

**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT, 2006**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The philosophy and practices of “reaching the unreached and serving the people left behind” have been the focus and heart of the Cooperative Extension Program at Tuskegee University for more than 126 years. The mission of the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) **is to help educate and provide research-based educational programs designed for life-long learning and to assist limited resource families, both urban and rural and other groups and organizations, to improve their quality of life in a technological global society.**

TUCEP focuses its major efforts in 12 Black Belt Counties of Alabama. Historically, the Black Belt of Alabama is known for being the distressed area of the State with a high proportion of African Americans living in the area. The Black Belt is predominantly rural, except Montgomery County where the State’s capital is located. Persistent poverty, low employment, low incomes, low educational levels, poor health, high infant mortality rates, and dependence on welfare are characteristics of this area.

TUCEP’s Plan of Work provides a variety of educational programs in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, community and rural economic development, youth development, entrepreneurship, nutrition education, food safety, health education, and other related areas of human services to address the needs and priorities of the people served at the local and state levels.

In addressing the five national goals: (a) an agricultural system that is highly competitive in the global economy, (b) a safe and secure food and fiber system, (c) a healthy, well-nourished population, (d) greater harmony between agriculture and the environment, and (e) an enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans, in 2006, TUCEP implemented six Extension Team Projects (ETPs). The ETPs were: (a) Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): a strategy for workforce development, (b) assisting small-scale farmers and landowners to manage change in agriculture, (c) enhancing citizen’s capacity to transform communities, (d) integrated natural resources and environmental education, (e) promoting healthy behavior, and (f) promoting healthy living environments for underserved and hard to reach audiences. As a cooperating partner in carrying out a comprehensive statewide Cooperative Extension Program Plan of Work, Extension Team Projects constituted only a portion of the work done in Cooperative Extension at Tuskegee University. Specialists and agents contributed a significant amount of their time to the work unique to the counties in which they serve, and this service was not a part of the predefined, statewide ETPs.

TUCEP was also affiliated with three other specific projects. These were the Small Farmer Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Project, Project EXPORT (Excellence in Partnership for Community Outreach, Research and Health Disparities and Training), and the Tuskegee-Macon County Commission Development Corporation (TUS-MAC CDC). These projects are expected to improve the quality of life for our clientele.

Cooperative Extension subject matter personnel, as well as support personnel, participated in professional development activities through Tuskegee University's Continuing Education Program and the System's Training and Development Schedule of Courses, where possible and as needed. Extension personnel participated in the following educational activities: (a) Office Administration, (b) Reality Stress Management, (c) Ethics in the Workplace, (d) Successful Grant Writing, and (e) Workplace Harassment Issues: Practical Guidance for Identifying, Preventing, and Eliminating Workplace Harassment.

It is mandatory for Extension specialists, agents, and support personnel to attend the TUCEP Quarterly Conferences. Four quarterly conferences were held in 2006. The specific objectives of the conferences were to: (a) review the strategic plan and action items in the Plan of Work, (b) identify new program challenges and opportunities, (c) provide needed in-service training, and (d) review pertinent issues relative to EEO and Affirmative Action affecting Extension personnel and program. Program issues such as the Civil Rights Program Compliance Review and the application of the Logic Model Concept in Extension occupied much of the quarterly conference agenda.

TUCEP was also involved in three major conferences on Tuskegee University campus. These are subsequently and briefly described. The 114th Annual Farmers' Conference was held February 23-24, 2006. The theme was, "*Small Rural Farms: Developing Partnerships with Local, National and Global Markets.*" The 64th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers' Conference was held December 3-5, 2006. The theme was, "*Meeting the Challenges to Sustainable growth and Development of Rural Communities.*" The 11th Annual Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit was held October 4-6, 2006. The theme was, "*Growing Small Business and Asset-Building Partnerships for the New South.*"

On the whole, the year 2006 was a good year for us. TUCEP will continue to strive to provide the best programs for our clients in the State. It is our belief that with continued support from our partners, including the USDA and State, 2007 will be an even better year for our clients and us.

PROGRAM REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, RESULTS AND IMPACTS

Goal 1: *An agricultural system that is highly competitive in the global economy. Through research and education, empower the agricultural system with knowledge that will improve the competitiveness in domestic production, processing, and marketing.*

Extension Team Project 16c: *Assisting small-scale farmers and landowners to manage change in agriculture.*

Overview: The objective of this ETP is to increase profitability and sustainability for small-scale farmers and landowners who continue to face production, financial, and marketing challenges due to the size of their operations as well as other historical and environmental factors. It addresses the issues of small-scale farmers and landowners, including strategies for their survival, the challenge in organizing and maintaining small-scale farms, new marketing opportunities, new technology, growing concern relative to the use of chemicals, preservation methods, and food safety.

The impact of informed decisions on farms in general and small-scale farms in particular, makes it imperative for owners of these rural enterprises to understand the basic nature of changes in agriculture and the economic environment. Also, it is important to understand and be able to use tools, strategies, and techniques that are more applicable to this group of farmers in order to increase profitability and sustainability, while reducing related risks. The ETP focuses on farm strategies and techniques, management, and marketing, particularly in regards to adaptability and adoption for small farmers and landowners primarily in South Central Alabama.

Description of Planned Program by Key Themes

Dallas/Perry Counties

Key Theme – Vegetable Production

a. **Activities** – Small and large-scale vegetable production is a major source of income for many limited resource farm families. However, most of these producers encounter several production problems in their efforts to produce quality crops. The most significant of these production problems are: inadequate water for crops, weeds, insects, disease, record keeping, and marketing. Many of the producers market their produce by retailing through direct markets, such as farmers markets, roadside stands, and peddling. Sometimes farmers are not able to sell all their produce through these outlets and significant amounts therefore go to waste. They welcome the opportunity to market through wholesale markets also in order to dispose of all available produce for sale.

In order to help fruit and vegetable growers in Dallas and Perry Counties to overcome major production problems, the Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program (TUCEP) collaborated with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to assist the growers to adopt plasticulture technology to growing vegetables. In addition, TUCEP joined efforts with the

George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment Station (GWCAES), Tuskegee University, and Alabama A&M University Agricultural Experiment Station to further help vegetable growers, by introducing them to Agriculture Biotechnology crop production by using transgenic seeds for sweet corn, squash, seedless watermelons, tomatoes, and pepper for the past 5 growing seasons. TUCEP continued to build on the existing working relationship with the Dallas County and Perry County Health Departments and the Alabama Farmers Market Authority to continue assisting fruit and vegetable growers with marketing concerns by keeping the Selma/Dallas County Farmers Market active. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, Dallas County Health Department, Perry County Health Department, Alabama Farmers' Market Authority, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

b. Impact - As a result of the efforts made by TUCEP and the cooperating institutions, vegetable farmers in Dallas and Perry Counties continue to make major improvements in production and family income. Forty-five (45) vegetable growers in Dallas and Perry Counties continue to increase vegetable production with the use of plasticulture. On average, each of these producers was able to increase yield by 12-14 bushels per acre. Furthermore, the use of plasticulture allowed 21 producers to produce vegetables despite the drought. Farmers adopted new production practices, plasticulture and biotechnology.

c. Source of Federal Funds – Smith-Lever 3d

d. Scope of Impact – State of Alabama

Key Theme – Value Added Vegetable Marketing

a. Activities – As a result of the challenges many limited resource farmers were having with marketing their produce through direct marketing channels, TUCEP in collaboration with GWCAES developed a proposal seeking funding to establish a value-added Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Marketing Center in Selma, on land owned by the local farmers' organization. The Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA), made up of the three land grant universities in Alabama, awarded a grant of \$30,000 toward the project. So far, approximately half of the funds needed for this project have been raised from other sources.

The vegetable marketing facility will collect, cool, wash, grade, package and market fresh produce that is grown by farmers in the Black Belt Region. In addition, this facility will serve as an educational (training and demonstration) facility for producers, landowners, researchers, and students. One of the main components of this facility will be the outreach education wing. In order to make this marketing facility productive and successful, it is projected that TUCEP, GWCAES, and other collaborators will have to recruit and train 30-40 new youth commercial fruit and vegetable producers within the Black Belt Counties of Alabama over the next two years. It is imperative that each one of these young producers be trained in sound business management, farm management, financial planning, and record keeping skills. TUCEP and GWCAES have formed an alliance with the Sardis Area Ministerial Alliance, one two-year college, three high schools, and one elementary school with the goal of reaching the youth for future Agriculture training and professional employment opportunities. Youth activities will help

in ensuring the future of the Black Belt Marketing Center. The Center will also assist farmers and landowners in using computers to access USDA Farm and other programs in order to assist more limited resource farmers and landowners to participate in these programs as well as gain other benefits of using the internet to do business.

