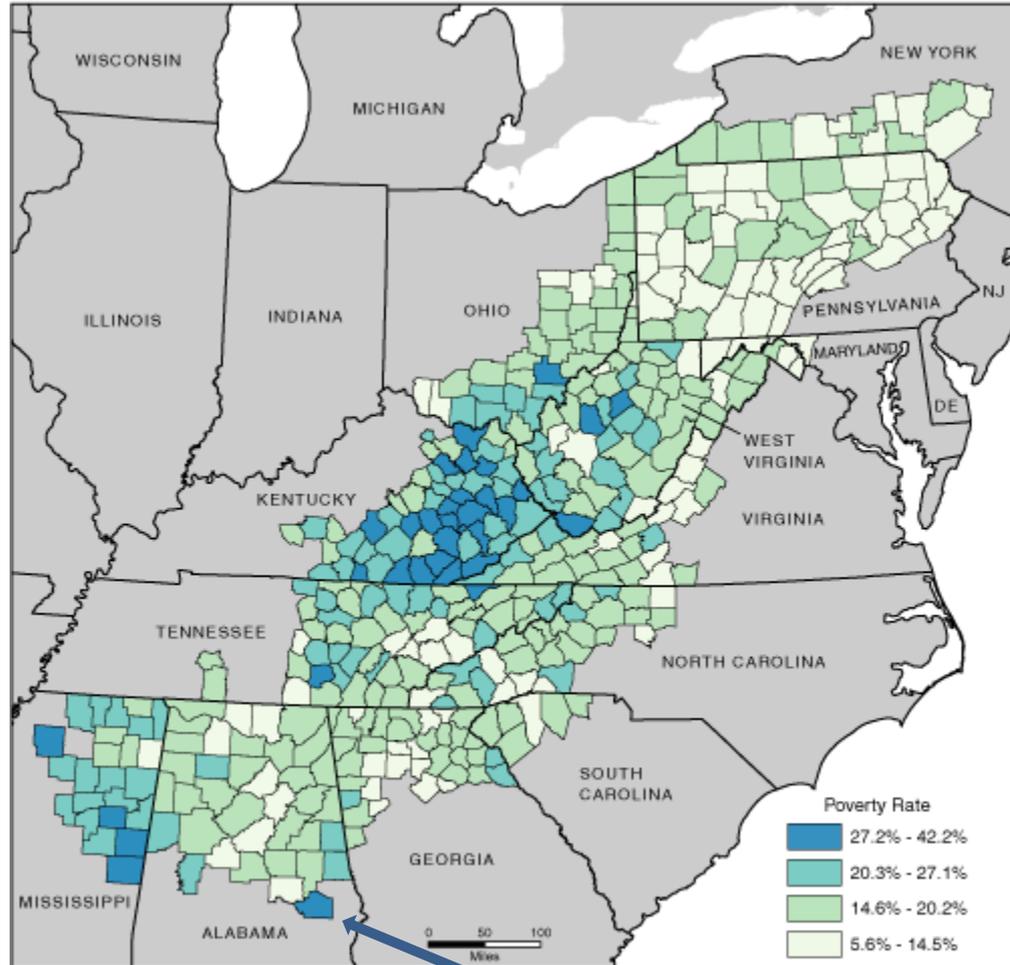


Macon County, Alabama
27% Poverty – highest in AL
Southern Most County in ARC



Created by the Appalachian Regional Commission, March 2010
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2010
Data Classification Scheme: Natural Breaks

U.S. average = 13.8%
Appalachian average = 15.6%

Alabama Service Area



Delta Regional Authority

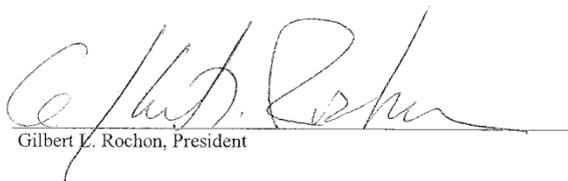
**In 2012 we celebrate several milestones in the life of USDA,
Tuskegee University and the 1890 Land Grant Universities**

