

**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY**  
**102nd Annual**  
**Farmers Conference**



**Theme:**

**“Family Health and Economic Well-Being in  
Rural America”**



**Tuskegee University Kellogg Conference Center**  
**February 24-25, 1994**

**President's Message:**

Greetings and welcome to the 102nd Farmers Conference. As always, we welcome the opportunity to showcase Tuskegee University and our efforts in outreach, research and teaching.

The theme for this year's Farmers Conference is particularly noteworthy in light of the issues surrounding the health care system and economic well-being for our citizens 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 annual 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*

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**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 the emphasis on production farming has declined over the years, the University's commitment to all elements of life in rural America has expanded. Enhancing the quality of life through improved family health and economic well-being, 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 need and to generally improve the broader range of conditions that face rural America.

*Velma L. Blackwell*

# FARMERS CONFERENCE

*Tuskegee University Kellogg Conference Center*

*February 24-25, 1994*

**Thursday, February 24, 1994**

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.                      Registration and Poster Set-Up

2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.                      Opening Session

2:00 p.m.                                      Presiding: Dr. Walter Hill, Dean  
School of Agriculture and Home Economics  
Tuskegee University

Invocation: Reverend Frederick Outlaw  
Pastor, Bowen United Methodist Church  
Tuskegee, AL

Welcome: Dr. Benjamin F. Payton, President  
Tuskegee University

## **Greetings from the Cooperative Extension Community**

Dr. Leodrey Williams  
Acting Administrator  
USDA/Extension Service  
Washington, DC

Dr. Chinella Henderson  
Administrator  
1890 Cooperative Extension Program  
Alabama A&M University  
Normal, AL

Dr. Ann E. Thompson  
Vice President for Extension  
Auburn University  
Auburn, AL

Dr. Harold Benson  
Chair  
1890 Extension Administrators  
Kentucky State University  
Frankfurt, KY

Occasion: Dr. William Lester, Provost  
Tuskegee University

## **Extension/Research Symposium:**

**“Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities and Rural Development”**

Introduction of Presenters:  
Mr. Clifford Jones  
USDA/1890 Liaison Officer  
Tuskegee University

Presenters: Mr. John Vance, Deputy Administrator  
Natural Resources and Rural Development  
USDA/Extension Service  
Washington, DC

Mr. Horace Horn  
State Director  
USDA/Farmers Home Administration  
Montgomery, AL

Mr. Lamar P. Higgins  
Executive Assistant to the Director and  
Mr. Don Reid  
Program Manager  
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Montgomery, AL

Reactors: Mr. Ralph Paige  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund  
Atlanta, GA

Dr. James Ferguson, Dean  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
Tuskegee University

The Honorable James Carter  
County Commission  
Greene County, AL

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Questions & Answers

3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Break

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Roundtable Discussion:**

**“The USDA and the Small Farmer and Landowner”**

Facilitator: Dr. Lincoln Moore, Associate Administrator  
Tuskegee University  
Cooperative Extension Program

**Agency Representatives:**

USDA/Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Mr. Daniel Robinson  
Chief Program Specialist of Production Adjustment  
Montgomery, AL

USDA/Extension Service

Dr. Ricardo Gomez, Manager  
Agriculture Environmental Programs  
Washington, DC

USDA/Farmers Home Administration

Mr. Richard Nazary  
Farmer Programs Specialist  
Montgomery, AL

Alabama Forestry Commission

Mr. Jerry McGhee  
County Forester for Macon County  
Tuskegee, AL

USDA/Soil Conservation Service

Mr. Ray Donaldson  
Assistant State Conservationist for Operations  
Auburn, AL

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **T.M. Campbell Memorial Banquet**

Presiding: Mr. Vann McCloud, Chief  
Community and Business Programs  
USDA/Farmers Home Administration  
Montgomery, AL

Invocation: Father Liston Garfield, Rector  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church  
Tuskegee, AL

