

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

103rd Annual Farmers Conference



A Tuskegee Tradition Since 1892

Theme:

"Developing Strategies for Farms, Families
and Rural Communities"



T.M.

Tuskegee University Kellogg Conference Center
February 23-24, 1995

President's Message:

Greetings and welcome to the 103rd Farmers Conference. As always, we welcome the opportunity to showcase Tuskegee University and our efforts in outreach, research and teaching.

The theme of this year's Farmers Conference is particularly noteworthy in light of the issues surrounding rural development, the reorganization of the United States Department of Agriculture and new program directions from Washington. 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

Administrator's Message:

When Booker T. Washington first convened monthly meetings of farmers in 1892, it was his intent that the dialogue would result in strategies for improving the quality of life for the black southern farmers. The lifestyles of the farmers improved as a result of these monthly meetings which were in fact 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/urban America, particularly in the Black Belt counties of Alabama, has expanded. Enhancing the quality of life through improved programs for youth and families, economic and business development, health and nutrition, agriculture, leadership development and 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 23-24, 1995

Thursday, February 23, 1995

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Registration**

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

**"Reflections on Extension: Traditional Models, New Realities
and Future Projections"**

Presiding: **Dr. B.D. Mayberry**
Dean Emeritus
Tuskegee University

Moderator: **Ms. Tammy Truett**
Public Affairs Specialist
USDA Forest Service
Montgomery, Alabama

Panelists:

Mr. John M. Bentley
Head of Communications
Fort Valley State College
Cooperative Extension Program
Fort Valley, Georgia

Mr. Addre Bryant
County Agent Coordinator (retired)
Alabama Cooperative Extension Service
Montgomery County, Alabama

Dr. Evelyn F. Crayton
Associate Professor
Extension Foods and Nutrition Specialist
Alabama Cooperative Extension Service

Mrs. Patricia S. Henderson
Youth/Clothing Specialist
Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee, Alabama

Ms. Bertha Jones
4-H Specialist (retired)
Alabama Cooperative Extension Service
Tuskegee, Alabama

Mr. Sandy McCorvey
U.S. Foreign Service (retired)
Tuskegee, Alabama

Mr. George Paris
Assistant Director, Marketing
State of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
Montgomery, Alabama

Dr. Booker T. Whatley
Professor Emeritus
Tuskegee University

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. **Break**

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Panel Discussion Continued and Video Presentation**

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **T.M. Campbell Memorial Banquet**

Presiding: **Mrs. Myrtle Adams**
Counsellor/Lecturer
School of Veterinary Medicine
Tuskegee University

Invocation: **Reverend Clifford Jones**
USDA Liaison Officer
Tuskegee University

Solo: **Mr. Ellis Moorer**
VA Medical Center
Tuskegee, Alabama

Dinner

Solo: Mr. Ellis Moorer

Occasion: Dr. Carl Marbury
Interim Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
Tuskegee University

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

Speaker: Dr. Walter Washington
President Emeritus
Alcorn State University

Musical Selections

Recognition of the Campbell Family:
Dr. Benjamin F. Payton

Response of the Campbell Family:
Mrs. Virginia Hawkins

Solo: Mr. George F. Paris
USDA/Farmers Home Administration (retired)
Tuskegee, Alabama

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

Benediction: Reverend Clifford Jones

Friday, February 24, 1995

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

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **"Developing Strategies for Farms, Families and Rural Communities"**

Presiding: **Dr. Alan Letton**
Dean
School of Engineering and Architecture
Tuskegee University

Invocation: **Reverend Ida Wells, Pastor**
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Tuskegee, Alabama

Selections: **Tuskegee University Choir**

Greetings: **Public Officials and Friends**

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

Keynote Speaker:
Mr. Ronnie Murphy
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Auburn, Alabama

Farmer Program Profile:
Ms. Jessie Brown
International Coalition of Farmers
Houston, Texas

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Break-Out Sessions**

Session A: Youth and Education (*Auditorium*)

Chairperson: **Mrs. Patricia S. Henderson,**
Youth/Clothing Specialist, Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

Facilitator: **Mr. Alphonso Elliott,** County Agent
Dallas/Perry Counties, Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

This session will highlight creative programs for Alabama's youth. Key elements will focus specifically on innovations in program design strategies, state-of-the-art communication devices and creative ways to market and publicize youth programs.

