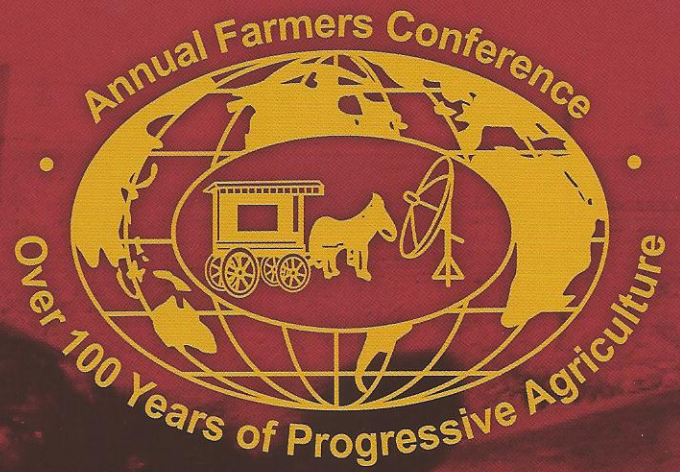


TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension Program



"Best Practices and Cultural Change in Program Delivery for Underserved Farmers and Rural Communities"

KELLOGG HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA**

FEBRUARY 17 - 18, 2011

119TH ANNUAL
Farmers Conference



*2011 Merit Farm
Family Award*



The Rosia Jernigan Family

Union Springs, Alabama

LaTanya Hunt-Haralson, *County Agent*
Jeffery Moore, *County Agent*
Santina McCray, *Secretary*

The Farmers Conference at Tuskegee University is often cited as being the oldest conference of its type in the nation. The first Farmers Conference was held at Tuskegee University on February 23, 1892. The purpose was to convene farmers in an educationally stimulating environment 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 has evolved into a two-day event that provides intense course instruction, interactive demonstrations and discussions, and an opportunity for producers to network with colleagues and university educators. The main focus of the conference is still on the problems and solutions for small-scale farmers, landowners, and their communities in managing change in agriculture.

The objectives of this conference are to: (1) share up-to-date information relevant to small-scale farmers and landowners involved in production of traditional and alternative agricultural products; (2) create awareness about family health, nutritional challenges, and existing resources for rural families; (3) provide research-based information in a consumer-adaptable format; and (4) strengthen networks and partnerships that address problems of small-scale agriculture and rural communities with respect to local, national and global markets.

FARMERS CONFERENCE



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

8:30 a.m. Registration (Conference Registration Desk)

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Exhibits and Health Fair Open

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Pre-Conference Concurrent Workshops and Clinics

Tax Tips for Small Farms and Community Based Organizations (Session 1)

(Meeting Rooms D & E)

Moderator: Audrey Zeigler, Tuskegee University

Presenter: Noel Thompson, Tuskegee University

Credit Management and Financial Management (Session 2)

(Meeting Rooms F & G)

Moderator: Erskine Minor, Tuskegee University

Presenters: Youssouf Diabate, Tuskegee University

Gwen Harris, Tuskegee University

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Opening Luncheon (Ballroom)**

RC&D Success Stories (Session 3)

Presiding: Kim Ortiz, Tuskegee University

Panel Presentations:

Wee Can Fight Obesity Program

Rain Water Collection for Poultry Production

Outreach Updates

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Conference Tours and Workshops**

Hoop Houses Tour (Session 4) – Jan Garret Farms

Torrence Road

Tuskegee, AL

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Energy Audits/Alternative Energy Education (Session 5)**

Moderator: Lawrence Haygood, Jr., Tuskegee University

Presenters: Youssouf Diabate, Tuskegee University

Richie E. Martin, REM Solar Technologies

4:00 p.m. **Health Workshop (Session 6)**

Ben Rackley, Tuskegee Area Health Education Center, Inc.

