

*“The Small Farmer: Adapting  
and Thriving in the 21st  
Century”*



*“A Tuskegee Tradition Since 1892”*

*109th Annual Farmers Conference  
February 8-9, 2001*

*Tuskegee University  
Kellogg Conference Center  
Tuskegee, Alabama*

*“A Tuskegee Tradition Since 1892”*

# *2001 Merit Farm Family*



*The Willie James Brown Family  
Marbury, Alabama*



*"A Tuskegee Tradition Since 1892"*

*Over 109 years ago, the Annual Farmers Conference evolved out of a need to improve the conditions of rural, Black farmers in the South. The Annual Farmers Conference represented not only the pioneering spirit of Tuskegee University but the real beginning of agricultural extension in the South. Historical milestones associated with this conference include: the appointment of Thomas Monroe Campbell as the first extension agent in the United States, the development of Tuskegee University's movable school, and the establishment of the agricultural experiment station and cooperative extension program.*

*This year, attention will be directed toward **"The Small Farmer: Adapting and Thriving in the 21st Century."** It is our goal to enhance the overall quality of life for all our constituents and present opportunities to benefit the community. We also hope to make the latest farming techniques, practices, and technologies available to those they benefit most.*

# *"The Small Farmer: Survival Strategies for the New Century"*

***THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2001***

***9:00 a.m. ....Registration (Continuing Education Foyer)***

***10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. ....Annual Meeting of the TUCEP State Extension Advisory Council  
(Meeting Rooms F & G)***

*Presiding: Jesse Upshaw, Chairman  
State Extension Advisory Council*

***12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m. ....Forest Management Practices (Meeting Rooms F&G)  
Coordinated by Outreach Coordinators of the Alabama Forestry Commission***

*Presiding: Ronald Smith, Extension Forester  
Cooperative Extension Program  
Tuskegee University*

## ***Treasure Forest Association & Forest Management Plans***

*Tim Albritton, Forestry Management Chief  
Alabama Forestry Commission*

## ***Landowner Services***

*Michelle H. Cole, Outreach Coordinator  
Alabama Forestry Commission*

### ***TOUR OF WATTS FARM, TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA***

*Participants of this tour will have an opportunity to review an existing management plan for the Watts Farm and evaluate its implementation. Registered foresters will be available for questions and answers.*

*(Directions will be provided)*

***2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ....Mini-Agriculture Expo (Atrium)***

***4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ....Black Farmers Lawsuit Update, Part 1 (Auditorium)***

*Presiding: Henry Findlay, Professor and Director of Program Development  
Continuing Education, Tuskegee University*

*Recording: Jennifer Wells, Assistant County Agent  
Cooperative Extension Program, Tuskegee University*

## ***Randi Roth and Associate Attorneys***

*Court Appointed Monitor  
Black Farmers Lawsuit Settlement Consent Decree*

***6:30 p.m. ....Thomas Monroe Campbell Memorial Banquet (Ballroom)***

*Guest Speaker: The Honorable Charles Steele  
Alabama State Senator, 24th District*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2001**

**7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. ....Registration (Conference Registration Desk)**

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

*Presiding: Jim Fuller, Program Specialist  
USDA National Outreach Office  
Washington, D.C.*

*Recording: Ronald Smith, Extension Forester  
Cooperative Extension Program, Tuskegee University*

**Invocation .....Rev. Ida Wells, Retired Minister**

*Tuskegee, Alabama*

**Greetings & Welcome .....Benjamin F. Payton, President**

*Tuskegee University*

*The Honorable George Clay  
Alabama State Senator, 28th District*

*The Honorable Johnny Ford  
Alabama State Representative, 82nd District*

**Market Development for Alabama Vegetable Producers .....George M. Paris, Director**

*Agriculture Promotions Section  
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries*

**Value Added Opportunities using Plasticulture Production .....Harold McLemore, Project Manager**

*Alabama Department Agriculture and Industries*

**Community Based Partnerships and Opportunities at work in Alabama .....Norman Burton**

*Coordinator, Ala-Tom RC&D*

*Laconia Harris, President  
United Christian Community Association*

*Arthur Jackson  
Marketing Specialist, Down South Foods*

**Update Black Farmers Lawsuit Update, Part 2 .....George Hall, President**

*Alabama Chapter, Black Farmers & Agriculturalists Association*

*Attorney Rose Sanders  
Chesnut, Sanders, Sanders, Pettway, Campbell  
Selma, Alabama*

