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Agricultural Outlook Forum
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Presented: February 23-24, 2012

**Innovative Solutions:
Present and Future Role of the Land-Grant Institutions and the
Small Farmer**

Walter A. Hill

**Innovative Solutions:
Present and Future Role of the Land-Grant Institutions and the Small Farmer**

**Walter A. Hill
Tuskegee University**

Innovation

Joy

Founded	Selected Milestones	Years
1862	USDA	150
1892	Tuskegee Farmers Conference	120
1862	First Morrill Act – 1862 Land Grants Est.	
1863	End of slavery	
1881	Tuskegee University founded	
1890	Second Morrill Act – 1890 Land Grants Est.	
1972	First Formula Funding for 1890 Land Grants	110
2002	50% Required State Match for 1890s	140

Booker T. Washington – 1892 Farmers Conference Declarations

- Among the masses, there is still a great amount of poverty...and much need of ...training
- We urge all to buy land and cultivate it thoroughly; **to raise more food supplies**; to build houses...to build better school houses and to extend the term to at least six months; **to give more attention to the character and welfare of our leaders**, especially ministers and teachers; **to keep out of debt**; to avoid lawsuits; **to treat women better**
- **More can be accomplished by going forward than by complaining.** With all our disadvantages, nowhere is there afforded us such business opportunities as are offered in the South

We have come full circle after 120 years. Its time to go forward vs. complain; raise more food, take advantage of the great business opportunities; address the great poverty and education needs of the masses; treat our women better

Innovation #1: Look in the Mirror (AALGA)

Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA)

Alabama A & M University, Auburn University, Tuskegee University

- A Shared Working Commitment (MOU)
 - **Funded By the State Legislature as a Separate Line Item;**
 - Administration – Deans Committee, Rotating Chair, Executive Secretary
 - Faculty Task Groups Are Funded
 - Supported by **Commodity Groups**
 - Supported by **The Black Caucus**
 - Supported by **House and Senate Leadership**
 - Supported by the **Citizens of Alabama**
- (Passed Facilities legislation for AALGA)

Required learning from but leaving behind the past and sharing resources to build trust*

Impact 1: Evans Allen, Extension, McIntire- Stennis Matching Funds

The Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance

The AALGA REPORT

Alabama A&M University - Auburn University - Tuskegee University Issue #1, October 2002

Introducing AALGA

New directions for Alabama agriculture

The Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance is a novel and advanced commitment on the part of agricultural researchers and administrators at Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, and Tuskegee University to fulfill new and better ways to respond to the needs of the people of Alabama and the agriculture that is a large part of our state's economy. While some joint research projects were already being carried out, it was felt that a more formal alliance could facilitate more effective joint efforts, focusing multi-faculty expertise and resources on identifying and promptly responding to the most critical needs of Alabama. This AALGA was formed in June, 2000 through a memorandum of understanding.

The role of AALGA is to facilitate cooperation among the agricultural faculty at the three universities. Much more a shared working commitment than an institution, AALGA functions through the university deans and research deans working as a committee, and through working faculty task groups. With modest funding through the Alabama Legislature, AALGA is able to provide seed money to help innovative research projects get started. (See mission statement, page 6.)

In its first two years, AALGA has funded two comprehensive statewide programs. A conference on nutrient access in rural areas raised awareness of the need and pointed out conditions necessary to achieve "equal access" for all Alabamians. This project is now being carried out by a separate inter-institutional organization, the Alabama Connectivity Forum. A comparison of the concepts and practice of sustainable agriculture was held in early 2002 (reported inside, page 2). Currently, faculty task groups are tackling critical agriculture-related problems that affect both rural and urban areas. The

major issues being addressed are water quality, waste management, small farms and community-based agriculture, and food quality and safety.

Water Quality

Alabama is a comparatively water-rich state, and plentiful fresh, clean water is essential not only for agriculture and rural people but for urban dwellers, industry, and tourism. The AALGA water quality task group is focusing on developing better ways of assessing and maintaining water quality, especially in regard to possible agricultural impacts. Members of this group include Dr. Clark E. Boyd, Auburn University; Dr. Gerald C. Starnes and Dr. John Egey, Alabama A&M University; and Dr. Bartlett Anklam, Tuskegee University.

Waste Management

Improperly handled animal waste can be a threat to water quality as well as a nuisance to neighbors. The AALGA waste management group is working to develop better waste handling methods and explore new ways to convert waste into useful economic products. This group includes Dr. James S. Burton, Dr. Wes Wood, Dr. Chadler Frazier and Mr. Ted Jones of Auburn University; Dr. Zachary Sorenson and Mr. Dexter Wynn of Alabama A&M University.