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **T. M. Campbell Leadership Awards Banquet**

Presiding: William A. Hodge, Tuskegee University

Greetings/Welcome: Gilbert L. Rochon, President, Tuskegee University

Speaker: Mark Latimore, Fort Valley State University

Presentation of T. M. Campbell Awards

SCHEDULE



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011

7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. **Breakfast**

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

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Exhibits Open**

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

Moderator: Kim Davis, President, Kim and Company, Montgomery, AL
Greetings/Welcome: Ntam Baharanyi, Cooperative Extension Program
Walter Hill, College of Agricultural, Environmental & Natural Sciences

USDA Programs: Best Practices and Opportunities (Session 7)

Presenters:
William Puckett, State Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA
Daniel Robinson, State Director, Farm Service Agency, USDA
Ronnie Davis, State Director, Rural Development, USDA

Farm Bill Listening Session (Session 8)

L. Washington Lyons, Executive Administrator, Association of Extension Administrators
Edward J. Pennick, Director of Land Fund, Federation of Southern Cooperatives

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Grading and Effective Marketing of Your Produce (Session 9) (Meeting Room A)

Moderator: Walter Baldwin, Tuskegee University
Presenters: George M. Paris, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
Don Wambles, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries

Sustainable Practices & Integrated Management of Armyworms and Colorado Potato Beetles (Session 10) (Meeting Room B)

Moderator: Bob Mants, Tuskegee University
Presenters: Leonard Githinji, Tuskegee University
Franklin Quarcoo, Tuskegee University

Livestock and Animal Health (Session 11) (Meeting Rooms F & G)

Moderator: LaTanya Hunt-Haralson, Tuskegee University
Presenters: Uma Karki, Tuskegee University
Jannette Bartlett, Tuskegee, University
Sandra Solaiman, Tuskegee University
Lekan Ayanwale, Tuskegee University
Teshome Yehualaeshet, Tuskegee University
Temesgen Samuel, Tuskegee University

SCHEDULE



Lifestyles, Health and Wellness (Session 12)

Moderators: Lekan Ayanwale & LaTanya Hunt-Haralson, Tuskegee University

Recorder: Leslie Clark, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

Tobacco and Diabetes: The Deadly Duo
LaMont Pack, Director, Diabetes Prevention and Control, Alabama Department of Health
Borough of Health Promotion and Chronic Diseases, Colorectal Cancer and Prevention
Allison Lance, Department of Health
Effects of Tobacco on Health
Mary Hooks and Lynda Freeman, Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System

Writing A Winning Proposal (Session 13) – (Meeting Rooms D & E)

Presiding: Gwendolyn Johnson, Tuskegee University

Presenter: James H. Hill, 1890 Land Grant Liaison, Southern Region SARE Program

Agricultural Career Opportunities for Youth (Session 14) (Bioethics Center Auditorium)

Moderator: Gary Walton, Tuskegee University

Presenters: Prosper Doamekpor, Youth Specialist, Tuskegee University

George Hunter, Tuskegee University

Alice Love, Agriculture Liaison Officer, USDA - NRCS

Deidre Smith, USDA-Forest Service Liaison

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

Presiding: Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University

Keynote Speaker: Samuel Scott, North-South Institute for International Business Trade
and Sustainable Systems

Presentation of Merit Farm Family Award

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program State Advisory Council Meeting Room 102, Mary Starke Harper Hall

4:00 p.m. Black Farmers Class Action Lawsuit Update (Ballroom)

Moderator: Bobby England, Tuskegee University

Presenter: Attorney Rose Sanders

SCHEDULE



Pre-Conference & Concurrent Sessions

Session 1: Tax Tips for Small Farms and Community Based Organizations (Meeting Rooms D&E)

Whether your small farm is your sole source of income or it is a part-time venture, you are in business to make money. You will incur a variety of expenses as you operate your farm and attempt to earn money throughout the year. Fortunately, these expenses are tax write-offs that can reduce your taxable income and the amount you will pay in taxes at year-end. This session discusses tips for small farms as economic enterprises. It also covers key points for community-based organizations (CBOs) as nonprofits. It is very important for tax-exempt organizations to understand their tax responsibilities and requirements.

