

February 20-21, 2003
Kellogg Conference Center
Tuskegee, Alabama



ONE-HUNDRED ELEVENTH ANNUAL

Farmers

Conference Program

"Transforming and Building Sustainable Rural Communities"

2003 Merit Farm Family



The Hodges Smith Family

Greene County, Alabama

Gwendolyn Johnson, County Extension Agent
Greene/Hale Counties
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

The first Farmers' Conference was held at Tuskegee University on February 23, 1892. The purpose was to arouse public sentiment among the farmers and create a real interest in the common, mundane and practical affairs of life. The morning was spent identifying problems, while the afternoon portion of the conference focused on solutions. Today, this conference still focuses on the problems and remedies for small-scale farmers, landowners, and their communities in managing change in agriculture.

The objectives for this year are: (1) to share up-to-date information relevant to small-scale farmers and landowners involved in production of traditional and alternative agricultural products; (2) to create awareness about family health, nutritional challenges, and existing resources for rural families; (3) to provide research-based information on food safety, including Hazards Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP); and (4) to strengthen networks and partnerships that address problems of small-scale agriculture and rural communities.

farmers
conference

Thursday, February 20, 2003

8:30 a.m.Registration (Business Service Center)

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.Annual Meeting of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension
Program State Extension Advisory Council (Meeting Rooms D & E)

Presiding:

George Paris, Chair
TUCEP State Advisory Council

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.Forest Management Practices (Meeting Rooms D&E)

Presiding:

John Schelhas, Research Forester
George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station
Tuskegee University

Recording:

Cozette Butler
Tuskegee University

Current Issues and Concerns for Forest LandownersRon Smith
Extension Forester
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Management Assistance and Landowner Services: A Corporate PerspectiveTabarius Gay
Sustainable Forestry Technologies
Prattville, AL

Landowner Services and Incentives: Alabama Forestry CommissionBob Montgomery,
County Forester, Macon County Office
Alabama Forestry Commission

How to Utilize the Services of a Consultant ForesterMichelle H. Cole
Diversified Forest Operations
Wetumpka, AL

11:00 a.m.Depart for Forestry Tour

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.Tour and Luncheon McCorvey Properties
Tuskegee, AL

This tour will focus on the challenges associated with the management of pine plantations and several strategies for success.

Sandy Julius McCorvey, a native of Peterman, Monroe Co., AL passed away Feb. 12, 2003. We appreciate the tireless efforts of he and his family, in support of responsible environmental stewardship and natural resources education.

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.Community Food Safety and Health Issues (Meeting Rooms D&E)

Presiding:

Edith Powell
Tuskegee University

Recording:

Lekan Ayanwale
Tuskegee University

Food Safety: From the Farm to the Table
Interactive Workshop and Demonstration
William C. Hurst
University of Georgia

Prostate Cancer: The Silent Epidemic
Discussion and Screening
Sanford E. Jaemes
University of Alabama, Birmingham

6:00 p.m.Thomas Monroe Campbell Memorial Banquet (Ballrooms A & B)

Presiding:

George E. Cooper
CSREES
Washington, DC

Invocation:

Rev. K.G. Jones, Pastor
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
Tuskegee, AL

Welcome:

William Lester, Provost
Tuskegee University

Introduction of Speaker:

Ashanty Farrid
State President, Black Farmers Agriculturist and Association

Speaker:

Thomas Burrell
National President, Black Farmers Agriculturist and Association

Remarks and Presentations:

Velma L. Blackwell, Administrator
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Friday, February 21, 2003

- 7:30 a.m.Registration (Conference Registration Desk)
8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.Health Fair (Foyer, Continuing Education)
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.Opening Session (Auditorium)

Presiding:

Patricia Henderson
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Recording:

Atheal Pierce
Tuskegee University

Choral Selections.....Tuskegee University "Golden Voices" Choir
Wayne A. Barr, Director

Invocation.....Rev. Dr. Atheal Pierce
Tuskegee University

Greetings & WelcomeBenjamin F. Payton, President
Tuskegee University

The Honorable Myron Penn
Alabama State Senator, 28th District

The Honorable Johnny Ford
Alabama State Representative, 82nd District

Introduction of SpeakersBenjamin F. Payton, President
Tuskegee University

Panel Speakers.....The Honorable James R. Little
Administrator, Farm Service Agency
USDA, Washington, DC

The Honorable Ron Sparks
Commissioner, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Presentation of Merit Farm Family Award

- 10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.Break (Auditorium Foyer)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noonConcurrent Sessions

Session I: Goat Production: A Family Business (Meeting Room A)

This session will address technical aspects and management concerns essential to the development of a successful goat farming operation.

