

Mutually Beneficial Partnerships

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Why mutually beneficial partnerships?

 Religion/Philosophy – e.g. Golden rule

 Money/Resources/Power

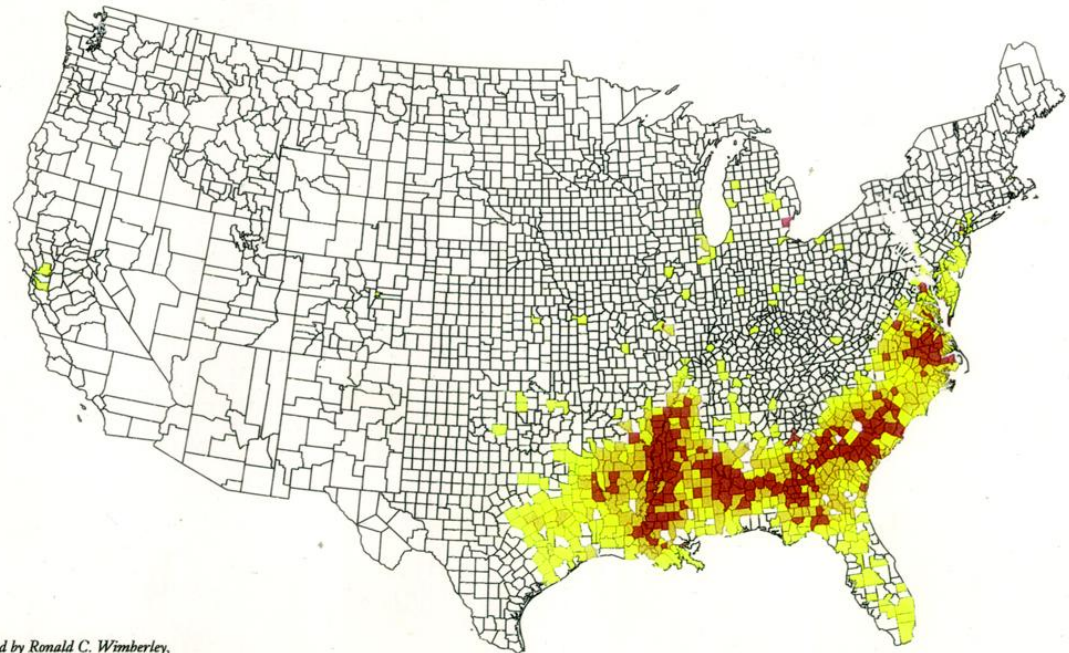
 Service to Society

 Foster Positive Change/Achieve specific goals - simple vs. complex problems

 Support/Feedback/Health Benefits– Less anxiety/ less stressful

Southern Food Systems Education Consortium (SOFSEC): A Successful Partnership Model

Map 1. The Black Belt: Black Population in U.S. Counties



Compiled by Ronald C. Wimberley,
Libby V. Morris, and Douglas C. Bachtel
from 1990 U.S. Census, STF-1A data.

SOFSEC Universities

Alabama A & M
Alcorn State
Florida A & M
Fort Valley State
North Carolina A & T
Southern U. & A & M College
South Carolina State
Tuskegee
U. Arkansas at Pine Bluff

1993 → 2003

Six → Nine Members

WKKF → Self Sustaining

Institutional Change & Capacity Building — K-12-University Partnerships
Sustainable Food & Agricultural Systems — Community & Economic Development

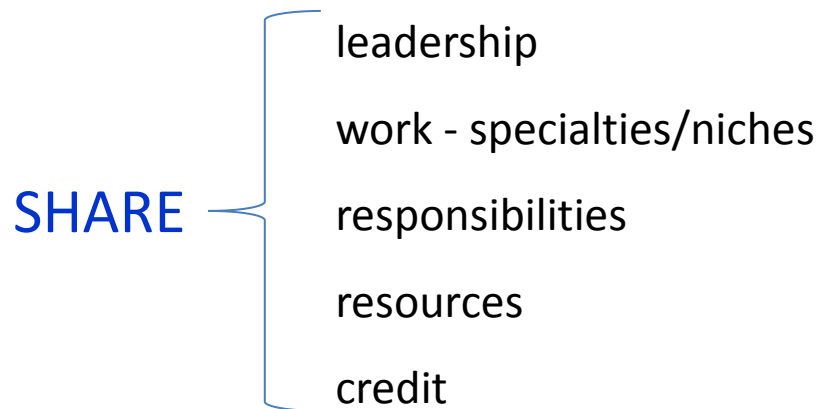
Lessons Learned/Values

- ✓ Share Credit and Resources
- ✓ Negotiation/Diplomacy/Communication – talk it through
- ✓ Boldness and Courage – A real requirement
- ✓ Do It For Others – Not self interest driven only
- ✓ Highly Value the Community Base
- ✓ Persistence/Staying Power
- ✓ Build Trust – Give (You Will Receive)
- ✓ Prayer Works