Session 2: Credit Management and Financial Management (Meeting Rooms F&G)

Participants will learn how to access their credit report and score and the different steps involved in challenging erroneous items in the report. They will also have an opportunity to print their reports and discuss follow-up educational and technical assistance sessions in the counties.

Session 3: RC & D Success Stories

The "Wee Can Fight Obesity Program" is a pilot program instituted in six schools across the state of Alabama. The program is designed to help increase the participation of third graders in physical activity. The program is a collaboration among Alabama State University, Alabama Sports Festival, the Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness, and Alabama State Department of Education. It includes student participation with the use of the Wii for a minimum of two days a week in physical education classes for ten weeks. The participating schools received the Wii and the supporting physical fitness and sports related games, a projector, screen, speaker, carrying cart and activity steps and additional funds through the Alabama Sports Festival for their participation in a competition held in Birmingham during the week of Sports Festival competitive games.

We are now in the planning stage to increase the number of schools participating in the "Wee Can Fight Obesity Program".

Rainwater Collection for Poultry Production – Rainwater collection is a concept designed to utilize the abundant rainfall our growing areas receive during the year, harness this potential resource and reintroduce this resource into the growing system as a means to reduce the overall operational costs in commercial poultry production systems in our target area.

Outreach Updates – Funded by an incentive grant from USDA, NRCS, and several RC&D councils partnering with community based organizations to educate limited resource and socially disadvantaged farmers regarding assistance programs and opportunities available to producers via the current Farm Bill.

Session 4: Hoop Houses (Meeting Rooms F&G)

Small farmers and urban farmers can apply for USDA funding to build hoop houses as part of a new pilot project under the "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative. The USDA Natural Resources

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Conservation Service launched the program to increase the availability of locally grown produce in a conservation-friendly way. NRCS will provide financial assistance for the project through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the EQIP Organic Initiative and the Agricultural Management Assistance Program. A seasonal hoop house is a greenhouse-like structure, at least six (6) feet in height, which modifies the climate inside to create more favorable growing conditions for vegetables and other specialty groups grown in the natural soil beneath it. Made of ribs of plastic or metal pipe covered with a layer of plastic sheeting, hoop houses are easy to build, maintain and move. Hoop houses are used year-round in parts of the country, providing steady incomes to farmers — a significant advantage to owners of small farms, limited-resource farmers and organic producers.

Farmers who would like to sign-up for the hoop house pilot should call or visit the NRCS office at a local USDA service center. USDA Service Center locations are listed on the USDA website.

Session 5: Energy Audits/Alternative Energy Education

Energy Audits and Renewable Energy Development Assistance program can assist agriculture producers, rural small businesses and rural communities to become more energy efficient by reducing energy costs and consumption and helping meet the nation's critical energy needs. Electricity and other fuels are expensive for limited resource farmers and small and rural businesses. The Energy Audit provides adequate and appropriate evidence of energy savings expected when an energy audit efficiency project is completed and operated. By implementing renewable energy systems, agriculture producers, rural small business and rural communities can save from the use of oil and gas sources to generate electricity for farms, small businesses and communities.

Session 6: Health Workshop

This session will: 1) Discuss the meaning of hemoglobin A1C, and discuss why it is important for diabetics; 2) describe the facts of diabetes on blood pressure; 3) discuss why managing cholesterol is essential to those living with diabetics.

Session 7: USDA Programs: Best Practices and Opportunities/Farm Bill Listening Session (Auditorium)

This opening session gives an opportunity to small farm owners to hear from key state USDA agencies about the best practices and cultural change happening at local offices. Participants will also meet some of the best USDA officers and employees who have been successful in increasing access to agricultural and rural development services and resources.

Session 8: Farm Bill Listening Session

Every five years or so, the US adopts a new Farm Bill. This massive piece of legislation sets the framework for what we eat, whether our food is nourishing and affordable, what assistance our society provides to feed hungry people, what crops farmers grow under what conditions, global grain and fiber markets, and how rural land is used.