Presiding:

Walter Baldwin, Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Recording:

Janet Bartlett, Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Part 1: Lecture 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

“Proper Forage Management for an Environmentally Safe Sustainable Goat Management Program”

Ralph Noble
Animal, Poultry and Veterinary Science Program, Tuskegee University

“Economics of Raising Meat Goats”

Amadou Diop and Jaleel Nash
Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Epes, AL

Part 2: Demonstrations 11:30 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

“Caprine Research Unit”

George Washington Carver Agriculture Experiment Station
Tuskegee University

“Goat Management Practices: A Role for the Family”

Brock Martin and Staff, Caprine Research Unit
K. Copedge, College of Veterinary Medicine
Tuskegee University

Session 2: Direct Cooperative Marketing Strategies and Value Added Enterprise in Sustainable Agriculture (Meeting Rooms D & E)

This session will explore the enhanced marketing and industry development potential of value added enterprises.

Presiding:

George Paris
Department of Agriculture and Industries
State of Alabama

Recording:

Marikis N. Alvarez
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Presenters:

“Present Initiatives in Vegetable Production toward Capturing Market Opportunities”

Harold McLemore
Department of Agriculture and Industries
State of Alabama

“Farm Marketing Opportunities for Direct Markets”

Don Wamble
Department of Agriculture and Industries
State of Alabama

“Developing Value-Added Projects and Marketing Strategies”

Kenneth “Pete” Moss
The Frazier and Barnes Group
Memphis, TN

Session 3: Workshop on Risk Management for Small and Limited Resource Farmers (Meeting Rooms F & G)

Risk management continues to be in dire need for producers of agricultural products in general, but more so for small and limited resource farmers in particular. Any programs, policies, and management tools that reduce land and economic losses for farmers will contribute significantly to increased profitability. Crop insurance, estate planning, and partnering are tools/strategies designed to increase land and economic gains for sustainability on the farm. These tools/strategies are still seldom used by small and limited resource farmers due to issues of affordability and lack of access to relevant information. This session will present the basics and practical information on crop insurance, estate planning, and partnerships for outreach as strategies for reducing risks on the farms.

Presiding:

Charlotte Ham and Audrey Zeigler, Tuskegee University

Recording:

Ntam Baharanyi, Cooperative Extension Program, Tuskegee University

Presenting:

“Alabama Farm Analysis Opportunities”

George Young, Alabama Farm Analysis Association

“Partnerships for Outreach to Small and Limited Resource Farmers”

Bobby England, Tuskegee University

“Estate Planning as a Risk Management Tool”

James Novak, Auburn University

“The ABC of Crop Insurance for Small Farms”

Dale Rackley, USDA/Risk Management in Agriculture

“Women in Agriculture Issues”

Vivian Tatum, Wilcox County, Alabama

Mary Mafuyai-Ekanem, North Carolina A&T State University

Session 4: Youth Entrepreneurship Exposition (Auditorium)

Workshop participants are engaged and motivated to pursue the American dream. All attendees will learn a few quick tips on how to Jump Start a Business and achieve Real World Success. This session is filled with humor, stories, props, and games. Designed to accommodate youth and adults, the experience will be fast moving, educational, and fun.

