

**Tuskegee University  
Cooperative Extension Program**

# ***105th Annual Farmers Conference***



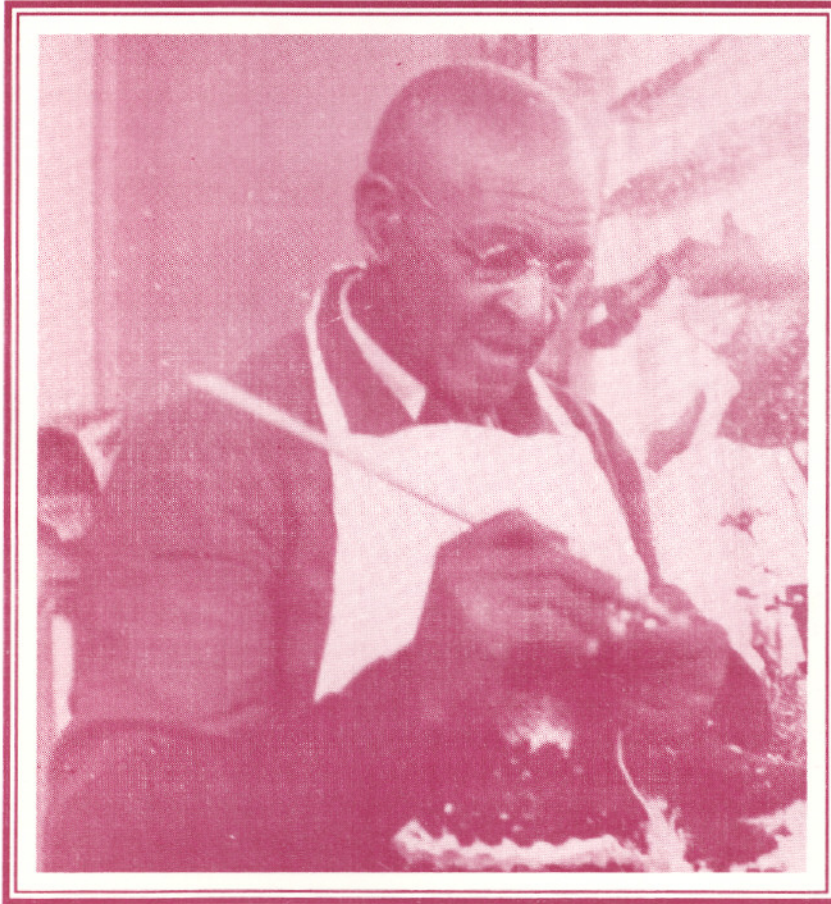
**"A Tuskegee Tradition Since 1892"**

**Theme: "Building Communities: Forging Partnerships to Meet  
the Challenges of Rural Alabama for the 21st Century"**



**Tuskegee University Kellogg Conference Center  
February 13-14, 1997**

## A Centennial Tribute



### Dr. George Washington Carver

*"Of course it has always been the one great ideal of my life to be the greatest good to the greatest number of my people possible, and to this end I have been preparing myself for these many years; feeling as I do that this line of education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom to our people." (Carver's letter to Washington in April, 1896)*

Booker T. Washington wrote to Dr. Carver on April 1, 1896, inviting him to come to Tuskegee by the fall, 1896 and Dr. Carver accepted immediately. The 1996-97 school year marks the centennial year of Dr. Carver's arrival by train at Chehaw on October 8, 1896, beginning his work as the first director of the newly established Department of Agriculture at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. In February 1897, Dr. Carver assumed additional duties as the director of the "Branch Agricultural Experiment Station and Agricultural School for the colored race", newly established at Tuskegee through an act of the Alabama General Assembly signed by Governor Johnston on February 15, 1897.

For almost half a century, George Washington Carver devoted his life to research projects that benefited southern agriculture. He discovered hundreds of uses for the peanut, sweet potato, and soybean, thus stimulating production of these crops. From local clays he extracted several useful dyes and suggested many uses for cotton waste. While dedicated primarily to finding ways of bettering the position of African Americans, he brought progress for all people. His discoveries helped to liberate the southern economy from excessive dependence on cotton. By 1938, peanuts had become a \$200 million industry and a chief product of Alabama.