1. Chilton County Youth Program

Mr. Herman Washington, Supervisor of Vocational Education, Chilton County Board of Education
Clanton, Alabama

Mr. Bobby Sullens, Agribusiness Teacher
Verbena High School
Verbena, Alabama

2. USDA Youth Loan Program

Mr. George Tabb, Farm Management Specialist
FmHA Project, Tuskegee University

3. The Wil-Low Scholastic Development Program

Dr. Sharon L. Anderson, District Agent
Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

Mrs. Ester Jackson, County Agent
Lowndes/Wilcox Counties
Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

Session B: Economic Development (*Rooms F and G*)

Chairperson: Mr. Vann L. McCloud, Chief, Community and Business Programs, USDA Rural Economic and Community Development

Facilitator: Ms. Bernice Wilson, County Agent
Macon/Montgomery Counties, Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

The Economic Development Session will focus on two areas. The first, is an introduction to a program that increases the access to financial capital for limited resource farmers. The second is an update on the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community initiative which discusses how rural communities can improve their economic well-being.

1. The Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Training and Technical Assistance Project

Mr. Miles Robinson, Associate Director, FmHA Project,
Tuskegee University

2. Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Update

Mr. John Zippert, Federation of Southern
Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund
Epes, Alabama

Mr. George Paris, Assistant Director, Marketing
State of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Dr. Ntam Baharanyi, Department of Agricultural
Sciences, Tuskegee University

Ms. Carolyn Funchesi, East Alabama Regional Planning
Commission
Anniston, Alabama

Session C: Forest and Natural Resources (Room A)

Chairperson: Dr. Peter Mount, Forest Specialist,, Tuskegee
University Cooperative Extension Program

Facilitator: Mr. Walter Baldwin, County Agent
Macon/Montgomery Counties, Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

In this session participants will take a quarter mile hike on an interpretive trail on the Booker T. Washington High School Outdoor Education Area. There will be a guided discussion on how land areas can be used to boost rural or local development.

Demonstration Tour

Dr. Peter Mount, Forestry Specialist, Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

Session D: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (Rooms D and E)

Chairperson: Mrs. Marie Moore Lyles, School of Nursing and Allied Health, Tuskegee University

Facilitator: Mrs. Habiba Shaw, County Agent
Barbour/Bullock Counties, Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

The goal for this session is to provide individuals and families with information concerning lifestyles and habits that can promote wellness and longevity. This will be accomplished through three break-out sessions concentrating on nutrition, general health, and sexual health. All participants will have an opportunity to complete a lifestyle report card to assist in planning personal and family health.

1. General Session: Health and Nutrition (10:45 - 11:15)

Mrs. Janice Hardy
Mrs. Carolyn Moffett
Mrs. Marisha Vaidya
Graduate Program

Dr. Ralphenia Pace, Advisor
Department of Home Economics
Tuskegee University

Captain Barbara Ferguson
US Public Health Service, NHSC
Tuskegee University

2. Sexual Health: For Men Only (11:15 - 12:00)

Dr. Demetrius I. Lyles, Sr.
School of Veterinary Medicine (retired)
Tuskegee University

Mr. Chuck Maney
LPN, Central Alabama Urology Associates
Montgomery, Alabama

3. Sexual Health: For Women Only (11:15 - 12:00)

Dr. E. Gail Brown
School of Nursing and Allied Health
Tuskegee University

Ms. Louvenia Ward
School of Nursing and Allied Health
Tuskegee University

Session E: Farm Demonstration (Room B)

Chairperson: Mr. Victor Khan, George Washington Carver
Agricultural Experiment Station, Tuskegee University

Facilitator: Mr. George Hunter, Assistant County Agent
Lowndes/Wilcox Counties, Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

Targeting farming audiences, this session will focus on how vegetable producers can increase their incomes by increasing yields or hitting the market windows for their products at the most advantageous time. Additionally, strategies for small livestock producers will be highlighted.

