

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY 122ND ANNUAL FARMERS CONFERENCE

In 2014, we celebrate the
150th Anniversary of the birth of
Dr. George Washington Carver



Celebrating the Legacy of Service and Commitment

February 20-21, 2014

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center at Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama



In 2014, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the Cooperative Extension Service, a state-by-state national network of educators who extend university-based research and knowledge to the people.

2014 Merit Farm Family Award



The Richard Mitchell Family

Tuskegee University Barbour County Cooperative Extension Office
Jermelle Custer, County Agent
LaTanya Hunt-Haralson, County Agent
Jeffery Moore, County Agent

The 2014 Merit Farm Family Award
is sponsored by First South Farm Credit





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 as well as 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 families in managing change in agriculture and lifestyles.

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.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, February 20, 2014		
Time	Event	Location
7:00 - 12:00	Conference Registration and Exhibit Setup	
8:00 - 09:30	Annual Meeting- Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Advisory Council Meeting (members and invited guests)	Meeting Room D & E
8:00 - 09:30	Small Farm Agricultural Cooperative Meeting (invited participants)	Meeting Room F & G
9:30 - 12:00	Intensive Short Courses A. Farm Safety - Basic First Aid including CPR B. Hands on Equipment Operation (Women and Beginning Farmers) C. Intensive Small Herd Management	Meeting Room A University Farm Auditorium
12:00 - 1:30	Opening Luncheon	Ballroom
1:30 - 2:30	The USDA Strikeforce Initiative and Updates	Auditorium
2:30 - 3:00	T.M. Campbell Memorial Presentation and Youth Oratorical Presentations	Campbell Monument Area
3:00 - 5:00	Farmer to Farmer - Information Exchange and Network Session	Auditorium
5:30 - 7:30	T.M. Campbell Memorial Banquet and Awards Session	Ballroom
Friday, February 21, 2014		
7:00 - 12:00	Conference Registration	
7:00 - 8:00	Breakfast Buffet	Ballroom
8:00 - 9:15	General Session - The Affordable Healthcare Act	Auditorium
9:15 - 9:30	Break	Foyer
9:30 - 12:00	Concurrent Sessions A. Beef Cattle Alternative Marketing B. Wills and Estate Planning C. Risk Management D. Food Safety for the Small Farmer E. FSA Loan Application Workshop	Auditorium Meeting Room A Meeting Room B Meeting Room F&G Meeting Room D&E
12:00-2:00	Merit Family Luncheon	Ballroom

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

7:00 a.m. Registration and Exhibit Setup (Conference Registration Desk)

7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Exhibits, Expo and Health Fair Open

**8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension
Advisory Council - Members and Invited Guests (Meeting Rooms D&E)**

Small Farm Agricultural Cooperative Meeting - Invited Participants (Meeting Rooms F&G)

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Intensive Short Courses

A. Farm Safety - Basic First Aid (Ballroom A)

Lekan Ayanwale, Tuskegee University

Cordelia Nnedu, Tuskegee University

Sola Popoola, Tuskegee University

Benjamin Rackley, Tuskegee Area Health Education Center

B. Hands on Equipment Operation (University Farm)

Decetti Taylor, Tuskegee University

C. Intensive Small Herd Management (Auditorium)

Strategic Parasite Control in Beef Cattle

Megan Green - Merial, Technical Services Veterinarian

Practices for Beef Operations

Kenneth Newkirk, Tuskegee University

Animal Identification

Jollette Crawl, Federation of Southern Cooperatives

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Opening Luncheon (Ballroom)

Moderator: Alfred Jackson, Tuskegee University

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "The USDA Strikeforce Initiative and Updates"

Moderator: Daniel Robinson, State Executive Director

USDA, Farm Service Agency - Alabama

**2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. T.M. Campbell Memorial Presentation and
Youth Oratorical Presentations (Campbell Monument Area)**

Moderator: Jermelle Custer, Tuskegee University

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. . Farmer to Farmer - Information Exchange & Network Session (Auditorium)

Moderator: Raymon Shange, Tuskegee University

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. T. M. Campbell Leadership Awards Banquet (Ballroom)

