

# TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY 123<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FARMERS CONFERENCE

Photo Courtesy: Tuskegee University Archives



Centennial Year Commemoration of  
the death of Booker T. Washington  
(1915 - 2015)

**“Creating Sustainable  
Rural Communities,  
One Family Farm  
at a Time”**



**125 Years of Providing Access  
and Enhancing Opportunities**

The 1890 land-grant universities are a major educational resource for the nation, and continue to be a key source of African American leaders who render valuable service to their communities, the nation, and the world.

**February 19-20, 2015**  
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center  
at Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama

# 2015 Merit Farm Family Award



## **The Sandra and Cal Jones Family Georgiana, Alabama**

George X. Hunter, Jr, County Agent  
Millicent P. Braxton, County Agent  
Yvonne Allen, County Agent, Youth  
Jessie M. Purifoy, Administrative Assistant

The 2015 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 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: (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 with respect to local, national and global markets.

# SCHEDULE

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. . . . . Registration (Conference Registration Desk)**

**8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. . . . . Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program  
State Advisory Council Annual Meeting  
(Including Memorial Visit to T.M. Campbell Monument)  
(Meeting Room A)**

**Small Farmers Agricultural Cooperative Annual Meeting  
(Meeting Room B)**

**9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. . . . . Exhibits and Health Fair**

**9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. . . . . Intensive Short Courses for Producers**

**Option A. Tax Planning: Defining Corporate Structure. . . . . Auditorium**

**Facilitator:** Decetti Taylor, Tuskegee University

**Presenter:** Clifton Parker, TENNIE Group, North Carolina

**Title of workshop: Tax Planning: Defining Corporate Structure** (approximately 45-60 minutes)

### **Agricultural Taxation:**

This tax planning presentation will give clarity to listeners in understanding the difference between the different entities and the benefits each entity such as LLC, S-Corp, Partnership, Sole Proprietorship, and C-Corporation offers, based on how the company is structured. Agricultural tax benefits that's most beneficial to farmers, small businesses, and individuals.

**Learning Objectives:** Know what entity you are and the requirements attached. Introduce record keeping into your day-to-day personal and business activities. Practice sound financial management.

### **Record-keeping and Accounting Practices for Farmers and Small Businesses:**

The importance of good record-keeping **(approximately 30-45 minutes)**

### **Crop Insurance:**

Presentation on Risk Management Strategies for Alabama Agricultural Producers. The keynotes of the presentation will be on vegetable and row crops. The presentation will cover the 2014 Farm Bill and how this affects Alabama producers. The presentation will also give an overview of the Federal Crop Insurance New Whole Farm Revenue Policy.

## **Option B. Sustainable Vegetable Insect Pest Management Tactics for the South (Meeting Rooms D&E)**

**Facilitator:** Alfred Jackson, Tuskegee University

**Presenters:** Ayanava Majumdar, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn, AL  
Franklin Quarcoo, Tuskegee University

**Description of Workshop:** This session will cover all aspects of pest management for vegetable producers in the Southeast with a specific focus on tomatoes and cucurbits. Major insect pests will be identified. Conventional insecticide recommendations will be discussed along with trap cropping for reducing insecticide usage.

## **Option C. eXtension Goat Industry: Presentation and Q&A Session with Goat Experts Meeting Meeting Rooms F&G**

**Facilitator:** Uma Karki, Tuskegee University

**Presenter:** David Kiesling, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO

This session is designed to educate farmers and field-level livestock professionals on the educational opportunities and materials that are available through eXtension website along with other useful features of the site with a focus on Goat Industry Community of Practice. After the presentation, there will be a panel discussion and question and answer session with goat experts from various states. Participants will have a very good opportunity to interact and get to know renowned goat experts, and find solutions to several issues they may have in their goat operations. Also, there will be a video show on Sustainable Year-Round Forage Production and Grazing/Browsing Management. Unique session features include;

**Panel discussion and question-answer session:** Use of eXtension website to acquire useful information for improving goat enterprise:

**Video show:** Sustainable Year-Round Forage Production and Grazing/Browsing Management

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

**Facilitator:** Lawrence Haygood, Tuskegee University

R.C.& D. - Resource Conservation and Development Councils at Work in your Community

**Presenter:** Mike Rhoden, Executive Director, Alabama Association of R.C.& D. Councils

### **2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. . . . . Plenary Session (Auditorium)**

USDA Updates and the Strike-Force Initiative: Where Are We Now?

