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RESEARCHERS VISIT THE FEDERATION

June 14-16 a team of researchers from Colorado State University, Purdue University and Southern Oregon University visited the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FSC) as part of a Ford Foundation funded research project to learn from Ford's 13 Community-based Forestry Demonstration Projects. The Federation's Black Belt Legacy Forestry Project (BBLFP) is one of the demonstrations. After an initial meeting with Federation staff and discussion of the Forestry Project, Amadou Diop and Pamela Madzima of the Federation and research team members Maria Fernandez-Gimenez, Vicky Sturtevant, Shorna Broussard and Jessica Janota traveled to Louisville, Mississippi to have lunch with Frank Taylor, president of Winston County Self-Help Cooperative and Jean Harper, Cooperative youth group leader. The group was also joined by Dr. Rory Fraser, Alabama A&M University; Gus Townes, Alabama Forestry Commission; Meissha Thomas, FSC staff attorney, and 3 summer interns working with Ms. Thomas. After hearing about various

projects of the Cooperative and a lively discussion about how visitors can help rural America, the group visited Dee Dotson and learned about how he has been a steward of his land and forest, producing wildlife, cattle and crops for his community.



FUTURE GENERATION: Projective Achievement Accomplishments

On June 17, 2005 some of the member of the 4-H Future Generation travel to H o u s t o n M S under the leadership of Ms Jean Harper to participate in Project Achievement Day. The following participants were: Jonathan Coleman, Chandon Mays, Chris Mays, and Travian Hudson (T.J.), These participants worked hard for several weeks on visuals, poems, and inspirational steps for competition. Jonathan Coleman received

a blue ribbon and first place trophy for visual in Engineering Bicycle Safety Signal, Chandon Mays was also presented with a blue ribbon and first place trophy for visual in Foods (Nutrition) Food Safety. Chris Mays was rewarded with a blue ribbon and first place trophy for visual in Food (Nutrition) Eating For A Healthy Heart. The 9-Year-Old Clover-

leaf contestant was Travian Hudson (T.J) he received a green ribbon for visual on Pet Grooming. Danielle Harris received a red ribbon and fourth place for reciting a poem. Jacqual Johnson, Zoria Nicholson, and Derricka Haynes all received red ribbons for participating in the Share-the Fun with an inspirational step dance.

Ms Jean Harper the leader of Future Generation gives many countless volunteer hours to this group. Ms Harper main concerns for these 4-Hers' and others is to help them all become responsible, and productive adults someday.

The Future Generation thanks Winston County Extension staff for their entire assistant.

Black Family Land Trust Learns from WCSHC's Success



A delegation from the newly-formed Black Family Land Trust (BFLT) learned many lessons during a recent three-day visit to the Winston County Self-Help Cooperative. We were inspired by the organizational strength of the Cooperative, by members' commitment to finding local resources to address community challenges, and by the effective solutions designed by WCSHC to fill a very broad array of community needs.

BFLT was founded in April 2003 to help stem the tide of African American land loss, primarily in six Southern states: Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. BFLT is a partnership among Black land-owners, land retention advocates, land conservationists, educators, and community and economic development practitioners. The mission of BFLT is to ensure, protect, and preserve the natural, historic, cultural, environmental, and community resources of Blacks in the United States of America through sustained land ownership. The BFLT delegation that traveled to Winston County has visited seven other African American communities in an effort to learn about each community's land tenure challenges and success stories, to inform people about the new organization, and to get feed-back about BFLT's priorities and tools. Members of the delegation were three attorneys: Sandra Jones from South Carolina, Miessha Thomas from Georgia, and Gil Livingston from Vermont. Frank Taylor served as an excellent ambassador, teacher and tour guide during all stops on the three-day visit which included:

- A visit to the two monuments commemorating the 1964 Freedom Summer murders.
- Tours of the WCSHC beef farm, the Dotson Family farm and the Gladney Miller Family property.
- An afternoon meeting of the Cooperative membership.
- trip to visit the Indian Springs Growers Cooperative in Hattiesburg.

The BFLT representatives were impressed that WCSHC focuses on such a broad array of community needs, from the economics of farming, to housing access, fire safety, engaging youth, community banking, and economic development. Other land-based organizations can learn from WCSHC the critical lesson that community health requires that attention be paid to all of a community's needs. WCSHC is also a leader in looking first to local knowledge and local resources, and making creative use of the assets that already exist within the community.