Presiding: Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University

Greetings/Welcome: Matthew Jenkins, Acting President, Tuskegee University

Speaker: Ron Sparks, Director

Alabama Office of Rural Development

Presentation and Remarks: Walter A. Hill, Tuskegee University

Ntam Baharanyi, Tuskegee University

Presentation of T. M. Campbell Award

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013

7:00 a.m. Registration (Conference Registration Desk)

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Exhibits, Expo and Health Fair Open

**8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. General Session (Auditorium)
The Affordable Healthcare Act
Presenters:** Jim Carnes, Alabama Arise
Marilyn DeNeal, Tuskegee University
Roberta Troy, Tuskegee University

9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Break

**9:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. . . . Marketplace Exchange for the Affordable Care Act Enrollment Clinic
(Business Service Center)**

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

A. Utilizing Post Weaning Marketing Strategies to Add Value of Calves for Small Beef Producers (Auditorium)

Facilitator: Alphonso Elliott, Tuskegee University
Presenters: Gary Coleman, Anderson, SC
Donald Means, Eutaw, AL
Johnny Morrow, Tuscaloosa, AL

B. Wills and Estate Planning (Meeting Room A)

Facilitator: Jerry Bettis, Tuskegee University
Presenter: Robert Tufts, Auburn University

C. Risk Management (Meeting Room B)

Facilitator: Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University
Presenters: Mike Alston, USDA, Risk Management Agency
Diana Amera, USDA, Risk Management Agency

D. FSA Loan Application Workshop and Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Updates (Meeting Rooms D&E)

Facilitator: Anthony McCarty, Alabama FSA Farm Loan Chief
Presenters: James Currington, Jr., Alabama FSA Farm Loan Manager
William Henderson, Alabama FSA Chief Agricultural Program Manager

E. Food Safety for the Small Farmer (Meeting Rooms F&G)

Facilitator: Gertrude Wall, Tuskegee University
Presenter: Barrett Vaughan, Tuskegee University

12:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Merit Farm Family Luncheon (Ballroom)

Presiding: Lawrence Haygood, Jr., Tuskegee University
Carver Commemoration: William Lennard, Tuskegee University
Report from Peer to Peer Farmer Workshop: Raymon Shange, Tuskegee University
Presentation and Remarks: Walter A. Hill, Tuskegee University

Presentation of Merit Farm Family Award

Friday, February 21, 2014

8:30 a.m.	Arrival (Henderson Hall Auditorium)
8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Registration
8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Greetings Tuskegee University Ambassadors April Baldwin Destiny Caldwell Kalauna Carter Morgan Garvey Aristotle Jones Keldrick Stephens
9:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.	Plenary Opening Jermelle Custer, Tuskegee University
9:10 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	USDA Scholarships Rodney Stone, USDA Liaison
9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Admissions Cecil Davis, Tuskegee University
9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Financial Aid Marcus Byrd, Tuskegee University
10:10 a.m.	Departure for Museum Tour
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Museum Tour
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (Tompkins Hall)
1:30 p.m.	Departure

2014 MERIT FARM FAMILY AWARD



The Tuskegee University Annual Farmers Conference is proud to recognize the Richard Mitchell family of Barbour County, Alabama as the Merit Farm Family of 2014.

Mr. Mitchell was born as the youngest son of a farming family of nine children in rural Alabama. Growing up in a family of row croppers, Richard embraced a love for nature and the land while helping his family produce corn, peanuts and cotton.

As with most youth of his time, Mr. Mitchell spent a few years in the United States Military, first as a means of getting away from the farm and the way of life he thought it represented, and then to see the world.

Coming full circle, Richard returned to Barbour County and literally to his roots, and established his own farm in Barbour County, Alabama. Reflecting on his return to



Clayton, Alabama, Mitchell believes "it's just something about the soils. The Lord wants us to work the soil to make it produce the things needed for our consumption."

The current farm land assets include over 300 acres owned and managed by the Mitchell family. Farm enterprises are very similar to most area farms as his tends to focus on the traditional areas of vegetable and cattle



An active member of the local community, Mr. Mitchell, an ordained minister, currently serves as the pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church. He is a very involved member of the Extension State Advisory Council, and enjoys representing the Barbour County interests.