### **3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. . . . . Break**

# SCHEDULE

**4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. . . . . Discussion Session (Auditorium)**

Farmer to Farmer: Lessons Learned - Opportunities to Share

**Facilitator:** Raymon Shange, Tuskegee University

**Presenters:** Jewell Bean, Tuskegee University  
Russell Bean, Tuskegee University  
Ethel Smith, Farmer

**Panelists:** Charlie Adams, Farmer - Umar Ali, Farmer  
Quincy Banks, Farmer - Lawrence Carter, Florida A&M University/Farmer  
Levi Cunningham, Farmer - Josie Gbadamosi, Farmer  
Carolyn Hennes, Farmer - Nimrod Stephens, Farmer

**6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. . . . . T. M. Campbell Award Banquet (Ballroom)**

**Facilitator:** William C. Lennard, Tuskegee University

**Presenter:** The Winston County Self Help Cooperative Formula for  
Saving Rural America through Leadership Development: Frank Taylor

**T. M. Campbell Leadership Awardee:**

L. Washington Lyons, Executive Administrator  
Association of Extension Administrators

## **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015**

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

**7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.. . . . . Breakfast Buffet (Ballroom)**

**8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. . . . . Exhibits and Health Fair**

**8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.. . . . . General Session (Auditorium)**

**Facilitator:** Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University  
The Farm Bill - Opportunities for Rural Communities

**Presenters:** Steve Musser, Assistant Conservationist for Programs, USDA/NRCS-Alabama  
Daniel Robinson, Executive Director, USDA, FSA  
William Henderson, Production Adjustment Chief and Walda Malone State Specialist, USDA, FSA

**9:00 a.m. - 4:30 a.m. . . . . K-12 Educators - Invitation Only (Meeting Room E)**

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

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. . . . . Concurrent Sessions**

**A. Nuisance Wildlife - Managing Wild Pig Damage . . . . . Meeting Room A**

Agency staff will discuss wild pig history biology and ecology; wild pig diseases, parasites and implications to humans and livestock, wild pig trapping techniques, trap designs, and removal methods and How to get money for Pig traps.

**Facilitator:**

**Presenter:** Jeff Thurmon, Wildlife Biologist USDA, NRCS

# SCHEDULE

## **B. Successful Cooperative Management Strategies . . . . . Meeting Room B**

**Facilitator:** Franklin Quarcoo, Tuskegee University  
**Panelist:** Iris Cole-Crosby, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff  
George Hunter, Tuskegee University  
Franklin Quarcoo, Tuskegee University  
Thomas Turner, Small Farmers Agricultural Cooperative

## **Marketing your Farm Fruits and Vegetables . . . . . Meeting Room F**

**Facilitator:** Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University  
**Presenters:** Don Wambles, State of Alabama Farmers Market Authority  
Mike Murphy, Gulf Coast Produce  
Greg Calhoun, Andrew Carlisle, Calhoun Foods  
Andrew Williams, United Christian Community Association  
Christopher Cooley, Sysco Foods

Attendees will participate in a training session that will focus on various marketing concepts, eligibility requirements for supplying fruits and vegetables to commercial and local markets, including food safety requirements transportation refrigeration pricing quality control and volume requires. Panelist will also discuss some success stories of how other small farmers have been successful in supply of produce to their respective companies.

## **C. T. M. Campbell/Interactive Learning Experiences . . . . . Auditorium**

**Facilitator:** Jermelle Custer, Tuskegee University

### **-T. M. Campbell / Cooperative Extension Interactive Learning Experience**

Questions from five categories will be asked in a Jeopardy style interactive play. The five categories are: Careers in Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, Tuskegee University, Thomas Monroe Campbell, and Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program. Participants in this concurrent session will have the opportunity to learn pertinent history, facts, general knowledge, and so much more.