This cycle is underway again, as the 2008 version of the law runs its course. This round of debate over food and farm policy comes at a time of intense and growing public interest in food issues. It also comes at a time of economic uncertainty for our families, communities and nation - when the concept of public investment in our future is under attack.

That is why it's so important for small farmers and community leaders to mobilize around the upcoming Farm Bill by being involved in this session and specify what they would like to see in the 2012 Farm Bill.

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Session 9: Grading and Effective Marketing of Your Produce

Effective marketing strategies are essential to the success and sustainability of farm retail operations. Session participants will dialogue with marketing experts as they discuss helpful market trends and techniques that will address how producers can respond to current market situations.

Session 10: Sustainable Practices & Integrated Management of Armyworms and Colorado Potato Beetles (Meeting Room B)

The first portion of this session will focus on the various sustainable practices including soil fertility and crop management aspects. The expected outcome is that producers will adopt good agricultural practices (GAPs) that will enhance their profitability as well as protect the environment. The second portion will focus on the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods for armyworms and Colorado Potato beetles. Discussions will center on preventive methods, management methods based on pest biology and ecology as well as the use of insecticides when necessary. Participants will be taken through important steps including: Pest identification, monitoring of pest populations, decision-making on use of insecticides and the economic implications of management actions.

Session 11: Livestock and Animal Health (Meeting Rooms F & G)

With the advancement in technology, the method of program delivery is also changing at a very fast pace. The use of internet and email is becoming instrumental for a successful livestock business. Similarly, improvement in pasture and grazing system is becoming very important for lowering livestock production cost and protecting the environment. Moreover, small-scale production techniques, like pastured poultry, can be a beneficial enterprise for some of the farmers in rural communities who are not involved in livestock or commercial poultry production. Finally, production of wholesome livestock and poultry products for human consumption is of prime importance for healthy living and successful business. The purpose of this session is to give a brief insight into all of the issues mentioned above so that participants can be more knowledgeable and competitive in their businesses.

Session 12: Lifestyles, Health & Wellness (Meeting Room B)

This session will address continued major health problems that face many African Americans, especially those living in rural counties. These health problems include diabetes, childhood and adult obesity, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. Lifestyle changes that can be made to prevent these major age-related diseases and health disparities in minority populations will be discussed, along with where resources can be obtained for low income and limited resource families in Alabama.

Session 13: Writing a Winning Proposal (Meeting Room B)

Are you interested in becoming more successful in developing a winning proposal? If so, you can participate in this FREE SARE Grant Writing workshop. The objective is to equip individuals in general and agricultural producers in particular with the necessary skills for the preparation and submission of a successfully written proposal.

Session 14: Agricultural Career Opportunities for Youth (Auditorium)

This session will focus on providing students with information and opportunities to discover and develop interests in areas of academic and career skills to ensure that no child is left behind. Students will be encouraged to pursue educational, financial and career planning opportunities in an environment that is safe, challenging and rewarding.

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2011 Merit Farm



The 119th Annual Farmers Conference salutes Mrs. Rosia Jernigan of Union Springs, Alabama

as the recipient of the Merit Farm Family Award for 2011. Mrs. Jernigan and her family farm join an elite group of innovative community leaders involved in sustainable family farms. Bullock County, Alabama is home to several former recipients over the 95 year history of this award.

Mrs. Jernigan, a native of Mobile County, Alabama, owns and operates CUROS Farm of Bullock County. CUROS Farm is a diversified farming operation comprised of over 267 acres in Alabama's Coastal Plains soil region. The farm features a 50 head beef cattle operation, 50 acres of TIF - 9 hay fields, and 10 tree mature pecan orchard, fish pond, hunting areas, fruit trees and vegetable gardens.

This farm was established over 40 years ago by Mrs. Jernigan and her late husband Curtis. The duo were dedicated educators and administrators in the public school systems of Bullock and Russell Counties.