AALGA

Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA)
Alabama A & M University, Auburn University, Tuskegee University

Principles



- Leverage Strengths
- Minimize duplication
- Communicate with stakeholders
- Communicate with each other
- Optimum service to the public

AALGA

Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance (AALGA)
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- Shared Commitment ([MOU signed by Presidents and Deans of Agriculture](#))
- [Funded By the State Legislature as a separate line Item](#)
- Supported by Commodity and Agriculture Groups
- Supported by the Black Caucus
- Supported by House and Senate Leadership
- Supported by the Citizens of Alabama - [Voted Yes \(State-Wide\)](#) for AALGA facilities)

AALGA

- Matching Funds for 1890s Fully Met
- Administration – Deans Committee, Rotating Chair, Executive Secretary
- Faculty Task Groups Are Funded
- Lessened long-term tensions between 1890s and 1862s
- Not Court Mandated –Volunteered
- Funds Go directly To Each University via Alabama Commission on Higher Education

The Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance
The AALGA REPORT
 Alabama A&M University – Auburn University – Tuskegee University
 Issue #1, October 2002



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Introducing AALGA

New Directions for Alabama agriculture

The Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance is a shared commitment on the part of agricultural researchers and administrators at Alabama A&M, University, Auburn University, and Tuskegee University to find new and better ways to respond to the needs of the people of Alabama and the agriculture that is a large part of our state's economy. While some joint research projects were already being carried out, it is clear that a more formal alliance could facilitate more effective joint efforts. Having multi-faceted expertise and resources in an administrative and programmatic responsibility on the most critical needs of Alabama, this AALGA was formed in June, 2002 through a memorandum of understanding.

The role of AALGA is to facilitate cooperation among the research faculty at the three universities. We will create a shared working commitment that in its various AALGA functions through thematic areas and research clusters working as a committee, and through working faculty task groups. We'll monitor funding through the Alabama Legislature. AALGA will be a private seed money to help initiate new research projects get started. See mission statement page 6.

In its first two years, AALGA facilitated two joint preference research projects. A conference on industry access in rural areas related to the need and opened on conditions necessary to achieve "equal access" for all Alabamians. This project is now being carried on by a separate inter-university organization, the Alabama Consortium Forum. A response on the concept and practice of sustainable agriculture was held in early 2002 for formal needs. page 21. Currently, faculty task groups are tackling critical agriculture-related problems that affect rural and urban areas. The

major issues being addressed are water quality, waste management, small farms and community-based agriculture, and food quality and safety.

Water Quality
 Alabama is a comparatively water-rich state, and plentiful fresh, clean water is one of its assets for agriculture and rural people but for urban developers, industry and tourism. The AALGA water quality task group is focusing on developing better ways of assessing and managing water quality, especially in regard to possible agricultural impacts. Members of this group include Dr. Charles E. Boyd, Auburn University; Dr. Gerald C. Starnes and Dr. John Beggs, Alabama A&M University; and Dr. Rurildy Arisanaik, Tuskegee University.

Waste Management
 Improperly handled animal waste can be a threat to water quality as well as to human health. The AALGA waste management group is working to develop better waste handling methods and to find new ways to convert wastes into useful economic products. This group includes Dr. James S. Burton, Dr. Wes Wood, Dr. Chastity Fair and Mr. Ted Jones of Auburn University; Dr. Zolton Sirov and Mr. Dennis Wynn of Alabama A&M University. See www.aalga.org.



Many Gateway Center Map Month research centers with county, state, and a poultry enterprise, and new poultry farm at Tuskegee. Also center Agri World and other centers, including soil and water, and Agri World (see story, p. 22).

The Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance
The AALGA REPORT
 Alabama A&M University – Auburn University – Tuskegee University
 Issue #12, September 2005

Ag Energy News

It's too early to know exactly how much the new Federal Energy Bill will stimulate bioenergy development or help farmers in Alabama, but interest is certainly growing rapidly. A new biodiesel plant at Moundville in Hale County is expected to be producing Alabama biodiesel soon, helped by a grant from the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries. Mark Hall, regional extension agent in Madison County reports having met with oil distributors interested in biodiesel in both north and south Alabama, and a group of Alabama and Tennessee farmers and others are looking into building an ethanol plant in the Decatur area.

ADECA will be announcing a new round of ag energy demonstration grants shortly, and is planning a 2nd annual ag energy conference in Auburn November 9. For information, contact Kathy Horsley at: Kathy@ADECA.state.al.us.

One Energy Bill item not getting as much publicity as biofuels but could help farm families save on long-term electric power costs is a 30% tax credit for homes or businesses installing solar electric or solar hot water or heating systems.

