

ONE-HUNDRED TWELFTH ANNUAL

Farmers

Conference Program

February 26-27, 2004
Kellogg Conference Center
Tuskegee, Alabama



"Creative Solutions for Small Farm and Rural Communities"

2004 Merit Farm Family



The Winston Pringle Family



The LaRue Pringle Family

Pringle Family Farms Lowndes County, Alabama

George X. Hunter, County Extension Agent
Lowndes/Wilcox 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 in a consumer adaptable format; and (4) to strengthen networks and partnerships that address problems of small-scale agriculture and rural communities.

Farmers' Conference

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004

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

9:00 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program
State Extension Advisory Council (Meeting Rooms F & G)

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. . . . Forest Management Tour and Luncheon (Meeting Rooms D & E)*
**Caravan departs for tour site at the Macon State Forest at 10:30 a.m.*

Presiding: John Schelhas, Research Forester
Southern Research Station, United States Forest Service

Recording: George Hunter, County Extension Agent
Lowndes/Wilcox Counties, Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Outreach Landowner Services James Jennings, Outreach Forester
Northwest Region, Alabama Forestry Commission

Landowner Services: A Corporate Perspective Tabarius Gay, Forester
Sustainable Forestry Technologies
Prattville, Alabama

Landowner Services Bob Montgomery, Macon County Manager
Southeast Region, Alabama Forestry Commission

James Jennings, Outreach Forester
Northwest Region, Alabama Forestry Commission

Establishing and Maintaining Nature Trails/Urban Forestry Randall Smith, Urban Forester
Public Works Department, City of Birmingham

Stephanie Fitzpatrick, President
Macon County Forestry Planning Commission

Forest Management Practices and Studies. Arthur Phalo, Outreach Liaison
United States Forest Service

Amadou Diop, Forest Project Director
Federation of Southern Cooperatives

Ron Smith, Program Director, Forestry
College of Agricultural, Environmental, and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

Michelle Cole, Owner
Diversified Forest Operations
Wetumpka, AL

Hunting Facilities for the Physically Challenged Rick Claybrook
District Supervisor/Wildlife Biologist
Game and Fish Division, Alabama of Department of Conservation

Current Forestry Issues Ron Smith, Program Director, Forestry
College of Agricultural, Environmental, and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

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

Presiding: Habiba Shaw, Health Education Specialist
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Recording: Ellis W. Moorer, Outreach Coordinator
EXPORT Project
Tuskegee University

Diabetes: Risk Factors and Patient Management via Interdisciplinary Approach
Veronica Gardner
Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System
Montgomery/Tuskegee, Alabama

Voice of the Diabetic: A Personal Experience Lois Williams
Diabetic Action Network
Huntsville, Alabama

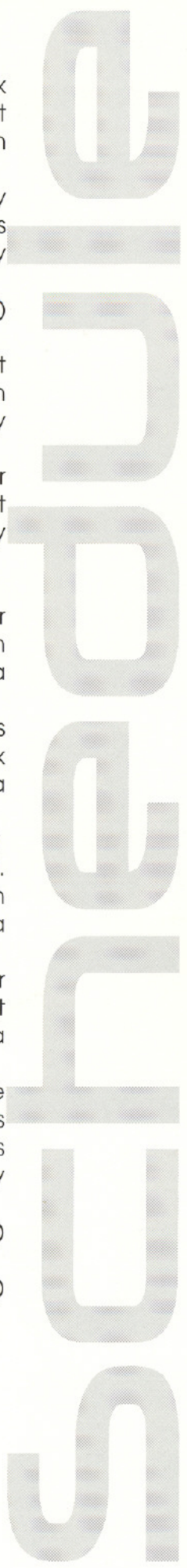
Cardiovascular Disease: Risk Factors C. Jack Hataway
Chronic Disease/Prevention Dept.
Alabama State Department of Public Health
Montgomery, Alabama

Prostate Cancer: Who's At Risk? Sanford Jeames, Health Educator
UAB Cancer Project
Birmingham, Alabama

Functional Food, Nutrition and Cardiovascular Disease Ralphenia Pace
Food and Nutritional Sciences
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Small Farms Expo (Campus Avenue)

6:30 p.m. Thomas Monroe Campbell Memorial Banquet (Ballrooms A & B)



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004

7:30 a.m. Registration (Conference Registration Desk)

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Community Food Safety and Health Fair & Small Farms Expo
(Continuing Education Foyer & Campus Avenue)

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Opening Session (Auditorium)

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

Presiding: Willie Pittman, Program Analyst
Natural Resources Conservation Services, USDA
Washington, D.C.