### **-Maze Quest Experiential Learning Experience**

A floor size maze will be constructed in order to engage participants in formulating ways to make it through the maze successfully by answering specific questions. Questions are based on the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, Thomas Monroe Campbell, Tuskegee University, and Careers in Agriculture. Bring your thinking caps and energy to this session!

## **D. Power of Savings on Financial Security. . . . . Meeting Room G**

**Facilitator:**  
**Presenters:** Lila B. Karki, Tuskegee University  
Ruth Brock, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University  
John Olsen, Federal Deposit Insurance Company, Montgomery, AL

**Description of the Workshop:** Tuskegee University, Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) has planned to educate public in general and seniors, adults, youths, and children in particular about financial education. TUCEP will use variety of sources to blend the information besides in-house expertise and experiences to educate the audience of the conference about **POWER OF SAVING MONEY FOR FINANCIAL SECURITY**. Through this financial education/literacy program, we would like to enhance their understandings and level of financial skills that are relevant to the lives of rural people (seniors, adults, young adults/college students). Moreover, we intend to teach low and medium income farm households about money management, basics of borrowing, earning power, present and future value of money, and compounding interest for a secured financial future.

## **Health Risks for Farmers . . . . . E. Basic First Aid /Emergency Preparedness and Preventable Meeting Room D**

**Facilitator:** LeKan Ayanwale, Tuskegee University  
**Presenters:** LaMant Pack, ADPH, Montgomery, AL  
Benjamin Rackley, VA Medical Center, Tuskegee, AL  
Cordelia Nnedu & Sola Popoola, Tuskegee University

# 2015 MERIT FARM FAMILY AWARD

Sandra and Cal Jones, currently reside in Georgiana, Alabama where they own and operate Jones Produce, a uniquely diversified farming venture. A farm family with four children, Sandra and Cal Jones were married in 1995. Their four children, Rusty, Paige, Hope and Melissa Anne – and their two grandsons, Parks, and Bryson, possess a deep appreciation for the joys and rich rewards of life offered on the farm.

Farming has always been a major part of both Sandra and Cal's lives. Growing up in South Alabama, in Butler County, Alabama, Cal worked alongside his father in farming his entire life. He not only learned how to grow produce, but how to run a variety of heavy-duty equipment. This heavy equipment experience was instrumental in assisting Cal to construct efficient waterways on their farm properties. Sandra, also a native of South Alabama helped her father in gardening and vegetable processing by running various bean shellers since the age of 11. Through the years, in one capacity or another, both have been working with produce and successfully marketing their crops to the public.

In addition to working with his father, Cal worked in the tobacco industry for most of his early years. Once he and Sandra were married, Sandra joined the tobacco industry, working in assembly, inspecting and shipping. After working with the tobacco industry, seeking new opportunities, Cal used his knowledge and skill of heavy duty equipment and began working for a logging company.

Through the years, Sandra and Cal managed to maintain their small farm family farm though they spent multiple hours employed at different jobs off the farm. Throughout their lives, one consistent goal has been quality – QUALITY of produce, QUALITY of tobacco and QUALITY of logs.

Developing their family home was a major priority for the Jones family. Once all of the children were out of the house they abandoned their plans of building a new home on the farm, choosing to purchase and renovate Sandra's dream home that had finally become available for sale.



The new home was in desperate need of repair but the couple was able to make the dream a reality. While landscaping the new yard, Cal was injured and was taken out of action for several months. Sandra became the sole provider and caretaker for the family home and farm. Cal still has limited abilities but he returned as a driving force in this operation. "All of these trials and tribulations have made each stronger and

thankful for each other. I wouldn't trade a single moment for anything else in this world."