1. Vegetable Production

Mr. Victor Khan
George Washington Carver
Agricultural Experiment Station, Tuskegee University

2. Animal Production

Dr. Ralph Noble
Department of Agriculture Sciences
Tuskegee University

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Merit Farm Family Luncheon

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

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

Lunch

Merit Farm Family Award

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

Presenting: Dr. Velma L. Blackwell to
The Clyde Gray Family
Barbour County, Alabama

Comments: 1995 Merit Farm Family

Family and Community Success Stories

Presiding: Mrs. Patricia S. Henderson
Youth/Clothing Specialist
Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

Opening Selection(s): Mr. Rodney Brown
Opelika, Alabama

Youth Emphasis: Tuskegee Goaters 4-H Club
Miss Decetti Taylor, President
Miss Gertrude Nganwa, Parliamentarian

Dr. Barbara Diffay, Advisor
Extension Veterinarian
Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

Spiritual Emphasis: St. John AME Church
Reverend Eric Little, Pastor
St. John AME Church
Youth Counsellor, TU Job Corps
Tuskegee, Alabama

Housing Emphasis: Tuskegee Housing Authority
Mr. Lonnie Smith, Director
Tuskegee Housing Authority
Tuskegee, Alabama

Senior Emphasis: Tuskegee RSVP
Mrs. Sadie Edwards, Director
Retired Seniors Volunteer Program
Tuskegee, Alabama

Community Emphasis: **Beloit Community Recycling Project**
Ms. Gertrude Wall, Assistant County Agent
Dallas/Perry Counties, Tuskegee University
Cooperative Extension Program

Dedication: **Special Guests**

Acknowledgements and Closing Remarks: **Dr. Velma L. Blackwell**

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Break-Out Session Activities Continued

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Patricia Henderson

Peter Mount

Robert Zabawa

Program Committee

All School Deans

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Velma Blackwell

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Awards

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Conference Historian

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CONFERENCE STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

The Annual Farmers Conference evolved 103 years ago out of a need to improve the conditions of rural black farmers in the South. Having just overcome slavery, black farmers in the South had a wealth of social, economic, educational and morale problems that desperately needed attention.

After observing these conditions, upon his arrival at Tuskegee, Booker T. Washington developed and implemented monthly group meetings for the farmers. Those monthly meetings of approximately 75 people were the stepping stones to the first Annual Farmers Conference, held in 1892, which drew a crowd of over 400 farmers and professional agriculture workers from all areas of the rural south.

The Annual Farmers Conference represented not only the pioneering spirit of Tuskegee University but the real beginning of black agricultural extension work in the South. This conference led to many significant developments including Tuskegee University's Cooperative Extension Program, the George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station, demonstration work, movable schools, and other outreach programs. It also led to the appointment of Thomas Monroe Campbell as the first cooperative extension agent in the United States. Since the appointment of Campbell in 1906, Cooperative Extension at Tuskegee University grew from one county agent covering Macon and surrounding counties to 12 agents serving 12 counties in the Black Belt of Alabama.

In 1991, Tuskegee University's Cooperative Extension Program merged with the Center for Continuing Education. This merger gives Tuskegee University the added capability to better meet the traditional and ever-changing needs of farmers and rural communities as well as broader areas that involve youth leadership development, water quality testing, alternative enterprise development, health and nutrition and family well-being. The theme of the 103rd Annual Farmers Conference, "Development Strategies for Farms, Families and Rural Communities," speaks to the need to re-examine the way in which problems and opportunities were dealt with in the past as we prepare for the future.

1995 Farmers Conference Goal and Objectives

Goal:

To affect public policy decisions by focusing on development strategies for farm, family and community issues and call national attention to the peculiar ways that these issues impact rural America.

Objectives:

To assess, through expert specialists and public discussion, the effectiveness of policies and programs targeted to farms, families and rural communities.

To appropriately involve rural citizens in the discussion of proposals, policies and programs that directly affect them.

To recognize rural development needs and to identify facilities, resources and agencies presently available and those projected.

To provide ideas and exchange information about economic development and lay the foundation for instituting programs in economic development for farms, families and rural communities in the Alabama Black Belt.

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