Presiding:

Nickey L. Jefferson
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Recording:

Gertrude Wall
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Keynote Speaker:

Juan Casimiro, CEO
ASCEND Business Development Network, Inc.
Brick, NJ

11:30-12:30 a.m.Lunch (Tompkins Hall Cafeteria)

12:30-2:00 p.m.All about College

Presiding:

Atheal Pierce
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Office of Admissions
Office of Financial Aid Services
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
College of Business and Information Sciences
College of Engineering, Architecture and Physical Sciences
College of Liberal Arts and Education
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health
Air Force ROTC
Army ROTC

2:00 p.m.- untilExhibits and Optional Tours
George Washington Carver Museum
The Oaks, Home of Booker T. Washington

12:00 noonMerit Farm Family Luncheon (Ballroom A & B)

Presiding:

Walter A. Hill, Dean
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

Invocation:

Dr. Gregory Gray
Dean of the Chapel
Tuskegee University

Introduction of the Speaker:

Benjamin F. Payton
President
Tuskegee University

Keynote Speaker:

The Honorable Artur Davis
U.S. Congressman, 7th District
State of Alabama

The OIC Partnership: Farmer to Farmer Exchange.....C. L. Manning
President and CEO
Opportunities Industrialization Centers International
Philadelphia, PA

Remarks and PresentationsVelma Blackwell
Tuskegee University

2:00 p.m.Auditorium

Presiding:

Miles Robinson
Tuskegee University

Updates on the Pigford Settlement (Black Farmers Class Action Lawsuit)

Samantha Gemberling, Managing Attorney
Office of Claimant Services

Steven Carpenter, Senior Council
Kenneth Saffold, General Council

Concurrent
Sessions



THE Smi

The Hodges Smith Family of Greene County, Alabama, has been selected as the Tuskegee University Merit Farm Family for 2003. Reared on a 200-acre farm, Mr. Smith is the sixth of seven children, born to the union of Andrew and Cherry D. Smith. He is a graduate of Eutaw High School and attended Miles College for one year, and Shelton State where he studied Electronics.

A multi-generational operation, the Smith family farm enjoys a rich heritage and tradition. Abram Smith, the great-grandfather of Hodges, began his farm life as a slave in Virginia. His determination and endurance allowed him to

move from slave to sharecropper, and eventually to landowner. Abram Smith purchased the original property with money he managed to save by selling products raised on a plot of land that he farmed at night by lantern. For six generations, members of the Smith Family have lived on and worked the fields of this farm operation.

The Smith descendants continued to row crop the land until the early 1980's. The current farm is 246 acres, incorporated as Smith and Sons, which utilizes the property for timber and fish production. Approximately 20 acres are utilized for fish production, with the remaining acreage dedicated to the timber industry. In the early 1990's, the Smith family acquired an updated forest management plan. With timber production and wildlife management as their chosen management objectives, the Smith family worked diligently towards certification as a TREASURE FOREST. Received in 1995, this certification is a recognition program for landowners that are good stewards of their land. Recently, they were recognized as the Northeast Region Winner of the Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE FOREST Award.



Smith

STORY

In addition to their excellence in timber production, the Smith family has a solid position in the local commercial catfish industry. Constituting about 20 acres of this farm, it is estimated that about 40,000 pounds of catfish are produced yearly. Their commitment to the future of agriculture is demonstrated by allowing the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program and other agencies to use their property for forestry field tours, deer hunting, and other educational activities.



Mr. Smith is currently employed by the Alabama Forestry Commission as a ranger, where he has served for 25 years. Smith and Sons is owned and operated by Hodges and his five brothers. Each brother actively participates in the management of the overall operations of the farm.

Mr. Smith indicated that he utilizes information obtained from the Cooperative Extension Program to enhance his farm operations. He and his family are being recognized for their outstanding leadership, community involvement, responsible stewardship, and commitment to the future of Agriculture and the efforts of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

Mr. Smith is married to the former Lena Means, now an employee at JCV Disc America. The Smiths' have four children: Cherry, Selena (who have completed high school), Latoya and Kendra (who are currently attending high school).



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, and he headed the first Cooperative Extension Program in the nation. These facts were the product of cooperation between (1) the United States Government represented by Seaman A. Knapp; (2) the State of Alabama represented by Auburn University; (3) the 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.

Mr. T. M. Campbell, Field Agent, U. S. Department of Agriculture, was appointed Farm Demonstration Agent in Macon County, Alabama, in 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," 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.

