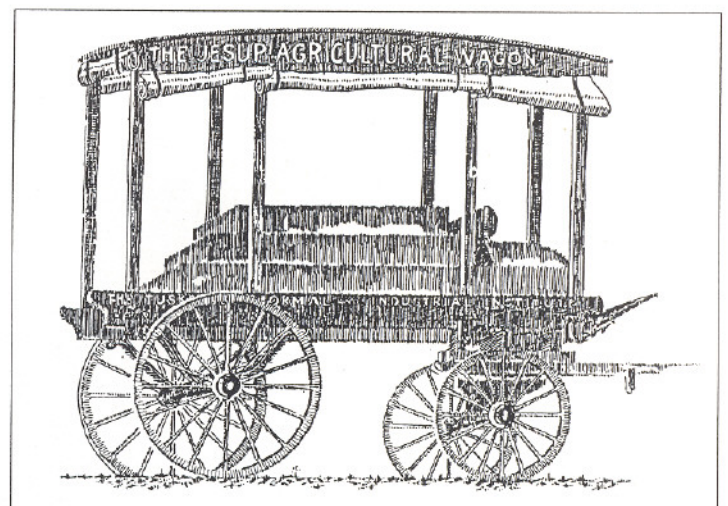
- 1881 Upon his arrival at Tuskegee Institute, Booker T. Washington immediately completed a needs assessment of the people and the communities in Macon County.
- 1888 Charles W. Green was appointed Farm Manager and Coordinator of Extension Activities.
- 1890 Booker T. Washington began holding farmers meetings on the campus once per month.
- Booker T. Washington organized an informal extension department.
- 1892 First Negro Conference (now Farmers Conference) was held.
- 1896 Department of Agriculture was established and George Washington Carver became the first head of this new department.
- George Washington Carver initiated the School on Wheels (later the Movable School) with a two-horse wagon.
- 1897 The Tuskegee Institute State Agricultural Experiment Station was established.
- November 11, 1897 the First Agricultural Farmers Institute was held.
- 1898 The United States Congress granted Tuskegee Institute 25,000 acres of land.
- 1903 George Washington Carver was invited to exhibit agricultural products from Tuskegee University in the Alabama State capitol.



Dr. George Washington Carver, 1864-1943

- 1904 Tuskegee Institute initiated short courses in Agriculture.

Booker T. Washington instructed George Washington Carver to design and build a more appropriate School on Wheels than the two-horse wagon. Meanwhile, Booker T. Washington solicited funds from Morris K. Jesup for its construction. Upon completion, it was named the Jesup Wagon.



George Washington Carver's original sketch of the Jesup Wagon

- 1906 The Jesup Wagon made its first farm visit.

Tuskegee Institute established the first Cooperative Extension Program.

Thomas M. Campbell was employed and became the nation's first Black Cooperative Extension Agent.

1910 Booker T. Washington established a formal Extension Department to systematize the numerous extension activities.

1912 The first women Extension Agents were employed at Tuskegee Institute.

1914 The Smith-Lever Act established the National Cooperative Extension System modeled after Tuskegee Institute's Extension Program in 1906.

1918 Thomas M. Campbell became Field Agent for the seven states of the lower south (Alabama, Georgia, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Florida).

The Seaman A. Knapp Agricultural Truck replaced the Jesup Wagon.

1920 A registered nurse was added to the regular staff of the Movable School.

1923 The Booker T. Washington Movable School replaced the Knapp Agricultural Truck.

1930 The New Booker T. Washington School on Wheels replaced the 1923 wagon.

1940 Dedication of the new Extension Building on the campus of Tuskegee Institute.





The Booker T. Washington Agricultural School on Wheels was incorporated.

- 1944 Tuskegee Institute discontinued the Movable School program. The final truck is used on display in the George Washington Carver Museum.
- 1965 Civil Rights developments and efforts toward the elimination of racial discrimination moved the headquarters for the Alabama Negro Extension Program from Tuskegee Institute to Auburn University and essentially abolished the Negro Extension Program at Tuskegee.
- 1972 A federally funded Cooperative Extension Program was reestablished at Tuskegee Institute.
- 1977 For the first time in history, Cooperative Extension programs at Tuskegee began on an annual federally funded basis directly to the Institute.
- 1985 The U.S. Congress appropriated facility enhancement funds to the Historically Black Land Grant Institutions which included \$3,751,198 for Tuskegee University.
- 1990 Over the period 1972 to 1990 Tuskegee University received \$13,713,559 of Federal formula funds for the Extension Programs.
- 1992 On February 11 and 12, 1992 Tuskegee University will celebrate the Centennial year of the Tuskegee Negro/Farmers Conference.

Program

**Tuesday,
February 11,
1992**

Opening Session

This session highlights tributes marking Tuskegee University's 100 years of service to small-scale agriculture and rural citizens through the Farmers Conference.

The keynote speaker is the Honorable E. (Kika) de la Garza, Congressman from the 15th District of Texas and Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, U. S. House of Representatives. Congressman de la Garza has championed the cause of the 1890 Institutions and Tuskegee University in Washington and will address the issue: "Agriculture and Rural Development for the Next Century."

Opening Session, Patterson Hall, School of Veterinary Medicine

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. Registration

2:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. **Opening Session**

Presiding
Dr. Walter Hill

*Dean, School of Agriculture and Home Economics
Tuskegee University*

Invocation Rev. T. W. Billups
Pastor, Washington Chapel A.M.E. Church

Greetings Dr. James Ferguson
Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine

Occasion Dr. B. D. Mayberry
Director, Carver Research Foundation

Centennial Tributes from the Cooperative Extension Community

Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Dr. James Dawson, *Administrator, Alabama A&M University*
Dr. Ann Thompson, *Director, Auburn University*

Association of 1890 Cooperative Extension Administrators
Dr. Leon Chavous, *Administrator, South Carolina State University
Extension Program*

Cooperative Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Dr. Mitch Geasler, *Associate Administrator*

Introduction of Speaker Dr. Benjamin F. Payton
President, Tuskegee University

Keynote Address The Honorable E. (Kika) de la Garza
*U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC
"Agriculture & Rural Development for the Next Century"*

Commentary Mr. John H. Costello, President
The Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs

Questions and Answers

Remarks Dr. Velma Blackwell
*Administrator, Cooperative Extension Service and
Associate Provost, Continuing Education, Tuskegee University*

3:45 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Break

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. **Introduction to Model Programs and Exhibits**

Presentation of Model Programs: Alabama A&M University, Fort Valley State College, Lincoln University (Missouri), Pennsylvania State University, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, and Tuskegee University

