

**WCSHC Receives “The Fannie Lou Hamer Award” by-the press**



The Winston County Self Help Cooperative received the Prestigious “Fannie Lou Hamer Award” from the Winston County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Color People’s (NAACP) Annual Banquet. According to Charles Hampton-Branch President, the Winston County Self Help Cooperative is providing leadership and building capacity to help preserve our natural resources. The coop’s holistic approach of caring and sharing for the natural resources is inspiring youth, families and community leaders to embrace WCSHC’s credo of helping save rural America. The cooperative received the award on April 28, 2007.

Fannie Lou Hamer, known as the lady who was "sick and tired of being sick and tired," was born October 6, 1917, in Montgomery County, Mississippi. She was the granddaughter of slaves. Her family were sharecroppers - a po-

**April 2007’s Activities**

- April 5, published newsletter.
- April 9, held coop monthly meeting.
- April 9, held field day activities.
- April 9, held youth field day.
- April 10, published newsletter.
- April 12, published newsletter.
- April 13-14, youth and youth leaders participated in a state level 4-H meeting-Jackson, Ms.
- April 17, published newsletter.
- April 18, participated in arts and crafts with special needs individuals.

sition not that different from slavery. Hamer had 19 brothers and sisters. She was the youngest of the children.

In 1962, when Hamer was 44 years old, SNCC volunteers came to town and held a voter registration meeting. She was surprised to learn that African-Americans actually had a constitutional right to vote. When the SNCC members asked for volunteers to go to the courthouse to register to vote, Hamer was the first to raise her hand. This was a dangerous decision. She later reflected, "The only thing they could do to me was to kill me, and it seemed like they'd been trying to do that a little bit at a time ever since I could remember."

When Hamer and others went to the courthouse, they were jailed and beaten by the police. Hamer's courageous act got her thrown off the plantation where she was a sharecropper. She also began to receive constant death threats and was even shot at. Still, Hamer would not be discouraged. She became a SNCC Field Secretary and traveled around the country speaking and registering people to vote.

Hamer co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). In 1964, the MFDP challenged the all-white Mississippi delegation to the Democratic National Convention. Hamer spoke in front of the Credentials Committee in a televised proceeding that reached millions of viewers. She told the committee how African-Americans in many states across the country were prevented from voting through illegal tests, taxes and intimidation. Because of her speech, two delegates of the MFDP were given speaking rights at the convention and the other members were seated as honorable guests.

Hamer was an inspirational figure to many involved in the struggle for civil rights. She died on March 14, 1977, at the age of 59.

- April 21, sponsored a prom for special needs individuals.
- April 23, vaccinated cows and heifers.
- April 23, planted, green and lima beans, turnip and mustard greens in youth garden.
- April 25, transplanted tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers.
- April 28, youth made corsages for Mother Day Celebration.
- April 28, WCSHC received NAACP’s Award.
- April 30, coop held monthly meeting.
- April 30, coop help animal identification seminar with Farm Bureau

## Vaccination Report-by Frank Taylor

The Winston County Self-Help Cooperative's vaccination program moved with swiftness on Monday April 21, starting approximately at 9:15am with Mississippi State University's School of Veterinary Medicine providing services.

Forty-five animals received numerous shots and a liquid application to prevention flies. The team castrated one bull calf. However, this process revealed the ineptitude of some members not providing sufficient care for the heifers; therefore, I will have private a conversations with each member to reiterate care for the heifers. Overall, we received a good report on the remaining heifers. We have seven "pass on" heifers scheduled for breeding no later than 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July. We are planning for another vaccination session within three weeks for other members who did not participate due to work conflicts. Thanks to Mississippi State University's School of Veterinary Medicine staff and students for an excellent vaccination session.



## WCSHC's Upcoming Events

May 14<sup>th</sup>, meeting with local district conservationist on implementation of the Small Farmer's Initiative Cost Program, 14 of WCSHC members received funds for cross fencing, fertilization, and removal of debris. This meeting will start at 3:55pm-extension office in Louisville, Ms.

May 18<sup>th</sup>, Winston County Self Help Cooperative will co-sponsor an estate-planning workshop at the extension office in Starkville, Ms. This meeting will start at 9:00am.

June 4<sup>th</sup>, Beef Quality Assurance workshop at the extension office in Louisville, Ms, 5:55pm with DR. Carla Huston from Mississippi State University's School of Veterinary Medicine.

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## Monthly/Animal Identification Meeting-by Frank Taylor

Winston County Self Help Cooperative monthly meeting convened on Monday April 30, 3:55pm with 26 members present. Leon Goss gave words of encouragement and Dorothy Harper reiterated previous minutes. Several members expressed their appreciation of the spring field day activities held on April 9, with more than 80 participants. We are thankful for each member, service providers and community supporters for helping create a successful Spring Field Day Event according to coop member George Miller SR. Willie Goss agreed to host fall field day activities scheduled for October 8, 4:55pm. Dorothy Harper reported WCSHC's youth group planted okra, corn, squash, cucumbers, turnip & mustard greens, and transplanted tomatoes and hot peppers on April 23 & 25<sup>th</sup>.. Harper expressed gratitude for supporting the Special Needs Prom with more than 60 participants and supporters.

The animal identification meeting started approximately at 4:55pm with Rev. Jack Miller uplifting spirits. Shelton Cooper delivered warm words of welcome. Jon Kilgore from Farm Bureau's commodity department gave an extensive presentation on animal identification and marketing strategies to help small farmers increase profit margins. Several members inquired how to create a safety net by purchasing liability insurance and tagging each animal. Members expressed great appreciation of Jon Kilgore's presentation and the meeting concluded on a positive note.