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

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

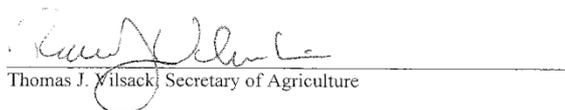
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), including its various component Agencies, and Tuskegee University, hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Participants," hereby affirm their mutual interest in and desire to broaden cooperative research, education, and service programs and exchanges 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)



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

Agriculture – Architecture – Art – Economics – Education – Engineering – Environment
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

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



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

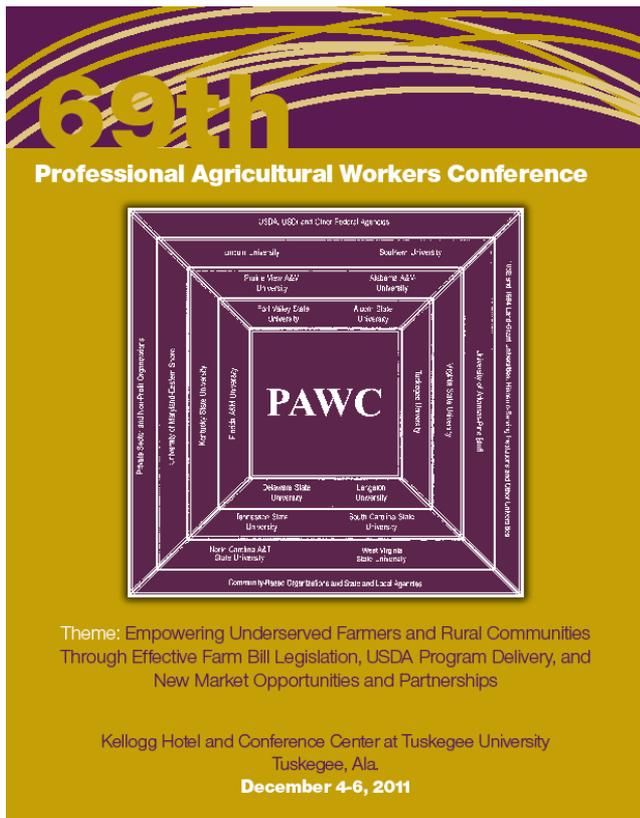
(1) Ineligible practices are those: (a) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern. Examples include:

(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

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 pleased to welcome commitments from the past of agricultural researchers and administrators at Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, and Tuskegee University to further and benefit ways in to provide 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 efficient joint efforts, bringing together local expertise and resources to identify key and promising opportunities for research and extension work needed in Alabama. This AALGA was formed in Dec. 2000 through a memorandum of understanding.

The initial AALGA side faculty competition among the members has culminated in three conferences. Much more is being done through committees, task groups, and research projects through the university system and through working faculty task groups. With modest funding through the Alabama legislature, AALGA is able to provide seed money to help promote live research projects (see inside this magazine's main page).

In the first 180 days, AALGA has been able to provide state-wide projects. Visitation and meeting access to rural areas rural farmers of the west and poorest part and researchers to address equal access to all of Alabamians. The project is now being coordinated by a separate committee of representatives of the Alabama Commodity Forum. A representative of the groups and projects of commodity agriculture would include 200 live period inside page 21. Commodity faculty task groups are tackling critical agriculture-related problems that affect rural and urban areas. The

Water Quality

Alabama is a commodity state with a rich and plentiful fresh water resources and has many agricultural, municipal, and industry. The AALGA water quality task group is focusing on developing better ways of assessing and maintaining water quality, reducing and repairing possible agricultural practices. Members of this group include Dr. Claude E. Ross, Auburn University; Dr. Gerald C. Summers, Dr. John Degeer, Alabama A&M University, and Dr. Ruyale Anonim, 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 techniques to create new ways to convert waste into useful economic products. This group includes Dr. James S. Ammons, Dr. Wes Wood, Dr. Eldridge Fairair and Mr. Ted Wood of Auburn University, Dr. Zolton Serron and Mr. David Wynn of Alabama A&M University.

Task groups are tackling critical agriculture-related problems

Missy Gentry Jones: Missy Gentry Jones, Auburn University, is a poultry integrator and sees poultry live as fertilizer. Her system keeps eggs, corn, wheat, soybean, and water, and helps her get sustainable higher returns (see story, p. 21).

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)

