

*Honoring our past.
Cultivating leadership.
Sustaining the future
through the
Land-Grant Mission.*



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

84TH ANNUAL

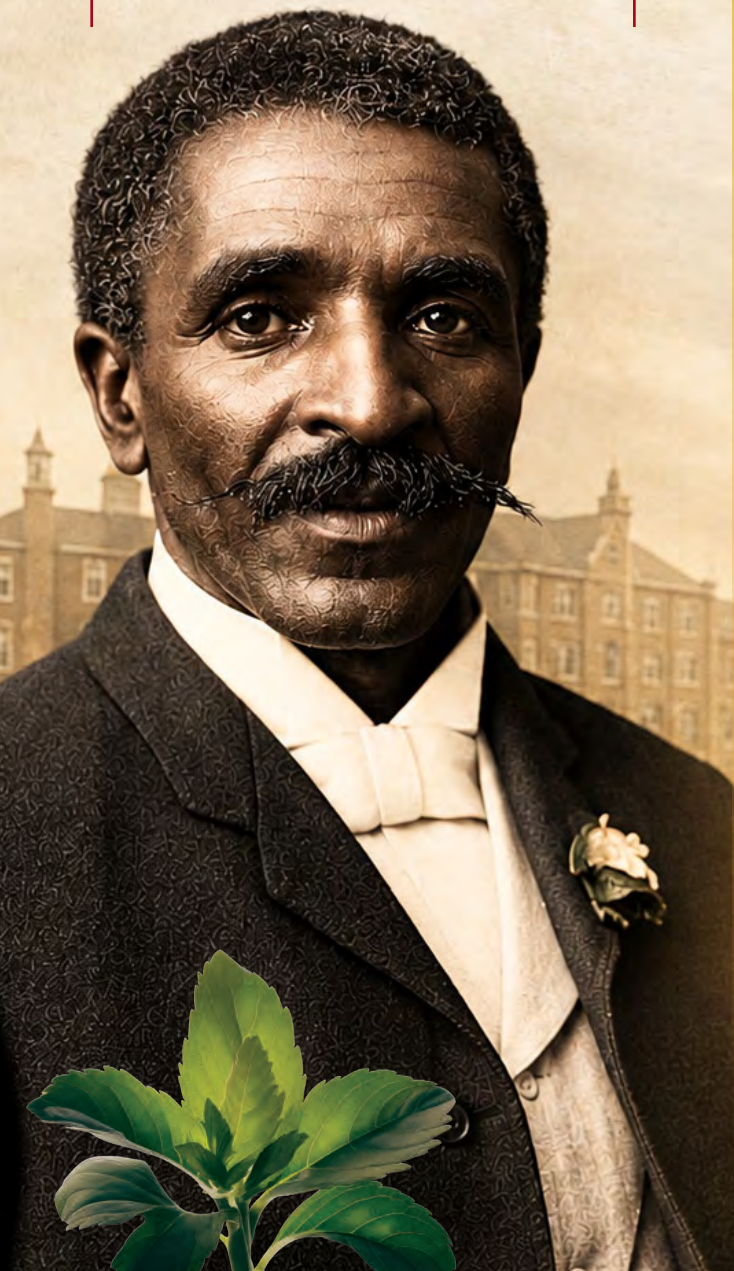
PAWC

**PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS CONFERENCE**

EMPOWERING AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

**DEEP ROOTS:
RICH YIELDS.**

*Leadership, Legacy, and the
Land-Grant System*

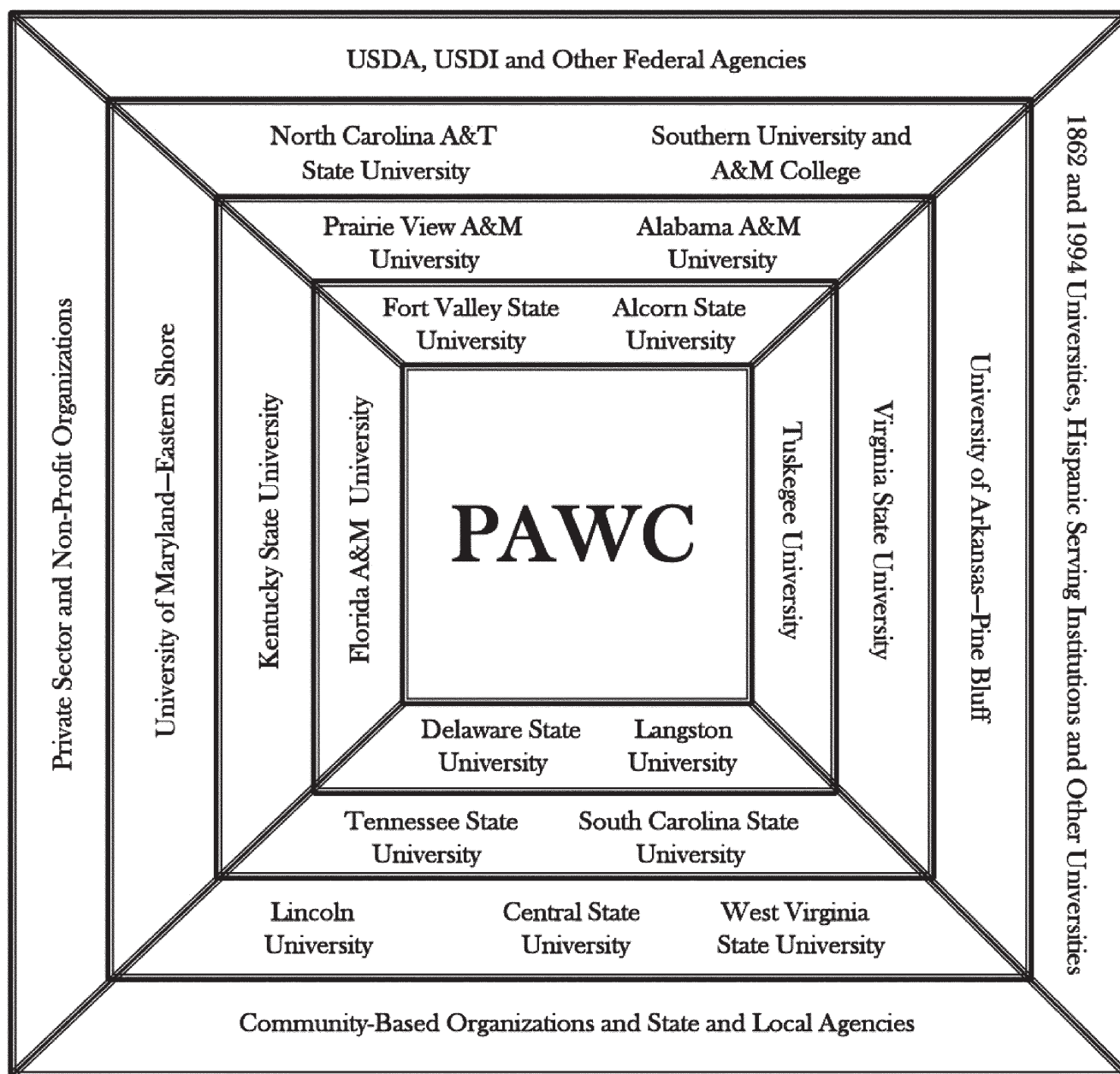


CAENS

October 25-27, 2026

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa
201 Tallapoosa Street, Montgomery, AL
www.pawc.info | [#pawc2026](https://twitter.com/pawc2026)

PAWC VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS



VISION

The Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) is a forum committed to a world that values and promotes equal opportunity and equitable access to information and technology for the sustainable development of communities and natural resources.

MISSION

To enhance the skills and contributions of agricultural and related professionals (business, government, university, and community professionals) involved in discovering, disseminating, and using emerging technologies, information, problem-solving, policy formulation, and strategy development for advancing people and communities.

HISTORY OF THE PAWC

The Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) was initiated by Booker T. Washington in 1894. It actually evolved out of Washington's reaction to the success and excitement of the first Farmers Conference in 1892. Dr. Booker T. Washington was so pleased with the first Farmers Conference's success that he made it an annual activity of the institution. According to Allen W. Jones, "The second conference in February 1893 was attended by some 800 persons representing almost every section of Alabama and the South. In 1894 and 1895 the attendance increased to over 1000 and by 1898 the attendance exceeded 2000. Because of growing attendance, Washington held a two-day conference in 1894. The first day was the Farmers Conference, and the second day was the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference, which was composed of teachers from Negro institutions of higher education in the South."

