



Enhancing the Sustainability and Viability of Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Through Training Exercises, Mentoring and Outreach Programs



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Presenter: T'arie Todman

PD: Frank Taylor

Winston County Self Help Cooperative

BFRDP Award # 2015-70017-04577



Project Overview

- The project's goal is to assist new and beginning farmers and ranchers access to establishing their agriculture enterprises
- Targeted Audience is limited-resource BFRs with a concentration on veterans located in eastern part of MS
- Outreach programs, workshops, educational training, hands on demonstration, mentorships, one-on-one site visits
- Overall target outcome: by the end of this project we will have helped 200 BFRs start/improve their farms by improving their knowledge and awareness in regards to their agriculture enterprises.



Project Accomplishments



- Nine (9) training and educational workshops were conducted during 2016 which covered forestry production, high tunnel production training, crop and livestock production, marketing of alternative crops, credit counseling, estate planning, whole farm planning and food safety
- Six (6) USDA Programs Awareness Workshops were conducted. These workshops informed small farmers/ranchers and beginning farmers/ranchers of USDA Programs availability as well as other programs offered on the Federal, State and County Levels.
- Eight (8) Saving Rural America and Four (4) Youth Conferences. The purpose of these conferences was to provide an atmosphere of learning, networking and strengthening family values.
- Twelve (12) canning and food preservation workshops



Impacts and Evaluation



- Results from our financial and business workshops indicates that there was an overall increase of 8% farm income for program participants.
- Fourteen (14) program participants applied for farm operating loans and ten (10) loans were approved totaling (\$520,000). One (1) individual received a farm ownership loan.
- Five (5) youth received loans from Farm Service Agency to purchase livestock and equipment.
- Program participants participated in a series of USDA Programs Awareness Workshops. Results from these workshops show that there was a 15% increase in participation in USDA Programs.



Impacts and Evaluation



- Twenty three (23) program participants were able to take advantage of Natural Resources Conservation Service Cost Share Programs. Two individuals were awarded funding under the Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)
- Five (5) obtained irrigation systems
- Seven (7) received financial assistance to construct high tunnel/hoop houses.
- Program Participants timber sales grossed over (\$550,000)
- Livestock sales grossed over (\$240,000).



Next Year & After



- Work with farmers and ranchers to craft their own farm business plans, conduct additional financial training, train participants on certification and product handling issues.
- Continue project goals





United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Questions?

Contact: T'arie Todman

Phone: 601-291-2704

Email: tarieltwcshc@gmail.com

WINSTON COUNTY SELF HELP COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 774

Louisville, MS 39339

Phone: 601-291-2704

Email: fltaylor@bellsouth.net

www.WCSHC.com