The Black Belt Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Center will be located in a 20,000 square foot facility. This facility will include a vegetable processing equipment (collard green chopper, pea shellers, etc.), cooler, retail booths, classrooms, and office space. This Center will maximize profits by seeking outlet markets with the most favorable prices and by offering the best quality products which will improve the profit margin for the producers. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Black Belt Commission of Alabama, Alabama A & M University, Auburn University, Sardis Area Ministerial Alliance, and Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

b. Impact - The accomplishments so far are: the Leadership Steering Committee conducted 10 group meetings with fruit and vegetable producers in 8 Black Belt counties, and total of 143 producers attended these meetings. The majority of the producers that attended the meetings are willing to sell most, if not all, their produce at the Center. Producers are also willing to adopt new and different production practices so as to increase production and take advantage of new market opportunities.

A farming history data base is being established on all producers through farm surveys. This information will be used to help organize a Farmers Cooperative. With funds from AALGA, the Steering Committee has retained attorneys to advise and assist with the organizational structure for the Farmers Cooperative. Fourteen (14) limited resource farmers have volunteered to be trained to serve as the lead contact producers in their counties to assist TUCEP and GWCAES with contacting and recruiting potential producers to be trained. Additional specific impacts on vegetable farmers and the Region are the following:

1. Creating jobs in the Black Belt Counties,
2. Farmers working together as a cooperative to operate center,
3. Increased marketing skills and knowledge for producers (e.g., grading and packaging),
4. Increased sales of fresh produce and income for producers,
5. Decreased spoilage of produce due to improper storage,
6. Opportunity for young farmers to start produce business,
7. Saving small family farms with additional marketing opportunities,
8. Establishing first class training facility for future youth in agricultural programs, and
9. Limited resource producers' awareness of biotechnology in Agriculture.

c. Source of Federal Funds – Smith-Lever 3d

d. Scope of Impact – State of Alabama

Key Theme – Animal Production Efficiency

a. **Activities** - Beef cattle production is an important source of income for many low-income farm families throughout the Black Belt Counties of Alabama. This situation is no different for most farm families in Dallas and Perry Counties. Although small-scale beef production has been the mainstay for families in the past, beef production can be very expensive for some families due to the financial demands for adequate grazing land, health care, winter nutrition management, and marketing strategies. As a result of this, during the past seven years, some of these farm families have diversified into small-scale meat goat production. The advantage is that beef cattle and goats can graze the same pastures and not compete for the same forage. Unfortunately, many of the major poor management problems that exist for beef production also exist for meat goat production. These problems are parasites, poor nutrition programs, breeding, marketing strategies, and poor or no record keeping systems. The problems affect productivity and cost these farm families thousands of dollars annually.

In efforts to assist beef and meat goat producers with their production problems TUCEP made contacts with livestock producers in Dallas and Perry Counties. Contacts were made through farm and home visits, letters, Goat Day activities, workshops, and office calls. The majority of the contacts were made by farm visits. During these farm visits, producers were advised on good management practices such as, soil fertility, herd health, sound breeding stock, working facilities, seasonal nutrition programs, and diversified marketing strategies. The real financial success for small livestock producers will occur if they eliminate the middleman and sell directly to buyers of cattle and goats. TUCEP, GWCAES, and the Black Belt Commission have initiated programs to help small producers develop direct sale opportunities for their livestock products in order to increase income. Cooperating Institution/Organizations: Black Belt Commission, Alabama A&M University, and Auburn University.

b. **Impact** – One hundred and eighty-six (186) contacts were made through these efforts. As a result of the efforts and good market prices for beef and goat products, there have been major improvements with livestock producers in Dallas and Perry Counties. During the past four years 90% of small beef producers have upgraded herd bulls with the goal of improving the quality of calves sold during marketing as well as improving the quality heifers for replacements. With the infusion of quality bloodlines into these small herds, there were major impacts in the quality of calves born and weaned.

The quality is evident in terms of increase in calf crop percentages, birth, weaning, and marketing weight. With quality breeding stock, these producers have increased calf crop percentages from 50-60% to 85-90% which is about average for most herds. Quality breeding stock and improved nutrition programs increased birth and weaning weights significantly on average by 48lbs and 125lbs, respectively. Increased weaning weights result in increased market weights for calves. An additional 125lb weaning weight for calves grossed beef producers an additional \$150.00 per calf at \$1.20 per pound on average for calves weighing 500-600 pounds.

Most of the meat goat herds are about 15-20 head of goats on average. Goats give birth two times per year, so most producers received 4 offspring a year per doe. On average, most meat

goats sold for \$1.50 per pound live weight. The average market weight for a meat goat is 50-60lbs. Therefore, at \$1.50 per pound goat producers are averaged \$75.00-90.00 per goat. The addition of meat goats to the small family farm is very important to the farm survival of limited resource farms. With assistance from TUCEP and GWCAES, meat goat production has become a profitable business on several small farms. Overall, better output due to the adoption of new techniques and diversified enterprises has resulted in increased income for farmers.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Macon/Montgomery Counties

Key Theme – Vegetable Production and Marketing

a. **Activities** - TUCEP agents and specialists provided assistance and programs in the establishment and maintenance of 55 home gardens in Montgomery County. Conducted 8 home horticulture meetings on fruit and vegetables and provided information on various cultural and production practices; assisted in planning and conducting Farmers Market activities; and planned and conducted 12 Macon County Farmers Organization board and membership meetings. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Montgomery County Community Action Agency, RC&D Council, Macon County Farmers' Organization, and Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

b. **Impact** – Home gardening helped to save money on groceries for participating families, and also provided fresh nutritious vegetables for them. Macon County producers who participated in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program for Seniors (FMNPS) sold such fresh vegetables as corn, squash, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, collards, turnips, mustards, field peas, lima beans, green beans, cucumbers, okra, peppers, strawberries, and watermelon. The FMNPS in Macon County received 1,160 checkbooks to issue in the amount of \$23,200 and \$20,332 was redeemed by recipients. That is a redemption rate of 88%. For Montgomery County, 1,880 checkbooks were issued in the amount of \$37,600, and \$33,640 was redeemed by recipients. That is a redemption rate of 89%.

Regarding the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), Macon County received 423 checkbooks to distribute in the amount of \$8,460, and \$4,496 was redeemed – a redemption rate of 53%. Montgomery County received 4,475 checkbooks to issue in the amount of \$89,500, and \$64,764 was redeemed – a redemption rate of 72%.

This was a win-win situation. First, families purchased and consumed fresh fruits and vegetables. Second, farmers gained additional income; they generated \$ 33,692.00 in sales.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Key Theme – Animal Production

a. **Activities** - TUCEP agents and specialists provided technical assistance on beef management; assisted in conducting demonstrations on herd health and castration for beef cattle; assisted in planning and conducting the 24th Jodie Blackwell Beef Management Clinic; assisted in purchasing calves and training youth participant for the Macon County Beef Steer Show; and assisted a farmer in the purchase, production, and sale of caged catfish. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Macon County Farmers' Organization and Heifer International, Inc.

b. **Impact** – Beef farmers acquired knowledge and learned new techniques of animal production. Mario Carr, a 4-H Youth, won the Beef Steer Show and received a plaque and an amount of \$280. The youth who participated acquired leadership and animal management skills. The catfish farmer sold his cage of catfish for \$1,747.50.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Barbour/Bullock Counties

Key Theme – Animal Production Education

a. **Activities** - Workshops and information dissemination continued in the area of beef cattle and meat goat production. Beef cattle and meat goat field day focused on information on common diseases (herd health), calving, rotational grazing, and marketing strategies. Two Tuskegee University veterinarians conducted hands on demonstrations on both cattle and goats. Rotational grazing for cattle and goats is important for several reasons: (1) it reduces feed cost, (2) it results in improved nutrient consumption, (3) it decreases heat and drought stress, and (4) it helps reduce parasitic infestations. Marketing is important because (1) it allows implementing synchronized births, and (2) it should allow for cooperative selling which usually results in increased revenues. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine, Bullock and Barbour County Farmers Cooperative, Heifer Project International, Alabama A & M University, and Auburn University.

b. **Impact** – Thirty (30) farmers and 40 youth attended the workshops. They acquired knowledge on various issues.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Key Theme – Vegetable Production

a. **Activities** - The decrease in vegetable producers made it necessary to encourage some beef cattle farmers to diversify their operations and add vegetable production to fill the void in the

local market. Training in vegetable production and marketing was provided to these farmers. Also, as a result of a decrease in purple hull pea production in Barbour County in previous years and the increase in demand for this produce, farmers were encouraged to increase their production of purple hull peas. It was suggested to farmers to use plasticulture technology for producing vegetables, but the cost of materials discouraged some farmers from using this method of production. In addition, the lack of a well to irrigate caused several producers to continue using conventional cropping technology. Plasticulture has the advantages of increasing yields, conserving water use, and minimizing diseases. The loss of revenue using conventional technology was minimal, because of growing the “cash crop,” purple hull peas instead of tomatoes, peppers, or squash. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: CAENS, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Alabama Farmers Market Authority, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Barbour/Bullock County Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA), and Bullock and Barbour County Farmers Cooperative Association.