Sandra and Cal Jones are thankful to Tuskegee University and the Small Farmers Agricultural Co-operative for having helped them to extend what was once a very small family business of five acres to one that has grown to over 100 acres.



# SCHEDULE

Farmers, farm families and folks living in rural, black belt areas of the country are usually not close to hospitals or health centers where health emergencies or life-threatening accidents can be rushed to for medical assistance. However, like any other family, farmers and their families are prone to health emergencies such as chokes, cuts, body abrasions, insect stings, venomous snake bites and other bodily injuries. Farmers also need and they do buy and stock essential farm chemicals such as weed killers, poisonous animal baits, rodenticides, cancer causing Pharmacological products, toxins, live-attenuated vaccines and other life-threatening products. Some of these may be ingested accidentally through food, drinking water or body contacts resulting in medical emergencies that need immediate medical attentions. This breakout session will teach farmers (in the absence of a medical center) how to handle some of these emergencies. Farmers will learn “the essentials to keep in their first-aid kits”. They will learn by hand-on-practice how to perform CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary- Resuscitation) and treat chokes. The knowledge of some “at risks” products that farmers and their families should know about will also be discussed. Disaster preparedness and some preventable farm emergencies will be discussed. The needs for farmers and their farm families to adopt healthy life-styles in order to avoid certain types of cancers will also be discussed.

**11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. . . . . Merit Farm Family Celebration (Ballroom)**  
**Welcome: Dr. Brian Johnson, President, Tuskegee University**  
**Presentation: 1915: What was Accomplished by Booker T. Washington's Last Negro Farmers Conference . . . . . Robert Zabawa, Tuskegee University**

**1:00 p.m. . . . . George Washington Carver Convocation (Chapel)**

**1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. . . . . Concurrent Sessions**

**E. Food Safety Training and Review. . . . . Meeting Rooms F&G**  
**Facilitator:** Millicent Braxton, Tuskegee University  
**Presenter:** Barrett Vaughan, Tuskegee University

**a. GAP Requirements/Records/2015 Safety Plan**  
**Presenter:** Gertrude Wall, Tuskegee University

**b. Cottage Food Law SB159**  
**Presenter:** Decetti Taylor, Tuskegee University

**F. Management of Anthracnose Disease in Watermelon Production and Cowpea Curcilo in Pea Production (Meeting Room A)**  
**Presenter:** Franklin Quarcoo, Tuskegee University

**G. Marketing Timber . . . . . Meeting Room B**  
**Facilitator:** Ronald C. Smith, Tuskegee University  
**Presenter:** Jerry Bettis, Tuskegee University

Attendees will learn how to choose a consulting forester and how to market timber.

**H. Ready Communities - Disaster Preparedness for Your Communities (Meeting Room D)**  
**Presenters:** Rodney Stone, USDA Liaison, Tuskegee University  
Virginia Morgan White, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Auburn University  
Michael Henderson, TAHEC

## **T. M. CAMPBELL LEADERSHIP AWARDEE**

**L. WASHINGTON LYONS** is the first and current Executive Administrator for the Association of 1890 Extension Administrators (AEA). In this role his duties include serving on the Board on Agriculture Assembly Farm Bill Committee, represents the 1890 Land-Grant System at the national level on issues related to agriculture, family and consumer sciences and 4-H, as a staffer/support person to 1890 representatives on the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, the Budget and Legislative and Budget and Advocacy Committees, Policy Board of Directors, Committee on Legislation and Policy.

Before becoming Executive Administrator, Dr. Lyons served as Dean of the School of Agriculture, and Administrator for Cooperative Extension at Virginia State University. He provided overall leadership for the academic programs in the school, extension, agricultural research, Randolph Farm, and international programs.

Dr. Lyons has received many awards during his distinguished career. Amongst those are the Virginia State Farm Bureau Distinguished Service, AEA Outstanding Administrator Award, Extension Committee for Organizational and Policy Service Award and Soil and Water Conservation Society, Conservation of the Year Award.

## **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

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First South Farm Credit

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Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
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Southern Rural Development Council

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Cooperative Extension Program

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