Macon County, Alabama
27% Poverty – highest in AL
Southern Most County in ARC
In 2012 we celebrate several milestones in the life of USDA, Tuskegee University and the 1890 Land Grant Universities

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

Date

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

Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

Date
Carver Integrative Sustainability Center (CISC)

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 small, socially disadvantaged, minority, underserved beginning, women farmers**

The Center functions 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

Community – Family – History/Culture – Policy – Soc. & Nat. Sciences – Natural Resources
Geospatial and Climate Sciences
Black Belt Family Farm Fruit and Vegetable Marketing & Innovation Center Rendering

Initiated by the Black Belt Action Commission and AALGA (Tuskegee University, Lead
Walmart Announced Its Global Sustainability Program in 2010


Walmart Announced Its Global Sustainability Program in 2010
Pilot Study on Watermelons in Alabama Initiated in 2011
Loading First Shipment of Watermelons onto Walmart Truck, July 2011
Truck Loaded and Ready to Go to the Walmart Distribution Center
Locally Grown Watermelons in Walmart Store
Locally Grown Purple Hull Peas in Walmart Stores
Specialty Crop-Yellow Flesh Watermelons
Loaded and Shipped to the Walmart Distribution Center
Locally Youth Learn About Marketing Produce
Local Youth Participate in Labeling Produce Containers
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
Ground breaking for the
Carver Integrative Sustainability Center, December 2011
USDA (NRCS, FSA, RD) Staff, Tuskegee University Staff & Architects Planning Joint Facilities
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: In 2011, 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.
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.
Representatives from Walmart, C.H. Robinson, Sodexo and Whole Foods Share Marketing Opportunities with Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Professional Agricultural Workers Conference December 2011
Farmers from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi and Texas Share Marketing Opportunities and Challenges

Professional Agricultural Workers Conference December 2011
Women Farmers Learn From the White House Initiative on Women Leadership

Professional Agricultural Workers Conference December 2011
Participants from Walmart, USDA, the White House Initiative on Women Leadership and Tuskegee University Plan for the Future

Professional Agricultural Workers Conference December 2011
“Sustainable Agriculture Consortium for Historically Disadvantaged Farmers”

Partnership: 1890-Land Grant Universities in AL, AR, GA, MS, TX; USDA-Office of Outreach & Advocacy
Sponsored by: The Walmart Foundation
Initiated: January 25, 2012

Initial State meetings:
Farmer’s Conference, Tuskegee University, February 16-17, 2012, Tuskegee, AL
Rural Life Conference, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, February 24, 2012, Pine Bluff, AR
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
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
Overall Goal:
Bridge the gaps between the ability of the Socially and Historically Disadvantaged 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.

Facilitate development of progressive cooperatives, and small businesses in rural communities, and rural community development (comprehensive approach)
Innovation
(What is Different This Time Around?)
1890 LGs-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)