

Greensboro Echo

Contact Frank Taylor @
601-346-9850 or
601-291-2704
ftaylor@bellsouth.net
P. O. Box 23813
Jackson, MS 39225

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Images of hope, joy, kindness, and compassion can only describe the phenomenal women of Winston County Self Help Cooperative. WCSH Coops membership consists of 33 percent female members, with 13 more young ladies participating in the youth group. We are extremely fortunate to have a dynamic mixture of beautiful women to help provide a nurturing environment in our drive to help save rural America. We are appreciative for their warmth, caring, gentleness, inspiration, and divine leadership on our team. Normally, I am not without words; however, women of Winston County Self Help Cooperatives dedication to preserving the natural resources leave me speechless. You have renewed dreams of a brighter future for the next generation, who will inhabit our livelihoods of farmers and ranchers. Again, the men of WCSH cooperative are thankful for your efforts not only to help save rural America but also in the creation of a better place for all human-kind.

A Tribute to WCSHC Women of Ag



First Row Left to Right: Mary Hannah, Omeria Dotson, Carol Williams, **Second Row:** Robin Matthews, Dorothy Harper, Mattie Haynes, Gloria Moore, Elaine Hobson, Jacqueline Steele, and Carnette Hudson
Not Pictured: Essie Jackson and Barbara Sims **Honorary Members:** Katrina McLin and Elizabeth Myles

ASU/MAC'S CONFERENCE by Frank Taylor



Alcorn State University and the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives Women in Business/Small Farmers Conference was March 27-29 in Vicksburg, MS (The River City). This year's farmers theme of "Embracing New Ideas" and women's theme "From dreams to reality" promoted a sense of urgency from participants to attend each workshop.

Monday's session began with registration, workshops and luncheon in the sprawling Vicksburg's Convention Center located on Mississippi River's Bluff. Ralph Paige, Federation of Southern Cooperatives Executive Director served as keynote speaker for Monday's luncheon. Paige, applauded the efforts of Alcorn State University, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives and non-profit organizations commitment to help save rural America by disseminating pertinent information in a timely manner. Monday's activities concluded with a reception at Hampton Inn Hotel.



Tuesday's activities included tours of family farms, businesses owned by women, walking tour of the city, and riverboat ride. Participants enjoyed visiting Alcorn State University's Model Farm equipped with current technology to improve row crops and vegetables production. Tuesday's activities ended with a banquet and awards ceremony. Dr. White of JSU's Department of Entrepreneurship, guest speaker, ignited kindred spirits to move forward with their dreams of successful businesses and farms.



The conference came full circle on Wednesday with workshops, luncheon and door prizes.

Robert Walker, former Mayor of Vicksburg and present Administrator for the city of Jackson, served as luncheon speaker. Mayor Walker, a noted historian relinquished important information concerning Vicksburg's significant role in Black History, which most participants did not know. Vicksburg birthed pioneer Isaac T. Montgomery founder of Mound Bayou, MS, Madame C.J Walker First Black Woman Millionaire, and home of Mississippi's first Black Bank.



Winston County Self Help Cooperative represented with 11 members as participants. According to founding member of WCSHC Mary Hannah, I am making plans for 2007's conference by inviting other farmers to participate. Kudos to Alcorn State University and Mississippi Association of Cooperative for producing a splendid learning atmosphere.

Again, thanks to the planning committee, Alcorn State University, and Mississippi Association of Cooperatives for a wonderful event and continue to move toward 2007's conference. You are a team player with Winston County Self Help Cooperative to Help save rural America.

Announcements

Winston County Self Help Coop's Field Day Activities will occur on April 24; 5:30pm at Bobby Hardin's Farm located 4155 Highpoint-Weir Road in Louisville, MS. You are welcome to participate in our field day activities. For further details, contact Gloria Moore 662-705-0112. Winston County Self Help Cooperative is committed to help save rural America.

Leadership kick off program April 21, 5:30pm at extension office in Louisville, MS.

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