Invocation: Gregory S. Gray, Dean of the Chapel
Tuskegee University

Greetings & Welcome Benjamin 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 the Speaker Benjamin F. Payton, President
Tuskegee University

Speaker: Andrew Johnson, Director
Office of Civil Rights
United States Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.

Presentation of Merit Farm Family Award Pringle Family Farms - Lowndes County, Alabama

10:15a.m.-10:30 a.m. Break (Auditorium Foyer)

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Concurrent Sessions

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Merit Farm Family Luncheon (Ballroom)

Presiding: The Honorable Thomas E. Jackson
Alabama State Representative, 68th District

Speaker: The Honorable Ron Sparks, Commissioner
State of Alabama, Department of Agriculture & Industries

Commentary Greg Calhoun, CEO
Calhoun Enterprises
Montgomery, Alabama

Remarks and Presentations Velma Blackwell
Tuskegee University

2:30 p.m. Open Forum/Update on Black Farmers Class Action Lawsuit
Presiding: Miles D. Robinson, Director
Alabama Small Farm Rural Economic Development Center
Tuskegee University

Recording: Ntam Baharanyi, Professor/Extension Economist
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

Presenting: J.L. Chesnut, Attorney
Chesnut, Sanders, Pettaway and Campbell
Selma, Alabama

Concurrent
Sessions

Session 1: Risk Management, Marketing and Value Added Products in the Small Farm Environment (Meeting Rooms F & G)

This session will focus on how risk can be managed with creative marketing through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), consumer education, and product development.

Presiding:

Charlotte Ham, Economic Development Specialist
Tuskegee University

Recording:

Baou Diane, Graduate Student
Tuskegee University

Presenting:

Janet Bachmann, Agriculture Specialist
National Center for Appropriate Technology
USDA/Appropriate Technology Transfer to Rural Areas (ATTRA)

Karen Wynne, Coordinator
Alabama Sustainable Ag Network

Noel Thompson, Educator
Auburn University

Dove Stackhouse, Certified Organic Producer/Diversified Farm Manager
Tune Farm

William Curaton, Product Developer
Captain Compost

Jacob Waddy, Producer/Diversified Farm Manager
Waddy Farm

Jerry Spencer, Marketing/Distributor
Grow Alabama and Mt. Laurel Organic Farms

Peggy Griffith, Educator
Sierra Club Sustainable Ag Task Force

Session 2: Effective Utilization of State and Federal Resources for Small Farm Growth and Development (Meeting Room B)

This session will explore resource opportunities within the Federal, State, Educational and Local Agencies through collaborative partnerships.

Presiding:

Miles D. Robinson, Director
Alabama Small Farm Rural Economic Development Center
Tuskegee University

Recording:

Audrey Ziegler, Farm Management Specialist
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

Presenting:

Willie Pittman, Program Analyst
United States Department of Agriculture/Natural Resource Conservation Services

Vickie Anthony, Outreach Coordinator
United States Department of Agriculture/Farm Service Agency

Henry Pace, Outreach Coordinator
United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Development

George Paris, Director of Marketing & Agriculture Promotions
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Gus Heard Hughes, Program Coordinator
Heifer International

Session 3: Goat Production: An Alternative Enterprise in the Southeastern United States (Meeting Rooms D & E)

Goat production remains a lucrative alternative enterprise for small farmers and this session will serve to update information on better production practices in terms of management, parasite control, and alternative forages.

