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

Walter A. Hill
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Present and Future Role of the Land-Grant Institutions and the Small Farmer

Walter A. Hill
Tuskegee University
Innovation

Joy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Founded</th>
<th>Selected Milestones</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Tuskegee Farmers Conference</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>First Morrill Act – 1862 Land Grants Est.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>End of slavery</td>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>Tuskegee University founded</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Second Morrill Act – 1890 Land Grants Est.</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>First Formula Funding for 1890 Land Grants</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>50% Required State Match for 1890s</td>
<td>140</td>
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</table>
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
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:

[Signature]

Gilbert L. Rochon, President
12/7/10

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

[Signature]

Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
12/7/10
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

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 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

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<th>ORDER NO.</th>
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<td>539101</td>
<td>WAL-MART</td>
<td>TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY/CHR</td>
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<table>
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<th>SOLD BY</th>
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<td>BROWN'S FARMS</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30-BINS OF WATERMELON (CRIMSON SWEET)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harvested 7-21-11</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Packed 7-21-11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Field on c.r. 43 Prattville</td>
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**Signatures:**
- Willie James Brown
- Audrey Leigler
Innovation 6 – Regional Communication

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
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