129TH ANNUAL FARMERS CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 17-19, 2021

“Transforming Food Systems in a Changing World.”

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The first Farmers Conference was held at Tuskegee University on February 23, 1892. Its purpose was to convene farmers in an educationally stimulating environment that would arouse public sentiment and create an interest in the common, mundane, and practical affairs of life. The morning was spent identifying problems associated with farming and the afternoon portion of the conference focused on their solutions. Today, this conference has evolved into a two-day event that focuses on the problems and solutions for small-scale farmers, landowners, and their communities in managing change in agriculture. Participants are engaged in intense courses of instructions, problem-solving, and interactive demonstrations. Additionally, the conference provides an opportunity for small-scale farmers to network with colleagues and university educators. From its inception, the Tuskegee University’s Farmers Conference has retained the following objectives: (1) to share up-to-date information relevant to small-scale farmers and landowners involved in the production of traditional and alternative agricultural products; (2) to create awareness about family health, nutritional challenges, and existing resources for rural families; (3) to provide research-based information in a consumer adaptable format; and (4) to strengthen networks and partnerships that address problems of small-scale farmers and rural communities concerning local, national and global markets.
Mrs. Mae Lizzie Faulk of Faulk Family Farms
Bullock County, Alabama

SPONSORED BY: FIRST SOUTH FARM CREDIT
The Faulk Family Farm
Banks, Alabama

In the Book of St. Matthew Chapter 7:16 “You will know the tree by the fruit it bears; 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” The same can be said about the late Evins Faulk, Sr. and Mrs. Mae Lizzie Faulk. Mrs. Mae Faulk currently resides in Union Springs, Alabama where she owns and operates Faulk Farms. Faulk Farms is very different now than when it started in 1982 under the leadership of the late Rev. Evins Faulk Sr.

Farming has been in the family for multiple generations. When times were rough, The Faulk Family picked themselves up and said, “Yes We Can.” Adopting a “Yes We Can” theme was the stabilizing principal of the Faulk family legacy. Farming, construction, and church have always been a major part of Evins Sr. and Mae’s lives as well as their eight children- Evins, Jr., Willie, Raymond, Maranda, Stephen, Eugene, Prestic, and Augustus and their six grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

To leave one of the pieces out would not tell the whole story. One piece of family history traces back to the founding of Tuskegee University and its connection to the historic Adams family. Joann Adams Calhoun, sister to Tuskegee University founding father, Lewis Adams was the maternal grandmother of Rev. Evins Faulk Sr.

Evins Sr. was born into farming as a sharecropper in rural Bullock County, Alabama. He was raised in Thompson Station, Alabama, in an area of the Alabama Black Belt referred to as the “Mudhole”. Mae’s family were vegetable and cattle farmers in neighboring Russell County Alabama, near the town of Hurtsboro. After young Evins graduated from high school, he attended Tuskegee Institute in the 1960s and received training in general construction. After completion of his training, he and his team went on to build low-cost residential and church buildings all over Bullock, Macon, Russell, Barbour, and Lee counties.

For over two decades, from the 1960s to 1982, the Faulk Farm was still located in Thompson, Alabama. The Black Belt Prairie soils of the “Mudhole were extremely productive for the family farm. After much success in farming, construction, and pastoring churches, in 1982, the Faulk Family (Evins and Mae) purchased 160 acres of land in the Smuteye Community, the current home of Faulk Family Farms now approximately 12 miles south of the county seat, Union Springs, Alabama.

The family farm has evolved over the years, cattle and vegetables have always been part of the farming operation. Long gone are the hog, chicken, and egg enterprises. The patriarch, Rev Evins Faulk Sr. passed away in 2003 leaving most of the responsibilities to his wife, Mae Faulk and the children. The
family matriarch has a wealth of experience, is constantly learning and has the full support of her children. Ms. Faulk is recognized as a mentor in her local multi-county area. Currently, the family operation consists of 60 head of cattle, 20 head of goats, 2 acres of garden with a hoop house, 3 fish ponds, a creek, 50 acres with tree stands devoted to hunting, and 2 barns. Bullock County and the entire east central Alabama region is known for excellent deer hunting experiences.