Carver was born of slave parents in Missouri during the era of the Civil War. When he was an infant, he and his mother were abducted from the owner's plantation by slave raiders. His mother was sold, but her son was ransomed by his master in exchange for a race horse.

By age 13, Carver was already on his own. While working as a farm hand, he obtained a high school education and was able to continue to study at Simpson College (now University) and at Iowa State A&M College (now Iowa State University) where he received the B.S. and M.A. degrees. In 1896, with some teaching experience and research at Iowa State, he was invited by Booker T. Washington to join the faculty at Tuskegee. He stayed 47 years until his death during on January 5, 1943.

Carver patented only five of his discoveries, saying: "God gave them to me; how can I sell them to someone else?" In the depression year of 1938, he established the George Washington Carver Foundation and willed his estate to the organization so that his work could be continued indefinitely.

World renown Carver is buried in the Tuskegee University Cemetery along with Booker T. Washington and other great Tuskegee notables. The epitaph on his tombstone reads: "He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world."

## ***Conference 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.

# 105th Annual Farmers Conference

*Tuskegee University Kellogg Conference Center  
Tuskegee, Alabama*

***Theme: "Building Communities: Forging Partnerships to Meet the Challenges of  
Rural Alabama for the 21st Century"***

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1997

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. .... **Annual Pre-Conference Forum**  
(Meeting Rooms D&E)  
Meeting of the Extension Advisory Council  
"Strategic Visioning for the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program"  
Presiding: Oscar M. Williams, District Agent/Resource Specialist  
Cooperative Extension Program  
Tuskegee University

6:00 p.m. .... **T.M. Campbell Memorial Banquet**  
(Ballroom)  
Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Hank Sanders, State Senator  
23rd District  
Selma, Alabama

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1997

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. .... **Registration**  
(Conference Registration Desk)

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. .... **Health Fair**  
(Conference Registration Foyer)

### Participants

- Macon County Health Department
- Macon County Sickle Cell Association
- TAHEC
- Tuskegee University Student Health Service
- College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. .... **Opening Session**  
(Auditorium)

**The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act: Issues and Implications  
for Family Well-Being**

Presiding: Velma L. Blackwell, Administrator  
Cooperative Extension Program  
Tuskegee University

Greetings ..... Benjamin F. Payton, President  
Tuskegee University

Moderator ..... Don Reid, Planning Supervisor  
Alabama Department of Economic and Cultural Affairs  
Montgomery, Alabama

**Panelists**

"Welfare Reform in Alabama: Opportunities and Challenges" ..... Joel Sanders  
Director  
Office of Welfare Reform  
Alabama Department of Human Resources  
Montgomery, Alabama

"The Effects of Welfare Reform on Medicaid & Family Health" ..... Kathy Vincent  
Staff Assistant to the State Health Officer  
Alabama Department of Health  
Montgomery, Alabama

"Challenges for the Food Stamp Program" ..... Glenda Smith  
Program Specialist  
Food Stamp Program, Southeast Region

"Welfare to Workfare: Reactions at the County Level" ..... Linda Buchanan  
Director  
Macon County Department of Human Resources  
Tuskegee, Alabama

"Industry and Job Training: Response to Welfare Reform" ..... Sara Dennis  
Education Manager  
Economic Development Partnership of Alabama  
Montgomery, Alabama

Reactor ..... The Honorable George Clay, Senator  
28th District  
Tuskegee, Alabama

Commentator (Questions & Answers)..... Costee McNair, Program Manager  
WBIL Radio Station  
Tuskegee, Alabama

Summary Reporter ..... Robert Zabawa, Professor/CRD  
GWC Experiment Station/Cooperative Extension Program

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. .... Break

10:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. .... **Concurrent Workshop Sessions**

**Session 1** (Meeting Rooms D&E)

**Agriculture:** This workshop will address the challenges facing the small producer in a changing economic environment.

**Moderator:** Alphonso Elliott, County Agent, Dallas/Perry Counties  
**Recorder:** Walter Baldwin, County Agent, Macon/Montgomery Counties

Meat Goat Production, Distribution and Marketing ..... George R. Riley  
Alabama Meat Goat Association

Managing Cattle for Sustainable Production During Periods of Low Cattle Prices .....  
Tommy R. Davis  
Livestock Market Analyst  
Livestock Market News  
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries

Impact of Recent Federal Legislation on the Small Poultry & Red Meat Producer .....  
Leonard H. Billups  
Associate Professor of Pathology  
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health

An overview of Sustainable Agriculture Practices in the Alabama Black Belt .....  
Ntam Baharanyi, Agriculture Economist  
Cooperative Extension Program

Atheal Pierce, Head  
Program and Staff Development  
Cooperative Extension Program

**Session 2 (Meeting Room F)**

**Health:** This will focus on promoting healthy lifestyles

**Moderator:** *Gwendolyn Johnson, Associate Cunty Agent, Greene/Hale Counties*  
**Recorder:** *Habiba Shaw, County Agent, Barbour/Bullock Counties*

Animals as Contributors to Human Health and Well Being ..... Caroline Schaffer, D.V.M.  
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health

Sexual Health for Men and Women ..... Louvenia Ward, R.N.  
Tuskegee University

Joi Comer, Dawn Petiford, Tomisha Ward  
Nursing Students  
Tuskegee University

**Session 3 (Meeting Room G)**

**Rural Business, Community & Economic Development:** This workshop will focus on agriculture, rural businesses, and rural community and economic development.

**Moderator:** Miles Robinson, Associate Director, Small Farmer Outreach Training & Technical Assistance Program, Tuskegee University

**Recorder:** Ester Jackson, County Agent, Lowndes/Wilcox Counties

Rural Development, Housing, Business & Industry Empowerment Zone/Enterprise  
Communities/Champion Community ..... Chris Harmon  
Rural Development Coordinator  
USDA/Rural Development



Farmer Programs ..... Richard E. Nazary, Agricultural Credit Specialist  
USDA/Farm Service Agency

Natural Resource Programs ..... Bob Jones, Deputy State Conservationist  
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rural Business Programs ..... Naima Price, Associate Director  
Rural Business and Economic Development Program  
Tuskegee University

**Session 4**    **(Auditorium)**

**Youth:**        **The Youth Entrepreneurship session will actively involve youth and youth leaders in the process of organizing and operating a pilot business activity.**

**Moderator: Gertrude Wall, Associate County Agent, Dallas/Perry Counties**

**Recorder: Jerry Burton, Assistant County Agent, Sumter/Marengo**

***Youth Entrepreneurship: Startup***

Motivational Considerations for the World of Business ..... Lonnie Smith  
Executive Director  
Tuskegee Housing Authority  
Tuskegee, Alabama

Motivating Youth: Orientation to Successful Business Possibilities ..... Malika Sanders  
Executive Director  
21st Century Youth Leadership Movement  
Selma, Alabama

**Questions and Answers**

**Youth Entrepreneurship: Sample Business Designs**

Aviation Design ..... Colonel Roosevelt Lewis, Director  
Air Tuskegee, Ltd.  
Tuskegee, Alabama

Arthur Critten, President  
Teen Business Organization  
Tuskegee, Alabama

Agriculture Design ..... Guy Trammell, Resident Initiative Coordinator  
Tuskegee Housing Authority  
Tuskegee, Alabama

Victor Khan, Senior Research Associate  
George Washington Carver Experiment Station  
Tuskegee University

**Youth Entrepreneurship: Creative Talents as Business Ventures**

Dramatic Presentation ..... Dorothy Teague, Director  
Outreach Modification  
Macon County Juvenile Court

Outreach Organization Members

12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. .... **Luncheon** (Ballroom)  
Presentation of Merit Farm Family Award  
Summary Reports: Pre-Conference Forum & Workshop Sessions

**Post Conference Activities**

2:30 p.m. .... **Select Bull Calf Sale**  
Milbank Agriculture Building Front Lawn

## **1997 Merit Farmer**

### **Mr. Willie James Carter** Pine Apple, Alabama

Willie James Carter was introduced to farming at an early age by his father and uncle. According to Willie's father, his childhood was mostly spent doing various farm chores. Learning a great deal from his father and uncle at an early age, Willie's farming interest grew. His first own farming experience of his own started through the 4-H club by raising chickens and swine under the leadership of the local county agent.

After finishing high school, Willie left home to work in Florida. Shortly thereafter, he returned home. He started working at McMillian Paper Mill in Pine Hill, Alabama and assisted his father on the family farm, raising corn, cucumbers, beef cattle and swine.