Presiding:

Jannette R. Bartlett, Research Assistant Professor
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

Concurrent Sessions

Recording:

Azure N. Faucette, Graduate Student, Agricultural Sciences
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

Presenting:

"Managing Goats to Control Internal Parasites"

Ralph C. Noble, Associate Professor, Agriculture Sciences
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

"Alternative Forages for Goat Production"

Sandra G. Solaiman, Associate Professor, Agriculture Sciences
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

Session 4: Bio-Terrorism, Agri-Terrorism and Bio-Security Preparedness (Meeting Room B)

The session will enhance the awareness and educate the small farmer and the county agent to become more prepared to address and respond to the intentional and unintentional introduction of disease agents that threaten animal health, food production, human health and the Nation's economy.

Presiding:

Glen E. Malone, Assistant Professor
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health
Tuskegee University

Recording:

Collette Kirk, Graduate Student, Veterinary Science/Epidemiology
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health
Tuskegee University

Presenting:

"Bioterrorism: The Threat to Small Farmers"

Glen E. Malone, Assistant Professor
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health
Tuskegee University

"Agri-Terrorism and Biosecurity for the Limited Resource Farmer"

Kenneth Nusbaum, Associate Professor
College of Veterinary Medicine
Auburn University

"Potential of Rift Valley Fever Virus as a Biological Agent"

Bisrat G. Debeb, Graduate Student, Veterinary Sciences/Epidemiology
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health
Tuskegee University

"All About Mad Cow Disease (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy): What Farmers Should Know"

Lekan Ayanwale, Research Associate Professor/Extension Veterinarian
Biomedical Information Management Systems
College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health
Tuskegee University

Session 5: Ag Careers and Youth Entrepreneurial Exploration (Auditorium)

This workshop will expose youth to entrepreneurial concepts and how these concepts can be applied to agricultural enterprises. The first part of the workshop will address skills needed in any entrepreneurial endeavor. Part two of the workshop will focus on agricultural careers and the application of entrepreneurial concept to agriculture.

Presiding:

Nickey Jefferson, District Extension Coordinator/State Program Leader
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Recording:

Wanda Blakely, County Extension Agent
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

Presenting:

Gwendolyn Johnson, County Extension Agent, Greene/Hale Counties
Rory Stephens, County Extension Agent, Barbour/Bullock Counties
Cooperative Extension Program
Tuskegee University

William Lennard, Resource Person
College of Agricultural, Environmental and Natural Sciences
Tuskegee University

Office of Admissions

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2004

MERIT FAMILY PRINGLE



The LaRue (Juanita S.) and Winston (Annie Mae) Family, located in Lowndesboro, Alabama, has been selected as the 2004 Merit Farm Family for the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

Mr. LaRue Pringle, one of seven children, was reared in the Spann Community near Lowndesboro, Alabama. Mr. LaRue Pringle graduated from the Spann Community Elementary School and



Calhoun High School in Calhoun, Alabama.

Winston graduated from the Spann Community Elementary School, but he graduated from Carver High School in Montgomery, Alabama.

LaRue and Winston both graduated from

Alabama State University, majoring in mathematics and history, respectively.

The Pringles have owned and operated their family farm (180 acres) for more than a century. In the early 1940's, LaRue participated in 4-H Club activities offered at his school. One of his favorite activities was the Beef Calf Show,

under the leadership of Mr. Shepherd Knighting, Cooperative Extension Agent. Grain crops and cotton were their two major crops. They participated in producing "B" grade milk,



FARM

FAMILY FARMS



and had a well defined herd of beef cattle. Because of the changes in the farming industry, they had to keep pace with the changes. Therefore, only beef cattle and grain crops are sustainable today.

The Pringles have a variety of beef cattle, including Charolais, Angus, and Brangus. In addition to the 180 acres owned, they rent 300 acres for grazing purposes.

The Pringles' commitment to the future of agriculture is demonstrated by allowing the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program and other agencies to use their property for holding beef cattle clinics, fishing, hunting, and other educational activities.

Mr. LaRue Pringle believes that the information he has received and utilized from the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program has contributed immensely to the success of his farming operation.