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

**10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ....Concurrent Sessions**

*Community Food Safety, Health & Nutrition Fair*  
*9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*  
*Continuing Education Foyer*

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

***Session 1 - Environmental Justice and Rural Health Issues: Environmental Concerns Create New Opportunities for Small Farmers (Meeting Room A)***

***Presiding***

*Ellis Hall, Chairman, Macon County Citizens for a Safe Environment*  
*Overview: Sustainability, Stewardship and the Environment: The Farm Act*

***Recording***

*Anita Pinkney, Instructor, Division of Allied Health*  
*College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health*

***Presenting***

***"Land Management to Prevent Pollution"***

*Jeff Clary, County Extension Coordinator, Lee County*  
*Alabama Cooperative Extension System*

***"Increasing Incidences of Animal to Human Transmissible Diseases"***

*Lekan Ayanwale, Health Specialist, Cooperative Extension Program*  
*Tuskegee University*

***"Recent Environmental Issues both in Macon County and the State of Alabama"***

*Harry Noble, Owner, Noble Farms, Macon County, Alabama*

***"Update on Governor's Commission on Environmental Initiatives"***

*Ann Smith, Commission Member, Tallassee, Alabama*

***Session 2 - The Basics for Personal and Entrepreneurial Development (Meeting Rooms F & G)***

***Presiding***

*Nyanza Duplessis, Resource Development Specialist, Rural Business and Economic Development Program*  
*Tuskegee University*

***Recording***

*Amadou Diop, Graduate Research Assistant, Agricultural and Resource Economics Program*  
*Tuskegee University*

**Presenting**

***“Why Plan for Yourself, Business and Community Development?”***

*Yousouf Diabete, Business Development Specialist, Rural Business and Economic Development Program  
Tuskegee University*

***“The ABCs of Wealth Building”***

*Michael Ingersol, Personal Finance Manager, Primerica Financial Services  
Phoenix City, Alabama*

***“Plan for Tax Deductions you Deserve”***

*Reynolds Alcena, Business Development Assistant, Rural Business and Economic Development Program  
Tuskegee University*

***“Tools for Managing Risk in Agriculture”***

*James Novak, Professor and Extension Economist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
Auburn University*

***Session 3 - How to Benefit from Using Farmer's Markets (Meeting Rooms D & E)***

**Presiding**

*Allan Corbin, Assistant Federal State Supervisor  
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA*

**Recording**

*Jerry Burton, Assistant County Agent, Cooperative Extension Program  
Tuskegee University*

**Presenting**

***“The Past, Present, and Future of the Alabama Farmer's Market”***

*Lawrence Calvert, President of the Board  
Jefferson County Truck Grower's Association*

***“Market Operations”***

*Danny Jones, Market Manager  
Jefferson County Truck Farmers Association*

***“The Role of the Alabama Farmer's Market Authority”***

*Don Wambles, Executive Director  
Alabama Farmers Market Authority*

***“The Farmer's Perspective: Life on the Market”***

*Clarence Dixon, Board Member  
Jefferson County Truck Farmers Association*

***Session 4 - Your Land is Your Business - Planning Your Assets for the Future (Meeting Room B)***

***Presiding***

*Robert Mants, Farm Management Specialist  
Tuskegee University*

***Recording***

*Ester Jackson, County Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
Hayneville, Alabama*

***Presenting***

***Estate Planning, Business Entities & Heir Property***

*Robert Tufts, Associate Professor of Timber Harvesting & Forest Engineering  
Auburn University*

*Robert Zabawa, Rural Development Specialist  
Cooperative Extension Program  
Tuskegee University*

***Session 5 - Beef Cattle Production and Sire Selection in Black Belt Alabama: A decade of activities at Tuskegee University (Morrison-Mayberry Hall, Room 101)***

***Presiding***

*Barbara Diffay, Special Assistant to the Dean  
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health*

***Recording***

*Marica Montgomery, Pre-Vet Club Student  
Tuskegee University*

***Presenting***

*Walter Baldwin, County Agent, Cooperative Extension Program  
Tuskegee University*

*Alphonso Elliott, County Agent, Cooperative Extension Program  
Tuskegee University*

*George Hunter, Associate County Agent, Cooperative Extension Program  
Tuskegee University*

*Ralph Noble, Animal Science Specialist  
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences  
Tuskegee University*

