

Tuskegee University



*Cooperative Extension and Continuing Education Programs
present the*

**101st
Annual
Farmers Conference**



Theme: "Revitalizing Rural Families and Communities in
Transition for Economic Development"

February 11 and 12, 1993



President's Message:

Greetings and welcome to the 101st Farmers Conference. As always, we welcome the opportunity to showcase Tuskegee and our efforts in outreach, research and teaching.

The theme for this year's Farmers Conference is particularly noteworthy in light of the many political and community changes which are before us and many others in the 1890 community. Our goal is to enhance the overall quality of life for our constituents and their families and, where possible, impact in a positive way the opportunities which are available to them.

Again, it is our pleasure to host this perennial event, and it is my hope that your goals and many areas of focus will yield information, insight and initiatives upon which can be built progressive and effective programs for our citizens and all the citizens of the country.

Benjamin F. Payton

Administrator's Message

When Dr. Booker T. Washington first began to convene monthly meetings of farmers in 1892, it was his intent that the dialogue would result in strategies for making life better for the black southern farmers involved. Lifestyles did improve as a result of these monthly meetings which were mini Farmers Conferences.

By the time T.M. Campbell was named a Cooperative Extension Agent in 1906, the Farmers Conference had become an annual activity at Tuskegee -- a manifestation of the University's commitment to "helping people help themselves." While an emphasis on production farming has declined over the years, the University's commitment to all elements of life in rural America has expanded. Family values, nutrition, quality of life, economic and leadership development -- empowerment in general -- are real issues facing rural Americans.

We appreciate your joining us this year in our continuing effort to both heighten interest in, and support for, families and communities in transition and to generally improve the broader range of conditions that face rural America.

Velma L. Blackwell



Program

Thursday, February 11, 1993
Opening Session - Tuskegee University Chapel

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Registration
Tuskegee University Chapel

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Opening Session

Presiding
Dr. Walter Hill
Dean, School of Agriculture and Home Economics
Tuskegee University

2:00 p.m. Greetings
Dr. William Lester
Provost
Tuskegee University

2:10 p.m. Overview Statement
Dr. B. D. Mayberry
Director, Carver Research Foundation
Tuskegee University

2:20 p.m. Forum Statement of Purpose
Dr. Ntam Baharanyi
Associate Professor, School of Agriculture
Tuskegee University

1890 Land Grant Institutions Issues Forum

2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Panel Discussion

Facilitator Dr. Robert Zabawa
Specialist, Rural Development
Tuskegee University

Presenters Dr. Bobby Phills
Dean and Research Director, School of Agriculture and Home Economics
Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dr. John Zippert
Program Director, Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Epes, Alabama

Dr. Ralph C. Noble
Associate Professor, Animal Science
Tuskegee University

Dr. Rupert G. Seals
Director, International Programs
Florida A & M University

Program

Thursday, February 11, 1993 (continued)

- 3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Dialogue
1890 Representatives, Extension Agents,
Specialists, Farmers, and Community Leaders
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Summary and Recommendations
Dr. Robert Zabawa

Evening Session Daniel "Chappie" James Center

- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Annual T. M. Campbell Memorial Banquet
Daniel "Chappie" James Center

Presiding
Jock Smith, Esq.
Tuskegee, Alabama

- Prelude Tuskegee University Wind Ensemble
Mr. Warren Duncan, Director
- Invocation Rev. Reginald Porter
Pastor, Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church
Tuskegee, Alabama

Dinner (Musical Moments)

- Musical Selections Mr. James Bass
VA Hospital, Tuskegee
- Introduction of Speaker Dr. Benjamin F. Payton
President
Tuskegee University
- Speaker The Honorable Howell Heflin
U. S. Senator, Alabama
- Presentations and Recognition
of Special Guests..... Dr. Benjamin F. Payton
- Musical Selections Mr. James Bass
- Postlude..... Tuskegee University Wind Ensemble
- Closing Remarks..... Dr. Velma Blackwell
Administrators, Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Program

Friday, February 12, 1993
Tuskegee University Chapel

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Conference Exhibits
Chapel Foyer

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Plenary Session

Presiding
Yvonne Williams, Esq.
Vice President for Federal and International Relations and Legal Counsel
Tuskegee University

Invocation Rev. R. M. Richmond, Sr.
Pastor, Solomon Chapel
AME Zion Church, Tuskegee, Alabama

Musical Selection "Praise The Lord, O My Soul" Smart
The Tuskegee University Choir*

Occasion Mr. Clifford E. Jones
USDA/1890 Agricultural Liaison Officer
School of Agriculture and Home Economics
Tuskegee University

Introduction of Congressman Hilliard Dr. Benjamin F. Payton
President, Tuskegee University

Interactive Dialogue Congressman Earl Hilliard
7th Congressional District, Alabama

Dr. Burleigh Webb
Dean, School of Agriculture
North Carolina A & T State University

Ms. Olivia Washington
Executive Director
Community Action of Chilton and Shelby Counties, Alabama

Mr. Sandy McCorvey
Extension Service/Farmer, Retired
Tuskegee, Alabama

Mr. Fred Bennett
Retired Farmer
Greenville, Alabama

Ms. Peggi C. James
Executive Director
Human Resource Development Corporation
Enterprise, Alabama

Musical Selection "Ev'ry Time I Feel The Spirit" Dawson
Tuskegee University Choir

*Clyde Owen Jackson, Conductor

Program

Friday, February 12, 1993 (continued)

Recognition of Special Guests Dr. Errol G. Rhoden
Associate Professor, School of Agriculture
Tuskegee University

Merit Farm Family Presentation Dr. Benjamin F. Payton

11:15 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. **Group Singing**
Mr. George H. Paris and Audience

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 a.m. **Youth Leadership Forum**
Student Union Auditorium

11:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon. **Break**

12:00 noon - 12:30 p.m. **Success Stories**
Mr. Albert Perry
1992 Merit Farm Family Recipient

Mr. Oliver Evans
Farmer/Entrepreneur
Elmore County, Alabama

Mr. Seth Williams
Farmer
Butler County, Alabama

Closing Remarks Attorney Yvonne Williams

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**
Workshop Sites

1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. **Youth Activities - Tours**

1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. **Workshops and Evaluations**

A. Agriculture Mr. Victor Kahn
Dr. Ralph C. Noble
Dr. Maurice Maloney
Agricultural Sciences and Experiment Station
Tuskegee University
G15, Milbank Hall

B. Family Well-Being: Clothing Ms. Marva Ballard
Home Economics
Tuskegee University
Seminar Room, Campbell Building

C. Business and Economic Development Dr. Benjamin Newhouse
Dean, School of Business
Tuskegee University
Multi-Purpose Room, Extension Building

History of the Farmers Conference

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 - but representatives of the common, hard working farmers and mechanics, ministers and teachers. There were two objectives: first, to find out from the people 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 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.

Washington was so overwhelmed by the success of the first conference that he established it as an annual affair. He saw its continuation as an opportunity for service and a chance to build 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 Tuskegee for a renewed enthusiasm for thrift and industry and the kindred virtues of sober, contented and decent living.

- *The Role of Tuskegee University in the
Origin, Growth and Development of the
Negro Extension System: 1881-1990*
by Dr. B. D. Mayberry





Farmers Conference Goals

- To provide a national forum for participants to develop an agenda to impact public policies for the 1890 Land Grant Institutions.
- To assess the needs of families and communities and provide a focus for Tuskegee University's Cooperative Extension Program.
- To identify and access resources for rural communities.
- To provide ideas and information exchange to promote replication of programs for economic development.