Over the years since 1894, the conference has expanded, institutional priorities have shifted, and the socio-economic dynamics of rural people and agriculture have changed, leading to a variety of changes in the second-day portion of the annual conference. Some of these changes included: (1) Women's Conference, (2) Farm and Home Short Courses, (3) Fat Cattle Show and Sales, (4) other specialty activities for the benefit of rural people. One other major activity in the evolution of the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference occurred in 1941 when the professional agricultural workers who were attending the Tuskegee Negro Farmers and Workers Conference scheduled a special session designed to deal more fundamentally with the causes and solution to rural people and farm problems. This then represents the renewal of the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference under the guidance of Mr. L. A. Potts, Dean of the School of Agriculture, and Dr. L. J. Washington of the USDA, which continues to function as a major outreach activity of the University. The Professional Agricultural Workers Conference began in 1942 mainly with Tuskegee University and local and state support and participation. It is now national in scope, including representatives from the national land-grant community and from the state, federal, and private sectors.

From: *The Role of Tuskegee University in the Origin, Growth, and Development of the Negro Cooperative Extension System: 1881-1990*. B.D. Mayberry (1989), Tuskegee University, AL, pp. 139-140.



A Message from the 84th PAWC Advisory Board

On behalf of the 84th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) Advisory Board, it is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to Montgomery, Alabama, and Tuskegee University.

For more than eight decades, PAWC has served as a distinguished forum for bringing together researchers, educators, Extension Professionals, farmers, ranchers, students, policymakers, community-based organizations, small businesses, and agricultural leaders to exchange knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and address the evolving challenges and opportunities facing agriculture. As we convene for the 84th PAWC, we extend our sincere appreciation to our distinguished speakers, presenters, 1890 and 1862 Land-Grant Universities, government partners, and conference participants. Your dedication, expertise, and continued support are essential to PAWC's success. As you participate in this year's conference, we challenge you to think boldly, collaborate intentionally, and identify practical strategies that transform research, teaching, and outreach into actionable solutions. Together, we can cultivate the next generation of agricultural leaders, strengthen communities, and support farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for being part of the 84th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference. May your experience be inspiring, productive, and filled with opportunities to make a lasting impact.

With warm regards,
The 84th PAWC Advisory Board
October 25 – 27, 2026



HONORING OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS, AND PARTNERS

The 84th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference proudly recognizes our supporters, sponsors, and partners for their generous support and commitment to advancing agricultural research, education, and outreach.

PLATINUM PLUS SUPPORTER

 **United States Department of Agriculture**
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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PARTNERS

 **National Institute of Food and Agriculture**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This work is supported by Tuskegee University's Entrepreneurship and Agricultural Innovation Training Program for Veterans and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, [2024-49400-43635], from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture

PARTNERS



"Everyone should see this."



The Legacy Museum

On the site of a cotton warehouse where enslaved Black people were forced to labor in bondage, the Legacy Museum tells the story of slavery in America and its legacy through interactive media, first-person narratives, world-class art, and data-rich exhibits.



The National Memorial for Peace and Justice

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is a sacred space for truth telling and reflection about racial terrorism and its legacy. The memorial honors the more than 4,400 Black people killed in racial terror lynchings between 1877 and 1950.



Freedom Monument Sculpture Park

The new Freedom Monument Sculpture Park honors the lives and memories of the 10 million Black people who were enslaved in America and celebrates their courage and resilience. Breathtaking art and original artifacts invite an immersive journey and provide a unique view into the lives of enslaved people.



Montgomery Square

Montgomery Square is dedicated to the Montgomery decade that changed the world. From 1955 to 1965, Black residents in Montgomery stood up with incredible courage and determination, sparking a global movement that changed the world. Deeply-researched narrative content, moving works of art, and first-person narrative films bring the story of this decade to life.