In the mid 60's, Willie purchased the farm first tractor and other equipment. He wanted to help increase the production of corn and clip the pasture land. At this point, Willie's father gave him his first cow/calf pair, and real farming got started.

In 1978, Willie purchased 28 head of brood cows from his uncle, and a second tractor, a Massey Ferguson 175. In 1983, Willie bought 30 acres of pasture land west of the original family farm. In addition, he started renting the original family farm. In 1984, Willie purchased 122 acres of timberland in Forest Home, Alabama, which he manages for multiple use -- timber and hunting. This timberland is a young stand of softwood and has great potential to grow in value. In 1988, Willie purchased 73 acres of open land East of the original family farm, 20 brood cows and all the necessary equipment to harvest his own hay.

Willie Carter has been a user of the Cooperative Extension Program for some years. He has used the recommendations of Associate County Agents in Lowndes and Wilcox counties to improve hay, pasture land and his beef cattle operation. Willie believes in soil testing and proper management practices for his cow/calf herd. These practices consist of deworming, vaccinating calves for blackleg, castrating, and implanting calves (steers) with recommended growth hormone.

When Mr. Carter was asked how he was able to farm while working full time off farm, he stated: "Planning is the key to a successful farming operation". Today, Willie's operation has grown into some 230 owned acres of pasture, timber and hay lands. In addition, he rents 100 acres of pasture land. His cattle number has increased to 110 head of brood cows, 4 bulls and 2 horses.

When asked about his future goals, Mr. Carter stated that he would like to buy another 100 acres of land, increase his beef cattle herd number to 175 head of brood cows and the necessary bull power. He also stated that he would like to continue to manage his timberland for multiple use and improve the management practices and plant food plots for wildlife to increase hunting rights.

Mr. Willie James Carter has four sisters and two brothers. Willie is an active member of the Little Zion A.M.E. Methodist Church in Wilcox County. Willie stated that he is proud of his operation and would not think of selling it.

## 1997 Farmers Conference Committees

### Program Chair

Velma L. Blackwell

### Program Co-Chairs

William A. Hodge  
Ralph Noble

### Program Committee

All College Deans  
Ntam Baharanyi  
Leonard Billups  
Velma L. Blackwell  
Eunice Bonsi  
Jerry Burton  
Thomas S. Harris\*  
Patricia S. Henderson  
Victor Khan  
B. D. Mayberry  
George Paris  
Miles Robinson  
Saul Wilson

### Reference and Resource

Leonard Billups  
Atheal Pierce\*  
Oscar Williams  
Saul Wilson

### Merit Farm Family

Maire Loretan  
Carlton Morris  
Peter R. Mount\*

### Transportation

Reginald Bentley\*  
Reginald Plummer

### Printed Materials

Reginald Bentley  
Karen W. Craig\*  
Juanita McBride  
Yvonne Wright

### Publicity

J.J. Johnson  
Brook Martin  
Thomas Martin  
Sharon Samuel\*

### Banquet/Luncheon Prgs.

Eunice Bonsi\*  
Thomas S. Harris  
Patricia S. Henderson  
Sharon Samuel

### Registration

Jacqueline Brown  
Barbara Diffay  
Juanita McBride\*  
Vanese Singleton  
Yvonne Wright

### Sustainable Agriculture

Leonard Billups  
Barbara Diffay  
William A. Hodge  
Victor Khan  
Ralph Noble\*  
Atheal Pierce

### Health

Patricia S. Henderson  
Betty Hamon  
Irene Khan  
Marie Lyles\*  
Rosa Storrs  
Lou Ward  
Wanda Wilkins

### Economic Development

Ntam Baharanyi\*  
Bertha Jones  
Miles Robinson  
Saul Wilson

### Youth Development

Eunice Bonsi  
Victor Khan  
Juanita McBride  
Roosevelt Lewis  
Harvey Maxwell  
Patricia S. Henderson\*  
Miles Robinson  
Lonnie Smith  
Dorothy Teaque  
Guy Trammel

### Conference Escorts

University Escorts  
MANRRS

### Music

Silas Christian  
Lillie Lowery

### Evaluation Committee

Ntam Baharanyi

\*Denotes Chairperson