



Small Farms Research Center
College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences
Alabama A&M University
P.O. Box 700
Normal, Alabama 35762

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: E'licia (Lisa) Chaverest, Assistant Director

SFRC hosts 2015 Risk Management & Business Development Workshop in Mobile, Alabama

Huntsville, Alabama. July 8, 2015. The Small Farms Research Center at Alabama A&M University in collaboration with Alabama Cooperative Extension will host its fall Risk Management & Business Development Workshop in Mobile, Alabama, scheduled for August 19- 21, 2015.

The workshop will cover the following topics;

1. ABC's Goat Management & Maintenance - Learn how to maintain a healthy herd.
2. Business Development – Business Strategies and Tips on How to Get Started in Developing a Business Plan.
3. Agricultural Marketing- Using MarketMaker, an in-depth database connecting buyers, farmers/ranchers, fisheries, farmers markets, processors/packers, wineries, restaurants and more across the production and distribution chain.
4. Cottage Food Law Training - The Cottage Food Law is a course to educate producers on the State's requirements for making and selling home-prepared foods at farmers markets and etc. Certification course is also available (small fee).
5. Leadership Training - Learn how to network, build strong partnerships and navigate your way to be effective leader on sustainable agriculture and community projects.
6. Financial Management- Quick tips on managing your farm finances.
7. USDA Programs- Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service will discuss the micro (loan) program and the programs available for new and beginning farmers and landowners.
8. Tentative Farm Tours (TBA)



The three-day workshop will be held at the, Jon Archer Agricultural Center 1070 Schillinger Rd., N. Mobile, AL 36608. To reserve your spot, there is a \$20 fee to attend the workshop. This cost does include transportation (optional), hotel accommodation, lite refreshment, and handout materials. Please note limited space is available. In order to attend, everyone must pre-register prior to the workshop. The deadline to register is Friday, August 7th. For more information about this program, and/or to register for the Risk Management and Business Development Workshop, feel free to visit the Small Farms Research Center on-line at www.aamu.edu/smallfarmscenter or give us a call at (256) 372-4970 or 1(866) 372-4970.

This program is partially funded by the Alabama A&M University's Small Farms Research Center's Southern Risk Management Education Center (SRMEC), for the project titled *Business Planning and Marketing Education for Hard-to Reach Urban Gardeners, Inner-City Youth and Beginning Vegetable Growers* in collaboration with Tennessee State University for the project titled "Implementing an Accessible On-line Marketing Tool for Small and Mid-Sized Meat Goat Farmers," under Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities (AFRI) program.