b. **Impact** – Farmers cultivated 10 acres of purple hull peas. They sold 300bu at \$22/bu for a total income of \$6,600 and got a yield of 30bu/acre. In short, farmers increased income and some increased yield of their produce.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Greene/Hale Counties

Key Theme – Animal Protection

a. **Activities** - The problem of lack of veterinary services was resolved through collaboration with Dr. Kenneth Newkirt of the Tuskegee University Veterinary School. Ambulatory services were provided for beef cattle farmers. The services included de-worming, vaccination, ear-tagging, pregnancy diagnosis, de-horning, castration, emergency treatment, and general advice on livestock management. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine.

b. **Impact** – There was a 34 percent increase in the number of animals treated, and a 66 percent increase in the number of livestock farmers served from 2005 to 2006. Three hundred and thirty-two (332) farm visits were made. Ambulatory services were provided for 15 farmers who owned over 400 beef cattle.

As a result of the collaboration, beef cattle farmers will now receive ambulatory services from October to May each year, whereby beef cattle will be examined and given the required treatment. Beef cattle farmers will save money because of disease prevention and treatment as well as produce healthier animals. Farmers will be provided with affordable medication and professional veterinary services. Ultimately, these led to savings and higher incomes.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. Scope of Impact – State of Alabama
Key Theme – Vegetable Production (Youth)

a. **Activities** - Several church youth were exposed to plant agriculture through the establishment of vegetable gardens. This was done using plasticulture technology. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund and Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

b. **Impact** – More than 75 youth from area churches participated in the project. They produced collard greens which they sold for \$500. Local consumers got fresh and nutritious vegetables grown locally. The youth acquired crop management and leadership skills as well as got income from the sale of their produce.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Key Theme – Vegetable Production

a. **Activities** - Farmers were assisted to establish vegetable fields under plasticulture. The objectives of the use of plasticulture were to keep the soil temperature warm, control weeds, reduce waster use, achieve easy fertilizer application, and obtain “cleaner” vegetable upon harvesting. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: The Federation of Southern Cooperatives and Land Assistance Fund and Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

b. **Impact** – Collard greens, okra, butter beans, squash and watermelons were planted on 5 acres of land on 3 different farms. The plasticulture project is on-going and most of the data have not been collected. However, several farmers in the area are now aware of plasticulture technology. There is a potential for local farmers to increase their yield and income.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Lowndes/Wilcox Counties

Key Theme – Vegetable Production

a. **Activities** – TUCEP county agent and specialist assisted local farmers to adopt plasticulture to vegetable production. Four (4) Plasticulture sites and 2 conventional sites were established in collards in September 2006. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Natural Resource Conservation Service and Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

b. **Impact** – Six (6) farmers participated in this project. Approximately 25,000 collard seedlings were planted on a total of 5.5 acres (4 acres plastic and 1.5 acres conventional). These were harvested and marketed through a variety of outlets – roadside, direct farm sales, home delivery

sales, and wholesale. Some were used for home consumption. Some producers were able to sell collards in bunches that weighed 5-6lbs at \$2.50-\$3.00/bunch. Some were sold at \$18.00/dozen. One farmer experienced about 70% deer damage to his crops. On average, each farmer earned \$2,000. Farmers increased farm income, increased production, improved quality of vegetables, improved conservation of water, conserved fertilizer usage, and used farm land judiciously.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Key Theme – Agricultural Education

a. **Activities** - TUCEP specialist, county agents, and agency personnel held a one-day annual educational forum for small farmers, the Small Farmers Area Work Conference. This Conference covered a wide range of topics important to producers, such as USDA Updates, Vegetable Production, Livestock Production, and Estate Planning/Land Use Planning. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Wilcox County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, SEEP (Student Education Program), Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and ALA-TOM RC&D Council.

b. **Impact** – More than 68 farmers attended the Conference. The overall evaluation indicated that several of the farmers were planning to make operational changes based on information received at the Conference.

Area farmers indicated that information presented was of great importance to their overall operation: (1) Fifteen (15) farmers have implemented cost share practices through USDA; (2) Ten (10) have adopted new agricultural practices, and this increased their overall farm income. An example of adopting an agricultural practice was the revitalization of pasture and hay fields. That is, some farmers are grow vegetables in the spring and summer months, plowed the fields after the season, and grew cool season grasses and practiced cool season grazing in the fall and winter months. This greatly improved soil quality, taking into consideration that some of the fields had not been plowed between 20 and 30 years and had become compacted.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Key Theme – Agricultural Marketing

a. **Activities** – TUCEP county agents, specialists, and county leaders assisted in efforts to increase consumption of fresh vegetables and promote vegetable production and sales. These efforts resulted in the establishment of the county farmers markets. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: State Health Department (WIC Office), Senior Citizen Nutrition Program, Alabama Farmers Market Authority, and the County Commission.

b. **Impact** – The county farmers markets provide a central location for at least 12 local vegetable producers to market their produce. Most vendors are certified and were able to accept WIC coupons for the sale of their produce. These markets proved to be excellent outlets for local producers and provided extra market options for farmers to increase their income.

The central location of the farmers markets made it easier for farmers to sell and consumers stop and purchase produce. The farmers obtained income and an additional marketing outlet and consumers got fresh nutritious vegetables.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Key Theme – Animal Production, 4-H FFA County Livestock Project

a. **Activities** – TUCEP extension agents, specialists, agricultural science instructors, and county leaders assisted youth with 4-H livestock project – steers and heifers. Students participated in 5 invitational shows around the State. The shows were the Alabama State Fair Show, the Autauga Agribition Show, the Elmore/Lowndes County Show, the District Show, and the State Show. The youth competed in several showmanship classes, weight classes, and selected beef characteristic classes. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Local Cattlemen Association, Alabama Farmers’ Federation, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, and Livestock Exposition.

b. **Impact** – Four (4) youth were involved in competing in the cattle shows. They used 6 calves, 4 steers and 2 heifers. They won several trophies, ribbons, and cash prizes. They acquired leadership and beef cattle management skills. All calves were sold at premium price of \$1.25/lb live weight on hoof for \$1,312.50-1,562.50. On average the calves weighed between 1,050 lbs and 1,250 lbs. The total cost for raising each calf was \$1,100, so on average there was a gain of between \$212.50 and \$462.50.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Across Counties

Key Theme – General Agriculture

a. **Activities** – Researchers, extension specialists, and agents initiated two integrative projects, one focusing on record keeping, and the other on Integrative Pest Management (IPM). These projects are integrative, because they emphasize both research and extension aspects of the issues being investigated. For the record-keeping project, the general objective was to enhance the record-keeping usage and capabilities of farmers. Farmers from three counties were interviewed and then given a record-keeping format to adopt for the year. The post-interviews and analysis were to be done after the year (i.e., early 2007). For the IPM project, farmers from various

counties were interviewed to determine their perceptions on and knowledge of IPM. IPM focuses on making farmers good stewards of the environment. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: George Washington Carver Agricultural Experiment State and Cooperative Extension Program.

b. **Impact** – The methodology used in record-keeping project was a case study approach, and five farmers are involved in this project. Thus far, pre-treatment data have been collected, and researchers and extension personnel are yet to collect Phase I post- treatment data. The following impacts are envisioned: (1) a better organized record-keeping system, (2) farmer will ascertain relatively easily how his or her farm is performing, and (3) farmer will get government and other benefits relatively easily.

