

# 129<sup>TH</sup> 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.

# 2021 MERIT FARM FAMILY



**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), 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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. ....**Tuskegee University Cooperative  
Extension Program Annual eXert Competition**

**Facilitator: Nyesa Gordon, Tuskegee University**

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

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

7:00 a.m. ....**“Skegee Fit“ JAM Session**  
**LED BY: DENZEL VEALE**

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. .... **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

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. .... **Opening Keynote Address**  
**Introduction of Speaker:** Lindsey Lunsford, Tuskegee University

**Speaker:** Chris Newsome, Sylvaniaqua Farms  
Montross, VA

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. .... **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

## TM CAMPBELL LEADERSHIP AWARDEE



**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

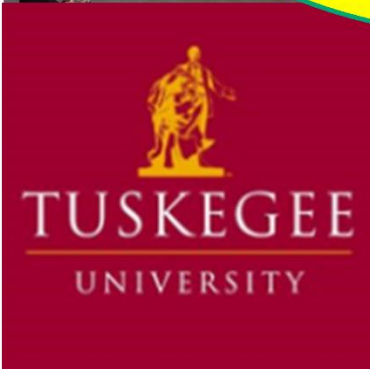


**Alice Love** is a native of Rural America; Crittenden County, Arkansas. She is a graduate of Crawfordsville High School and an Alumna of the University of Arkansas; Pine Bluff (Historical Black University/College). Alice started her career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly 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!**

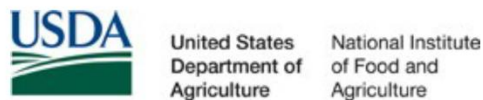
Annual Area Small Farmers Conference  
featuring the Farm Innovation Project.  
Join us for a **hands-on experience** to  
enhance whole farm planning and  
access to resources.



**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



This work is supported by Food Safety Outreach Program [grant no. 2019-70020-30349] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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



PUBLISHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM. TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY OFFERS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND MATERIALS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, VETERAN STATUS OR DISABILITY. IT IS ALSO AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



## **AGENDA AND SPEAKERS**

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

## **AWARDS COMMITTEE**

William Hodge, Carmalita Pollard, Millicent Braxton, Catrina Hoffman, LaTanya Hunt-Haralson

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING**

Demetrius Hooks, Jacquelyn Carlisle, Millicent Braxton, Lindsey Lunsford, Karen Craig, Jamal Brown, Terence Jackson

## **EXERT**

Nyesa Gordon, Millicent Braxton, Janet Sullen, George Hunter, LeVershaun Williams, William Hodge Raymon Shange, Lindsey Lunsford

## **FINANCIALS**

Shannon Payne, Elizabeth Whetstone

## **LOGISTICS**

Lindsey Lunsford, George Hunter, William Hodge, Terence Jackson, Danielle Smith

## **IT TEAM**

Karen Craig, Doug Eaves, Peter Kanyi, Jamal Brown

## **REGISTRATION**

Carmalita Pollard, Yvonne Wright, Karen Craig, Wanda Carpenter-Morrow, Jessie Purifoy

## **EVALUATIONS**

John Myers, Terence Jackson, Lindsey Lunsford, Raymon Shange

## **SPONSORS**

National Institute for Food and Agriculture, USDA  
Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA  
Mid-South Resource, Conservation & Development Council, USDA  
Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA (through the Rural Energy Program)  
Farm Service Agency, USDA  
Small Farm Technical Assistance and Outreach Program, Tuskegee University  
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, Tuskegee University

## **DIAMOND CLUB SPONSOR**

Alabama Ag Credit

## **BRONZE CLUB SPONSOR**

ALFA  
First South Farm Credit

## **PARTNERS**

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries  
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
Alabama Farmers Federation  
Alabama Farmer's Market Authority  
Alabama Forestry Commission  
Farm Service Agency, USDA  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives  
Forest Service, USDA  
Southern Rural Development Council  
1890 Universities Foundation

## **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY**

College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences  
Cooperative Extension Program

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Raymon Shange, Chair  
Walter A. Hill, Co-Chair

USDA-RD/Allen Bowen, Honorary Chair  
USDA-NRCS/Ben Malone, Honorary Chair  
USDA-FSA/E. Nicole Cleggs-Burns, Honorary Chair

Published by the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Walter A. Hill, Administrator. The Cooperative Extension Program offers educational programs and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. It is also an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Tuskegee University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award doctoral, professional, master's and bachelor's degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Tuskegee University.