12:30 p.m. .... *Merit Farm Family Award Luncheon (Ballroom)*

*Guest Speaker: Connie Tucker*

*Executive Director*

*Southern Organization Committee for Economic and Social Justice*

*Commentary: Charles Bishop, Commissioner*

*State of Alabama*

*Department of Agriculture and Industries*

*2001 Merit Farmer: Willie James Brown*

*Marbury, Alabama*



## *The Brown Story*

*To be awarded the Merit Farm Family award is to be honored as an agricultural success and a gem in the community. Mr. Willie James Brown is the personification of both. Reared in a strong family tradition of farming, it could be said that farming, for Mr. Brown, is "in the blood." Prior to the Civil War, his grandfather owned a farm even as a slave. His father farmed that same land and in doing so, taught Willie that being a farmer meant more than working the land. Under his father's tutelage, he learned more than just the physical labor involved. On his father's land he was taught the value of farm management skills and how to market both his farm and the farms of others to generate income.*

*After graduating from high school in 1951, Mr. Brown received a deferment to farm but joined the army in 1954. Two years later, he was honorably discharged established his farms enterprise with 140 acres of farmland. Later Mr. Brown purchased another 90 acres and acquired 40 acres through a family inheritance for farming. Some additional acreage was purchased for his residence. Prior to 1981, Mr. Brown owned over 300 acres of farmland. Over the last several year Mr. Brown has continued to increase his farm acreage. During the last crop year, Mr. Brown farmed 600 acres of land.*

*To properly work the land, it was necessary to purchase equipment. In 1940, Mr. Brown bought a John Deere tractor and in 1957, he and his father bought a two-row 40 John Deere tractor. That same year they also bought a one-ton Chevy truck.*

*Willie Brown Farm Enterprises is a combination of vegetable and livestock production. With modest equipment he has rented and worked land in more than five different counties. This year Mr. Brown planted between 400 and 600 acres of collard and turnip greens, 75 acres of cotton, 250 to 400 acres of watermelon, 250 acres of corn, 40 acres of squash, 50 acres of cantaloupes, 75 acres of peas and 20 acres of butterbeans. In addition, he farms 100 head of cattle and 200 head of hogs. University extension and outreach staffers have provided invaluable technical assistance to his farm enterprise.*

*During his 45 years of farming, Mr. Brown has put into practice the childhood lessons he received from his father and grandfather. Mr. Brown is also active in his community. Other farmers draw from his marketing ability to improve the financial success of their own establishments. Not only is he a regular attendee of the Farmers Conference, but he brings with him 30 to 40 other participants.*

*Because of his outstanding accomplishments in the area of agriculture, the Tuskegee University Extension Program gladly honors the Willie James Brown family as Merit Farm Family 2001.*

# *A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MONROE CAMPBELL*

*At Tuskegee University, the name Thomas Monroe Campbell, or T.M. Campbell as he was more commonly called, is synonymous with extension. In recognition of the fact that he was the first Cooperative Extension Agent in the United States, he headed the first Cooperative Extension Program in the nation. These facts were the product of cooperation by (1) The United States Government, represented by Seaman A. Knapp; (2) The State of Alabama, represented by Auburn University; (3) private enterprise, represented by the General Education Board; and (4) Tuskegee University, represented by Booker T. Washington on November 12, 1906.*

*On January 11, 1946, a bust of T.M. Campbell was unveiled and presented to Tuskegee University in honor of his forty years of service in Extension Agriculture. The statement on this occasion about Mr. Campbell and his work follows:*

*Mr. T.M. Campbell, Field Agent, U.S. Department of Agriculture, was appointed Farm Demonstration Agent in Macon County, Alabama, 1906. Mr. Campbell is the oldest extension worker in years of service in the United States. He advanced from County Agent to State Agent in Alabama and from State Agent to Field Agent for seven southern states: Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma. As a result of the effectiveness of his work, there are now nearly 600 county and home demonstration agents working in these states.*

*Among his other accomplishments is an extension building on the campus of Tuskegee Institute, which is headquarters for Negro extension work in Alabama.*

*Mr. Campbell is author of the book, "The Movable School Goes to the Negro Farmer," and also a number of articles appearing in some of the leading journals of the nation. He received the "Harmon Award" in 1930 for his distinguished service in the field of farming and rural life.*

*In September 1944, he was selected as one of a committee of three to make a survey of West Africa.*

*In short, Mr. Campbell is a pioneer in extension work. He is a nationally known and respected citizen -- a public servant of the first rank. This is his 40th year of service with Extension Agriculture.*

*He is honored with a Master's Degree from Tuskegee Institute, his Alma Mater.*

***A bust of Thomas Monroe Campbell is prominently displayed in the George Washington Carver Museum at Tuskegee University.***