For the IPM project, data are being analyzed. Ninety-four (94) farmers were involved. Being conversant with farmers' knowledge on and/or awareness of IPM will allow researchers and extension personnel to direct or target assistance to relevant aspects of IPM. Workshops, including hands-on training, are planned.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d; Hatch

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Perry/Bullock Counties

Key Theme – Animal Production (Poultry)

a. **Activities** – TUCEP specialists and agents dealt with two poultry farmers, one in Perry County raising pastured poultry and the other in Bullock County raising commercial broilers. In Perry County, the farmer was having problem with high mortality rates. After a careful analysis of his flock, it was discovered that his birds were suffering from botulism (bacteria-borne disease). It was recommended that changes be made in his management practices (clean feed and water troughs as well general cleanliness of the pasture). After implementing the changes, the botulism was significantly reduced and later eliminated. The Bullock County poultry farm was checked for efficient feeding and care of birds. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: None.

b. **Impact** – With the reduction and subsequent elimination of botulism, the Perry County farmer realized a relatively net profit. The Bullock County farmer had an efficient feeding and generally good management system, so she was encouraged to keep it up.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Perry/Butler Counties

Key Theme – Animal Production (Goats)

a. Activities – TUCEP specialists and agents worked with goat farmers these counties. Several management practices were implemented to improve the herds. Among them were: parasite control, reproductive management, de-worming, hoof trimming, castration, animal evaluation and grading, and best pasture management practices. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: None.

b. Impact – Good management practices reduced mortality rate; the farmers' net profits were higher.

c. Source of Funding – Smith-Lever 3d

d. Scope of Impact – State of Alabama

Across Counties

Key Theme – Forest and Renewable Resource Management

a. Activities – Extension specialist conducted meetings and field demonstrations, as well as provided information and technical assistance to small-scale farmers and landowners in eight counties (Bullock; Butler; Lowndes; Macon; Perry; Tallapoosa; and Washington; and Troup, GA) for the development of the forests on their lands. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Forest Landowners Association, Alabama Forestry Commission, U.S. Forest Service, Farm Service Agency, and Natural Resource Conservation Service.

b. Impact – More than 100 small-scale farmers and landowners participated in meetings and field demonstrations. The following topics were covered:

1. Pest management (non-native invasive plants and Annosus Root Rot),
2. Claiming capital loss as a results of insects and diseases,
3. The cost of over planting (comparison of planting 1800 trees per acre verses 622 trees per acre Loblolly Pine),
4. Site preparation alternatives (cost and productivity comparison),
5. Economic opportunity from outdoor recreation alternatives,
6. Control of under-story vegetation for aesthetics, stand health and reduction in site preparation cost, and
7. Timber sale preparation, marketing and contract administration.

Information and technical assistance was provided to 22 landowners covering an area of 3,600 acres. This included the following:

1. The eradication and management of approximately 100 acres of non-native evasive plant species,

2. Vegetative type mapping on approximately 3,600 acres,
3. The recommendation of economically viable and sustainable management alternatives such as combinations of recreation, forestry and agro-forestry,
4. Timber assessment to determine type and value of available products,
5. Site preparation and reforestation alternatives and cost comparisons and referrals for financial and technical assistance,
6. Referrals to handle timber theft and trespass,
7. The management of Annosus Root and the need for salvage operations,
8. The development and use of hunting leases for income generation and the accomplishment of related land management needs such as control burning, land line maintenance, access management and protection of property from illegal uses in order to offset cost, and
9. Providing awareness of sivicultural best management practices in order to protect aquatic systems.

As a result of the efforts, these 122 small-scale farmers and landowners were better able to manage their properties and gained knowledge on a variety of issues.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama and State of Georgia

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Across Counties

Key Theme – Small Farm Viability

a. **Activities** – The Small Farmer Outreach and Technical Assistance Project was established to develop and implement programs so that eligible farmers and their family members may apply for and acquire USDA loans and other forms of assistance. Farm management specialists and other project support staff are the primary personnel for the Small Farmer Project, but in many cases they collaborate and work with county agents.

Farm management specialists and project staff continued to work closely with all program participants in identifying alternative enterprises, developing farm and home plans, marketing plans, farm loan applications, grant applications, housing applications, other non-loan USDA program assistance, and group training as well as one-on-one technical assistance. Farm management specialists worked with USDA staff in local offices to help facilitate farmer requests for assistance with applications and participate in various farmer programs. The technical training sessions included production techniques, record keeping, management of income and utilization of credit, marketing, and preparation of farm plans and cash flow budgets.

The Farm management specialists and agents also focused on specific projects designed to strengthen the growth and sustainability of limited resource producers and other groups. These are listed and briefly described below.

Jacob Waddy Research Project – Tuskegee University entered into a formal agreement with the Waddy Farm to attract young beginning farmers to farming. This included production, processing, business principals, marketing of farm raised products such as goats, pasture raised chickens, turkeys, rabbits, beef calves and organic vegetables. This project greatly contributed to the research areas of the University including (1) integrative small ruminant research; (2) evaluation of alternative farming practices on environmental and water quality in Alabama; (3) maintaining agricultural systems that improve competitiveness in domestic production, processing, and marketing; and (4) enhancing economic opportunity for families, youth and communities.

AL Hooks Produce Farm – Tuskegee University also entered into a formal agreement with the Al Hooks Farm to conduct research and serve as a demonstration site for organic vegetable production. The site is used by other area farmers to observe and learn from the activities of the overall operation. Products are to be test marketed in part at the Macon County Farmers Market and other surrounding markets. The Hooks Farm is a model for other farms to follow in terms of production techniques as well as marketing strategies. Mr. Al Hooks and Family were named the Merit Farm Family of the Year during the Annual Farmers Conference at Tuskegee University in February, 2006.

Dallas County Small Farm Cooperative – Tuskegee University is working with this group of farmers in developing innovative marketing programs and adding value to products. A major effort is underway to attract several groups of farmers across the Black Belt of Alabama to embrace a processing facility that will be centrally located to all of them. Funds are being raised from various sources to support the project that will cost approximately \$2,000,000. Emphasis has been placed on full and open dialogue with the farmers to take ownership, utilize, and support the facility once it is constructed. The project will not only bring the farmers together but will also enhance their marketing efforts.

Gordonville Community Development Corporation (GCDC) – GCDC is producing inland shrimp in the middle of the Black Belt Region of Alabama (Lowndes County) for research and demonstration purposes, so that other small farmers can consider it as an alternative enterprise as well as being an educational tool for local high school students.

Native American and Hispanic Groups – The project personnel works very closely with several Native American groups as well as Hispanic Groups in the State, providing technical support and information in their efforts to participate in USDA programs. Group meetings were held as informational sessions. Subsequent one-on-one meetings were held to address specific individual needs. The Alabama Indian Affairs Commission works very closely with the Small Farm Staff in coordinating contact with the various Native American tribes throughout the State. The Cherokee Tribe of North East Alabama received special assistance in development of tourism, entrepreneurship and strategic planning. The UCAN tribe received special assistance in development of strategic plans, business loans and land use plans. The Echotas received special assistance in strategic planning as well as land use plans for future tourism development. Tuskegee University employed a full time person assigned to the Native American Groups for the identification of group and other resources to assist the tribes. This special initiative is also

directed at the Hispanic Groups. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, USDA Agencies, Alabama Indian Affairs Commission, Other Land Grant Universities, and Indian Tribes and Hispanic Groups.

b. **Impact** – As a result of these activities, major progress was made. There were 21 group meetings attended by 228 farmers; 252 home visits and 241 other client contacts; 58 meetings with USDA staff; 5 brochures or news releases developed; 1,218 brochures and other publications distributed; 164 socially disadvantaged applicants identified; 5 business analyses; 85 farm plans developed; 85 farmers submitted applications or requested USDA services; 35 farmers submitted applications for USDA loans. The total loan amount was \$2,076,000, and the average loan amount was \$42,367.

Additionally, through these activities, farmers and residents gained knowledge and improved management practices, acquired skills in business management, financial management, and marketing.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d; 2501

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Macon County

Key Theme – General Agriculture

a. **Activities** – Two agriculture-related conferences, the Annual Farmers Conference and the Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference, were held (in February and December, respectively) on the Campus of Tuskegee University at the Kellogg Conference Center. The theme for the Farmers Conference was, “Small Rural Farms: Developing Partnerships with Local, National and Global Markets.” Topics discussed included: small farm cooperative marketing and value added product development; obesity management; wills, estate planning and personal financial management; and who else is farming your land. The theme for the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference was, “Meeting the Challenges to Sustainable Growth and Development of Rural Communities.” Topics discussed included: meeting the challenges to sustainable growth and development of rural communities; forests in rural landscapes and communities; USDA small farms and beginning farmers and ranchers policy; small farms and local communities; marketing and economic development; food safety; and international agriculture.

b. **Impacts** – Over 200 adults and 35 youth attended the Farmers Conference, and over 220 people attended the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference. Participants gained information and networked at these conferences.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – USDA Agencies

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama, Southeast, U.S., and International

Goal 2: *A safe and secure food and fiber system. To ensure an adequate food and fiber supply and food safety through improved science-based detection, surveillance, prevention, and education.*

Extension Team Project 411: *Promoting healthy living environments for underserved and hard to reach audiences* – Families First: Nutrition Education and Wellness System (FF-NEWS)

Overview: The objective of this ETP is to teach participants to use what they learn to positively change behavior. The project acknowledges knowledge and skills that participants bring to the training and fosters respect for them. It seeks to take participants to higher levels utilizing a variety of instructional and assessment approaches that have been designed towards transformation for the benefit of individuals, families, and communities. Collectively, the component of the FF-News makes up a curriculum that represents action plans for behavior modification by participants. The information in the curriculum is based on results of scientific and educational research, observation, and clinical trials. The curriculum is comprised of six components: an informative and instructive introductory section, four content modules, and a resource/reference section. Each of the content modules assesses a critical subject area related to nutrition, health, and wellness. The four content modules are: (a) balancing food preferences with knowledge of nutrition, (b) health status and age-related nutrition, (c) enhancing management skills, and (d) ensuring food quality and safety.

