2013 Regional Food & Farm Forum: West Alabama

Hosted by:
The Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network
Alabama Rural Heritage Center – Thomaston, AL
Friday, September 13

8:30 – 9:00am  Registration
9:00 – 9:40am  Welcome and introductory speakers
9:40 – 9:50am  Break
9:50 – 10:30am Roundtable discussion (session I)
10:30 – 10:40am Break
10:40 – 11:20am Roundtable discussion (session II)
11:20 – 11:30am Break
11:30 – 12:10pm Roundtable discussion (session III)
12:10 – 12:30pm Break, lunch is served
12:30 – 1:30pm  Lunch + Roundtable discussion (session IV)
1:30 – 1:45pm  Break
1:45 – 4:00pm  Hands-on afternoon sessions
Roundtable Discussion Topics:

* Your suggestion:
Passionate about a topic that you don't see here? Put it on the agenda and make it happen! Put a sticky note on the large, posted agenda with the topic title and your name as the facilitator, and assign yourself a table!

Session I (9:50—10:30am):
Table 1) Small Hands on the Plow: Teaching Kids about Growing Food  
Facilitators: Lindsay Turner (Druid City Garden Project) and Rose Hill (Women and Youth in Ag)
Table 2) Food Safety and Traceability, Regulations and Policies  
Facilitator: Kristin Woods (ACES)
Table 3) Thinking Perennially: Fruit and Nut Trees, Perennial Grains, Herbs, and More  
Facilitator: Jason Powell (Petals from the Past)
Table 4) High Tunnel Production  
Facilitators: Victor Khan (Tuskegee University)
Table 5) Tying Together The Whole Farm System (grow your own feed, recycle waste into fertility, etc.)  
Facilitator: Jodie Powell (Sweet Home Organics)
Table 6) Your suggestion*
Table 7) Your suggestion*
Table 8) Your suggestion*

Session II (10:40—11:20am):
Table 1) Culinary and Medicinal Herbs, Teas, and Flowers  
Facilitator: Susan Horn (Mockingbird Farms)
Table 2) Young and Beginning Farmers: Ushering in the Next Generation  
Facilitators: Andrew Williams and Keisha Turner-Abrahams (Deep South Food Alliance)
Table 3) Story Circle: Gifts and Challenges of Rural Southern Communities  
Facilitator: Jim Ewing (National Center for Appropriate Technology [NCAT])
Table 4) Seeds and our Genetic Future  
Facilitator: Steven Liverman (UWA Black Belt Garden)
Table 5) Birds for Meat and Eggs: Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Quail, etc.  
Facilitator:
Table 6) Your suggestion*
Table 7) Your suggestion*
Table 8) Your suggestion*

Session III (11:30am—12:10pm):
Table 1) Selecting Crops to Decrease Pests/Diseases and Increase Profits  
Facilitator: Jason Powell (Petals from the Past)
Table 2) Direct Marketing – Getting the Most Out of Farmers Markets, CSAs, and more  
Facilitator: Margaret Ann Snow (Snow's Bend Farm)
Table 3)  Filling in the Gaps: Unfilled Business Niches in Local, Sustainable Food  
Facilitator: Andrew Williams (Deep South Food Alliance)

Table 4)  Good Food as the Foundation for Good Health  
Facilitator: Yawah Awolowo (Mahalah Farms) and Al Johnson (Camden National Bank)

Table 5)  Cottage Foods and Value Added Products  
Facilitator: Victor Khan (Tuskegee University)

Table 6)  Your suggestion*
Table 7)  Your suggestion*
Table 8)  Your suggestion*

Session IV (Lunch, 12:30am—1:30pm):
Table 1)  Food Preservation and Fermentation  
Facilitator: Yawah Awolowo (Mahalah Farms)

Table 2)  Story Circle: Intersections of Land, Race, History, and Culture  
Facilitator: 

Table 3)  Scaling Up – Accessing and Growing For Wholesale Buyers  
Facilitators: Victor Khan (Tuskegee Univ.) and Andrew Williams (Deep South Food Alliance)

Table 4)  Story Circle: Farming, Food, and Spirituality  
Facilitator: Jim Ewing (National Center for Appropriate Technology [NCAT])

Table 5)  It Takes a Village: Community Gardens  
Facilitator: 

Table 6)  Your suggestion*
Table 7)  Your suggestion*
Table 8)  Your suggestion*

A few starter ideas for alternative topics:  
Beyond Vegetables: Organic Grains, Meat, Wines and More  
Honeybees and Other Pollinators  
Building a Movement: Grassroots Leadership Development  
Telling Our Story – Culture and Agriculture in the Digital Age  
Water Access and Water Quality  
Cooperatives and Collaborative/Bulk Buying and Selling  
Improving Access to Healthy Food For All  
Increasing Farm Profits with Agritourism – tours, special events, u-picks, B&B's  
Connect to Capital: Funding Opportunities for Farms and Food Businesses  
Forestry and Sustainable Building  
The Real Cost of Food  
Farming in an Age of “Weather Weirding”  
Business Planning and Management, Taxes, and Recordkeeping  
Hydroponics, Aquaponics, and Aquaculture  
Small-Scale and Alternative Dairying  
Grow Your Own Clothes: Fiber Farming  
Energy Sustainability  
Good Food and Social Justice  
Wild Foods, Foraged Foods, and Mushrooms  
Reaching New Customers – advertising, Facebook, coming up with a pitch, etc.
Hands-on Afternoon Sessions (1:45-4:00pm)

1) Introduction to Deep South Food Alliance
   Virtual Tour of DSFA’s Food Hub in Linden
   *Led by Andrew Williams and Keisha Turner-Abrahams (DSFA)*

2) Overview of Insect Pests and Innovative Management Methods
   Tour of Trap Cropping Demo Plots
   *Led by Ayanava Majumdar and Willie Datcher (ACES)*

3) Tour of Rural Heritage Center's Crop Plots
   Discussion of How to Grow Consistently for Market on Just 1/10 Acre
   Optional Work Session:  Planting in Plasticulture and Planting Hoop House Crops
   *Led by Curtis Wilson (TUCCA), Trylon Williams (TUCCA), and Victor Khan (Tuskegee University)*

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