

Voice of Rural America **GREENSBORO ECHO**

Coop on Target & May's Monthly Meeting-by Frank Taylor



Winston County Self Help Cooperative is cruising towards a successfully through their strategic plan for the first quarter in 2007, having held numerous events; monthly meetings, mass meetings, an outreach seminar with NRCS, community voices bi-monthly sessions, homebuyer workshop and youth activities. Our first one-hundred day agenda is on target for completion by April 1, according to co-op member, Philip Curry. "We have made tremendous progress in the first 100 days; therefore, we are on tract for a successful year in propelling Winston County economically by purchasing equipment, land, paying taxes and home improvement acquisitions. Although, this is March, we have conducted six bi-monthly meetings to allow our farmers the opportunity to spend critical time planning, planting and harvesting their crops in the months of May, June and July".

WCSHC's May meeting convened on March 5, with 21 members present to conduct poignant busi-

ness about its mission to help save rural America. The meeting started promptly at 3:55pm with words of prayer from Leon Goss. Dorothy Harper read previous minutes and made minor changes and a vote of yes from members to move forward on old business. The members dialogued on participating in Mississippi Association of Cooperatives' Annual Meeting March 15-17, Alcorn State University's Small Farmer Conference, 26-28, WCSHC's Spring Field day April 3, the animals vaccination schedule and reviewed USDA's regulations on cost-share programs. Several members gave individual projects updates slated for completion by month's end.

WCSHC accepted membership from Mr. Lonnie Headd of Greensboro Community. Mr. Headd retired from Chrysler and returned back to Mississippi in 2006. Headd stated that he left Mississippi in 1949 for a better opportunity of employment. "Segregation and Jim Crow" practices did not allow Negroes an opportunity of equal education or a right to vote, therefore, I parted ways from Mississippi with a bitter disappointment of leaving family and friends behind to achieve my American dream of success. However times have changed for the better and I am back in Mississippi enjoying family, old and new friends. Additionally, I have started my farming enterprise with assistance from the Winston County Self Help Cooperative and I too am committed to help save rural America".

WCSHC received donated vegetable seeds from Heifer International and others to support family farms and spur city dwellers to plant small gardens as a vital source to produce fresh vegetables. The meeting concluded with announcements and prayer by Elder George Miller.

For More Information, please contact Frank Taylor at 601-291-2704 or email at ftaylor@bellsouth.net

"Saving Rural America"

Special Call/Heifer International Donates

Winston County Self Help Cooperative held a special call meeting on Monday March 12, 3:55pm at the extension office in Louisville, Ms. Heifer International South Central Office allocated special funds to assist project members affected by hurricane Katrina for various purposes to repair fence, barns and roofs. Additionally, some projects will use funds to integrate emerging organic crop technologies by purchasing seeds and implements. Each member will be required to do in-kind or volunteer services for accepting of donation. According to coop's member Elder George Miller, we are thankful to Heifer International for this donated assistance and we will use our funds to promote stability in rural America.

WCSHC Field Day Activities

Winston County Self Help Cooperative's Spring Field Day activities will be held on Tuesday April 3, 3:55pm at the coop's farm on Crystal Ridge Road east of Louisville, Ms. This year's theme "We are a family committed to help save rural America". Mark Searels will sponsor field day activities and he will elaborate on several

topics dealing with animal health. We are inviting co-op members, friends, community supporters, extension service, universities and others to participate in our annual spring field day activities. For further details contact Frank Taylor 601-346-9850 or ftaylor@bellsouth.net



The Alcorn State University Extension Program
in cooperation with
The Mississippi Association of Cooperatives
and the
Center for Cooperative Development
convenes its annual
Small Farmers Conference
Vicksburg Convention Center
Vicksburg, Mississippi

MARCH 26-28, 2007

Details and registration information at
www.smallfarmersconference.com
Phone: 601.354.2750



Congratulations to the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives on their 35th Annual Membership Meeting Celebration. Hats off to Mr. Wendell Paris, Sr. (luncheon speaker) for a job well done!

From the Winston County Self Help Cooperative