Invasive species, new crops, bioenergy, rural development, and more

New AALGA Research Projects Focus on Important Alabama Needs

Nine new research projects addressing a variety of needs identified as important for Alabama's rural and urban citizens were announced after a meeting of the AALGA executive committee in Montgomery on August 18th. All projects employ the combined expertise of scientists from all three of Alabama's land-grant universities. Issues being addressed: *coping with invasive plants, development of a medicinal plants enterprise in the Black Belt, biofuels development, value-added castoffs, diversified agro-forestry industry, improved safety and quality of small farm food products, development of infrastructure for water-harvest based irrigation research, and improving food safety in rabbit meat processing.*

Competition among faculty of the three Universities was intense, as 31 proposals for AALGA-facilitated research projects were received. AALGA provides relatively modest seed grants that allow faculty to undertake research of special relevance to Alabama that might not otherwise find funding. Faculty teams are also expected to establish a knowledge base enabling them to attract additional funding from Federal or non-governmental sources with which to further advance their research.

In addition to the nine new research projects, three previously funded projects were authorized to continue through the coming year. Ongoing projects include research on developing innovative wastewater treatments in the Black Belt area, determining nutrient requirements and nutritional values of Alabama-grown fruits and vegetables (see "Research Aims at Consumer and Farmer Benefits," page 5), and determining how interplay of natural, cultural, social, political, infrastructural and financial factors contribute to successful community development in rural Alabama.

New projects announced:

- **Developing Strategies and Tools for Control of Cogongrass**
 Cogongrass has become one of Alabama's most troublesome invasive plants. To be successful, cogongrass control measures must be based on knowledge of its biological characteristics and growth habits. This research will provide the important scientific knowledge needed, focusing especially on soil fertility requirements and the relative importance of seeds and roots in spread of cogongrass.

Farm Bill Forum Held at Tuskegee

After welcoming remarks by Tuskegee University President Benjamin E. Payne, USDA chief Mike Johnson (see story in *News Alert*) held a three-hour 2007 Farm Bill listening session at Tuskegee University's Kollege Center. Over 500 farmers and others attended, and some 350-600 offered comments on USDA programs. Congressman Art Davis (see story in *News Alert*) and spoke briefly on the need to support farm families and evaluate poverty in the region. Congressman Mike Rogers (right) also attended part of the session. See story, starting on back page.



The Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance
The AALGA REPORT
 Alabama A&M University – Auburn University – Tuskegee University
 Issue #13, December 2005

Ag Energy News

Participants in the 2nd annual AALGA Ag Energy Conference in Auburn last November generally agreed that most forms of bio-energy are now competitive with fossil fuels, and several remarked that fossil fuel depletion rates are making it more urgent to find alternative and renewable energy sources. Auburn University's Dr. David Bransby cited a recent DOE/USDA study concluding that the US could use biomass to meet more than one-third of the current demand for transportation fuels with only modest changes in land use and farming and forestry practices (see www.eere.energy.gov/biomass/pdffiles/14billton_vision_report.pdf).

Other presentations included advances in energy efficiency in aquaculture and poultry production, on crop energy savings through precision agriculture, and a review of biofuel initiatives in Alabama—including the news that Alabama now has a fully operating biodiesel facility, the Alabama Biodiesel Corporation plant in Moundville.

Conference presentations are available at the ADECA website: www.edeca.state.al.us/COAg/Initiatives/2005Energy/2005Efficiency/default.aspx, or call Kathy Horsley at 800-392-2222.

State school food policy calls for fresh Alabama produce

Farm to School – What's the Potential for Alabama Farmers?

Over 50 million lunches and about a third as many breakfasts—that's how many meals Alabama school serve to children during the school year. It's a lot of food, and makes up a large part of the total nutrition intake of our children. Making sure that these school meals are nutritionally sound and healthy is very much in the public interest, especially since Alabama children and adults consistently rank at or near d top in nationwide obesity studies, and obesity can be a leading factor in development of heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, cancers, and gall bladder disease.

Fortunately, the nutritional quality of Alabama school meals should soon be greatly improved. new school food policy adopted by the state Board of Education last July calls for each school system to develop a strategic plan for improving the nutritional quality of both cafeteria meals and vending in chine offerings by April 1, 2006. The policy statement not only requires that school meals conform to USDA dietary guidelines for children and adults (for example limiting fat to less than 30% of calories but calls for steps such as "reducing the number of fried foods and pre-prepared items," and "increase the whole grain options, having one percent or less fat milk as the standard beverage, and increasing fruit and vegetables, preferably using freshly grown Alabama produce."

Just how serious the intent of the Board of Education is may be indicated by another stipulation that "schools may not use CNP (Child Nutrition Program) funds to purchase new fryers for the school breakfast/lunch programs." The policy is available on the state Department of Education website: www.aalga.edu/html/education/edcoments.ap/edcoments5369over-revision.