Solo: Mr. James Bass  
VA Medical Center  
Tuskegee, AL

Dinner

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

Occasion: Dr. B.D. Mayberry  
Dean Emeritus  
Tuskegee University

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

Speaker: Dr. Henry Foster, Acting President  
Meharry Medical College  
Nashville, TN

Instrumental Solo:  
Mr. Ronald Handy  
Alabama State University  
Montgomery, AL

Recognition of the Campbell Family:  
Dr. Benjamin F. Payton, President  
Tuskegee University

Response of the Campbell Family:  
Mrs. Virginia Hawkins

Solo: Mr. George Paris  
USDA/Farmers Home Administration (retired)

Presentation of Awards, Recognition of Special Guests and Closing Remarks:  
Dr. Velma Blackwell, Administrator  
Cooperative Extension Program  
Tuskegee University

Benediction: Father Liston Garfield

**Friday, February 25, 1994**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Conference Exhibits
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	<b>Community Forum</b>

**Rural Health and National  
Health Care Reform**

Presiding:  
Attorney Yvonne Williams  
Vice President for Federal and International Relations  
Tuskegee University

Invocation:  
Dr. Edward Wheeler, Dean of the Chapel  
Tuskegee University

Selection: "Ain-A That Good News" arr. William L. Dawson, '21  
Tuskegee University Choir

Greetings from the Office of the Governor:

Mr. Wayne Greenhaw  
Director  
State of Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel  
Montgomery, AL

Introduction of Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Benjamin F. Payton, President  
Tuskegee University

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Audrey S. Manley  
Deputy Surgeon General of the United States  
Washington, DC

Selection: "Ev'ry Time I Feel The Spirit" arr. William L. Dawson, '21  
Tuskegee University Choir

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Health Forum/Community Speak Out**

Moderator

Panelists:

Committee for Underserved Populations, Washington, DC

Aaron Shirley, M.D.  
Project Director  
Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center  
Jackson, MS

President's Task Force on Health Care Reform

Mr. Jimmy L. Clay  
Medical Center Director  
Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Tuskegee, AL

Alabama Primary Health Care Association

Mr. Phillip Ives  
Executive Director  
Central Alabama Comprehensive Health  
Tuskegee, AL

Dr. Edgar Brown  
Rural Health Medical Program  
Selma, AL

Dr. Stanley Barnes  
Tri-County Medical  
Evergreen, AL

Governor's Task Force on Health Care Reform  
Dr. Robert Story, Chief of Staff  
Community Hospital  
Tallasse, AL

Macon County Health Alliance  
Mrs. Myrtle Adams  
Tuskegee, AL

Alabama Medicaid Agency  
Mr. David G. Toney, Commissioner  
Montgomery, AL

The Alabama Association of Life Underwriters  
Mr. Jim Naive, President  
Montgomery, AL

Families USA  
Ms. Mary Gill, Coordinator  
Alabama-Tennessee Area

American Association of Retired Persons  
Mr. John Sewell, District Coordinator  
VOTE Program

Statements: The Honorable Glen Browder  
3rd Congressional District, Alabama

The Honorable Earl Hilliard  
7th Congressional District, Alabama

#### Announcements

11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. **Break-Out Sessions/Poster Displays**

11:15 - 12:45 Session 1: "Disease Prevention/Health Promotion" (Cholesterol and Glucose Screening, Central Alabama Comprehensive Health)

Facilitator: Willie Chester, M.D.  
Family Practioner  
Tallasse, AL

11:15 - 12:00 Session 2a: "Money Does Grow on Trees"  
Facilitator: Dr. Peter Mount, Forestry Specialist  
Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program



12:00 - 12:45 Session 2b: "Financial Management for Families, Farms and Small Businesses"  
Facilitator: Dr. Benjamin Newhouse, Dean  
School of Business, Tuskegee University

11:15 - 12:00 Session 3a: "Current Animal Health Problems and Trends in Animal Production"  
Facilitator: Dr. Barbara Diffay, Instructor  
School of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee University

12:00 - 12:45 Session 3b: "Wildlife Control: Preventing Deer and Coyote Damage"  
Facilitator: Mr. Victor Khan, Research Associate  
George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station  
Tuskegee University