## T.M. CAMPBELL AWARD RECIPIENTS

### FRED BENNETT

*Mr. Bennett, a former Tuskegee University Merit Farmer, is a lifelong resident of the Mount Zion Community in Greenville, AL, and received his education at the Mount Zion Community School. He has been a farmer all his life except for five years that he worked in the steel mills of Birmingham, AL, where he was involved in helping to bring about unionized labor in the plants. His farm has often been used as demonstration site. He continues to work closely with Tuskegee University.*



### CLIFF J. HERRON

*Dr. Herron is currently the Director of the Outreach Programs Staff with the Farm Service Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. He received his B. S. and M. S. Degrees from Tuskegee University and a doctorate degree from Ohio State University. Dr. Herron is married and is the father of two children. A native of Okmulgee, OK, he now resides in Baltimore, MD.*



### MCKINLEY MAYES

*Dr. Mayes is Director of the Office of 1890 Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, Washington, DC. In this position, he is responsible for the administration of the 1890 University research and extension programs funded through CSREES. He received B.S. and M. S. Degrees from North Carolina A&T State University and a Ph. D. from Rutgers University. He is married and has one son. Dr. Mayes, a native of Oxford, NC, currently resides in Burke, Virginia.*

*SENATOR CHARLES STEELE, JR. (See biography listed in speaker section)*

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

### *SENATOR CHARLES STEELE, JR.*

*Senator Steele was born in Tuscaloosa, AL and is serving his second term in the Alabama State Senate. He was elected as a Senate Member of the High Chamber (U. S. Parliamentary Group) of the International States Parliament for Safety and Peace. He is also co-owner of Van Hoose and Steele Funeral Home, President of United, Inc., (a consultant firm), and Alabama State President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Senator Steele graduated from public school in Tuscaloosa, attended Mississippi Valley State University and Oakland University and holds an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Stillman College. He is married to Catholean Annette Steele and they have two daughters.*



### *CONNIE TUCKER*

*Connie Tucker has served as Executive Director of the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice since 1993. As the Executive Director she organizes, develops and facilitates the development of local environmental justice groups across the South, and coordinates the African American Environmental Justice Action Network. Ms. Tucker is also Executive Director of Dirty South Digest, a publication of the African American Environmental Justice Action Network. While working at Tuskegee University, she was instrumental in establishing the Office of International Programs. She worked for six years for the United States Agency for International Development and the University of Wisconsin in The Gambia, West Africa. Ms. Tucker is a native of Alabama, but grew up in Florida. She currently resides in Atlanta, GA.*

**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY**  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND**  
**CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**  
*Youth Entrepreneurship Exposition*  
*Student Union Ballroom*  
*Tompkins Hall Student Union Building*  
*February 9, 2001*

- 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. .... *General Registration (Tompkins Hall)*
- 9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. .... *Welcome & Introductions*
- 9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. .... *Overview of How to Get Into College*  
*William E. Mathis, Office of Admissions*  
*Questions & Answers*
- 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. .... *Overview of How Anyone Can Afford a College Education*  
*Barbara Chisholm, Office of Financial Aid Services*  
*Questions & Answers*
- 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. .... *Break*
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:10 a.m. .... *Youth Entrepreneurship Presentations*

*Youth representing various areas of Alabama will talk heart-to-heart on how they started and operated their own businesses during their high school days. They will tell the group what is involved and, of the financial rewards.*

- 11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. .... *Lunch (Tompkins Hall Cafeteria)*
- 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. .... *Selected Campus Tours (Please select one of the sites below)*  
*College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health*  
*College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences*  
*College of Engineering, Architecture and Physical Sciences*  
*College of Business and Information Science*

*Sponsored by:*  
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*Tuskegee University*

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*Farm Service Agency, USDA*  
*Federation of Southern Cooperatives*  
*National Forest Service, USDA*  
*Research Conservation & Development, USDA, NRCS*  
*Monsanto Company*  
*Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA*  
*Rural Development Agency, USDA*

## TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

*Cooperative Extension Program*  
*Continuing Education Program*  
*Office of Admissions*  
*College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences*  
*College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health*  
*National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care*

## COMMITTEES

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*William A. Hodge, Vice-Chairperson*

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**Publicity & Promotion:** All County Agents, K. Craig, M. Gilbert\*, W. Hodge, J. Johnson  
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**Mini Ag. Expo:** E. Bonsi, W. Hodge, M. Robinson\*, A. Zeigler

\* Indicates Chairperson

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