Of particular interest to the agricultural community, of course is the suggestion of "preferably using freshly grown Alabama produce." Fulton Perry, child nutrition programs administrator at the Alabama Department of Education, confirms that the Department will do its best to help school kitchen managers and nutrition program directors offer more Alabama-grown produce, and points out

Continued on page 2
 At Opelika's Northside School, kitchen manager Victoria Edwards, center, took a break from supervising the morning line to pose with Bryan Robinson, age 11, and Shawanquana Beatty, age 10, as they enjoy the school's annual Thanksgiving dinner. Following fresh collard greens and sweet potatoes along with the usual turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, Madame Perry, Child Nutrition Programs Director for Opelika schools, has been a leader in providing high quality, nutritious school menus consistently featuring fresh fruits and vegetables.



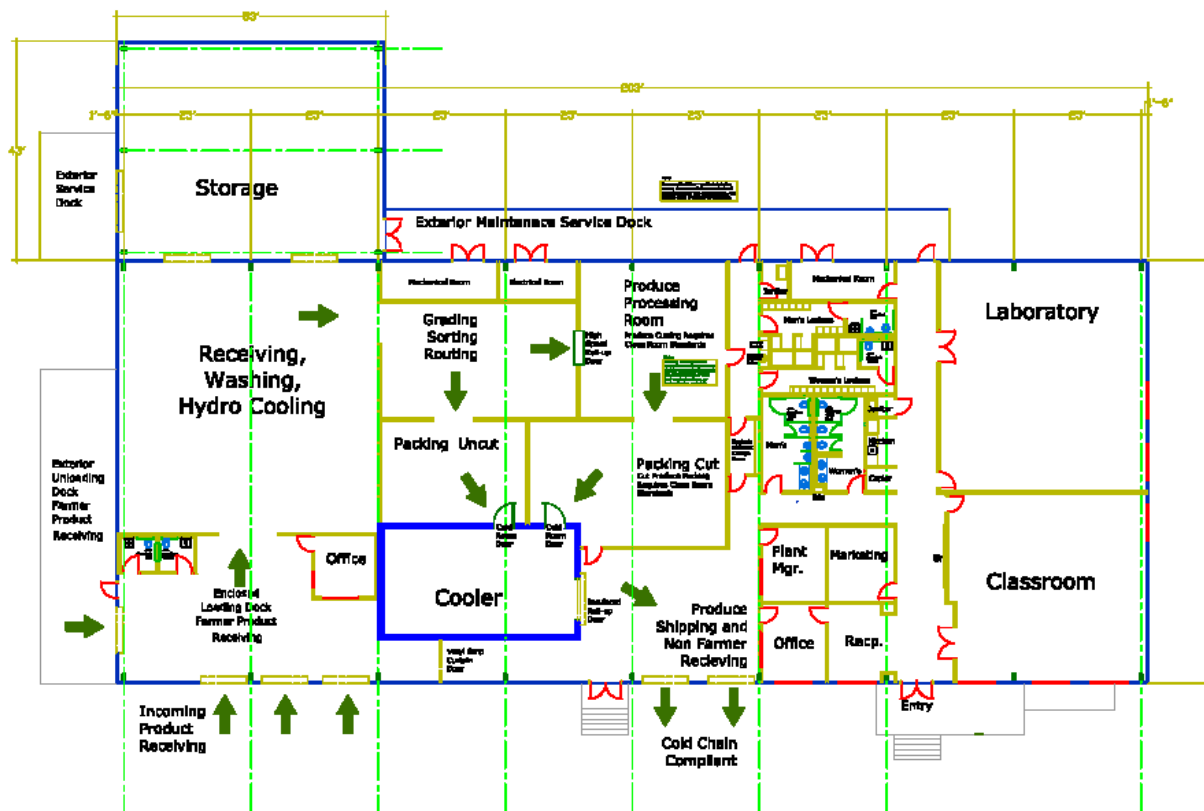
AALGA

- Budget has Grown Each year (11% FY10-11)
- Shared McIntyre-Stennis federal and state matching funds*
- Sustained through multiple leadership changes - (6 Deans/Directors - 9 Presidents)
- On-going vehicle for New Opportunities

AALGA



Alabama Governor's Black Belt Commission - Agriculture Committee



Black Belt Family Farm Fruit and Vegetable Market Center

Selma, Alabama

Agricultural Marketing Service 
FEBRUARY, 2010 FIDEL DELGADO AIA

This design sketch is not for construction and is provided as a service by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. Final design work must be completed by a qualified local building professional in accordance with local and state assessment, rules and regulations for building construction. All work must comply with local and state building codes, ordinances, and regulations.