11:15 - 12:45 Session 4: "Issues in Rural Economic Development" (Southern Rural Development  
Center Participants)  
Facilitator: Dr. Mudiayi Ngandu, Associate Professor  
School of Agriculture and Home Economics, Tuskegee University

11:15 - 12:45 Session 5: "Youth Health Promotion & Disease Prevention" (Workshop for Youth  
Participants)  
Facilitator: Captain Barbara Ferguson  
U. S. Public Health Service/School of Nursing and Allied Health  
Tuskegee University

1:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. **Merit Farm Family Luncheon**

Presiding: Dr. Lawrence Carter, Extension Administrator  
Florida A&M University  
Tallahassee, FL

Invocation: Reverend Ida Wells, Pastor  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Tuskegee, AL

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

Speaker: Mr. Sam Taylor  
Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Small  
Community and Rural Development  
USDA/Farmers Home Administration  
Washington, DC

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. **Merit Farm Family Award**

Presiding: Dr. Peter Mount  
Forestry Specialist  
Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program

Presenting: Mr. Eugene Brown  
1993 Merit Farmer

Comments: The 1994 Merit Farm Family  
The James Richardson Family  
Orrville, AL (Dallas County)

Acknowledgement of Retired Extension Personnel

Closing Remarks: Dr. Velma Blackwell, Administrator  
Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program

4:00 p.m. **Bull Calves and Heifers Auction Milbank Hall**

### **Farmers Conference Co-Sponsors**

Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA  
Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State, MS  
National Health Service Corps  
Alpha Services  
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### Program Chair

Velma Blackwell

### Program Co-Chairs

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George Paris

Robert Zabawa

### Program Committee

All School Deans

Sharon Anderson

Velma Blackwell

Eunice Bonsi

Vascar Harris

Walter Hill

Elnora Hines

Robert Jones

B. D. Mayberry

Lincoln Moore

Miles Robinson

### Conference Historian

B. D. Mayberry

### Reference and Resource

Ntam Baharanyi

Elizabeth Benson

Velma Blackwell

Margaret Chenier

Patricia Henderson

Walter Hill

Elnora Hines

Bertha Jones

Erskine McKinnon

Sandy McCorvey

Lincoln Moore

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Bernice Wilson

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P. K. Biswas

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Barbara Harris

William Hodge

J. J. Johnson\*

Victor Khan

Marie Loretan

Vanese Singleton

### Registration

Jackie Brown\*\*

Sibyl Caldwell

Clyde Eaves

Renee Harvey

Louise Herron

Juanita McBride\*

Patricia Young

### Refreshments

Eunice Bonsi

Elaine Bromfield

Louise Herron

Ralphenia Pace

### Awards

Clifford Jones\*

Marie Loretan

Peter Mount

Ralph Noble

### Sustainable Agriculture

P. K. Biswas

Victor Khan

### Health, Home Economics and

#### Nutrition

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Elaine Bromfield

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Miles Robinson

### Youth Development

Eunice Bonsi

Velma Blackwell

Barbara Ferguson

Patricia Henderson

Marie Moore Lyles

George Paris

Mary Wheeler

### Program Booklet

Barbara Tyner

Sibyl Caldwell

*\*Indicates Chairperson*

### *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*

## 1994 Farmers Conference Goal and Objectives

### *Goal:*

*To affect public policy decisions on economic development and health care by calling national attention to the peculiar ways in which these issues impact rural America.*

### *Objectives:*

*To assess, through expert panel and public discussion, the implications of health care reform proposals and economic development programs currently debated by the federal government.*

*To appropriately involve rural citizens in the discussion of program proposals that directly affect them.*

*To recognize rural health needs and identify facilities, resources and agencies presently available and those projected.*

*To provide ideas and exchange information about economic status and lay the foundation for instituting programs in economic development for rural and farm families in the Black Belt.*

*To develop a network between Extension Personnel, rural families, educational institutions and community leaders to serve as advocates for programs and policies with special implications for rural America.*