See News Director, p. 1

Task groups are tackling critical agriculture-related problems

Moore County farmer
Map Moore's tractor cusses with cuss, only care to a poultry enterprise, and sees poultry liver as fertilizer. His system keeps topsoil rich, conserves soil and water, and helps him get sustainable, higher returns. (See story, p. 20.)

Innovation #2: Black Belt Family Farm Fruit and Vegetable Marketing & Innovation Center

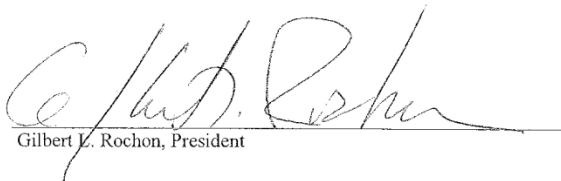


Innovation #3

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

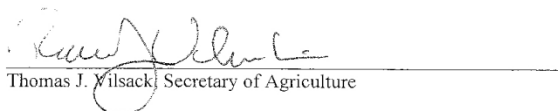
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), including its various component Agencies, and Tuskegee University, hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Participants," hereby affirm their mutual interest in and desire to broaden cooperative research, education, and service programs and exchanges through **initiation and implementation of the Tuskegee University USDA 1890 Center of Excellence: Carver Integrative Sustainability Center.**

For Tuskegee University, Authorized Official:


Gilbert L. Rochon, President

12-7-2010
Date

And For the United States Department of Agriculture, Authorized Official:


Thomas J. Wilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

12/7/10
Date

Carver Integrative Sustainability Center (CISC)

Innovation 3a - The Heart of the Center's Work



- Science & research based
- Focus: technologies and policies (simultaneously) that enhance profitability and sustainability of small farms and rural community development
- Priority focus on socially disadvantaged, minority, underserved farmers

The Center function in the tradition of George Washington Carver as a regional and national and international resource in developing and sharing modern, holistic, earth- and farmer and community-friendly agricultural innovations.

Whatever It Takes – Strike Team - Passion!

Fully integrative – disciplines and community engagement

Agriculture – Architecture – Art – Economics – Education – Engineering – Environment
Community – Family – History/Culture – Policy – Soc. & Nat. Sciences – Natural Resources
Geospatial and Climate Sciences

Innovation #3b

USDA-1890 Land Grant Center of Excellence

“The Carver Integrative Sustainability Center” (CISC) and USDA Service Center

NRCS, FSA, RD, other agencies, University (Extension, Research, 2501, Strike Team) housed together

Program and technical support provided to a multiple county region – serves all comers with a special focus on SHDF’s and rural communities.; includes regional, national international mission



Carver Integrative Sustainability Center Rendering

Innovation 3c- USDA & 1890s & Architects Planning Together





Innovation 4 – 68th PAWC



68th
Professional Agricultural Workers Conference
December 5-7, 2010
Tuskegee University
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
Tuskegee, AL
www.pawc.info

Theme: Empowering Underserved Farmers and Rural Communities by Changing Legislation, USDA Eligibility Requirements, and Program Delivery

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Paper & Poster Abstract Submission Deadline: Oct. 1
- Conference Registration Deadlines
 - Early Bird (Oct. 1): \$295
 - Advanced (Nov. 15): \$150
 - Retirees, Students, Farmers & CBOs (Dec. 1): \$125
 - On-Site (Dec. 7): \$425

Limited number of scholarships available for small farmers, businesses and community based organizations

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Graduate and Undergraduate Student Paper & Poster Competition
- George Washington Carver Chapter MANRRS BANQUET
- George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame Awards
- L.A. Community Success Stories and Luncheon
- 1890 University Memorial Lecture and Luncheon

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Robert Coburn: 334-727-2814 ● rcoburn@tuskegee.edu
www.pawc.info • 68pawc@tuskegee.edu

68th PAWC – NRCS, FSA and RD Staffs – County, State, Regional, & National Staff partnered with the PAWC Advisory board to Plan the 68th PAWC

Redactive Case Studies were developed and solutions Sought by USDA, 1890 Land Grant, SDF, CBO participants together

Case Study 1: Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Eligibility and Policy

Scenario A:

Farmer B grows and sells vegetables at local markets. He has been irrigating the crops by hand. Farmer B enters the NRCS office to sign up for plasticulture, micro-irrigation, and a well. He is told he is not eligible for the well due to lack of irrigation history (no existing irrigation system in place).

POLICY:

440-CPM-515.81

D. Ineligible Practices

(1) Ineligible practices are those: (a) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern. Examples include:

(i) Water Well (642) used to bring new land under irrigation is an ineligible practice. Water well (642) installed for irrigation must be used to increase efficiency of an existing irrigation system.

