Guide to the Papers of

Farmers Conference

Prepared by Asia K. Bender, 2023

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Farmers’ Conference

**Title:** Papers of Farmers’ Conference

**Dates:**

**Quantity:** 6.0 cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** Booker T. Washington established the Farmers’ Conference on February 23, 1892, to educate and provide resources for black farmers. The Farmers’ Conference is in injunction with Tuskegee University to showcase scholars and experts from Tuskegee University’s department of agriculture and other institutions to discuss current issues in farming and production. The Farmers’ Conference celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1992, and Tuskegee University has continued hosting the annual conference.

**Contact Information:** Tuskegee University National Center of Bioethics, Archives and Museums

Tuskegee University

Tuskegee, AL 36088 USA

Phone: (334) 725-2374

Fax:

Email**: archives@tuskegee.edu**

URL: [www.tuskegee.edu](http://www.tuskegee.edu)

**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of Farmers’ Conference

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in various containers, with the documents in folders prepared. From their arrangement in the containers, the folders were not arranged any particular order. Many of the folders were not labeled, or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents.

The processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Subjects:**

Thomas Monroe Campbell

George Washington Carver

Booker T. Washington

Tuskegee Institute Department of Agriculture

**Persons:**

Farmers’ Conference

**Biography**

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) created the Annual Negro Farmers’ Conference in 1892 to address the political, economic, and social needs of black farmers. In the 1880s and 1890s, southern farmers struggled with eroded and unproductive land and water scarcity. In addition, southern black farmers faced repressive and racial injustice as farmers. To combat such inequalities, the first conference was held on February 23rd, 1892, with over 400 women and men in attendance, to inform and educate black farmers. The Farmers’ Conference messaged Washington’s economic, social, and educational philosophy to help poor southern black farm families. The conference began as a black agricultural extension work at Tuskegee Institute but soon branched to include other areas - farmers’ institute, agricultural short courses, farmers’ county fairs, farm newspaper and publications, and agricultural extension agents, among other activities. Due to large attendance and positive reviews, national attention was brought to the Tuskegee Institute and Farmers’ Conference. As a result, Tuskegee Institute began holding the conference annually.

Tuskegee University has continued with the tradition of hosting the Farmers’ Conference at various locations. The tradition still models the principles of Booker T. Washington by addressing modern-day concerns of farmers and the field of agriculture.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers on the Farmers’ Conference consist of documents spanning 1916-1992; included are photos, programs, speeches/addresses, and posters on the Farmers’ Conferences and associates. The photos document attendees from the conference, and there are news articles documenting associates affiliated with Tuskegee University and members of the Farmers’ Conference. Several programs and speaker listings throughout the years outline the discussions and events during the conferences. Business correspondence detailing Farmers’ Conference Committee notes and Tuskegee Institute correspondence about the conference. There are photos of teenage G.W. Carver and agriculture research reports from the 1930s and 1940s.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into one series.

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Box Folder**

1 1 Better Rural Living in the Post War, The Old Cotton South in Transition by

Arthur Raper, 1946

1 2 Tuskegee Negro Farmers’ and Workers’ Conference Fiftieth Annual Conference

Program, December 18, 1940

1 3 Fifty-Second Annual Farmers and Workers Conference Program, December 9-16,

1942

1 4 Fifty-Seventh Annual Farmers Conference Program, January 21, 1948

1 5 Fifty-Eighth Annual Farmers Conference Program, January 19, 1949

1 6 Tuskegee Negro Farmers’ and Workers’ Conference, Fifty- First Annual

Conference, December 10, 1941

1 7 Program and Premium List of the Annual Tuskegee Institute Fat Stock Show,

January 21, 1947

1 8 Tuskegee Institute Annual Farmer’s Conference Farm and Home Week Photos

1947

1 9 The Sixtieth Annual Tuskegee Institute Negro Farmers Conference Program and

Resolution, January 17, 1951

1 10 Fifty-Ninth Annual Tuskegee Institute Negro Farmers Conference, January

Conference, January 18, 1950

1 11 Tuskegee Negro Farmers Conference, Forty-Eighth Annual Conference,

December 14, 1938

1 12 Farmer Conference Speaker List, January 18,1950

1 13 Fifty-Ninth Annual Farmers Conference, Thirteenth Annual Farmer and Home

Week, January 11-17, 1950

1 14 Sixtieth Annual Farmers Conference and Agricultural Workers Conference

Program and Resolution, January 1951

1 15 Fourteenth Annual Farmer and Home Short Course, January 15-17, 1951

1 16 Suggestions from Tuskegee Negro Conference Poultry Raising on the Farmer,

1909

1 17 Tuskegee Institute Conference to Study Programs and Objectives Agricultural

Development, January 16-17, 1950

1 18 Farmers’ Conference Dairy Farming in Dadeville, Alabama Q and A, January 18,

1950

1 19 Farmers’ Conference Dr Patterson, President of Tuskegee, Speaking, May 18,

1942

1 20 Farmers’ Conference Photos

1 21 Forty-Fifth Annual Tuskegee Negro Farmers’ Conference, December 4, 1935

1 22 Macon County Farmers’ Conference Programme, February 20, 1950

1 23 Journal of Negro History [The Role of Tuskegee Institute in the Education of

Black Farmers] April 1975

1 24 The Montgomery Advertiser [Farmers’ Conference] December 7, 1934

1 25 Sixty-Second Annual Farmers’ Conference, Farm and Home Short Course,

January 28, 1953

1 26 Photo of George Washington Carver, about 15 or 16 years old

1 27 The Undiscovered Sweet Potato Draft/Report, August 20, 1941 by G.W. Carver

1 28 Alabama Products Week Draft/Report, March 29, 1940 by G.W Carver

1 29 Some Choice Wild Vegetables Can Be Gathered Now Draft/Report, February 5,

1940 by G.W Carver

1 30 Drafts and Reports by G.W. Carver, 1936-1942

1 31 Drafts and Reports by G.W Carver, Undated A-R

1 32 News Articles on Annual Tuskegee Negro Conference

1 33 Tuskegee Negro Conference, 35th, 43rd, 45th, 51st, 56th Annual Conference

Programs (copies)