Mr. LaRue and his family are being recognized for their excellent leadership, community services in Extension, responsible stewardship, and commitment to the future of Agriculture and the efforts of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program.

After a very fruitful teaching career, Mr. LaRue Pringle is currently retired and is actively involved in church and community affairs.



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. These facts were the product of cooperation by (1) The United States Government, represent 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

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 follow

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 Moveable 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 the 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 AWARDEE

THE HONORABLE HENRY "HANK" SANDERS is Alabama State Senator, 23rd District, covering Autauga, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Lowndes, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, and Wilcox Counties. He is serving his sixth term in the Senate. He serves as chairperson on the following committees: Finance and Taxation Education; Confirmations; Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics and Elections; Education; Economic Expansion and Trade; Judiciary; Local Legislation No. 1; and Rules.

A practicing attorney in Selma, Senator Sanders was born in Baldwin County. He graduated from Talladega College and Harvard Law School. He and his wife, Rose, are the parents of three children by birth and four children by fosterhood. He is a member of the Campaign for a New South, C.A.R.E., Alabama New South Coalition, National Conference of Black Lawyers, National Bar Association, American Bar Association and Alabama Lawyers Association.

EXTENSION COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP AWARDEE

Macon County is primarily a rural county with a significant number of senior citizens. Recreation is not only limited to youth and young adults but even less for seniors. For this reason, the Senior Olympics is a welcomed event.

The first Senior Olympics Game Day was held in Tuskegee, Alabama in July 1991. The 12th annual event was held on August 1, 2003. Seniors from Barbour, Bullock, Macon, Montgomery and Tallapoosa counties participated in the games. They partake in a variety of activities and events that include health screening information, arts and crafts, competitive games (basketball free throw, bingo, cards, checkers, condo golf, dominoes, horseshoes, musical chairs, one mile walk, softball distance throw, stationary bike and wheel chair boogie), and low-impact aerobics. With over 350 participants, ribbons and/or medals are given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

The Senior Olympics is sponsored by the Macon County Cooperative Extension Program, Macon County Commission, nutrition sites, civic organizations and local businesses. The Senior Olympics Planning Committee was successful in filing incorporation papers for the **MACON COUNTY SENIOR OLYMPICS ORGANIZATION, INC.**, and obtaining a tax-exempt I.D. number. The group has been successful in raising over \$6,000. Lunch, entertainment and specially designed Senior Olympics t-shirts are provided to participants.

ANDREW JOHNSON, JR. is the Director for the Civil Rights Staff with the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, located in Beltsville, MD. The Civil Rights Staff reports directly to the Chief of NRCS and oversees development of Civil Rights policies and ensures compliances in all Civil Rights regulations.

Johnson has served with NRCS for more than 30 years. Among the positions he has held are soil scientist, district conservationist, employee relations specialist civil rights analyst, Planning Chief for the Office of Civil Rights and Program Investigation Chief with USDA. Before obtaining his current position he served as a Conservation Incentives Team Leader with NRCS. Johnson has a BS degree in Agronomy from the University of Pine Bluff, Arkansas and is a graduate of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute and Command General Staff College. He is also a retired Colonel from the U. S. National Guard.

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.

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
State of Alabama, Department of Public Health
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA
Baseline Forest Services
Diversified Forest Operations
State of Alabama, Farmer's Market Authority
Farm Service Agency, USDA
Federation of Southern Cooperatives
First South Farm Credit
Forest Service, USDA
Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA
Resource, Conservation & Development, USDA, NRCS
Risk Management Agency, USDA (through Risk Management Education Project)
Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA (through the Rural Business and Economic Development Program)
Southern Rural Development Council
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Smith

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

Cooperative Extension Program
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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



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William A. Hodge, Conference Coordinator
Miles D. Robinson, Conference Coordinator

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Merit Farm Family: V. Blackwell, K. Craig, W. Hodge, R. Noble, G. Paris, A. Pierce*

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Health Fair/Forum: E. Moorer*, E. Powell, H. Shaw

Forestry Management: Alabama Forestry Commission, M. Cole, Federation of Southern Cooperatives, W. Hodge*

*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.