



**Small Farm Research Center**  
**College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Small Farms Research Center (AAMU) host Small Business Workshop**

*Huntsville, Alabama.* April 16, 2015. The Small Farms Research Center at Alabama A&M University in collaboration with Alabama Cooperative Extension will host its Small Business Workshop, on May 7-8, 2015. Come learn from the experts on all the advantages of having well-developed business plan.

A business plan is critical to ensuring that business or agribusiness owners have aligned their marketing, production, and financing capacities/strategies in ways that minimize risk. This course is offered to anyone considering starting a business or agriculture business. The workshop will be held on the campus of Alabama A&M University's James I. Dawson Building. The two-day (12 hour) course work will focus on the following topics; 1.) Starting A Business from Scratch, 2.) Business Economics: How to Make Money, 3. Short and Long Term Business Planning and Bookkeeping and Financing for Small Business. The in-depth course will provide on-hands and real-life examples to further illustrate the purpose of business plan.

After completing the coursework, eligible participants may be considered for the Individual Development Account (IDA) offered by United Way. The IDA program is an innovative matched savings program that allows families to build assets and develop skills for financial self-sufficiency. Through the IDA participants benefit through financial skills development, financial coaching, access to financial services and training related to the participant's primary savings goal. The IDA is a statewide program that provides opportunities for individuals with low-to-moderate income to:

- purchase a first-time home
- pay for college or job training
- start or expand a small business

The Small Farms Research Center received funding from the 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*. This one-year project addresses the unique business planning and marketing education needs of urban community gardeners, inner city youth and beginning producers, who are transitioning or converting to vegetable production. In general the course is for all small business starting or considering expanding their business.

To reserve your spot, there is \$10 fee to attend the workshop. This cost does include handouts/ training material, lite refreshment and lunch. Also, there are limited scholarship available, please inquire. For more information about this program, and/or register for the Small Business Workshop feel free to visit the Small Farms Research Center on-line at [www.aamu.edu/smallfarmscenter](http://www.aamu.edu/smallfarmscenter) or give us a call at (256) 372-4970 or 1(866) 372-4970. .

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