1 34 Various Programmes on Tuskegee Negro Conference (copies)

1 35 Farmers’ Conference Week Committee Meeting Notes, 1949-1955

1 36 Communication to Mr. Charles E. Trout, Director of Public Relation at Tuskegee

on Annual Farmers’ Conference

1 37 Address Delivered by Mr. Claude A. Barnett at the Annual Farm and Home

Banquet, January 17, 1950

1 38 Professional Agricultural Workers News Letter by Ernest E. Neal – February

1951 Vol. 1 No.1, April 1951 Vol. 1 No. 2, December 1951 Vol. 1 No.7

1 39 Declaration of the Twenty-Fifth Annual Tuskegee Negro Conference, Tuskegee,

AL, January 16, 1916

1 40 Conference at Tuskegee, Big Men Meet on Big Measures, April 1920

**Box Folder**

2 1 Eighth-First Annual Farmers’ Conference, December 13, 1972

2 2 Sixteenth Annual Farm and Home Sort Course, Sixty-Third Annual Farmers’

Conference, January 27, 1954

2 3 Fifteenth Annual Farm and Home Short Course, Sixty-First Annual Farmers

Conference, January 16, 1952

2 4 Sixth-Fifth Annual Farmers Conference, January 18, 1956

2 5 Fifteenth Annual Farm and Home Short Course, Sixty-Second Annual Farmers’

Conference, January 28, 1953

2 6 Seventh Annual Farm and Home Short Course, Sixty-Fourth Annual Farmers’

Conference, January 19, 1955

2 7 Sixty-Sixth Annual Farmers Conference Program, January 23, 1957

2 8 1972 Farmers Conference Information Booklet for the Farmer and the Farm Wife

2 9 Eleventh Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference, January 13-16,

1952

2 10 Twelfth Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference, January 24-24,

1954

2 11 Fifteenth Annual Conference of Professional Agricultural Workers, November

24-26, 1957

2 12 57th Annual Session Farmers’ Conference Tuskegee Institute, January 21, 1957

2 13 Speeches – Addresses [The Roots of Our Strength U.S Department of

Agriculture] January 28, 1953

2 14 Addresses – U.S Department of Agriculture’s Office of the Secretary, Southern

Michigan Plowing Contest, August 1956

2 15 The Negro Farmer [Agriculture Secretary Assistant Speaks at 14th Annual

Tuskegee Meet] Vol. 18 No. 1, January 1957

2 16 Macon County Farm Festival, November 27, 1957

2 17 News Release, Speech Delivered by F.D Patterson, Sixty-Fifth Annual Farmers’

Conference, January 18, 1956

2 18 The Hon. Secretary of Agriculture to Address Sixty-Third Annual Tuskegee

Farmers’ Conference, January 27, 1954

2 19 Address by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson Before the 63rd Annual

Farmers’ Conference [Quality Farmers]

2 20 Secretary Benson’s New Farm Policy and Its Relationship to the Public and News

Clippings, 1954

2 21 Twentieth Annual Farmer and Home Short Course and the Ministers’ Short

Course, January 1958

2 22 Address by Dr. Frank P. Graham, National Advisory Committee on Farm Labor

at Sixty-Eighth Annual Farmers’ Conference

2 23 Sixty-Seventh Annual Farmers’ Conference Program, January 22, 1958

2 24 Operation Loans for Better Farming Better Living, U.S Department of Agriculture

Pamphlet, 1956

2 25 Sixty-Ninth Annual Farmers’ Conference Program, January 20, 1960

2 26 Sixteenth Annual Conference of Professional Agricultural Workers Program,

November 23-25, 1958

2 27 Seventy-Third Annual Farmers’ Conference Program, January 15, 1964

2 28 Seventieth Annual Farmers’ Conference Program, January 18, 1961

2 29 Eightieth Annual Farmer Farmers’ Conference Program, February 24, 1971

2 30 Seventy-Ninth Annual Farmers’ Conference Program, January 14, 1970

2 31 Twenty-Fifth Annual Farmer and Home Short Course and the Ministers’ Short

Course, January 1963

2 32 Seventy-Eighth Annual Farmers Conference Program, January 15, 1969

2 33 Seventy-Fourth Annual Farmers Conference Program, January 13, 1965

2 34 Tuskegee Institute School Agriculture Committees for the Seventy-First Annual

Farmers’ Conference, January 15-17, 1962

2 35 Farm, Home and the Ministries Short Course Program Outline, January 11-12,

1965

2 36 Tuskegee Institute [Report of the United Negro College Fund Drive for 1964]

2 37 [Surplus Food Programs] Prepared by National Sharecroppers Fund

2 38 Digest of [The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964] signed by the President on

August 20

**Box Folder**

3 1 100th Annual Farmers Conference Program, February 11-12, 1992

3 2 Biography on Thomas Monroe Campbell (1883-1956)

3 3 Poster Banner [Tuskegee University, 100th Annual Farmers Conference 1892-

1992], Sponsored by Pepsi

3 4 Shopping Bag [Tuskegee University Annual Farmers Conference 1892-1992

“100 Years of Progressive Agriculture: Setting the Pace for A New Century”]

3 5 Large Poster Banner [Tuskegee University, 100th Annual Farmers Conference

1892-1992, “100 Years of Progressive Agriculture: Setting the Pace for A New Century]