One child of note that carries on the farming and ministry mission is the 1st child, Rev. Evins Faulk Jr. While living adjacent to the family farm, Evins Jr. is also anchored in neighboring Macon County, AL. There he currently serves as the pastor of Sweet Gum AME Zion Church in Shorter, AL, and is the General Manager of Piggly Wiggly in Tuskegee, AL. As a retail manager, pastor and farmer, he understands the importance of maintaining a consistent supply of fresh fruits and vegetables for his clients and how important local market outlets are to small farmers. To support farmers in the local Macon County area, Piggly Wiggly regularly purchases fresh produce each season. Seasonal items purchased include watermelons, okra, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, and collards, along with a generous of blueberries and muscadine grapes. He is proud to support the efforts of local farmers. Evins, Jr. has also maintained a goat herd for home consumption and marketing purposes.

The Faulk span also reaches Lee County, Alabama where another child working in the vineyard is Dr. Stephen L. Faulk, current pastor of Auburn AME Zion Church and Presiding Elder of the Opelika District of the AME Zion Church. As Presiding Elder, his charitable missions help the needy all over North America. Dr. Faulk has led impactful mission trips to various areas. He led memorable mission trips to Haiti in 2010 following an earthquake and to Houston Texas in 2017 following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. The Hurricane Harvey relief effort was spearheaded by Stephen as he commissioned his church family to travel to that area with food, clothing, and money.

Enough cannot be said about how good God has been to this family by blessing the farm development, especially when we never knew what was around the corner. The Faulk family is not stopping with these current farm developments. Change is always on the horizon. Major improvements being planned include expanding the garden operation, adding another hoop house, upgrading to a commercial cattle operation, and more land acquisition and development. The “Yes We Can” family motto was supported with the assistance and advice of friends, family, and loved ones. Still connected to Tuskegee University, Faulk Family Farms have received invaluable assistance from our local County Agent, Jeffery Moore, and TU Veterinary staff, Drs. Newkirk and Bridges, through the Herd Health Education Project, and the workshops and demonstrations at The Annual Farmers Conference. The Faulk family has been consistent participants at the Annual Farmers Conference and readily support the programmatic efforts of Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension. Faulk Family Farms is supported
with information and program assistance from the local USDA office, Bullock County veterinarian, Dr. Moore, our local Union Springs farm supply store, Phillips Feeds, and Eugene Guilfords supply store.

Faulk Family Farms attributes a portion of their success to their consistent participation in several USDA conservation and cost sharing programs. The family members stress the importance of establishing effective communication with your local USDA representatives and remind others to never be afraid to ask questions and apply for farm assistance programs. Good record keeping is an essential element for USDA program participation.

Reflecting on their Tuskegee University connections, the Faulk Family Farms share these words of wisdom with their colleagues and friends, “Start where you are with what you have, make something out of it and never be satisfied.” George Washington Carver.
PRE CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. ..................................... Cooperative Extension Professional Development General Session – COVID Relief (Closed Session)

Facilitator: Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University

Presenters: Andrea Rogers Mosley, Director SBDC & PTAC - Alabama State University

Thomas Todt, District Director
Alabama District Office
U.S. Small Business Administration

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ................................. Cooperative Extension Professional Development (Closed Sessions)

Administrative Staff – Policy & Procedure Updates from CAENS/TU
Facilitator: Carmalita Pollard, Tuskegee University
Presenter: Shannon Payne, Tuskegee University

Agriculture & Natural Resources – Beef Quality Assurance Certification
Facilitator: George Hunter, Tuskegee University
Presenters: Soren Rodning, Extension Veterinarian and Associate Professor Animal Sciences, Auburn University

Josh Elmore, PAS Regional Extension Agent Animal Science and Forages Animal Sciences, Auburn University

