

## NOPBNRCSE



"The Alabama Link"

November 2003

## NEWSLETTER

### A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

#### **"Making a Difference"**

Are you a "community impact" kind of person, someone who makes a difference in the lives of others?

#### **Take this quiz to see**

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the three most recent Miss America contest winners.
3. Name ten Noble Prize recipients.

How Did You Do? The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. Yet, there are no second rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish.

#### **New quiz**

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who helped you through a difficult time.
3. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.

Much easier.

**The lesson:** The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.

Remember that our lives are like a vapor. Such a mist is seen briefly, and then it is gone. When we are young, we believe that there is plenty of time to accomplish all that we want to do. As we age, we discover that life moves along rather quickly. We realize that much has been left undone and that time is running out. As an Organization, our goals should be to make a difference in someone's life individually and collectively, while we still have time.

*Johnny Trayvick, President  
Alabama Chapter NOPBNRCSE*

### QUOTE

*"Release the regrets of yesterday, refuse the fears of tomorrow and receive instead, the peace of today."*

*Herbert Ross*

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## **MEETINGS**

### **Annual Alabama Chapter Meeting Bessemer, Alabama**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Alabama Chapter of the NOPBNRCSE was held in Bessemer, AL, August 14-15, 2003. This year's theme was "The Land, Provider of Food and Fiber."

Thursday, August 14 – Anthony Hudson, President of the Alabama Chapter opened the meeting. Andrew Williams greeted and welcomed everyone to Bessemer. Johnny Trayvick gave an update on the Organization and the meeting charge. Deloris Jones entertained questions and comments, made announcements and closing remarks.

After the meeting, the group departed on a tour of the Civil Rights Institute in downtown Birmingham. The tour was a time to reflect and think about how time has brought about such a change. After the tour, we had dinner and fellowship.

Friday, August 15 – We opened our business meeting with Anthony Hudson presiding. After the business meeting, Sarah Walker introduced our first speaker, Ms. Keecha Harris, Dietician, Harris and Associates. Ms. Harris talked in depth about our dietary needs. The discussion on what we eat, how we eat, and when we eat, were very interesting. She emphasized that our eating habits are the key to a long healthy life.

Our next speaker was Mr. Jerry Spencer. He founded the Laurel Organic Garden located in Mt. Laurel, AL. Also, he is a minister who has acknowledged God "as the supreme ruler of all things". Mr. Spencer has become quite wealthy with organic gardening. He explained his marketing strategy and his sought after customs. He is a very well rounded person and easy to talk to.

Shirley Cole did the scholarship drawing. The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$50 – Miya Williams
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$25 – Phillip Slater
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$25 – Christen Lockett

Our lunch was catered by Katherine Carter and all entrees were delicious and enjoyed by all.

Anthony Hudson introduced our final speaker for the day – Bro. Derek Muhammad, Power in Unity Brotherhood, Inc. He discussed today's marketing strategies and how community agriculture can be sustained throughout our area. He was a powerful speaker, and everyone was enlightened and enjoyed his unique delivery.

The silent auction was a great success, and we departed back unto once we came.

### **Outgoing Officers- 2001-2003:**

Anthony Hudson – President  
Chandra Berry – Vice President  
Lawrence McGhee – Recording Secretary  
Chris Ford – Administrative Assistant  
Shirley Hall-Cole – Treasurer  
Herbert Ross – Parliamentarian  
Sebastian Thomas – Historian

### **New Officers – 2003-2005:**

Johnny Trayvick – President  
Christopher Ford – Vice President  
Anthony Hudson – Past President  
Sarah Walker – Recording Secretary  
Deloris Jones – Administrative Assistant  
Shirley Hall-Cole – Treasurer  
Sebastian Thomas/Herbert Ross – Historians  
Lawrence McGhee – Parliamentarian  
Andrew Williams – Community Development Chair  
Deloris Jones/Winford Andrews – Newsletter Chairs



**Those in attendance were: Front Row L-R:** Winford Andrews; Andrew Williams; Sarah Walker; Johnny Trayvick, Alabama Chapter President; and Shirley Hall-Cole. **Second Row L-R:** Phillip Slater, Deloris Jones, Sebastian Thomas, Herbert Ross, and Chris Ford. **Not pictured:** Milton Tuck.

***Submitted by:  
Herbert Ross, NRI***

## **A Night with Harry Belafonte**

Sponsored by Federation of Southern Cooperatives

The 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Tribute Dinner sponsored by the Federation of Southern Cooperative/Land Assistance Fund were held at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel on August 14, 2003. Harry Belafonte was the keynote speaker for the occasion.

Andrew Williams was in attendance, representing NRCS and the Alabama Chapter – NOPBNRCSE.

## **OUTREACH**

### **Part 406 - National Outreach Policy Subpart A - General**

#### **406.0 Purpose**

This policy provides guidance and direction in implementing a comprehensive outreach process for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This policy directly supports and assists with the implementation of program outreach activities in the Agency Public Notification Procedures (GM 230, Part 405.5). The process will utilize existing partnerships, formulate new ones, and engage the entire Agency to facilitate full implementation.

#### **406.1 Policy**

- A. The policy of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is that Outreach is an integral part of the overall delivery of NRCS programs and services to customers and potential beneficiaries. We will conduct our business to ensure that all programs and services are made accessible to all customers, with emphasis on the underserved.
- B. To that end, NRCS will:
- (1) Conduct outreach to serve a diverse clientele;
  - (2) Inform and educate existing and potential customers about NRCS and USDA Conservation programs and services;
  - (3) Provide leadership and guidance to conduct outreach activities and initiatives;
  - (4) Incorporate outreach tracking into the existing integrated accountability system; and
  - (5) Engage partners in the outreach process.