Evening Session, Tuskegee Inn

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Social Hour/Cash Bar
 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. Youth Leadership Mixer (on campus)
 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. **Thomas M. Campbell Memorial Banquet**

Presiding
 Mr. John Brown
 Director
Southeast Alabama Self-Help Association

Prelude
 Invocation..... Rev. Ida Wells,
Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Dinner Served

Occasion Mrs. Elizabeth Benson
Former Home Demonstration Agent

Selection Tuskegee University Wind Ensemble *

Introduction of Speaker Dr. Jean Fitts
Assistant Provost, Tuskegee University

Solo Dr. Dorothy Riggins
Teacher Certification Specialist, Alabama State Board of Education

Speaker Dr. Deborah Cannon Wolfe
New Jersey State Board of Higher Education
 "The University's Role in the Extension of Knowledge
 in a Changing Society"

Recognition of Thomas M. Campbell Family
 and Presentation of Memorial Award Dr. Benjamin F. Payton
President, Tuskegee University

Response The Campbell Family

Presentations and Awards Dr. Velma Blackwell
*Administrator, Cooperative Extension Program and
 Associate Provost, Continuing Education, Tuskegee University*

Solo Dr. Dorothy Riggins

Special Recognitions and Closing Remarks..... Dr. Walter Hill

Selection Tuskegee University Wind Ensemble *

Announcements

Benediction Rev. James Milton
Pastor, Butler Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Tuskegee, Alabama

Postlude

*Warren Duncan, Director

Program

**Tuesday,
 February 11,
 1992**

**Thomas M. Campbell
 Memorial Banquet**

On November 12, 1906, Thomas M. Campbell was appointed to the position of Demonstration Agent, U.S. Department of Agriculture. This appointment is now recognized as the first Cooperative Extension appointment in the United States. The Thomas M. Campbell Memorial Banquet honors the man and his work, and his family and friends.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Deborah Cannon Wolfe, a 1950 graduate of Tuskegee University, is a member of the New Jersey State Board of Higher Education. Dr. Wolfe will address the topic: "The University's Role in the Extension of Knowledge in a Changing Society."

Program

**Wednesday,
February 12,
1992**

Youth Leadership Entrepreneurial Workshop

Selected student leaders from Alabama's Black Belt counties will participate in an entrepreneurial workshop conducted by Mr. William Clark, 4-H Specialist, Maryland State Cooperative Extension Program. This Workshop, entitled "Learn and Earn," will highlight how today's youth can get involved in income-generating activities in rural communities.

Plenary Session Mr. Winthrop Rockefeller

Mr. Winthrop Rockefeller is Chairman of the President's Council on Rural America. The Council draws its membership from farmers, state and local governments, rural businesses, and high technology industries to advise the federal government on how to improve federal rural development policies. The President's Council works closely with the State Rural Development Councils in a federal-state-local partnership to complete the development of a strategic plan and to develop viable programs. Mr. Rockefeller will address this session on the topic: "The Revitalization of Rural America."

Morning Session, Daniel "Chappie" James Center

8:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.	Registration
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 A.M.	Exhibits of Model Programs
8:00 A.M. - 12:00 A.M.	YOUTH LEADERSHIP ENTREPRENEURIAL WORKSHOP
9:30 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.	PLENARY SESSION
	Presiding Dr. Velma L. Blackwell <i>Administrator, Cooperative Extension Program and Associate Provost, Continuing Education Tuskegee University</i>
Invocation	Rev. Frederick Outlaw <i>Pastor, Bowen United Methodist Church</i>
Selection.....	"The Festival Alleluia" Young The Tuskegee University Choir*
Centennial Tributes	
The Governor's Office	Ms. Ardie Dial <i>Governor's Minority Affairs Advisor</i>
Alabama Legislature	The Honorable George Clay <i>State Representative, District 82</i>
Selection.....	"Praise the Lord, O My Soul" Smart The Tuskegee University Choir
Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Dr. Benjamin F. Payton <i>President, Tuskegee University</i>
Keynote Address	Mr. Winthrop Rockefeller <i>Chairman, President's Council on Rural America "The Revitalization of Rural America"</i>
Selection.....	"Ev'ry Time I Feel The Spirit" Dawson The Tuskegee University Choir
10:45 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	Break
	*Clyde Owen Jackson, Conductor

11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

THE MERIT FARM FAMILY SYMPOSIUM

**Health and Family Well-Being in Rural Alabama:
A Multi-Perspective View**

Presiding
Dr. T. T. Williams
Regional Director
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

Group Songs Mr. George H. Paris and Audience

Forum Health and Family Well-Being in Rural Alabama:
A Multi-Perspective View

Forum Moderator Dr. Robert Zabawa
Rural Development Specialist, Tuskegee University Extension Program

Forum Participants Rev. Eric Campbell, Dr. Gladys Lyles,
Dr. Evelyn Crayton and Ms. Cynthia Jones

Introduction of Merit Farm Families Past and Present Dr. George Cooper
*Principal Animal Nutritionist, Cooperative State Research Service,
United States Department of Agriculture*

Success Stories

- Mr. Aaron Sellers *Farmer, Bullock County*
- Mr. Obadiah Threadgill *Retired Principal, Sumter County*
- The Honorable Nathan Mathis *State Representative, District 87*
- The Honorable Joe R. Carothers *State Representative, District 86*

Presentation of Awards and Special Recognitions Ms. Yvonne L. Williams, Esq.,
Vice President for Federal Relations, Tuskegee University Washington Office

12:30 P.M. Benediction Rev. Hardy L. Graves
Pastor, Shady Grove Baptist Church

Assemble Outside James Center for Centennial Parade

Lunch

Program

**Wednesday,
February 12,
1992**

**Merit Farm Family
Symposium**

**Health and Family Well-Being in Rural Alabama:
A Multi-Perspective View**

A new feature this year is a forum that focuses on health and family well-being in rural Alabama from the perspective of the church, the university, youth, and parents. The Forum will address how these groups can assist in the building of strong, stable families and in the development of local communities.

**1992 Merit Farm Family:
Albert Perry Family
Bullock County**

During this Centennial Farmers Conference, the Merit Farm Family Symposium takes on new meaning. Not only will the annual Merit Farm Family award be presented, but past recipients will also be acknowledged.

Profile

Thomas Monroe Campbell (1883-1956)

First Cooperative Extension Agent in the United States



Thomas Monroe Campbell

Thomas Monroe Campbell, the first Cooperative Extension agent in the United States and head of the first Cooperative Extension Program in the nation, is a legend. During his lifetime, he greatly influenced the lives of rural black farmers, the growth of agricultural education programs at Tuskegee University, and the development of cooperative extension programs in the United States.