Description of Planned Program by Key Themes

Across Counties

Key Theme – Food Safety

a. **Activities** – TUCEP specialists and agents trained and gave technical assistance to small-scale farmers in goat production. Further, the farmers were encouraged to practice environmentally friendly goat production. Those with sizeable lands partitioned their pastures into plots and rotated the grazing of their herds. This practice prevented over-grazing and reduced erosion of the land. Also, some farmers custom-slaughtered their animals to sell to their customers. They practiced a principle of food safety, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) that TUCEP personnel and Biomedical Information Management Systems (BIMS) personnel in the College of Veterinary Medicine taught them in previous years.

Some backyard poultry producers were also given technical advice on the biosecurity for birds based on guidelines provided by the USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS). Emphasis was placed on the prevention of Avian Influenza (AI) and Exotic Newcastle Disease (END). Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

b. **Impact** – The goat producers gained knowledge on goat production and also acquired management skills. The poultry producers are aware more than ever before, the need to report any unusual cases of illness in their flocks. They know that the Asian type Avian Influenza Virus (AI H5N1), though not reported in the U.S. yet, can infect humans and can be fatal.

c. Source of Federal Funds – Smith-Lever 3d

d. Scope of Impact – State of Alabama

Macon/Lowndes/Dallas Counties

Key Theme – Food Quality

a. **Activities** -The Tuskegee University Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) called the Media-Smart Youth (MSY) Chef Program was conducted at three different sites, Macon County, Lowndes County, and Dallas County, using the Media-Smart Youth Curriculum developed by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and MyPyramid for Kids. In Macon County, it was held from June 5-30, 2006, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room and Food Laboratories of the Food Science Department, Tuskegee University. In Lowndes County, the MSY Program was held from July 17-21, from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon at a community center; and the program in Dallas County was held from August 7-11, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Marion Cultural Camp Site. In Macon County, parents dropped their children and picked them up at 5:00 p.m. each day. In Lowndes County, the community center provided a bus and a volunteer who picked the program participants to and from the Community Center. In Dallas County, a school bus was provided to take the participants to the camp site each morning and back to their homes each afternoon. Volunteers came from the communities as well as near-by churches to help with distribution of program materials and food preparation. College students who lived in those counties were recruited to serve as chaperons and counselors for a nominal stipend.

The MSY Program covered foods and nutrition, resource management, food safety and physical activity. A variety of activities encouraged youth to choose fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and calcium rich foods, and to reduce their consumption of fat and added sugar. Lessons taught encouraged youth participants to be thoughtful when choosing or preparing snacks for themselves. The program included the preparation of snacks; and participants enjoyed nutritious foods they may not have eaten before. In the physical activities aspects, participants learned the importance of daily physical activity in promoting health. The Program contained a 10-minute “Action Break” during each lesson where youth are engaged in fun physical activity.

Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Departments of Human Services, Community Development Corporations, and Housing Authorities.

b. **Impact** - A total of about 124 youth were enrolled and graduated over two months in the summer. As a result of the Program, participants developed strategies for becoming more active in their daily lives as well as drawing in their siblings and parents. It was evaluated through pre- and post-knowledge based activities. Each child was given a refrigerator thermometer to continue monitoring the family refrigerator and a personal hand sanitizer to use. At graduation, each youth had a simple resolution which was a plan on how to choose nutritious foods, intent to sample at least 5 unfamiliar fruits and vegetables in the following year, and be more physically active in their daily lives.

The Program helped them to discover that physical activity could be anything that gets their bodies moving, including dance, walking, skipping rope, or helping Mom with groceries. Eighty-six (86) percent of youth participants knew they should be active for at least 1 hour each day. Through snack food preparation activities, participants identified various ways to include fruits and vegetables in daily eating. To help make their bones stronger, participants started eating foods high in calcium and including weight-decreasing activities even in their play. Eighty (80) percent of youth indicated that they were going to start ordering small-sized fries instead of large ones to help reduce fat in their daily diets.

Overall, participants gained (a) knowledge in principles of healthy and nutritious foods, (b) developed awareness of healthy food choices in real-life settings; (c) acquired skills in the preparation of quality safe foods, and (d) gained knowledge in the importance of daily physical activities in promoting health. The long term impact is that youth participants will be able to acquire nutritional and health knowledge with changed attitudes and behaviors that promote personal development and healthy habits.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Goal 3: *A healthy, well nourished population. Through research and education on nutrition and development of more nutritious foods, enable people to make health promoting choices.*

Extension Team Project 413: *Promoting Individual Health*

Overview: The objectives of this ETP are to: (a) increase awareness among racial and ethnic minority groups in Alabama about the risk factors of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, and cancer, and (b) educate this group on how to change risky behaviors that may reduce chronic health disorders. This group includes African American, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other underserved minorities. The strategies for accomplishing these objectives include facilitating health screening for early detection of health problems, providing culturally and linguistically relevant educational services, collaboration with other health organizations, and referrals to appropriate agencies.

According to the American Stroke Association, 2004, stroke kills nearly 164,000 people a year. That is about one in every 15 deaths. It is the number 3 cause of death behind heart disease and cancer. Thus, about every three minutes, someone dies of stroke. Through preventive measures, stroke rates can be lowered.

Alabama is among the top seven most obese states in the nation. It ranks 6th for heart disease, 9th for stroke, and 10th for diabetes. African Americans make up approximately 25% of Alabama's population and experience high rates of risk factors for heart disease and cancer and high heart disease and cancer death rates.

Data from the 2004 CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) indicate that approximately 28.4% of adults in Alabama are obese (BMI of 30 or higher), and an additional 34.8% of adults are overweight. Obesity and overweight are prevalent among all races, all adult age groups, and both genders. White males have the highest percentage of overweight (42.9%), however African Americans have the highest percentage of obesity (37.9% compared to 26.5% for Whites). After adjusting for age, the death rate rankings for obesity-related diseases in Alabama are among the highest in the nation.

African Americans are also more likely to have high blood pressure than Whites (38.3% versus 32.2%), and more likely to report having been told that they have diabetes than Whites (13.6% versus 7.1%).

In 2002, BRFSS data collected in 2000 indicate that African American women had higher rates of breast cancer screening (85.4%) than Whites (78.8%). However, they had a higher breast cancer death rate than Whites (29.9 per 100,000 compared to 25.9 per 100,000). African American women in Alabama had a higher cervical cancer death rate than white women (6.1 per 100,000 compared to 2.5 per 100,000).

Chronic diseases are not prevented by vaccines, nor do they just disappear. To a large degree, the major chronic disease killers are an extension of what people do, or do not do, as they go about the business of daily living. Health-damaging behaviors – in particular, tobacco use, lack of physical activity, and poor nutrition – are major contributors to heart disease, stroke, and cancer, the State’s leading killers. However, tests are currently available that can detect breast cancer, colon cancer, heart disease, and other chronic diseases early, when they can be most effectively treated. A key strategy for addressing these risk factors is to educate the individuals and families about the importance of prevention.

Description of Planned Program by Key Themes

Barbour/ Macon/Montgomery Counties

Key Theme – Human Nutrition

a. **Activities** – A TUCEP specialist developed a wellness program, “A Healthy Way to Lose Weight,” to teach adults how to take control of their health by making healthy choices. A similar program addressing the health needs of the youth was also implemented. The health and wellness program consisted of three (3) components: nutrition, exercise, and behavior modification. Each lesson was taught once a week for at least one hour and participants were provided an action plan to achieve various health goals (i.e., weight loss, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, controlling diabetes and improving overall health). Visual aids and food demonstrations were used to promote healthy lifestyle changes. In addition, exercise classes were offered twice a week to motivate participants to be more active. Classes were held in Barbour, Macon and Montgomery Counties. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Admiral Moorer Middle School, Steps to Healthier Alabama, (Southeast Region), and Project Export.

b. **Impact** – Wellness classes were provided to 63 adults and 17 youth. Although 21 adults dropped out of the program, the remaining 42 lost an average of 6 pounds each. This program not only raised participants’ awareness of the link between nutrition and disease but it also increased their knowledge on nutrition and health.