#### **406.2 Authorities**

Outreach policy and procedures will be institutionalized within the Agency as a means of conducting business. The following authorize this directive:

- (1) Secretary's Memorandum 1020-48, Establishment of the Office of Outreach, 8/22/97;
- (2) Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000 (d) – 2000 (d) (1);
- (3) Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (P.L. 104-624, Sec. 2501);
- (4) Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171);
- (5) Executive Orders 12876, 12898, 12900, 13270;
- (6) Small Farms Policy, Departmental Regulation 9700-1, 9/8/99; and
- (7) Small or Limited Resource Farmer Initiative, Agricultural Act of 1987, (PL 100-133, Sec. 622, 101 Stat 1985).

### **Part 406 - National Outreach Policy Subpart B - Responsibilities**

#### **406.10 Responsibilities**

State Conservationists are responsible for:

- (1) Providing leadership, guidance and ensuring that training is provided to personnel within the State.
- (2) Identifying underserved customers and developing outreach strategies.
- (3) Designating appropriate human resources, and allocating sufficient funds for effective outreach implementation.
- (4) Establishing outreach responsibilities for each employee within the State and holding those employees accountable for the assigned responsibilities.
- (5) Including outreach in State business plans.
- (6) Coordinating outreach efforts with State and local partners, community-based organizations and other interested partners.
- (7) Institutionalizing outreach as a way of doing business.
- (8) Providing oversight and evaluation and ensuring accountability and reporting for outreach within the State.

**Submitted by:  
Andrew Williams, Outreach Liaison**

## **National Meeting**

St. Louis, MO

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual NOPBNRCSE Training Conference will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, December 2-6, 2003. The theme for the conference: "Unlocking the Gateway to Natural Resources through Awareness, Knowledge, Leadership, and Service."

## **NRCS PERSONNEL**

### **Summer Interns from 1890 Land Grant Institutions in Alabama.**

**Jamal Austin** - Scottsboro Field Office

**Ken Flowers** - Athens Field Office

**Terrence Mobley** - Huntsville Field Office

**Trumaine Jackson** - Linden Field Office

Curtis Fluker - Mobile Field Office

Sharon Lewis - Montgomery, AL

## **Youth Involvement**

The Outreach Liaison in Alabama (Andrew Williams) facilitated a process during the summer to establish a work site for the Marengo County Youth Workforce Investment Act Program (W.I.A.). The site was established with The United Christian Community Association (T.U.C.C.A.) in Marengo County. This organization is in the process of implementing a Community Innovation Grant sponsored by the S.A.R.E. Program. The main component of this project is creative innovative ways to improve rural communities utilizing sustainable agricultural methods and practices. At this point two(2) students have been enrolled in this program at the above site. Information listed below further describes the program process.

### **Objective**

Our mission is to focus on At-Risk Youth in Marengo County in order to broaden the educational, career, and economic opportunities of participants through a partnership consisting of local businesses, schools, local and state agencies. The needs of both businesses and job seekers are met in regards to those who want to further their careers.

### **WIA Program**

This program is designed to serve In-School Youth ages 15 through 20. Participants will be provided an opportunity for career exploration, academic and

technical skills training as well as identifying employment and educational goals. The youth will be exposed to career options and encouraged to identify areas of interest.

### **Summary**

The Family Resource Center School to Work Program will help build promising futures for Marengo County youth and parents by expanding career options for all young people, including those with disabilities. It will insure participation for all youth, regardless of race, color or national origin. The program consists of two(2) components.

The first component is the work experience in which the child works at the assigned job site for twelve(12) weeks to develop work maturity skills.

The second component is the Basic Skills in which the child will undergo remediation training by attending computer classes during the year to boost academic competency.

*"Making an investment in the future of our Marengo County Youth."*



Marengo County Workforce Investment Act Program (W.I.A.) located at 210 Shiloh Street, Linden, AL.



## **IN THE SERVICE**

Greetings from **Lawrence McGhee!!**





## **CHAPTER WEB SITE**

The Alabama Chapter NOPBNRCSE web site has been established. Christopher Ford and Deloris Jones will maintain the web site.

The Chapter's web site is:  
[www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/NOPBNRCSE/wel.htm](http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/NOPBNRCSE/wel.htm)

If there are any questions and/or comments regarding the web site, contact Chris at:  
[chris.ford@al.usda.gov](mailto:chris.ford@al.usda.gov)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Our next membership drive will be coming up soon.  
**Remember – membership is open to all.**

Membership applications will be available online under the Alabama Chapter's web site or you may contact:

Phillip Slater  
Chairman, Membership Committee  
USDA-NRCS, Courthouse Annex  
103 First Avenue, NW  
P. O. Box 307  
Fayette, AL 35555

## **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Our last Les Hilliard Scholarship was awarded to Antonio Grate of Alabama A&M University, majoring in Agricultural Economics. We congratulate the recipient of this award.

Applications for the FY 2003 Scholarship have been mailed.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Les Hilliard Scholarship Fund should contact:

Shirley Hall-Cole, Chairperson  
Les Hilliard Scholarship Program  
USDA-NRCS, 3381 Skyway Drive  
Auburn, AL 36830  
Phone: 334-887-4546

## **NEWSLETTER TEAM**

Deloris Jones  
Winford Andrews  
Chris Ford