Campbell was born on February 11, 1883, on a small farm near the city of Bowman, Elbert County, Georgia. After Booker T. Washington made his famous "Atlanta Address" at the Cotton States Exposition on September 18, 1895, "the news spread among black people in Georgia that somewhere in a little town in the State of Alabama, the name of which very few people could pronounce, was an institution where poor, yet worthy black students could work their way through school." His desire for an education and better living conditions were factors that led to his decision to follow in his brother William's footsteps and go to Tuskegee, Alabama.

On January 2, 1899, he left his father's home, approximately 25 miles from the borderline of South Carolina, and began making his way to Tuskegee. The journey would take him four months. Along the way, he worked odd jobs to pay for food and transportation expenses. When he arrived in Tuskegee in April 1899, he had fifteen cents to his name.

In his book *The Movable School Goes to the Negro Farmer*, Campbell described a decision that would change his life and the face of agriculture: "I was sent by my brother the next morning to the registrar, who wanted to know what trade I wished to take. I told him that I would like to be a wheelwright, or a blacksmith, or a carpenter. He inquired if I did not want to take farming. I told him promptly that I had worked enough on a farm and did not care to learn anything more about it. He then asked me if I would like to take agriculture. I said that I thought I would like that very well. So he assigned me to the livestock division. Imagine my surprise when I learned that agriculture was farming."

Upon his graduation in 1906, he was employed by Tuskegee Institute as the operator of the Jesup Wagon, a demonstration wagon that was fitted with improved farming implements. The Jesup Wagon was used to "carry the gospel of better farming" to the door of black farmers who were unable to attend formal school. This "School on Wheels" later became world famous as the "Movable School."

In November 1906, upon the recommendation of Dr. Washington, Campbell was appointed the first Negro Farm Demonstration Agent in the United States. The term "Cooperative Extension Work" did not come into common usage until after the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914. In this case, the definition of cooperative extension work is applicable to developments at Tuskegee University at the time of Campbell's appointment in 1906. Thus, the first cooperative extension program in the United States emerged at Tuskegee University, and Campbell became the first Cooperative Extension Agent. W. C. Stallings was employed as the first Cooperative Extension Agent in Smith County, Texas, on the same day as Campbell. Stallings, however, had the distinction of being the first cooperative demonstration agent employed to serve only one county (Mayberry 1989, True 1928).

In addition to his other duties, Campbell also served as supervising agent. After the passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, the title of the position was changed to district agent. In October 1918, he was promoted from district agent to field agent for seven states in the lower South: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. He held this position until his

retirement in 1953 at which time, in terms of years of service, he was the oldest active Extension Service worker in the United States.

Campbell's employment greatly accelerated the spread and depth of Negro extension work. Although employed by the federal government, his office remained on the campus of Tuskegee University where he worked closely with the Principal and the agricultural division of the school. According to Allen W. Jones, "It was the work and influence of Thomas M. Campbell that made Tuskegee University the center of Negro agricultural extension work in the deep South. While Campbell used his position to spread the ideas of Booker T. Washington, he made his greatest contribution to black farmers and to his race by constantly pressuring the USDA to hire more black extension agents and to expand its extension operations among black farmers."

In addition to *The Movable School Goes to the Negro Farmer*, an informative book which contains a semi-autobiography of his early childhood, Campbell wrote a number of articles which appeared in leading agricultural journals. In 1930, he received the "Harmon Award" for distinguished service in the field of farming and rural life. In 1944, he was selected as one of a committee of three to make a survey of agricultural conditions in West Africa under the sponsorship of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America and the British Conference of Missionary Societies. He was also awarded an honorary Master's degree by Tuskegee University.

Campbell was married to Anna Marie Ayers of Eastern Shore, Virginia, who was also a 1906 graduate of Tuskegee University. At the time of their marriage in 1912, she was Assistant Head Nurse at the Institute Hospital. Thomas M. Campbell passed in 1956; Mrs. Campbell in 1970.

Two of their children, Mrs. Virginia Hawkins and Mrs. Noel Mitchell, reside in Tuskegee. Another daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Clark, and a son, Col. William A. Campbell, USAF-retired, reside in California. Their son, Dr. Thomas M. Campbell, Jr., passed in 1976. Thomas and Anna Campbell have ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Campbell and Family
Photograph by P. H. Polk, circa 1932

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True, Alfred Charles (1928) *A History of Agricultural Extension Work in the United States 1785-1923*, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Virginia Hawkins, Mrs. Noel Mitchell and Mr. Phillip Mitchell (family)

Profile

E. "Kika" de la Garza

Keynote speaker
Opening Session

Tuesday,
February 11,
1992



E. "Kika" de la Garza

Mention the name "Kika" to residents of South Texas or to anyone who is familiar with U.S. food and agricultural policy over the past decade and only one person comes to mind — E. (Kika) de la Garza, the Democratic Congressman from the 15th District of Texas and Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Rep. de la Garza first won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964, and was sworn in as a member of the 89th Congress in January 1965. His South Texas constituents have reelected him by wide margins ever since.

A member of the Agriculture Committee since 1965, Rep. de la Garza became a subcommittee chairman in 1967 and was elevated to the Committee Chairmanship in 1981. He was the first Hispanic American to head up a standing committee of the House of Representatives.

As Chairman of the Agriculture Committee and as a congressman from South Texas, Rep. de la Garza is an outspoken advocate for U. S. agriculture and the diverse agricultural interests of his district.

During his tenure as Committee chairman, Rep. de la Garza has successfully guided through House passage and into law three omnibus farm bills (1981, 1985, and 1990), a major overhaul of the agricultural lending system, reforms in Federal pesticide laws, and numerous other measures to assist American agriculture, encourage rural economic development, and improve human nutrition.

Throughout his career, Rep. de la Garza has worked for government policies that will foster better living and economic conditions for all Americans. He has been particularly successful in steering Federal funds to help provide water and sewer service to residents of Texas' impoverished colonies.

A strong supporter of civil rights safeguards for minorities, Rep. de la Garza has also fought for improved access to health care for the elderly, veterans, and low-income individuals and better educational opportunities for all Americans. He has also supported programs to improve the nation's infrastructure and maintain a strong, cost-effective national defense.

As Agriculture Committee chairman, Rep. de la Garza is one of the key agricultural policymakers. He is a staunch advocate of programs to protect and improve the farm and rural economy.

Rep. de la Garza has fought for Federal legislation to provide adequate price and income protection for farmers, expand agricultural exports, encourage new uses for agricultural crops, foster rural economic development, protect natural resources, promote food safety, assure the availability of safe and effective pesticides, and provide affordable credit for agricultural producers.