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

T. M. CAMPBELL DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARDEES

Thomas Burrell was elected President of the Black Farmers and Agriculturist Association in August of 2002. Born to a successful black farming family in rural West Tennessee, Mr. Burrell continues to carry on the family tradition of being involved in agriculture. After graduating from high school he served three years in the Army, receiving the Bronze Star for bravery. Prior to returning to Tennessee, he worked for General Motors and attended the University of Michigan, graduating in 1975. In 1983, he purchased a food service company in Chicago, Illinois and became involved in the distribution and wholesaling of the food industry. Mr. Burrell returned to Tennessee in 1989 fighting for the rights of small farmers and landowners. He is married to Mrs. Kay Tipton-Burrell and they have four sons, one daughter and two grandchildren.

Bertha M. Jones, is a native of Huntsville, Alabama. She graduated from Alabama A&M University in 1945 and received her master's degree at Pennsylvania State University in 1956. She began her career as an extension agent with the Negro Extension Work, followed by State 4-H leader for Negro girls. After the separate-but-equal platform was abolished by law in 1965, she became 4-H Specialist, State Leader-Urban 4-H and finally retiring in 1983 as district agent-coordinator with the Cooperative Extension Service in Alabama.

Jones resides in Tuskegee, Alabama and volunteers with many programs and activities such as the Senior Olympics Committee of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, serves on the board of Central Alabama Comprehensive Health Inc. and assists elementary school teachers by grading papers. Jones has received numerous awards including: the Bridge Builders Award of the Macon County Democratic Club and Central Alabama Comprehensive Health award for outstanding service and dedication. She is a member of Epsilon Sigma Phi, Phi Delta Kappa, Alabama A & M National Alumni Association, the American Association of Family and Consumer Science, Church Women United, and Macon County Chamber of Commerce.

EXTENSION COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP AWARDEE

Macon County Farmers Organization (MCFO), a non profit farmers' cooperative, was established in Macon County, Alabama in 1994. Organized by four farmers, this cooperative which is largely supported by membership dues, has increased to a membership of forty-five citizens.

This organization was created to share management advice among members and to create a medium for the collective purchase of hay, feed, and farm supplies. The cooperative members meet on a monthly basis to discuss management problems and seek solutions for the various challenges associated with managing their enterprise. Members cooperate on managerial decisions and often share labor between farms.

The MCFO focus is mainly devoted to issues surrounding beef cattle production. Technical support is provided by the Cooperative Extension Program and several related disciplines at Tuskegee University in cooperation with several local agencies. Since its inception, the MCFO has been trying to make a difference in the lives of its members.

Congressman Artur Davis, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, is representative for the Alabama 7th Congressional District. Davis has worked with the Southern Law Center in Montgomery and with former U. S. Senator Howell Heflin in Washington, DC. He also clerked for Judge Myron F. Thompson and served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the middle District of Alabama. Prior to being elected to the House of Representative, Congressman Davis fought as a civil rights attorney for the rights of those unjustly treated in the workplace. He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University in 1990 and cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1993.

Ron Sparks is Alabama's 25th Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries. From 1999 – 2003 he served with the Department of Agriculture and Industries overseeing the day-by-day operations as Assistant Commissioner. A native and successful businessman of Fort Payne, Sparks was elected DeKalb County Commissioner in 1978, becoming at age 25, the youngest county commissioner in Alabama. Sparks graduated from North East State Community College after serving in the United States Coast Guard. He has also served as director of the DeKalb County 911 Emergency Response District and was elected State President. Sparks has three children and a grandchild.

James R. Little is Administrator for the Farm Service Agency, U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. He is responsible for the administration of farm commodity and conservation programs, farm loan programs, and certain disaster and Federal crop insurance programs. Mr. Little has spent entire career in various capacities with USDA. His previous positions include: Associate Chief Financial Officer for Financial Operations, staff accountant with the former Rural Electrification Administration, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and the former Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Mr. Little is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina and a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He and his wife Bonnie are the parents of one daughter.

