

**The Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Land Assistance Fund**



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**Rural Training &
Research Center**
P.O. Box 95
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(205) 652 9676

Dear Friend of the Federation:

We are pleased to announce the 47th Anniversary Celebration of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund. ***We are inviting you to join us for this celebration through your participation and sponsorship of this event.*** We begin our celebration with the Estelle Witherspoon Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner at 7:00 p.m. on August 14, 2014 at the Birmingham Sheraton Hotel located at 2101 Richard Arrington, Jr. Blvd., North, Birmingham, AL 35203.

This year, we are honored to present the 13th Estelle Witherspoon Lifetime Achievement Award to The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, now in her twelfth term as the Congresswoman for the District of Columbia, comes to us as Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. She serves on two committees: the Committee on Oversight & Government Reform and the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure. Congresswoman Norton's accomplishments in breaking barriers for her disempowered district are matched by her success in being a tireless advocate for Civil, Human, Women, and Voting Rights across this nation.

Before her congressional service, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to serve as the first woman to chair the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She came to Congress as a national figure who had been a civil rights and feminist leader, tenured professor of law, and board member at three Fortune 500 companies.

We are also honored this year to have The Honorable Terri A. Sewell of Alabama's 7th Congressional District serve as Chairperson of the 47th Anniversary Celebration of the Federation and the 13th Estelle Witherspoon Award. Congresswoman Sewell was elected to her second term to represent Alabama's 7th Congressional District on November 6, 2012. She is one of the first women elected to Congress from Alabama in her own right and is the first black woman to ever serve in the Alabama Congressional delegation. Congresswoman Sewell sits on the exclusive House Committee on Financial Services and brings to the committee her more than 15 years of experience as a corporate securities and public finance attorney. She also serves on the distinguished House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence charged with the oversight of our national security.

So please join us in celebrating this momentous occasion by becoming a sponsor of our 47th Anniversary Celebration. Find attached the Dinner Response Form for more details.

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives is the nation's premier African American organization working across the Black Belt Region assisting small farmers and the rural poor to improve the quality of their lives by creating locally controlled economic opportunities. Along with training, education and technical assistance to limited resourced farmers, ranchers and landowners, our work includes cooperative development, marketing, job creation, land retention, development of credit unions and affordable housing. The Federation owns 1,000 acres of pristine farm and forestland where it operates its Rural Training and Research Center in Epes, Alabama. Our work in 16 southern states is carried out from the Rural Training and Research Center in Epes and seven offices located in Atlanta, GA; Albany, GA; Tallahassee, FL; Jackson, MS; Epes, AL; Ravenel, SC; and New Orleans, LA.

Mrs. Estelle Witherspoon, for whom the prestigious **Estelle Witherspoon Lifetime Achievement Award** is named, was the leader and founder of the Freedom Quilting Bee in Alberta, Alabama. She was renowned for her service toward the empowerment of those in her community. Mrs. Witherspoon was an advocate for civil rights, as well as social and economic justice. In the mid-sixties, African-Americans in the Gees Bend community of rural Wilcox County, Alabama farmed on rented and owned land. Because of their involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, many were evicted from their homes and lost their jobs. In response to this injustice, Mrs. Witherspoon worked tirelessly to help poor African American women in her community use their talent in quilt making. With the encouragement and assistance of a network of supporters from around the country, the women began to sell their quilts. As their cause gained support and their work gained admiration, Freedom Quilting Bee quilts were sold in Bloomingdale's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Bonwits and Lord & Taylor. The quilts were exhibited at the Smithsonian Institute's Folk Life Festivals and the Corcoran Museum in Washington, DC and featured in articles in Vogue, House and Garden, and the New York Times; and still the entrepreneurial spirit of the women continues to this day.

In addition to the Awards Dinner on Thursday, you don't want to miss the Annual Meeting! Join us on Friday, August 15th and Saturday, August 16th at the Federation's Rural Training and Research Center in Epes, Alabama. On Friday from 8:00AM – 4:00PM, we will hold a series of activities including exhibits; keynote speakers, USDA panel discussions, workshops on cooperatives, agroforestry, conservation, farm credit; agritours, an update on the 2014 Farm Bill and other matters. Later that evening at 6:00PM, enjoy the fun and excitement of the ***Auction and Fish Fry with live entertainment!*** Saturday's meeting will begin with a Prayer Breakfast at 8:00AM and a sumptuous home-cooked southern meal. Agenda items include the Annual Business Meeting and State Caucus reports.

Your sponsorship and participation will ensure a successful and enjoyable celebration. If you have questions, please call Rose Barnes or me at (404) 765-0991. Thank you for considering this request.

Cooperatively yours,



Ralph Paige
Executive Director



Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund

***47th Anniversary Celebration and 13th Estelle Witherspoon
Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner***

**Thursday August 14, 2014 7:00 PM Sheraton Birmingham Hotel
2101 Richard Arrington Jr., Blvd., North Birmingham, AL 35203
Phone (205) 324-5000 / Reservations**

Event Highlights

***Come early and tour the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum and
Alabama Sports Hall of Fame & Museum***

- 2:00PM – 4:00PM **Cooperative Leadership Roundtable – Sheraton B’ham Hotel**
This roundtable will focus on issues of strategic importance for
the cooperative movement. **INVITATIONAL**
- 5:30PM – 6:30PM Honoree’s Reception, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
530 16th Street, North – Transportation provided
- 6:00PM – 6:45PM General Reception Hotel Ballroom Foyer – Cash Bar
- 7:00 PM Estelle Witherspoon Award Dinner & Program

***** *Annual Meeting* *****

FSC/LAF Rural Training and Research Center in Epes, Alabama

Friday, August 15

- 9:00 AM Exhibits/Workshops/Trainings/Panel Discussions
12:30 PM Guest Speaker, Invited Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Tom Villsack
6:00 PM Fish Fry, Live Auction, Entertainment

Saturday, August 16

- 8:00 AM Prayer Breakfast, Rev. Wendell Paris, Guest Speaker
10:30 AM Annual Meeting
12:30 PM Guest Speaker—Senator Hank Sanders
2:00 PM Membership/Business Meeting
Annulet P. Jackson Memorial Scholarship Award Ceremony

Hotels Near Epes, AL

Livingston, AL: Comfort Inn (205) 652-4839 * Hotel Lucky Star: (205) 374-0250

For additional information, contact Ms. Jackie Ward, Sr. Executive Assistant
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (404) 765-0991



FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN COOPERATIVES
LAND ASSISTANCE FUND

47th Annual Meeting
Rural Training and Research Center in Epes, AL
August 15-16, 2014

Registration Form

Name: _____ Title _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

If you represent an institution, agency or community-based organization, please respond:

Name of organization: _____

Title: _____

If you farm:

- How many acres do you farm? _____
- What are your main crops? _____
- Where & how do you market your crops? _____

Registration Fees: *(Includes meals & information packet)*

❖ FSC/LAF members:	1 day/\$25	2 days/\$50
❖ Institution/Agency/Org Representative	1 day/\$50	2 days/\$100
❖ Children 8 yrs & up:	1 day/\$15	2 days/\$25
❖ Children under 8 yrs:	1 day/\$10	2 days/\$15
❖ Scholarship Recipient	1 day/waived	2 days/waived

Dormitory Fees: *\$25 per person per night-single or double*

Please return this form along with your registration fee to:

Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund

Attn: Ms. Debra Eatman

P. O. Box 95

Epes, AL 35460

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