As a result of the class, 85 percent of the participants reported reading labels more and making healthier eating choices, like consuming more reduced fat and whole grain/fiber rich foods. Food diaries showed participants were making more effort to eat leaner meats, drink more water, and exercise often. Over 50 percent of participants reported engaging in exercise at least three times a week at home or at a gymnasium.

The health classes offered to the youth gave the participants valuable health information about conditions that are rapidly affecting people in their age group. Youth were taught how to make healthier vending machine choices and how to recognize foods with hidden fats. Food demonstrations gave participants healthy snack ideas and showed them how to prepare tasty and healthy snacks. Participants admitted drinking more water and choosing flavored water and diet soft drinks over regulars ones. Youth reported eating more fruits and vegetables as a result of the program.

As a result of the wellness classes for youth, the principal of the Admiral Moorer Middle School, Barbour County, asked if TUCEP could provide wellness classes for students once a week during the physical education classes. The Body Mass Index (BMI) of 641 middle school students was determined from their height and weight. Each student was taught how to calculate his/her BMI as well as plot the results. Students had to receive their parents’ permission to participate in the class. To date, over 60 students are participating in the classes.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Macon/Barbour/Bullock Counties

Key Theme – Human Health

a. **Activities** – Health education activities were conducted as health fairs at schools, nutrition sites, and community action centers in Macon, Barbour and Bullock Counties. The methodologies used in these activities included lectures, demonstrations, handouts, and physical fitness. The Health and Wellness Fairs provided participants with free health screenings for diseases. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Baptist Health, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Community Care Network, Macon County Retired Teacher’s Association, STEPS to a Healthier Alabama (River Region) Thomas Reed Ambulatory Care Center, Tuskegee Area Health Education Center, and Project EXPORT.

b. **Impact** – The Macon County Health Fair exposed over 150 youth and adults to reliable health information and gave them the opportunity to get free medical advice and health screenings to help diagnose, manage and/or improve existing illnesses. Participants could speak to health care professionals one-on-one, ask questions and pick up literature that explained different medical conditions. In addition, participants were made aware of the resources in their community;

health and wellness programs; and more affordable ways to purchase insurance, medicines, medical supplies and equipment. One hundred and seven (107 [84 females and 23 males]) people were screened for cholesterol, diabetes, and hypertension. Thirty-one (31 [22 males 9 females]) participants were screened for sickle cell, and the one participant who tested positive for that disease is receiving medical assistance and counseling from the Southeast Sickle Cell Association.

The Barbour and Bullock County Health Fair exposed 422 youth and adults to information on health and nutrition, thus increasing awareness as well as knowledge of the benefits of eating a balanced diet, the positive effects that fruit and vegetables have on the body, and exercising to maintain good health.

c. Source of Federal Funds – Smith-Lever 3d

d. Scope of Impact – State of Alabama

Barbour/Bullock Counties

Key Theme – Human Health

a. Activities – A three-pronged wellness program was conducted in Barbour and Bullock Counties. The first class focused on those with diabetes. The objective was to develop a better understanding of diabetes and control it through diet and exercise. The second class underscored practicing good health habits and the development of an action plan for weight loss and control. The third class was called “Helping Hand Support Group,” and was based on the principles of Overeaters Anonymous. The Helping Hand Support Group was provided counseling in the following areas: (a) behavior modification, (b) maintaining and managing the stressors of weight loss, and (c) stress management. The Support Group broadly focused on lapse, relapse, and collapse.

b. Impact – More than 150 participants attended the classes. Nearly 75 percent of those surveyed after completion of class indicated that they implemented immediate changes resulting from class attendance. The participants were made aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles, such as disease prevention, regular physical exercise, healthy weight, good nutrition and behavior modification. The greatest benefit for participants in the behavior modification class was focusing on dietary and exercise changes that lead to permanent weight loss.

c. Source of Federal Funds – Smith-Lever 3d

d. Scope of Impact – State of Alabama

Across Counties

Key Theme – Human Health

a. Activities – TUCEP specialists and agents participated in annual county fair, where educational campaigns on awareness and possible infection with HIV/AIDS, especially among

youth, were mounted. As part of this outreach effort, the campaign also visited high schools in some Black Belt Counties. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Alabama Comprehensive Council Coalition.

b. **Impact** – Youth became aware of the nuances of HIV/AIDS. Most of them expressed their willingness to practice safe lifestyles.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

SPECIAL REPORTS

Across Counties

Key Theme – Human Health (Reduction of Health Disparities)

a. **Activities** – Project EXPORT was implemented to facilitate the reduction of health disparities in Diabetes, Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, Infant Mortality, and HIV/AIDS in minority communities, especially the Black Belt. The Outreach and Dissemination Core focuses on educating underserved populations using a wide variety of delivery mechanisms such as workshops, seminars, health fairs, and the development and dissemination of culturally sensitive health material. Project EXPORT staff works closely with TUCEP specialists and agents.

Activities included: (1) Summer Health and Fitness Academy launched in the summer at three sites across the Alabama Black Belt. The Academy focused on educating youth, ages 10-13, on nutrition and fitness with the premise that healthy behaviors are formed early in life. The first site, Tuskegee University, was the only nonresidential site. The remaining two sites were residential due to the lack of accessibility of transportation in many of the rural areas. Each of the three camps lasted five days, culminating with a field activity that allowed the participants to use the knowledge obtained over the previous days of camp; (2) Power of the Pyramid Tour was sponsored by Project EXPORT and presented by the National Theatre for Children to fourteen (14) schools across the Alabama Black Belt Counties. This theatrical presentation focused on helping to eliminate the burden of childhood overweight and obesity; (3) educating the community on Mid-Wifery; and (4) sponsorship of community health fairs in Bullock, Macon and Montgomery counties. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: TU School of Nursing, National Theatre for Children, and County Health Offices.

b. **Impact** – Over 60 youth participated in the health and fitness academies. Overall, Participants gained knowledge and skills in healthy lifestyles, good nutrition, and fitness. Many of the participants indicated that they plan to change their lifestyles.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities; National Institutes of Health; Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Goal 4: *Greater harmony between agriculture and the environment. Enhance the quality of the environment through better understanding of and building on agriculture's and forestry's complex links with soil, water, air, and biotic resources.*

Extension Team Project 18G: *Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Education*

Overview: This Extension Team Project allows Extension to address a variety of critical educational needs in the areas of natural resources, water quality, and environmental management, including environmental justice issues. Natural resources and environmental education issues are neither race nor gender specific, yet they affect the lives of Alabamians across economic and rural/urban boundaries. The specific goals of this ETP are to increase environmental awareness and promote responsible environmental stewardship among Alabamians, as a whole, and in particular its rural minority population. A special emphasis is placed on youth and young adults in this target population. These goals will be accomplished by facilitating youth camps and workshops, home, and farm environment assessments, and community assistance/training sessions. Immediate to moderate measurable outcomes associated with this project include the number of home/farm environmental assessments conducted, the number of management plans written, and plans/practices adopted. Long-term outcomes focus on the increased natural resource educational base of targeted youth, the number of young adults choosing careers in natural resources and related areas, and the improved quality of area streams and watersheds.

Description of Planned Program by Key Themes

Lowndes/Wilcox Counties

Key Theme – Wildlife Management/Forestry Management

a. **Activities** – TUCEP specialists and agents were able to assist hunting groups with information relative to improving and enhancing wildlife. Agents also conducted one-on-one educational visits with individuals and hunting groups to assist with wildlife management (wildlife food plots). Work was also done in the area of forestry management – provided information on reforestation, thinning, prescribed burning, and cost-share programs. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Alabama Forestry Commission, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

b. **Impact** – Landowners and hunting groups indicated that they used the information they received to improve their wildlife operations through better management practices such as lease agreements, which resulted in increased incomes. Several landowners said that information received on forestry management practices was useful, and they increased the values of their lands.

c. **Source of Funding** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of impact** – State of Alabama

Sumter County

Key Theme – Natural Resources Management (Youth Forestry Camp)

a. **Activities** – TUCEP Extension specialists and agents worked together with a number of youth and youth groups discussing natural resources, water quality, and environmental topics, including career choices in the area of natural resources and agriculture. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, Alabama Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

b. **Impact** – Over 30 students from across the State of Alabama completed applications for the Extension Summer Youth Camp held at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives in Epes, Sumter County. A number of youth were exposed to and received information on careers in natural resources and agriculture.