Mr. Mitchell has also hosted several field days and Extension related training opportunities on his farm property. These workshops have included beef cattle management clinics and fruit tree production sessions. The Mitchell Farm has also served as an on-farm demonstration site for several university supported research projects.



production. Mr. Mitchell has plans to significantly expand the spring 2014 watermelon crop.

The diversification of Mitchell Farms creates their unique position in the community. Mr. Mitchell has a large non-commercial chicken component to his operation and has incorporated the use of donkeys as predator protection from coyotes. The most unique feature is the addition of ostriches and emus as a viable portion of their operation. The ostriches never adapted well to the Alabama climate and the demand for emu meat has not ever fully developed. Emus have been most profitable with the production of emu oil and production records strongly suggests the oil to be more profitable than the rest to the bird.



When asked about his perspective on maintaining the family farm, Mitchell is quoted reverently as saying, "A lot of times, in years past, it didn't produce as much, the pay wasn't as much as I would have liked it to have been, but I

always find myself doing it all over again the next year ... I just have a love for it."

Mr. Mitchell is married to his loving wife Patricia, his partner and friend, and they have adult children that they are proud to have nurtured in their own farm environment.



ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

JIM CARNES is policy director at Alabama Arise. He is chairman of the Covering Alabama's Kids & Families coalition and project director of Alabama Consumer Voices for Coverage, a health care reform initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In 2012-13 he served as the consumer representative on Gov. Robert Bentley's Medicaid Advisory Commission and the Medicaid Pharmacy Study Commission.

Prior to joining the Arise staff in 2003, he was director of the Teaching Tolerance project at the Southern Poverty Law Center. From 1977 to 1992, he was a humanities editor at *Encyclopedia Britannica* in Chicago. He has also served as a technical consultant for the Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee. His book *Us and Them: A History of Intolerance in America* (Oxford University Press, 1997) was selected as a notable book of the year by the National Council for the Social Studies and the New York Public Library.

RON SPARKS, born and raised in Ft. Payne, Alabama, is head of Alabama's new Rural Development Agency and former Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture. As head of the agency, they are working on poverty and development in the Black Belt and with the University of Alabama to try to retain doctors in rural Alabama in addition to other needs for the state.

Sparks is often on the road meeting with state and local leaders, recruiting new businesses and working on plans to re-shape the way rural Alabama is viewed by visitors and investors. He wants to market rural Alabama as a retirement destination and he wants to expand rural broadband access. Among Sparks' many successes is Kid Check, a state initiative to give children free health screenings at events across the state.

Ron Sparks is the father of three children and one grandchild. He is a community leader and works with coaching the youth athletics in the DeKalb County Area. He has the distinction of being elected as one of the youngest Commissioners of Agriculture and Industries for the State of Alabama.

T. M. CAMPBELL LEADERSHIP AWARDEE

SENATOR BILLY BEASLEY was elected to the Senate to serve Alabama's 28th District on November 2, 2010, after serving three terms in the Alabama House of Representatives. His district consists of Barbour, Bullock, Henry, Lee, Macon, Russell counties. Senator Beasley is a member of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Constitution, Campaign Finance, Ethics and Elections, Finance and Taxation General Fund and Health committees.

President of Pratts Station, LLC, and operator of the Clayton Drug Company and the Clio Drug Company, Senator Beasley received his B.S. Degree in Pharmacy from Auburn University in 1962. He is a member of the National Community Pharmacist Association and the Auburn Alumni Association. Additionally, he is a past President of both the Alabama Pharmaceutical Association and Clayton Rotary Club.

A member of the Clayton United Methodist Church, Senator Beasley served as a Captain in the United States Army, Medical Services Corp. He and his wife, Rebecca, have five children: Martin, Brad, Margaret, Tom, and Rebecca.

CONTRIBUTORS

SPONSORS

National Institute for Food and Agriculture, USDA
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Mid-South Resource, Conservation & Development Council, USDA
Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA (through the Rural Energy Program)
Farm Service Agency, USDA
Small Farm Technical Assistance and Outreach Program, Tuskegee University
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, Tuskegee University
Alabama Ag Credit
First South Farm Credit
The Broughton Agency Country Financial

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