Community & Economic Development – Strategic Planning Work Session
Facilitator: Gary Walton, Tuskegee University

Family & Consumer Sciences – Diabetes
Facilitator: Millicent Braxton, Tuskegee University
Presenter: Brittanie Chester, Tuskegee University
Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program Annual eXert Competition

Facilitator: Nyesa Gordon, Tuskegee University

Closing Remarks: Raymon Shange, Director
   Carver Integrative Sustainability Center
   Tuskegee University

“Skegee Fit“ JAM Session
   LED BY: DENZEL VEALE

Welcome & Greetings
   Moderator: Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University
   Charlotte P. Morris, Interim President
   Tuskegee University

Alabama Agriculture Update
   Honorable Rick Pate, Commissioner
   Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries

Opening Keynote Address
   Introduction of Speaker: Lindsey Lunsford, Tuskegee University
   Speaker: Chris Newsome, Sylvanaqua Farms
   Montross, VA

USDA Updates
   Moderator: Terence Jackson, Tuskegee University

   Presenters: USDA, Farm Service Agency
      E. Nicole Cleggs-Burns, Acting State Executive Director
      Alabama State Office
      USDA, Forest Service
      Cherie Hamilton, Forest Supervisor
USDA, Natural Resources & Conservation Service
Steve Musser, Assistant State Conservationist

USDA, Rural Development
Allen Bowen, Acting State Director

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. ........................................... Ignite Informational Sessions
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. ....................................................... Concurrent Sessions

A. Beyond the Fences: Alternative Enterprises

Presenters: Chris Joe, USDA, NRCS

*Birding and Freezer Beef*

Harold Higgins, Tuskegee University

*Beekeeping*

Frank Mrema, Alcorn State University

*Mushrooms*

B. Fruit and Vegetable Production for Small Farms: Managing Risk and Alternative Marketing Opportunities

Laurence Crane, V.P. Program Outreach & Risk Management Education National Crop Insurance Services

Hunter McBrayer, ALFA

Director- Bee & Honey, Greenhouse, Nursery and Sod Divisions

Executive Director- Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Association

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ............................................... Concurrent Sessions Cont’d.

C. Fruit and Vegetable Production for Small Farms: Managing Risk and Alternative Marketing Opportunities (Cont’d)

Hunter Mangrum, Value Chain Specialist

Sweetgreen, Atlanta

Ellie Watson, Director

Sweet Grown Alabama

Don Wambles, Alabama Agriculture and Industries

Director, Alabama Farmers Market Authority
D. COVID-19 Food Safety, Mental Health, and Household Food Security

Moderators: Latanya Hunt-Haralson, Danielle Smith & LeVershaun Williams
Tuskegee University

Presenters: Maya Martin, Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work, Tuskegee University

Barrett Vaughan, Cooperative Extension Tuskegee University

Adelia Bovell-Benjamin, Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences
Tuskegee University

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. .................... Closing Keynote Address and Awards
Moderator: Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University

Introduction of Speaker: Demetrius Hooks, Tuskegee University

Keynote Speaker: Gibron Burchett
HOSCO Farms, St. Louis, MO

Presentation of Awards ................................................................. Raymon Shange

2021 Merit Farm Family Award
Mrs. Mae Lizzie Faulk of Faulk Family Farms
Bullock County, Alabama

Thomas Monroe Campbell Leadership Award
Ben Malone, State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources and Conservation Service

Outstanding Partner
Alice Love, Agricultural Outreach Liaison
USDA, Natural Resources and Conservation Service

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ..... What’s Happening in your National Forests in Alabama

11:00 a.m. ......................... John Deere Precision Agriculture – The Right Fit for You
Russ Worley, Allen Todd, Daniel Cushman
John Deere Sunsouth, Auburn AL
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ............ Making the Most of Beef Cattle Producer Resources
- A Walk Through Visit

Russell Johnson, Manager, Ruminant Resource Unit
Tuskegee University

Ronald Davis, Animal Technician, Ruminant Resource Unit
Tuskegee University

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ..............................................................Getting Started in Cattle

Moderator: George Hunter, Tuskegee University

Presenters: Frank Abrahamsen, Tuskegee University
Harold Higgins, Tuskegee University
Ben Malone is the eighth State Conservationist to serve Alabama’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. He holds a degree in forest management from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (Alabama A&M). Malone began his career in conservation as a student trainee in New York and Maine with the U.S. Forest Service during his studies at Alabama A&M. He served as a Forester with the U.S. Forest Service in Vermont until he accepted a position with the NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Mobile, Ala. in February 1997.