Rep. de la Garza is also an advocate for improved human nutrition, particularly for low-income Americans, and a strong supporter of Federal agricultural research and extension activities.

Rep. de la Garza is one of Congress' leading experts on U.S.-Mexico relations. Throughout his congressional career, he has worked to improve relations and trade between the United States and Mexico. In 1966, he became the first congressman from the Texas-Mexican border area to serve on the Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group, which promotes dialogue between legislators from the two countries. He has served as chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' delegation to that group since 1978.

Rep. de la Garza is a tireless promoter of U.S. agricultural exports, and has been instrumental in expanding trade with Japan, the Soviet Union, China, and Latin America. To improve relations and trade opportunities, he has led several congressional delegations on fact-finding trips abroad, visiting both major trading nations and countries that receive U.S. food aid. For instance, the first visit to the United States by the Soviet Union's top agriculture official in 1987 was a direct result of an invitation extended by Rep. de la Garza during a trip to the Soviet Union two years earlier.

In addition to his Agriculture Committee assignment, Rep. de la Garza has also served on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. Under House Democratic Caucus rules, Rep. de la Garza was required to give up his other committee assignments when he became Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Rep. de la Garza has served on several special or select panels during his career, including, the Select committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control (chairing its task force on the U.S. Customs Service and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) and the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee during the 95th and 96th Congresses.

Rep. de la Garza is also an active leader of the Hispanic members of Congress, chairing the Congressional Hispanic Caucus from 1989 to 1991.

Rep. de la Garza attended Mission High School, Mission, Texas; Edinburg Junior College, Edinburg, Texas; and St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas. He received his LL.B. law degree from St. Mary's University Law School in 1952, and was later awarded a J.D. degree from St. Mary's.

During World War II, at age 17, Rep. de la Garza enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He later attended the U.S. Army Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and served as an artillery officer during the Korean conflict.

Following law school, Rep. de la Garza was a practicing attorney in the Rio Grande Valley area, where he became active in community affairs. He served six consecutive terms in the Texas House of Representatives from 1953-1964.

Rep. de la Garza has been active in many professional and community organizations. In more than 35 years as an elected official, he has received hundreds of awards including honorary degrees from the University of Maryland, Missouri's Lincoln University, and Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea.

Born in Mercedes, Texas, on September 22, 1927. Rep. de la Garza is married to the former Lucille Alamia. They have three children, Jorge, Michael and Angela, and seven grandchildren. The de la Garzas make their home in Mission, Texas, but also maintain a residence in the Washington, D.C. area.

Major agricultural legislation enacted into law since Rep. de la Garza became chairman in 1981 include:

- **Agriculture and Food Act of 1981** — omnibus farm legislation which included provisions to set specific target prices for four years and require certain cost-cutting measures
- **Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983** — authorized distribution of government owned surplus commodities to indigent persons.
- **Food Security Act of 1985** — omnibus farm legislation which included provisions to shift direction of farm programs to more market-oriented levels, strengthen export programs, and create a conservation reserve targeted at highly erodible croplands.
- **Agricultural Credit Act of 1987** — revised credit assistance programs, restructured the Farm Credit System, and facilitated creation of a secondary market for agricultural loans.
- **Disaster Assistance Acts of 1988 and 1989** — provided assistance to farmers and ranchers who lost a crop production due to drought and other natural disasters in 1988 and 1989.
- **Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990** — omnibus farm legislation which reauthorized commodity and nutrition programs, reformed export assistance programs, established new initiatives to strengthen environmental protection of agricultural lands, revamped rural economic development activities, and strengthened the crop insurance program.

Profile

Rev. Dr. Deborah Cannon Wolfe

Keynote speaker
Thomas M. Campbell
Memorial Banquet

Tuesday,
February 11,
1992

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe, a 1950 graduate of Tuskegee University, is chair of the New Jersey Board of Education, and professor emerita of education at Queens College in Flushing, N.Y.

Dr. Wolfe formerly served as education chief with the Committee on Education and Labor of the U.S. House of Representatives, a post holding her responsible for "all matters pertaining to legislation affecting education and related subjects." She also served

as the liaison between the House of Representatives and the then Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Dr. Wolfe's experiences as an educator span the gamut from kindergarten teacher to graduate school instruction, and have taken her to every continent in the world.

Prior to the term at Queen's College, Dr. Wolfe served on the professional staff of Tuskegee University as head of the Department of Elementary Education and director of Graduate Work. Additionally, she has taught at Grambling University, New York University, Fordham University, the University of Michigan, University of Illinois, and Wayne State University.

A member of numerous professional societies and education associations and organizations, Dr. Wolfe is the first African-American to serve on the faculties of Queens College, the University of Illinois, and the University of Michigan. She is also the first African-American to serve on a number of boards, including the New Jersey State Board of Education, New Jersey State Board of Higher Education, the National Board of the American Association of University Women, and other important boards.



Dr. Deborah Cannon Wolfe, 1990 Founders Day

Walter Scott

Profile

Albert J. Perry Family of Bullock County, Alabama

1992 Merit Farm Family Award Recipient

Merit Farm Family Symposium

Wednesday,
February 12,
1992

The Albert James Perry family of Bullock County, Alabama, is the recipient of the 1992 Merit Farm Family award. Albert's father, Henry Perry of Union Springs, Alabama, received the Merit Farm Family award almost 30 years ago, in 1963. As we examine 100 years of agricultural progress during this Centennial Farmers Conference celebration, it is fitting that we recognize a man who chose to follow in his father's footsteps and contribute to a half century of successful family farming.

It has not been smooth sailing for Albert. In fact, his ship almost sank on more than one occasion. All of the Perry brothers, with the exception of Red Perry, have chosen to take up occupations other than farming. Red works with Albert at a fixed salary. On their days off from work, or after hours, the other brothers help pick vegetables, haul hay, and pitch in as needed. Although times have been hard, Albert has persevered with hard work and the help of a devoted wife, and his brothers and six sisters.

The family farm was 282 acres when Albert took over. He and Red have added 79 acres and two houses. They now have 361 acres and rent many more. The family farming operation consists primarily of 100 to 150 acres of corn, six acres of vegetables, 350 acres of hay, 48 brood cows, two bulls and 16 calves. In 1991, they baled 31,000 square bales and 1,800 round bales. They cut approximately \$15,000 worth of pulpwood annually. Albert owns five trucks, two cars, four tractors, one combine, three hay balers for square bales, two round bale rollers, four rakes, a feed grinder mixer, cultivators, planters and other items.