During the establishing years, CUROS Farm was also a living classroom to the three Jernigan children,



Family Awardee



Valeria, Kwesi, and Adero. The siblings, now all adults with off farm careers, maintain a deep appreciation for the farm life they grew up with and used to shape their future. The eldest daughter makes her home on a portion of the farm property and all three children maintain an active interest in managing the family farm.

Mrs. Jernigan provided several family meals from the farms vegetable gardens and still cans and preserves several jars of fruits and vegetables for consumption during the off season. She established several muscadine varieties over

the years and still produces several jelly and wine products. The pecan orchard has been revitalized and is one of the most productive small orchards in the area. Most of the orchard trees are of the Stuart variety. Wildlife is abundant in the area. CUROS Farm is a natural habitat for deer and wild turkeys.

As a community leader, Mrs. Jernigan is extremely active in her church, Union Hill Missionary Baptist Church. She serves her church as Sunday School Teacher and Church Clerk. She also serves on the Bullock County Board of Registrars, member of the Bullock County Voters League, Bullock County Rural Water Board and member of QA for the Bullock County Department of Human Resources.

Mrs. Jernigan, the eternal educator, is one of the organizing members of the Bullock County Farmers Cooperative which was established in 2009. She uses this opportunity to inform fellow producers of USDA assistance programs and to assist them during the application process.



About the Speakers

Latimore, Mark is interim assistant vice president, Office of Land Grant Affairs/Cooperative Extension Program at Fort Valley State University. During his tenure at Fort Valley, he has also served as interim dean of the College of Agriculture, Home Economics and Allied Programs, professor and extension specialist. Dr. Latimore has experience as a researcher, proposal writer and has written numerous publications.

Dr. Latimore earned his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia, M.S. from the University of Georgia and B.S. degree from Fort Valley.

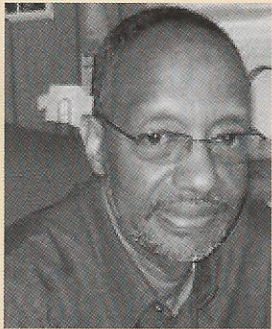
Scott, Samuel president and chief executive officer at the North-South Institute (NSI), Inc., for economic development, entrepreneurship, enterprise development, international business and trade, sustainable systems, renewable resource development and education.

As an economist, his work with several multi-disciplinary teams and partners has covered economic development areas including risk management, small business development, and investment banking/project finance as well as others. Scott earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Florida.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

T. M. Campbell

Distinguished Leadership Awardees



Edward J. Pennick, Jr., is director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives' Land Assistance Fund. He coordinates all land related legal, technical and educational assistance to African-American landowners. Mr. Pennick has worked on African-American land tenure issues for over 30 years and has written and conducted extensive research on the subject.

Pennick has received numerous awards including from USDA/CSREES, Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference.



W. Gaines Smith is director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. He has been with Extension since 1965 having served as a farm agent, district agent, associate director and interim director. He serves as the chief executive officer of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, an outreach unit of Alabama A&M University and Auburn University.

Dr. Smith has the academic rank of Associate Professor at Auburn University having earned his B.S., M.Ag, and Ed.D. degrees from Auburn.

Lowndes County Commission

AWARDEES



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National Institute for Food and Agriculture, USDA
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Farm Service Agency
Small Farm Technical Assistance and Outreach Program, Tuskegee University
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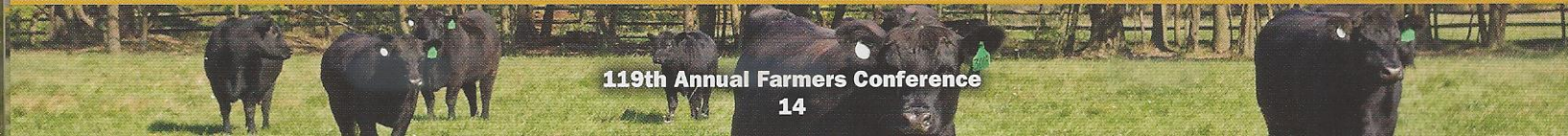
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NOTES



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