Thomas Burrell *(See Awardee Section)*

Sponsors

Cooperative State Research, Extension and Education Service
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Forestry Commission
State of Alabama, Department of Agriculture and Industries
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA
Farm Service Agency, USDA
Federation of Southern Cooperatives
First South Production
Forest Service, USDA
Resource, Conservation & Development, USDA, NRCS
Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA
Targeted Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education in Alabama, USDA, RMA
Rural Development, USDA

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College of Business and Information Sciences
College of Engineering, Architecture and Physical Sciences
College of Liberal Arts and Education
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health

Committees

Velma L. Blackwell, Chairperson
William A. Hodge, Conference Coordinator

Program Committee: A. Corbin, N. Baharanyi, W. Baldwin, E. Bonsi, D. Gapsin, C. Herron, B. Jones, B.D. Mayberry, M. Robinson

Merit Farm Family: V. Blackwell, B. England, R. Noble, N. Jefferson, G. Paris, A. Pierce*

Conference Escorts: MANRRS, University Escorts, Pre Vet Club, TUFANS

Transportation: N. Tackie*, R. Smith

Printed Materials: K. Craig*, J. McBride, M. Morris, V. Singleton, Y. Wright

Publicity & Promotion: All County Agents, K. Craig*, W. Hodge, J. Johnson, B. Jones

Banquet & Luncheon: V. Blackwell, E. Bonsi*, E. Powell, H. Shaw, V. Singleton

Registration: J. Brown, C. Eaves, J. McBride*, V. Singleton, Y. Wright, N. Boyd, P. Young

Fundraising/Finances: L. Black, V. Blackwell*, W. Hodge, A. Pierce, J. Brown

Evaluation and Survey: N. Baharanyi, E. Hardney, M. Pace, M. Collins

Agriculture/Natural Resources: W. Baldwin, J. Bartlett, J. Burton, A. Corbin, A. Elliott, W. Hodge*, G. Hunter, R. Noble, G. Paris, R. Stephens, R. Smith, N. Alvarez, M. Robinson, L. Jackai

Youth Entrepreneurship: N. Jefferson*, B. Jones, R. Stephens, A. Pierce

Rural Health & Environmental Stewardship: L. Ayanwale, E. Bonsi, E. Powell*, H. Shaw

Risk Management Education and Rural Business Development: R. Alcena, N. Baharanyi*, N. Duplessis, C. Ham, G. Harris

Audio Visual: W. Baldwin, K. Craig*, S. Amina, R. Stephens, TUTV

Awards: V. Blackwell*, E. Powell, J. Johnson, V. Singleton

Exhibits: V. Singleton, R. Smith, S. Wilson, T. Carter, J. Bartlett

* Indicates Chairperson

Published by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Velma L. Blackwell, Administrator. The Cooperative Extension Program offers educational programs and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. It is also an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

| History and Purpose |

The Annual Farmers Conference evolved in 1892 out of a need to improve the conditions of rural black farmers in the South. Having just gone through 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 group 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 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.

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 a region known as the Black Belt of Alabama. Extension educators offer assistance in a variety of program areas such as youth leadership development, environmental health and water quality, alternative agricultural enterprises, economic development, forestry and natural resources, health and nutrition, and family well-being.

The goal of the annual farmers conference 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.

COOPERATIVE Extension

Tuskegee University | Cooperative Extension Program | 204 Morrison-Mayberry Building | Tuskegee, Alabama 36088 | 334-724-4441

The Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program helps people, particularly the underprivileged residents in twelve of Alabama's Black Belt counties, to improve their lives through informal educational processes that use scientific knowledge to address their concerns and needs.

In terms of the geographical area that we serve, most of our programming occurs in twelve counties located across the area known as the Black Belt.

The belt spans east-west across the central part of Alabama and is known for its dark colored soils and includes parts of sixteen counties. Tuskegee University is located in this agro-ecological zone and has historically focused its outreach in this area.

Program areas today span many subject matter disciplines due to the interrelated nature of the needs of the families and communities we serve.

Currently, we conduct educational programs in the broad categorical areas of (1) Agricultural and Natural Resources, (2) Community and Economic Development, and (3) Youth and Family Life.

Although the primary focus of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program is to assist families with limited resources to improve their quality of life, the program offers its educational services to all state residents, without regard to race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex or disability.