Albert graduated from Merritt High School in Midway, Alabama. He is 43 years old and married to Erma (Davis) Perry. They have a four year old daughter and a three month old son. He and his family attend the Hardaway A.M.E. Church where he is a Stewart Trustee, Sunday School teacher and member of the choir. Just recently, he was elected Outstanding Member of the Year by his church, and was presented the suit he intends to wear to the Merit Farm Family award program.

Albert has been a youth leader since high school. Recently, the extended Perry family built a 30' by 60' community center pavilion on his land. The pavilion has a large recreation area, kitchen and two bathrooms. In addition, there is a pond for fishing, softball and volleyball fields, a basketball court, and other recreational facilities. The Perrys have played an important role in Extension sponsored youth activities, and have made the pavilion available for county day camps.

In addition to his own crops, Albert teaches young people how to grow vegetables. He also conducts demonstrations through the Montgomery State Farmers Market. He prepares many gardens for community and county residents. Some of them pay; most of them don't. Tuskegee University extension agents and specialists have vegetable demonstration plots at the Bullock County Prison. Albert is instrumental in providing assistance, resources and tours for other farmers during those demonstrations.

Without a doubt, the Albert Perry family truly deserves the special honor of being recognized as the Merit Farm Family during this 100th Annual Farmers Conference. Albert Perry exemplifies what Booker T. Washington must have had in mind when he initiated the Farmers Conference 100 years ago.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Perry and Family

Rick Vaughnes

History

Merit Farm Families

1916-1992

Name	City, County or State	Year
Benjamin J. Reynolds	Childersburg, AL	1916
John Brown	Montgomery, AL	1916
Charlie Davis	Tuskegee, AL	1916
William Hill	Montgomery, AL	1916
John Benson	Benson, AL	1917
Scott Bond	Madison, AR	1917
Mark Miller	Ft. Valley, GA	1917
Rufus Herren	Camp Hill, AL	1918
Grant Lewis	Fitzgerald, GA	1918
Phillip Bessick	Tuskegee, AL	1918
James Ross	Bluffton, GA	1918
Timothy T. Catchings	Camilla, GA	1919
J.D. McDuffie	Ocala, FL	1919
J.G. Groves	Edwardsville, KS	1920
W.G. Young	Skippers, VA	1920
Gordon Dixon	Culverton, GA	1921
Jonas Thomas	Bennetsville, SC	1921
Glenn Partridge	Oklahoma	1927
Thomas Daniel	Alabama	1927
John Baptist Lee	Mississippi	1927
Irvin Stokes	Louisiana	1927
Robert Chisum	Arkansas	1927
H.H. Williams	Florida	1927
P.L. Anderson	Boley, OK	1928
Chris Oliver	Snowdon, AL	1928
John C. Claybrooks	Simsboro, AR	1928
J.S.B. Seale	Philadelphia, MS	1928
T.U. Briggs	Madison County, AL	1929
Mary Simpson Carliss	Macon County, AL	1930
O.C. Crowe	Montgomery, AL	1930
Matt Cross	Conecuh County, AL	1930
Tom Moss	Dallas County, AL	1931
Robert E. Ellis	Hale County, AL	1931
James R. Stanley		1932
M.F. Moore	Montgomery, AL	1933
Alexander Jones	Uniontown, AL	1934
John Davidson Lewis	Macon County, AL	1935
R.D. Chisholm	Lowndes County, AL	1936
Rev. D.A. Miles	Florida	1937
R.L. Williams	South Carolina	1937
Harold Thompson	Georgia	1937
Grant Moss	Alabama	1937
Charles Riley	Monroe County, AL	1940
W.M. Phillips	Montgomery County, AL	1940
R.L. Uhilyaw	Conecuh County, AL	1940
Calvin D. Davis	Houston County, AL	1941
W.A. Roper	Butler County, AL	1941
Henry McMillan	Jefferson County, AL	1941
J.N. Davis	Lawrence County, AL	1941
Carroll Jones	Sumter County, AL	1945
Orlando Brown	Greene County, AL	1946

Pleas Orr, Jr.	Limestone County, AL	1947
John T. Bulls, Sr.	Lauderdale County, AL	1948
Frank Jacobs	Madison County, AL	1949
Jack Wilson	Tallapoosa County, AL	1950
Lawrence Davis	Lawrence County, AL	1951
Hilliard P. Jenkins	Baldwin County, AL	1952
N.D. Fitchard	Huntsville, AL	1953
James Carter, Sr.	Perry County, AL	1954
Nealy Gray	Lawrence County, AL	1956
Bennett Brothers	Butler County, AL	1956
Abraham Hayden	Choctaw County, AL	1957
Ed Van Williams	Macon County, AL	1957
Sylvester Phillips	Montgomery County, AL	1960
Henry Perry	Bullock County, AL	1963
Isaac Dillard	Montgomery County, AL	1970
Francis Griffin	Barbour County, AL	1971
Calvin Craig	Marengo County, AL	1975
Charles Guice	Barbour County, AL	1977
Woodrow Harris	Hale County, AL	1978
Booker Walker	Bullock County, AL	1979
Clarence Fryer	Barbour County, AL	1980
Aaron Sellers	Bullock County, AL	1981
Wilborn Thomas	Bullock County, AL	1982
George Hall	Greene County, AL	1983
Alfonso Menefee	Macon County, AL	1984
James Perry	Bullock County, AL	1985
Stephen Logan	Lowndes County, AL	1986
Horace Brown	Dallas County, AL	1987
George Hunter, Sr.	Lowndes County, AL	1988
Obadiah Threadgill	Sumter County, AL	1989
Francis Griffin	Barbour County, AL	1990
Sylvester Clark	Sumter County, AL	1991
Albert Perry	Bullock County, AL	1992



The Perry Family of Bullock County, Alabama

Tuskegee University's Cooperative Extension and Continuing Education Programs

After 110 years, adult education and outreach programs to rural communities still rank with instruction and research as critical elements of Tuskegee University's overall mission. The first 30 students at Tuskegee were adults. Booker T. Washington's efforts to take educational and self-help programs to rural black farmers resulted in the appointment of Thomas Monroe Campbell as the nation's first Cooperative Extension Agent and Tuskegee implementing the first Cooperative Extension programs in the United States.