Malone became a District Conservationist and served in the Jasper and Mobile, Ala. offices. Over those five years in these communities, Malone assisted farmers with resource concerns on their row crop, cattle, dairy, poultry and timber operations. He also served on two National Technical Teams during this time. In 2003, he accepted a position as a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinator in Hammond, Louisiana. As a RC&D Coordinator, he oversaw 14 parishes where he promoted agricultural diversification, forest product utilization, developed markets and created business development opportunities. In 2005, Malone became the Emergency Operations Center Manager for Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in Louisiana. Malone’s efforts included collaborating with local governments to address debris removal, channel slope repair and sediment removal projects related to the storm.

In March 2008, Malone became Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations for the Central Area. In this role, he managed conservation efforts in 18 counties and 11 field offices. In April 2011, his area was devastated by numerous tornadoes. He and his staff are credited with helping communities recover from the disaster’s effects. In the summer of 2014, he was selected to serve as Acting State Conservationist in Alabama.

A native of Monroeville, Ala., Malone was heavily involved in 4-H during his childhood which guided him to a career in natural resources. He is married to Felicia, his wife of 17 years. They are the proud parents of Benjamin and Alan. In his free time, Malone enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with family and friends.
OUTSTANDING PARTNER AWARDEE

Alice Love is a native of Rural America; Crittenden County, Arkansas. She is a graduate of Crawfordsville High School and an Alumna of the University of Arkansas; Pine Bluff (Historical Black University/College). Alice started her career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in the Midwest part of the United States. During her tenure in the Midwest she worked in various counties and states serving in various positions such as; Soil Conservationist, Wetland Specialist, Acting District Conservationist, Acting Assistant for Field Operations/North West Area. Alice also completed a detail at the Plant Material Center (PMC) located in Elsberry, Missouri. There she monitored and evaluated projects, such as: Big Bluestem, Willow Post Sampling and No-Till Systems with Legumes. Data collected was published in the PMC Annual Report for public distribution. In the early 2000, Alice and her family relocated to Auburn, Alabama. Here, she continues her career path with NRCS serving as an Agricultural Outreach Liaison. In 2008, Alice was assigned a collateral duty to serve Tuskegee University – College of Agriculture, Environment, & Nutrition Sciences (CAENS). This action is implemented through a Cooperative Agreement. She serves both entities well by working with CAENS Majors in achieving summer/permanent employment and securing scholarships offered through NRCS when available. She also works closely with the CAENS Staff toward opportunities for student educational enhancements and participating in CAENS Activities as deem appropriate. Alice work on a foundation to secure, maintain, and en enhance strong partnerships.
You are invited!

Annual Area Small Farmers Conference featuring the Farm Innovation Project. Join us for a hands-on experience to enhance whole farm planning and access to resources.

Where
Marengo County Extension Office in Linden, Alabama
2400 E. Coats Ave.

When
February 27th, 2021 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Register by calling, emailing, or texting
Andrew Williams
334-216-1344 / williamsandrew1976@gmail.com
Or George Hunter
334-392-1822 / ghunter@tuskegee.edu

Rotational Grazing ◇ NRCS Programs ◇ Google Maps ◇ On-farm Handwashing Sink Building ◇ On-farm Cold Storage ◇ Wealth Creation

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Everyone is welcome. Please let us know if you have accessibility needs.

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Raymon Shange, William Hodge, Millicent Braxton, Miles Robinson, Lindsey Lunsford

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