BFLT also received valuable feed-back that will help the new organization better serve rural African American communities: the need to help remedy "heirs title" issues, the need to support strong local organizations, and the need to support economic development strategies were all emphasized. The BFLT delegation sincerely appreciated the generosity and wisdom of Frank Taylor, and the warmth of all the Cooperative members we met during our visit.

"Helping to save Rural America"

Small Farm Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Project

The Extension Program Small Farm Outreach Program at Alcorn State University with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to meeting the needs of Mississippi small farm communities. Alcorn offers the knowledge resources of the land-grant university system to educate Mississippians for self-improvement, individual action, and community problem solving. It is a statewide educational project that works closely with local and state county government.

The overall objective of the project is to (1) develop and implement a statewide proportional program on socially disadvantage Program and assist eligible farmers who are interested in acquiring farm operation loans; (2) to develop a computerized data base on all participating farm borrowers farm plans; (3) to utilize Farm Service Agency (FSA) inventory as well as other available farm land established programs that seeks to increase the number of socially disadvantaged farm owners;(4) to conduct required in-service training for both prior and new farmers wishing to qualify for USDA programs and to provide business managements skills for primary loan servicing for existing farm program borrower; (5) to develop and enhance business management and the marketing skills of selected FSA borrowers; (6) to develop the financial documentation of the farm business to the point where graduation to a commercial lender is feasible; and (7) to develop a long range base for self-sustaining farm business analysis through existing associations and institutions.

Inquiries in these areas can directed to Mr. Anthony Reed, Director of the Small Farm Outreach Project, at (601) 877-2305, or via email at areed@lorman.alcorn.edu or, snail mail at 1000 ASU Dr. # 479 Alcorn State, Ms 39096.



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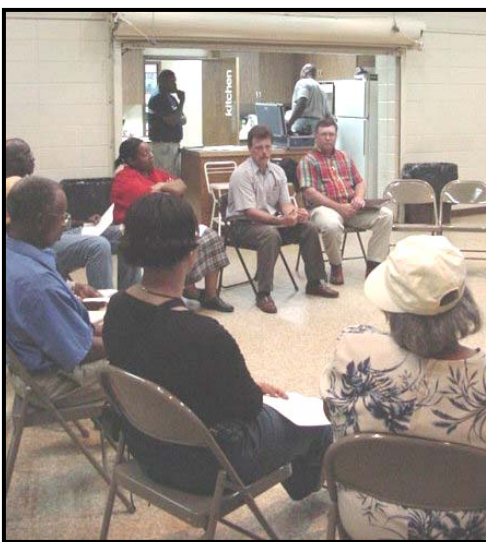
Winston County Self Help Cooperative members received certificates for completing the FDIC Money Smart Curriculum



Winston County Self-Help Cooperative Money Smart Seminar participants. Seminar was held July 5, 2005 in Louisville, MS



FSA VISITS WINSTON COUNTY SELF-HELP COOPERATIVE MEETING



Staff members from the local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) attended the Winston County Self-Help Cooperative's July monthly meeting. Winston County Executive Director Billy Lipsey addressed the group and informed them on the programs that FSA has to offer rural landowners. Several producers are not aware of the federal subsidies that are available for various programs such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Disaster Assistance Program (DAP) and the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP), to name a few. He also informed the Co-op about the FSA County Committee Nomination period that ends **August 1st**. The County Committee system should be a diverse voice for the farming community. The committee plays an important role by making decisions on commodity price support loans and payments, conservation and disaster programs and other important agricultural issues. All FSA enrolled producers in Local Administrative Area #1 (the east third of Winston County lying east of Hwy 25 North of Louisville and east of Hwy 397 South of Louisville) are eligible to vote in the election which takes place **November 4th** through **December 5th**.

Cooperative members, if you live in this area, consider becoming a member of the County Committee. Remember you can nominate yourself, but hurry before August 1st!!

Farm Loan Manager Doug Naron also spoke on the farm loans that are available for farmers who are unable to secure commercial bank loans. Although the Farm Loan team is headquartered in Starkville, Naron stated farm loan officer Russ Clanton travels to the Winston County Office each week and can schedule appointments in Louisville. (Also present for the July Meeting was State Outreach Specialist J. Latrice Hill-Moore). Learn more about FSA and how they can assist helping to save rural America. Visit the local Service Center or you may visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov/ms. If you have any questions, call the center at 662-773-2207 ext. 2.

“Helping to save Rural America”