In 1991, Tuskegee's Cooperative Extension Program was administratively merged with the Center for Continuing Education. This merger gives Tuskegee added capability to better meet the traditional and everchanging needs of farmers and rural communities as well as broader areas of concern. Collectively,



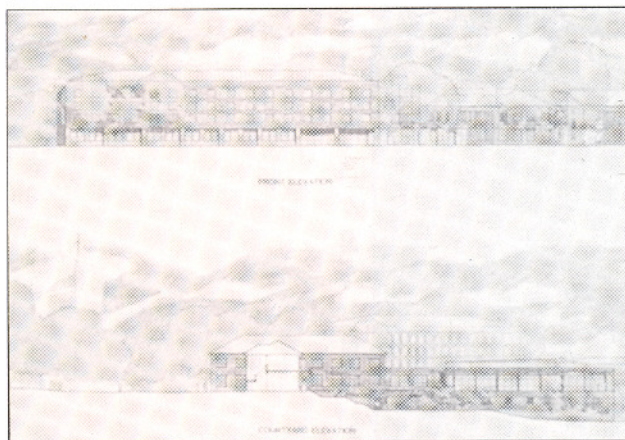
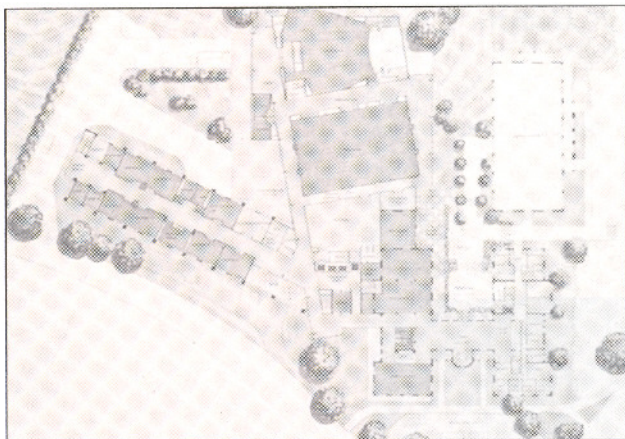
Dr. Russell Mawby, President of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, with President Benjamin F. Payton

these programs will be an integral part of Tuskegee's plans for the future. With service to the Black Belt and Barbour counties, these programs serve a population base of well over 400,000 clients. The programs are staffed with 11 county agents, 12 specialists, 2 district agents, and 13 administrative and support personnel.

Kellogg Center

In January 1991, Tuskegee joined a prestigious list of universities when its continuing education program was officially designated a Kellogg Center by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. Tuskegee is one of only 10 such university-based programs in the world to receive this recognition. Dr. Russell Mawby, president of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, made the announcement at Tuskegee at which time he also announced a \$5 million increase in the Foundation's existing grant to Tuskegee, which raised the total award to \$10.5 million. The Dorothy Hall building is being renovated and expanded for the Kellogg Center. Once renovated, the facility will accommodate 200 residents, and house the Continuing Education and Cooperative Extension staffs, meeting rooms for up to 500 people and a centralized media center.

The Kellogg Center will enable the University to provide new programs and take advantage of new instructional approaches and methodologies. The Center will serve as the "hub" of an expanded educational outreach network that will initiate, co-sponsor or host on- or off-campus programs with a special focus on the individual, family and community needs of the 12 Black Belt counties in Alabama and beyond. The major areas of focus are: (1) lifelong learning skills for undergraduate students, (2) prevocational adult education, (3) rural families in transition, (4) leadership and professional education, and (5) preventive health measures and physical fitness.



Contemporary Methods of Providing Service

The Jesup Wagon was Tuskegee's first "Movable School." At the time of its service, the Jesup Wagon provided an excellent vehicle for transporting new products and materials to farmers for demonstration purposes. Today, Tuskegee uses other resources for providing services to people in rural areas.

Each week during the academic year, a clinician and several students from the School of Veterinary Medicine travel to Sumter County in West Alabama, where they spend 2-3 days providing veterinary services for rural farmers and demonstrating proper herd health maintenance techniques. They travel in an ambulatory trucks, which is stocked with veterinary supplies. The "Herd Health Maintenance and Health Monitoring System" serves as a contemporary example of the "Movable Schools" of the past.

Tuskegee is also linked to AG*SAT, a sophisticated telecommunications network which allows for sending or receiving information via satellite. AG*SAT is an agricultural information and instructional satellite service sponsored by 35 of the nation's leading land grant universities. Through AG*SAT, these universities share academic instruction, cooperative extension programming and research information. Tuskegee can receive AG*SAT programming as two-way audio, one-way video, or one-way audio and video depending on the equipment at the receiving site. AG*SAT utilizes uplink (sending) and downlink (receiving) capabilities to bring agricultural and scientific information from the various participating colleges directly to the county agents and the clientele they serve.

The use of sophisticated electronic communication and telecommunications resources provide a cost effective vehicle for delivering information to rural farmers, especially for those who are unable to attend programs held on campus. These resources also allow for faster dissemination of important information to a wider audience.

Tuskegee stands firm its charter to deliver programs and expertise to meet the needs of the rural client base. The Cooperative Extension and Continuing Education programs, along with all of the other disciplines on campus, will continue to seek high quality delivery systems to improve the quality of life for all our clients in rural communities.



School of Veterinary Medicine clinicians and students travel to Sumter County in this contemporary "Movable School"

Sue Loomis



County Agent Lucious Rodgers and Associate County Agent Alphonso Elliott talk with farmer about livestock.

Robin McVay

Food and Agricultural Sciences at Tuskegee University Today

Walter Hill, Ph.D.

Dean
School of Agriculture and Home Economics, Tuskegee University

It is my pleasure to salute the occasion of the holding of the 100th Annual Farmers Conference. This is indeed a time to remember how far we have come and where we came from. I have been asked, however, to disclose where we are today—particularly in reference to Food and Agricultural Sciences here at Tuskegee University. As I begin, let me ask you to keep in mind that many people are involved—faculty and all kinds of support staff—in the work of the School of Agriculture and Home Economics and the George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station. This is a **team** at work.

As you know, the School of Agriculture and Home Economics had a modest but impressive beginning. In 1887, Tuskegee University's founder, Dr. Booker T. Washington, secured the first Agricultural Experiment Station at a black institution with a \$1,500 grant from the Alabama legislature. Dr. George Washington Carver became its first director. Dr. Carver's work in applied research established for him, and for the school, international fame and recognition as a major contributor to the growth and development of the nation's agricultural economy. The impact of this humble man's work—this role model for service—is still being felt today.

Today, the vast U.S. agricultural and food-related industry accounts for one of every five jobs in the nation. Agricultural, food, environmental, and consumer science programs are still a major focus at Tuskegee University. In recent years, more than \$35 million in facilities and program development funds have enabled the School of Agriculture and Home Economics to greatly enhance its instructional, research and outreach programs.

