

# Greensboro Echo

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4TH EDITION

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## Edwards Family Farm by Frank Taylor

Almost a century has passed and the Edward's Farm Family continues to produce vegetables, cattle and other valuable farm commodities. Edward's family farm is nestled between Tate and Desoto counties in northeast Mississippi. According to Hampton Edwards, a third generation farmer, we are continuing our Grand-Father's, [Emmanuel Todd's], dream of surviving by the natural resources. My mother's father purchased this farm with blood, sweat and tears under "Jim Crow Era" when African Americans personal and private properties were taken by lawyers, judges and other landowners. However, my grandparents and parents demonstrated perseverance and fortitude to maintain ownership of our family legacy.

We are working as a unit which includes my wife, sons, daughter, grandsons and brother, Charlie Edwards, to create a successful farming operation. We are committed to help save rural America by

working with USDA, 1890 & 1862 universities, the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives and other community based organizations. We have participated in Alcorn State University's Small Farmers Conference on several occasions to network and learn about emerging crops. ASU's conference builds permanent bridges between landowners and service providers. The Edwards participate in conservation programs provided through USDA's office of Natural Resources Conservation Service. Additionally, they are involved with North Delta Producers Growers Association to raise peas, okra, lima beans and corn for the fresh market.

Sam Ellar Young Edwards, Hampton's wife, is a committed farmer from a family of 12 children. Mrs. Edward's passion is planting and raising fresh vegetables. She drives tractors, fence, pick vegetables, and manages the day to day farm operations. Edwards planted fall crops of peas, okra and lima beans on the fourth of July. The fall crop should be ready for harvest Labor Day

Weekend. According to Hampton Edwards, we committed with Winston County Self Help Cooperative to help save rural America.



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*"Saving Rural America"*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

WCSHC's Estate Planning Workshop  
 July 28, 2006  
 9:00am  
 at the extension office in  
 Louisville, MS.  
 Contact:  
 Frank Taylor  
 601-291-2704

WCSHC's Pass On Ceremony [heifers]  
 August 7, 2006  
 6:30pm  
 at the coop's farm in  
 Louisville, MS.  
 For further details  
 Contact:  
 Hubert Nicholson  
 662-773-3336

**WCSHC Squeeze Chute**

Winston County Self Help Cooperative purchased a portable Prefect cattle squeeze chute to improve herd health and the safety of veterinarian while working. WCSHC presently has more than 100 animals to vaccinate, dehorn, worm and artificially inseminate. These procedures will be performed along with as-

sistance from Mississippi State University's School of Veterinarian Science. Clifford Eichelberger co-op member, said this process will help each producer save money on transportation cost, wear/tear on cattle, and provide a safe working environment for veterinarians. We are working collectively as small farmers & land-

owners to purchase equipment, hay, feed and other necessities to reduce each individual member expense. Our cooperative commitment is to help save rural America by educating and encouraging other community based organizations to develop long-term strategies and create solutions of sustainability.

**Land Owner's Meeting in Bolivar TN**

As part of the follow-up to the Alabama A&M, Tennessee State University, University of Tennes-

see, and Tennessee Division of Forestry Landowner workshops that were held in Hardeman, and Haywood Counties in west TN this past spring, a group of landowners have continued to meet to explore forming an association/Coop or whatever they decide on. We have been meeting on the last Thursday evening of each month at a Church in Bolivar. It has been a decidedly informative journey so far – finding out the various needs and histories of the families of the landowners. A number of people who have been attending the meetings have expressed an interest in several key areas. Those are:

Land retention/farm and forestland legacy  
 Keeping their land productive in the provision of food and fiber

Pooling of resources to take advantage of marketing opportunities for the above products.

The group was invigorated with a shot of enthusiasm from Frank Taylor, President of the Winston County Self Help COOP, who came and gave a pep talk of sorts, reflected on the history of his organization, and provided advice on the potential pitfalls in the formation and management of such an organization.

A good time was had by all and there is an open invitation to have Mr. Taylor to come again and share more of his fellowship and insights.

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