

SMALL FARMS RESEARCH CENTER NEWS UPDATE

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, LIFE AND NATURAL SCIENCES



United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NIFA



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO)

2015 AGRICULTURAL RISK MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

SPECIAL
EDITION



Mobile, AL — The Small Farms Research Center (AAMU) held its 2015 Agricultural Risk Management and Business Development Workshop on August 19-21, 2015 at the Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Road, Mobile, AL 36608. This workshop consisted of producers, gardeners, landowners and entrepreneurs from the following counties in Alabama: Butler, Choctaw, Hale, Jefferson, Limestone, Madison, Mobile, Monroe and Sumter.

The workshop was a huge success. Participants were the first to be informed on SFRC new programs and services. We were able to educate socially disadvantaged, veterans and new and beginning farmers and producers on risk management strategies and business development issues. The majority of the participants sincerely enjoyed the presentation, especially being able to interact one-on-one with speakers.

The Center has been hosting this program for nearly ten years in Mobile County. Through our evaluation forms, participants have considered the information distributed and presented at the workshop to be “priceless.” Overall, survey shows that 70% acquired new skills through this workshop. We sincerely appreciate your time and efforts into making this program a success. Special thanks to our speakers in their specific areas: Felicia Bell, *Small Ruminant Herd Health*; D. Chongo Mundende, *Business Plan: Tips, Strategies and Lifeline*; Jeremy Pickens, *Hydroponic Vegetable Demonstration (Indoor and Outdoor)*; LaShannda James & Bryan Rhea, *USDA Farm Service Agency: Available Programs and Services*; Amelia McGrew-Mitchell, *Overview of Cottage Law*; Bobby Wilson & Cathy Walker, *Leadership Training: Community Projects and Sustainable Agriculture*; Rockiell (Roc) Woods, *New and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers— Financial Management*; Ada Webb, *United Way AmeriCorps VISTA*; and Catie Young, *Soil Management*. Also, thanks to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) in Mobile County for their administrative support and a warm thanks to Ms. LaTanga Charley. Finally, a special thank you to Mr. Daniel Robinson (State Director for USDA Farm Service Agency) for graciously gracing us with his presence and continued support of our programs.

Producers' Comments

- Training workshop - expand on the Market Marker discussion of markets e.g. grading, packaging and procession;
- Demonstration on how to care for dairy goats yearly including: vaccination and feed;
- Awesome, engaging and anxious to see Food Hub Operation in Mississippi;
- Best class yet! Very well prepared and plenty of visual aids. Excellent job;
- Very Good, examples on how social media made an everyday farmer successful;
- Awesome presentation, lots and lots of valuable information;
- Great presentation on Small Ruminant Herd Health learned a wealth of information. This topic would be great to have a longer version.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AG. RISK MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