Students enrolled in the School have their sights on a variety of careers in: Animal and Poultry Sciences with either a pre-veterinary, business or science emphasis; Plant and Soil Sciences which offers options in Agronomy, Horticulture and Forest Resources; Food and Nutritional Sciences; General Dietetics; Hospitality Management; and Fashion Merchandising. Master's degree programs are offered in Agricultural Economics, Animal and Poultry Sciences,

Environmental Sciences, Plant and Soil Sciences, Food and Nutritional Sciences and Community Nutrition.

A priority objective in the strategic plan of Tuskegee University calls for increasing enrollment between 1990 and 1995 from 3,600 to 4,000 students. Growth in the food and agricultural sciences and related fields is projected to increase to 350 students during this time. In order to achieve this goal and to prepare students to achieve their optimum potential, recruitment and retention programs were introduced in the late 1980s. As a result, enrollment increased by 26%. Retention likewise increased through a comprehensive approach to student needs that includes an

academic advisement plan which seeks to give each student total career exploration, tutorial assistance where needed, and appropriate referrals to other



Marie Lovetian

Lynita Law and her favorite Brangus

campus support programs.

As was mentioned, facilities were renovated—Milbank Hall, Carver Laboratories, Farm Mechanization (soon to be renamed to honor Thomas M. Campbell who studied agriculture here and, based at Tuskegee, became the first Extension agent in the U.S.)—and state-of-the-art laboratories developed for the food and agricultural sciences. Considerable effort also went into faculty development in recent years to ensure integration of the latest technologies and societal issues into the instructional program.

Tuskegee University's strategic plan also includes goals related to agricultural research. These goals are: to continue to maintain and expand the agricultural research activities of the George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station and to continue to expand and develop research centers of excellence, particularly in engineering, agriculture and the life sciences.

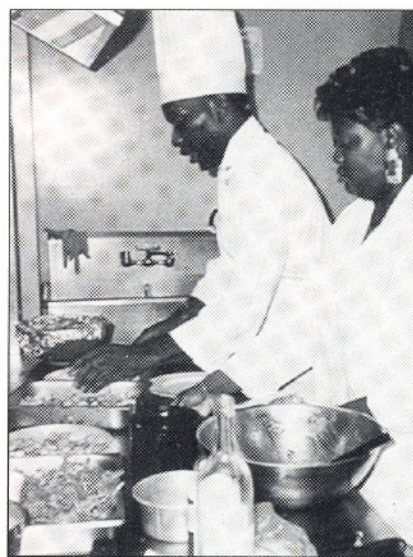
There has been excellent progress toward accomplishing these goals. In recent years, the Home Economics Department was awarded funds to initiate a Center for Research on Diet, Lifestyle and Cardiovascular Disease among rural African-Americans. Water quality, atmospheric carbon dioxide and plant biotechnology laboratories were also established. Tuskegee University was also recently funded by

USDA as the National Sweetpotato Information Center in a cooperative effort with the National Agricultural Library. The NSPIC is one of 13 depositories of information in the U.S. for specific subjects that users can access electronically.

Tuskegee University's successful work these last six years in developing a system for growing sweetpotatoes in Controlled Ecological Life Support Systems for NASA's long-term manned space missions has earned it a leadership role in sweetpotato research. Last year Tuskegee University held an international symposium at which over 200 of the world's leading sweetpotato scientists and other professionals shared their latest research. The proceedings on this important conference will soon be published.

This year the work for NASA takes on a new phase in the naming of Tuskegee University as the site for development of a Center for Food Production, Processing and Waste Management for space missions. The emphasis will be on sweetpotatoes and peanuts with the challenge being to develop techniques for processing the edible parts of these plants for consumption and recycling the inedible parts for life sustenance under conditions of microgravity. A spin-off from research on space agriculture has been that we understand better how to grow crops here on earth. Needless to say, all agricultural and food sciences research on campus embraces our students. For it is in these real-life projects that students are most challenged to develop their analytic and scientific skills.

We have recently accelerated our efforts to interest elementary, junior high and high school students in science in general and in the food and agricultural sciences in particular. These initiatives include use of Tuskegee University's



Marriott executive chef Samuel Stephens gets help from student Mia Meadows

unique programs in space agriculture, diet and health, environmental and animal sciences. Faculty and staff in these programs are working directly with teachers, parents and public school officials to educate the citizenry and infuse food and agricultural sciences into existing pre-college curricula of target schools. Examples of specific projects underway include the space agriculture classroom demonstration project (the National Aeronautics and Space Administration named Tuskegee University a space-grant college in 1990), community nutrition education and cholesterol control programs, summer research apprenticeships for high school students and an environmental sciences curriculum infusion project.

These programs have resulted in increased numbers of teachers and their students visiting Tuskegee University and inquiring about the food and agricultural sciences programs. The success of these programs will be manifested in a nationally-televised program to be aired on PBS in 1992. This program will be used in school systems reaching thousands of young people.

We invite you to learn more about our work through our publication *Tuskegee Horizons* and suggest that you share information about our dynamic programs with prospective students.

Saved for final mention are the joint research and extension programs of the Carver Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Program which serve the economy and quality of life in Alabama. What is the emphasis of these programs? They are: rural development, food and nutrition, water and environmental quality, forestry and natural resources, fruits and vegetables, sweetpotatoes, swine, cattle, poultry, and goats. Research scientists from various disciplines and extension personnel have formed teams to make sure that the new knowledge gained through research reaches farm families and rural communities and that their problems reach the scientists in their laboratories. It remains our goal to be of practical service in the Black Belt of Alabama and beyond.

It is these joint research/extension efforts that relate most to the occasion today—the celebration of the 100th annual Farmers Conference. For it is an occasion to celebrate—that our loving God has brought us all here today in this place in these our times. They are exciting times, even troubling times. But, surely, the God who has begun a good work in us will see it through to its completion. We count on meeting the challenges of today knowing we are in Good Hands, knowing that there are many people of good will ready to collaborate with us. Let us join together. Let us celebrate. Congratulations to all!



Despite a legacy of racial discrimination and rural poverty, Alabama possesses the climate, location and resources to develop a vibrant agricultural economy in the future. Although net farm incomes of farm families now come equally from farm and nonfarm sources, cash receipts from all farm commodities increased by about 13% from 1983 to 1988. The major products continue to be, in decreasing order of importance, broilers, cattle, nursery, peanuts, eggs, cotton, farm forest products, soybeans, fruits and vegetables, dairy, hogs and wheat.