The Forestry Camp is designed to teach basic forestry and natural resources concepts to youth age 15 and who have completed the 9th grade, but have not finished the 12th grade. Students are presented an opportunity to talk with university recruiters and job recruiters to learn more about the expectations of attending college or what types of jobs they can obtain with college degrees in Natural Resource disciplines.

c. **Source of Funding** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

***Goal 5:** Enhanced economic opportunity and quality of life for Americans. Empower people and communities, through research-based information and education, to address economic and social challenges facing our youth, families, and communities.*

Extension Team Project 5: Enhancing Citizens' Capacity to Transform Communities

Overview: Recent studies on the Black Belt continue to show persistent poverty in the region, as well as the need for a more comprehensive approach to economic well-being, including enhancing citizens' capacity through entrepreneurship and leadership development. This ETP has two tracks, Business and Individual Planning, and Individual and Leadership Skills Development. Anecdotal field data show that many small business owners in rural Alabama lack adequate skills, do not have business plans, or do not update their business plans regularly. There are individuals also who want to start businesses, but many times they do not start on the right footing because of a lack of "know-how" and subsequent lack of access to capital. Not only do residents of such communities need skills on business development, but they also require

current information on issues such as personal financial management, tax planning, and insurance planning that affect their daily lives. The Business and Individual Planning Track is intended to assist business owners with business planning, as well as help with other tools for sound decision-making. This track is also intended to equip individuals with tools for sound personal decision-making, especially, financial and long-term planning.

Additionally, there is the need to teach and constantly update the leadership skills of leaders and residents in rural Alabama. The communities need effective leadership to extricate them from their problems. The objective of the Individual and Leadership Skills Development is to enhance the leadership capacity of individuals, organizations, and community leaders by providing them with requisite skills in leadership. The focus is on sharpening leadership skills, organizational development, and building resources.

The target audiences are adults, agricultural clientele, non-agricultural clientele, and community leaders and officials. Our aim is to reach “hard-to-reach” audiences. With better business and individual skills come better productivity, and with better leadership comes better communities. TUCEP got involved in these types of activities because of the constant requests for such help from community groups and individuals. The intended outcomes are to: (1) improve business, leadership, and individual skills of community residents and leaders and (2) make community organizations more efficient and effective in their operations. It is also hoped that skills acquired will be applied in everyday activities in the local communities.

Description of Planned Program by Key Themes

Dallas/Lowndes/Wilcox/Barbour/Bullock Counties

Leadership Training and Development

a. **Activities** – Leadership development workshops were conducted in rural communities over a three-year period in order to strengthen the effectiveness of community based organizations and their programs as well as empower others to assume leadership roles. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship, Selma/Dallas County Veterans Transitional Homes, Dallas County Children Policy County, Fatherhood Initiative Program, and other local groups.

b. **Impact** – Over 500 leaders emerged from the leadership workshops, which was about 20 percent of the individuals trained. The workshops impacted four major community organizations, and these are discussed in turn below.

The first organization is the Sardis Churches Unity Fellowship (SCUF). It was incorporated in 2003 as a provider of at-risk youth and other social services. From its existence, this group’s impact has not only changed the lives of the students who attended tutorial sessions, but also increased the number of students graduating from the local high school. SCUF’s territory has expanded from the Sardis Community to include the Minter, Selmont, and Selma areas. Each year, over 1,040 students attend tutorial classes during the school year. Students’ evaluations, which are based on pre and post test scores show 97 percent success rate of the program. Each

summer over 120 students attended a 6-week Enrichment Camp. SCUF has over 450 volunteers that work faithfully year round with at-risk youth and adults.

In 2006, SCUF expanded its program to include a Food Bank. Over 1,057 socially disadvantaged families received food once a month from this distribution center.

The second organization is the Selma/Dallas County Veterans Transitional Home, Inc. (VTH). It re-organized its Board of Directors after receiving leadership training. The focus of this group is housing for the homeless. VTH's re-organization led to the development of the Black Belt Homeless Coalition (BBHC), which comprised local social service agencies that work on homeless issues. The BBHC members are: Mental Health, SABRA Sanctuary, Red Cross, Selma Air, George Wallace Community College, City of Selma, Dallas County Housing Authority, Dallas County Emergency Management Association, United Way, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities, and others. The BBHC hosted the first Continuum of Care Conference in Dallas County in 2006. BBHC covers six counties: Dallas, Perry, Wilcox, Lowndes, Marengo, and Sumter. The leadership workshops have resulted in increased collaboration among agencies. At present, the Board is awaiting approval from HUD for its HUD Management Information System. This system will help track all homeless individuals in the area in order to assist help them obtain housing.

The third organization is the Dallas County Children Policy Council. This was developed under the District Court System. The Children Policy Council is comprised of several local service agencies. The main goal of the Policy Council is to supply services to the needy by way of referrals. Its ultimate goal is to develop a one-stop Family Service Center to provide services to needy families. Out of this group has emerged the Teen Court, which allows youth to administer sentencing to their own peers in the courtroom. Prison Ministries and Mentoring Program works with incarcerated individuals helping them to transform their lives and preparing them for re-entry into society. The impacts of this Council have led to the reduction of crime in the inner-city, less youth violence in schools, and an improvement in social service delivery.

The fourth organization is the Fatherhood Initiative Program (FIP). This emerged out of the Children Policy Council. FIP is designed to work with non-custodial parents to help increase child support. But, FIP is so much more than that. Through the District Child Support Court, FIP receives court ordered referrals. These referrals are non-custodial fathers who are not in compliance in with paying their child support. Once they enter FIP, they are enrolled in the Fatherhood Curriculum with two components. The first component is called, "Quenching the Fathers Thirst." This component is designed to help fathers learn how to be good role models for their children. The second component is called, Short Term Skills Training." This helps the non-custodial parents gain workforce skills to enter into the job market. Over 157 individuals were referred to the FIP in 2006. The Department of Human Resources reported an increase in child support collected.

The FIP received a \$35,000 grant from the Children Trust Fund. Eight (8) facilitators have been trained to teach the Fatherhood Curriculum, and three (3) of those facilitators have received HIV/AIDS training, and four FIP centers opened in 2006. FIP partnered with DHR and Head

Start to conduct programs throughout a six-county area and the FIP now has six (6) part-time workers.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Barbour County

Key Theme – Children, Youth, and Families at Risk

a. **Activities** – TUCEP agents worked with youth and adults at the Barbour County Community Learning Center on a program called, “The Round Two Program.” This program is divided into two parts. Part one is an eight-week custom-designed curriculum for each participant. During the first class, an assessment is made of each participant to determine the levels of basic academic skills, before training begins. Training includes promoting self-confidence and competence, better money management, career planning, and goal setting. Part Two covers topics such as self-esteem, and job search and retention. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Barbour County Community Learning Center.

b. **Impact** – A survey of participants revealed that participants’ awareness of goal setting, interpersonal management, and employment was increased. This type training helps to empower at-risk youth and adults to become more productive and fully functioning citizens of the communities in which they live and work.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Key Theme – Conflict Management

a. **Activities** – The need for anger management/conflict resolution was requested from the leadership of the Boys and Girls Club of Barbour County. An eight- week training program was conducted on conflict management. Participants learned that anger is a normal, natural aspect of human emotions. In our modern society with high stressed environments, opportunities for anger do arise, and few individuals are immune to angry outbursts. Participants were provided information and materials intended to improve their attitudes and behaviors regarding: conflict management, problem anticipation, proactive planning, and making better choices. Also, participants were taught the top five ways that anger interferes with one’s life.” They are: (a) embarrassment, (b) wasted time and energy, (c) friendship problems, (d) bad things occurring, and (e) anger kills softly. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Boys and Girls Club of Barbour County.

b. **Impact** – More than 160 participants attended the classes. Participants learned techniques necessary for controlling their anger, and ways of resolving conflicts. Based on employees’

observations, the number of reported fights and conflicts at the Boys and Girls Club decreased significantly, and behavior patterns improved.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Bullock County

Key Theme – Jobs/Employment

a. **Activities** – TUCEP agents worked with the Bullock County Health Department Career Technical Center on career development for youth and young adults in health careers and occupations. The Center offers a curriculum and course entitled “Health Science Continuum” which includes internships for the participants. The course content was delivered primarily through individualized study. This process includes career-related skills, healthcare systems, communications, and emergency skills in pharmacology. Internships focus on specific healthcare professions. Participants were advised to consider how the choices that they make today could affect their future. Examples of such choices given were: unwanted pregnancy, AIDS, venereal diseases, failing grades, failure to complete high school, too many absences, negative attitudes, trouble with the law, alcohol or drug abuse, and violence and abuse.