440-515.52

A. (5) Have irrigated 2 out of the last 5 years to install water conservation or irrigation related practice.

Impact: NRCS removed the criteria that applicant eligibility for irrigation funds from NRCS EQIP program had to have produced a minimum of \$1000 worth of agricultural products in the previous year.

Innovation 5

Private Commercial Sector – Small Farmer/SHDF- USDA-1890 Pilot Study



(<http://walmartstores.com/Sustainability/10300.aspx?p=9496>).











27.7 \$4.98

27.7 \$4.98











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PRICE

Tuskegee University / CHR		SHIP TO	WAL-MART	
112 Kressge Center		ADDRESS		
Tuskegee, AL 36088		CITY, STATE, ZIP		
ORDER NO.	SOLD BY	TERMS	F.O.B.	DATE
	Brown's Farms	21 Days		7-21-11

SHIPPED	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	UNIT	AMOUNT
	30-BINS OF Watermelon (Crimson Sweet)		30	
	Harvested 7-21-11 Packed 7-21-11			
	Field on C.R. 43 Prattville			
	Willie James Brown			
	Audrey Leight			

Innovation 6 – Regional Communication

69th
Professional Agricultural Workers Conference

PAWC

USDA, USDA and Other Federal Agencies
State Universities
Alabama State University
Arkansas State University
Florida State University
Georgia State University
Louisiana State University
Mississippi State University
North Carolina A&T State University
South Carolina State University
Tennessee State University
Texas A&M University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
West Virginia State University
Commonwealth College of Virginia and State and Local Agencies

Private Sector and Non-Profit Organizations
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Kentucky State University
Alabama State University
Arkansas State University
Louisiana State University
Mississippi State University
North Carolina A&T State University
South Carolina State University
Tennessee State University
Texas A&M University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
West Virginia State University
Commonwealth College of Virginia and State and Local Agencies

Theme: Empowering Underserved Farmers and Rural Communities Through Effective Farm Bill Legislation, USDA Program Delivery, and New Market Opportunities and Partnerships

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center at Tuskegee University
Tuskegee, Ala.
December 4-6, 2011

69th PAWC - the private sector - Walmart and CH Robinson, Whole Foods and Sodexo joined with 1890 Land Grants, USDA and SDFs to share results, challenges and opportunities across the southern region













Blueprint for Change

Inventory (Personal assessment)

- Who are you?
- What makes you unique from any other brand, business, farmer, candidate, or organization?
- What does everyone know about you? (+&-)
- Who aren't you?
- How do others see you? Do others see you?
- What do you want people to know?
- What do you have? (assets)
- What do you need? (opportunities)
- WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO DO?

69th PAWC Leadership Team Members



Innovation 7

“Sustainable Agriculture Consortium for Historically Disadvantaged Farmers” - February 2012

Partnership: 1890 LGs in AL, AR, GA, MS, TX, The Walmart foundation, USDA-OOA

Initial State meetings:

Annual Farmer’s Conference, Tuskegee University, February 16-17, 2012, Tuskegee, AL

Annual Rural Life Conference, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, February, 24, 2012, Pine Bluff, AR

Annual Farm, Home and Ministers’ Conference, Fort Valley State University, March 1-3, 2012, Fort Valley, GA

Annual Small Farm Conference, Alcorn State University, March 12, 2012, Natchez, MS

Cooperative Extension State Training Conference, March 19-22, 2012, Prairie View , TX

Initiating Leadership and Technical Teams (to be expanded)

TU: Walter Hill/Tasha Hargrove/Miles Robinson/Rodney Stone

UAPB: James Garner/Henry English/George Richardson

PVMU: Alton Johnson/Jimmy Henry/Horace Hodge

ASU: Dalton McAfee/ Magid Dagher/ Franklin Chukwuma/Clifton Peters

FVSU: Mark Latimore/ Marc Thomas/Karla Martin

Overall Goal:

Bridge the gaps between the ability of the target farmers to grow vegetable and fruit crops and their ability to package and market their crops in a manner that results in enhanced profitability and sustainability of their farming operations and quality of life.

Support development of progressive cooperatives, small businesses in rural communities, rural community development (comprehensive approach)

1890s will stay the course

Innovation

1890 LG-USDA-Private Sector-CBOs Working together for SHDFs

Joy

Carver's Goal: To be of the greatest good to the greatest number of our people (1896 – 1934)

Carver Integrative Sustainability Center 's Goal:

To be of the greatest good to the greatest number of SHDFs possible and finish Carver's unfinished business in the Black Belt and adjacent counties and beyond (2000 – present)

How You Can Help

Expand & Refine Opportunities for SDFs in the Farm Bill

Refine regulations to be more inclusive of more SDFs – NRCS, FSA, RD, FS, ARS etc.

Expand funding opportunities for 1890 and 1994 Land Grant Institutions and HSI's