Livestock and poultry are still the major sources of revenue, and the contributions are as follows:

1. Poultry and poultry products	67.0%
2. Cattle and calves	22.0%
3. Dairy products	5.0%
4. Hogs and pigs	4.5%
5. All other livestock	

In terms of acreage harvested, field crops rank as follows:

1. Hay - all types
2. Soybeans
3. Cotton
4. Corn for grain
5. Peanuts
6. Wheat for grain

Farms in Alabama are relatively small, with an average size of about 210 acres as compared to a national average of about 450 acres. Farms of less than 50 acres still make up 34% of all farms; those farms that gross less than \$10,000 per year make up about 68% of all farms. More than 90% of them belong to individuals or are family owned. However, part time farm operation has increased as almost half of all farm operators spend more than 200 days working off-farm.

Most expenses for agricultural production go to:

1. Feed
2. Livestock
3. Fertilizer/chemicals/seeds
4. Labor - hired/contract
5. Energy
6. Interest payments

But we know also that Alabama agriculture is not isolated from the rest of the United States and other countries. As a group, U.S. farmers currently receive about 25% of their cash income from exports. What goes on in other countries can have a profound impact on prices received by U.S. farmers. This is also the case for Alabama farmers, although at a lesser extent. Strong indirect economic linkages exist among interest payments and products such

Alabama's Agricultural Economy in the 1980's and Beyond

Ntam Baharanyi, Ph.D.
*Agricultural Economist,
School of Agriculture and
Home Economics,
Tuskegee University*

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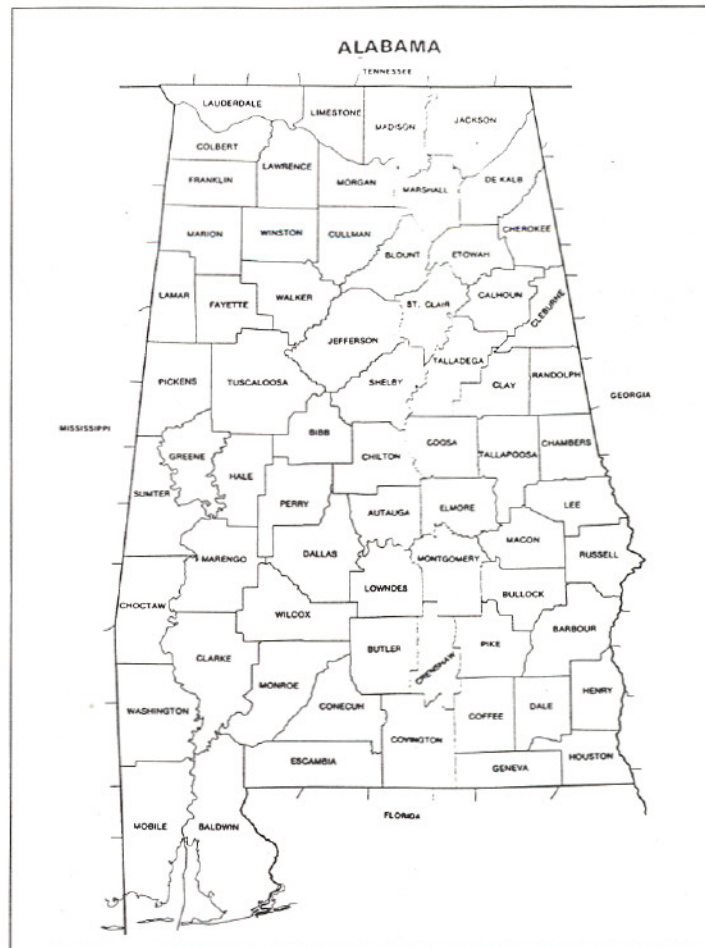
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as feed grains, fuel, and fertilizer whose prices are determined to a large extent on the world markets.

Although there is no consensus on the magnitude and direction of world market impacts on local agriculture, major field crops in Alabama, except soybeans, would not be affected differently from the national average. Any movement for free trade that alters soybean price can be expected to impact Alabama



significantly due to greater price sensitivity of southern wheat acreages.

In terms of financing Alabama's agriculture in the future, most farmers and lenders have made adjustments in order to recover from the twin crises of mid-1970's and mid-1980's. For limited resource farmers, these adjustments include increased off-farm employment and an increased dependency on government programs. The challenge to both producers and financiers is to keep pace with a dynamic set of strategic agricultural products for the benefit of Alabama's citizens and for increasing numbers of consumers around the globe.

In agribusiness, consumers of farm products include both the consumers and those middlemen who buy the State's raw agricultural products, process them further and sell them to another middleman who, in turn, sells them to the retailer, who sells the finished product to the ultimate consumer. It is important that Alabama gets more involved in the value-added processes which include food processing, manufacturing, retailing, wholesaling, transportation, and restaurants. This would require planning that takes into account the projected trends in this subsector, consumer needs, and health/diet concerns as they relate to food choices.

Rural economies are still primarily agriculture-based. In general, they worsened in the 1980's. There is a transition in which the health of the rural economy will increasingly depend less on agriculture and more on small, nonagricultural industries.

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100th Annual Tuskegee University Farmers Conference

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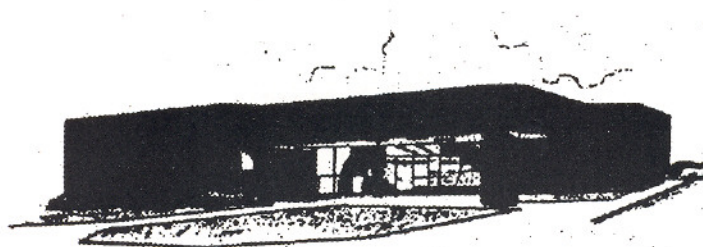
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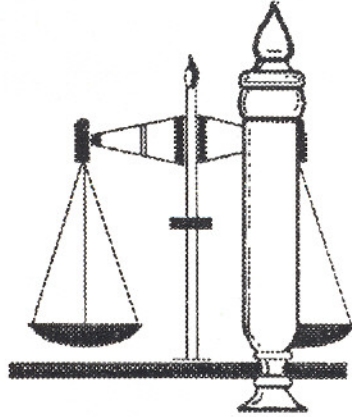
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Congratulations from Lucien A. Green

Congratulations to Tuskegee University on the 100th Annual Farmers Conference. I worked for nine years (1934-1943) as Chief Clerk in the Extension Service Office and as Administrative Assistant to Mr. T. M. Campbell, Field Agent, U. S. Department of Agriculture (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas). I learned more from Mr. Campbell about how to deal with people than I did from any of my formal education, and this helped me in advancing my career. I remember that at Farmers Conference time, the campus was crowded with wagons, trucks, cars, farmers and their families who came to be enlightened about their problems.

May you continue to bring to our families and their families the latest information concerning government regulations on farm and home operations.

Lucien A. Green
Retired Director
Tuskegee VA Medical Center

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