Participants took part in an activity during Red Ribbon Week (October 23-30, 2006). Health Science students performed in a play entitled, “A Path Taken.” Also, students partnered with Deep South Cancer Control Network to host a Purple Brunch to honor cancer survivors. Each participant took part in the 2006-2007 Open House sponsored by Trenholm Technical College in Montgomery, Alabama. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Bullock County Health Department Career Technical Center.

b. **Impact** – Participants were encouraged to utilize their most outstanding talent, and show how they plan to use it upon completion of high school. They learned the first step in preparing for a career is to get the necessary education and training required for the career. They learned that some careers require a high school diploma or GED, a trade or technical school certificate, an associate degree, and some require a four-year college/university degree.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Greene County

Key Theme - Promoting Housing Program

a. **Activities** – Two 10-week educational training classes were conducted on credit and financial management. Pre and post assessments were made as well as hands-on and one-on-one counseling in financial management. Topics discussed included: how to avoid predatory loans,

credit requests, distribution of credit, money smart, fair debt, resolving complaints, and paying one's self first. Cooperating Institutions/Organization: Greene-Sumter EC/EZ Development Program, USDA/Rural Development Agency, Community Service Rural Housing Project.

b. **Impact** – Thirty-three (33) Greene/Hale County residents attended the classes. As a result of the training, the participants followed the criteria for credit management given to them, and were able to complete applications go through the interview process, create home money management systems, and agreed to pay themselves first.

Fifteen (15) participants applied and qualified for the Katrina Relief Funds through the USDA Rural Development Housing Service at \$15,000.00 per individual with no pay back—debt free. One participant was qualified for a loan in the amount of \$95,000.00 to obtain a new home through the local USDA Rural Development Housing. One participant qualified for \$7,000.00 in grant funds from the local West Alabama Community Service Programs. Nineteen (19) participants followed recommended practices, and they were able to obtain assistance from the local agencies involved in this process.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

SPECIAL REPORTS

Lowndes/Wilcox Counties

Key Theme – Community Resource Development (Wil-Low Dollars for Scholars)

a. **Activities** – The Wil-Low Dollars for Scholars Community Foundation is a volunteer organization. It is an affiliate chapter of the National Dollars for Scholars, established in 1994. The purpose is to expand the educational opportunities of students from Lowndes/Wilcox Counties by raising funds for scholarships and awarding scholarships on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to deserving students.

Over eleven years, a number of fundraising activities have been conducted to increase the Foundation's scholarship fund. Board members and volunteers work together to accomplish this goal. Annual events include: Annual Walk-A-Thon and the Souvenir Awards Booklet/Awards Program.

Board members for the Foundation are very much interested in the success of the recipients, and they keep abreast with their progress through academic reports provided by recipients and surveys. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Several local organizations.

b. **Impact** – Dollars for Scholars Community Foundation awarded 21 scholarships to graduating seniors from both high schools in the area, Central and Calhoun, for the year 2006. Funds were

secured through various fund raising activities through community involvement. Scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$500.00-\$1,000.00.

Over 193 scholarships have been awarded over eleven years. A large number of the student have completed higher education and are currently in the workforce in many different careers. A number of the recipients are currently employed in the professional workforce of Lowndes County.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Macon County

Key Theme – General Community and Economic Development

a. **Activities** – The Annual Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit was held on the Campus of Tuskegee University at the Kellogg Conference Center. The theme for the Summit was, “Growing Small Business Asset Building Partnerships for the New South.” Topics discussed included: the basics on individual development accounts and financial stability; federal and other government procurement opportunities; asset building programs and coalitions; asset building, tax preparation and credit programs; and grant opportunities for community development in rural areas.

b. **Impacts** – More than 200 business owners, community leaders, leaders of nonprofits, and other individuals as well as students participated in the Summit. Participants gained knowledge and networked at the summit. Overall evaluation indicated that participants enjoyed the Summit (80 percent strongly agreed; 10 percent agreed) and plan to attend the Summit in the future (75 percent strongly agreed; 12 percent agreed).

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – USDA Agencies; Department of Energy

d. **Scope of Impact** – Participants from the State, Southeast, and the nation gained knowledge and new information as well as networking relationships which will help them in their endeavors.

Extension Team Project 33b: *Alabama Entrepreneurial Initiative (AEI): Strategy for Workforce Development*

Overview: This Extension Team Project is a catalyst for workforce development in the Alabama Black Belt, and it attempts to build a systematic approach involving youth, adults volunteers, Alabama citizens, and Cooperative Extension in an entrepreneurial education initiative. The objectives of AEI are to: (a) provide youths and adults exposure to a variety of entrepreneurial curriculums, programs and models for teaching and/or conducting an entrepreneurial education project, (b) allow participants to examine on-going programs and

curricula that emphasize entrepreneurial education and encourage partnering with local businesses to enhance entrepreneurial skills, (c) engage participants in experiential “hands-on-learning” activities related to exploring entrepreneurship education, thus expanding their knowledge of entrepreneurial career options and entrepreneurial leadership skills, and (d) explore the development of entrepreneurship education and its impact on economic development as well as its interaction with workforce development.

Description of Planned Program by Key Themes

Montgomery County

Workforce Preparation – Youth and Adult

a. **Activities** – TUCEP specialists and agents conducted two six-week Entrepreneurial Training Workshops were conducted with at-risk youth enrolled in the GED program at the Occupational Industrial Center (OIC) in Montgomery. The bi-weekly training allowed students to complete the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship curriculum. This curriculum consists of learning activities focused on basic finance, business planning, the legal structure of a business, market research and maintaining financial statements. The students developed a business plan, conducted market research, and competed in business plan presentations.

b. **Impact** – Seventy-five (75) students participated in the workshops. The students formed an on-going basket making business, “Connie’s Hearts.” They made and sold baskets during special events and holidays. The social and economic value of the program is that the students better understood the workings of our economic system and the importance of business development in their local communities. Teachers reported improvements in the student’s knowledge outside of classroom in the areas of mathematics, leadership, public speaking, and interpersonal relationships. When compared to students not attending the entrepreneurial training workshops, the entrepreneurial students had a greater completion rate for completing their GEDs.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith-Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

Sumter County

Workforce Preparation – Youth and Adult

a. **Activities** – TUCEP specialists and agents conducted Mini-Society workshops to youth. Mini-Society is a curriculum developed by the Kauffman Foundation. This instructional system allows students ages 8-12 to acquire skills in entrepreneurship, citizenship and economics. The curriculum was implemented at York West End Junior High School Campus of Discovery during the Summer Enrichment Program held June 12-July 14, 2006.

b. **Impact** – Sixteen (16) students learned techniques for setting and achieving personal goals. The students demonstrated measurable increases in their understanding about citizenship, the workforce, entrepreneurship, ethical and political problems as well as decision-making, cooperation and team building.

Teachers reported noticeable changes in the students' motivation, creativity, and sense of self-directedness. A highlight of this training was a student run carnival to raise money for a trip to Disney World. As a result of the carnival and donations, the student's trip to Disney World became a reality. The students were able to reduce the cost of their trip from \$250 per student to \$100 per student.

c. **Source of Federal Funds** – Smith Lever 3d

d. **Scope of Impact** – State of Alabama

REPORT ON THE STAKEHOLDERS INPUT PROCESS

Actions taken to seek stakeholders input include continuous involvement with local Extension and State Extension Advisory Council members, local leaders, elected officials, and others groups as described in the Plan of Work. In fact, Tuskegee University Cooperative

Extension Program continues to strengthen its relationship with the various interest groups in the communities in which it serves and throughout the State of Alabama.

The State Advisory Council has a diverse representation, and it is organized into the following committees: (a) agriculture assistance, (b) community economic development, (c) leadership and volunteer development, (d) family life development and food safety, (e) nutrition, diet, and health, (f) water quality and environmental education, (g) entrepreneurial and youth development, and (h) the legislative committee. Also, the Leadership Team travels to each field unit to seek input from the local area—listening sessions, forms, needs assessments, and surveys. Input from stakeholders is sought at each of Extension’s annual events, such as the farmers’ conference and the Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit.

Each local County Extension Unit has PAC Committees. These committees assist in program planning, implementation, and evaluation for the individual county. Also, PAC Committees identify issues of local concern in which Extension has committed itself to address. These committees assist in short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals for the Annual Plan of Work.

The local and state advisory councils are made up of a committed staff of lay and professionals that team up with the administrator, specialists, and agents to advise, plan strategies to implement, deliver, and evaluate its program to meet the needs of the people served and improve a better quality of life.

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS

Tuskegee University initiated the Extension Team Project in 1998. Each Extension Team Project focuses on specific problems to be solved in the area, and TUCEP Advisory Council members and/or other groups/members are at liberty to participate in any and all of its programs.

TUCEP is in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent acts to provide educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, veteran status, disability, or national origin.

Program and Civil Rights Compliance Reviews are conducted annually in selected counties. TUCEP has updated its Program and Civil Rights Compliance Review Process to reflect changes made in the latest *Civil Rights Compliance Review Guide, Extension Programs*.

EVALUATION OF THE MULTISTATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Program Participates in two multistate extension activities, and are described under Goal 2 – A Safe and Secure Fiber System. They are: (a) HACCP, and (b) Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).