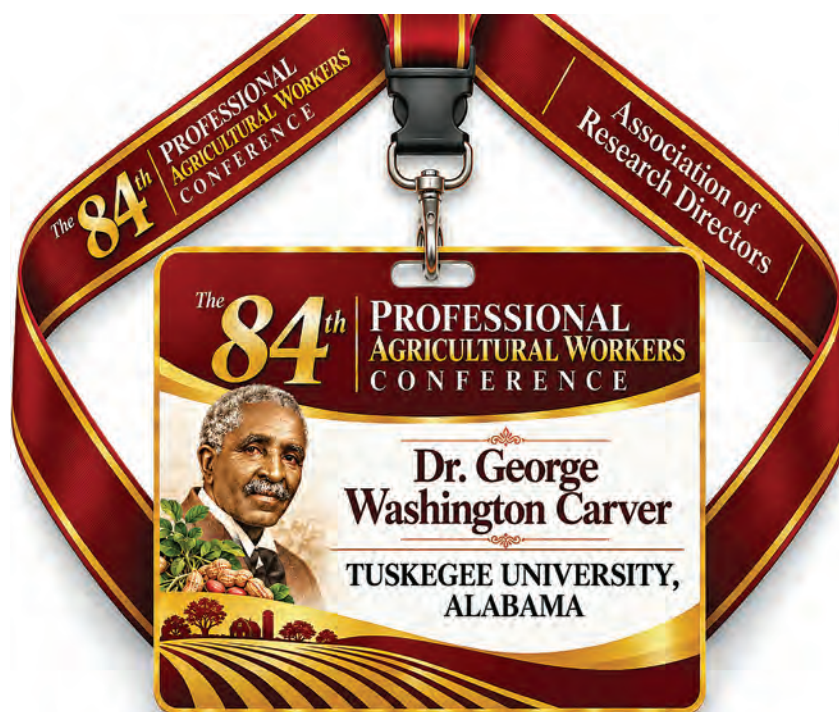
Plan your visit at legacysites.eji.org

**Show your PAWC badge for
FREE entry to the EJI site.**

PAWC VIP ACCESS

Cultivating Connections Starts with Your BADGE!!

Wear your 84th PAWC conference badge proudly as we come together to advance agriculture, leadership, and collaboration!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa | Montgomery, Alabama

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	PAWC Registration	Renaissance Montgomery - Convention Center Registration Desk
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Legacy Museum & national Memorial for Peace Tour (on your own) Your PAWC Badge is your ticket	EJI Historic Sites
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Student Competition Informational Meeting	Montgomery 7
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm	PAWC Professional Networking *Professionals only*	PAWC Hospitality Room

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa | Montgomery, Alabama
 Tuskegee University | Tuskegee, Alabama

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
6:15 am – 8:00 am	PAWC Registration	Renaissance Montgomery -Convention Center Registration Desk
6:30 am – 7:15 am	Student Competition- Breakfast	Renaissance Montgomery - Alabama A & B
7:30 am	Bus Departs the Renaissance to Tuskegee	Renaissance Montgomery – Tallapoosa Street
8:30 am – 8:45 am	GSD Student Competition Check-In	Tuskegee University- Kenney Hall 
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Tomorrow's Agricultural Professional Symposium - High School Program	Tuskegee University – Henderson Hall 
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	GSD Student Competition	Tuskegee University Kenney Hall 
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Legacy Museum & National Memorial for Peace and Justice Tour (on your own) – https://legacysites.eji.org Your PAWC Badge is your ticket.	EJI - Montgomery
11:00 am – 3:00 pm	Tomorrow's Agricultural Professional Symposium – Collegiate	Tuskegee University – Henderson Hall 
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	PAWC Exhibitor Check -in & Setup *Please check in prior to setting up*	Renaissance Montgomery Exhibitor Registration Desk & Concourse ALL
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	PAWC Registration Desk	Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center Registration
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	PAWC Exhibit Hall Opens	Renaissance Montgomery Concourse All
3:30 pm – 4:45 pm	PAWC Student Meet n Greet *Student Presenters & Advisors Only*	Renaissance Montgomery - Alabama A & B
6:00 pm	Doors Open for the 84 th PAWC Opening Banquet	Renaissance Montgomery Exhibit Hall A
6:00 pm – 6:25 pm	Feel the Music with World-Renowned Saxophonist Trey Daniels - Part I	Renaissance Montgomery- Exhibit Hall A
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	84 th PAWC Opening Banquet	Renaissance Montgomery Exhibit Hall A
8:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Feel the Music with World-Renowned Saxophonist Trey Daniels - Part II	Renaissance Montgomery- Exhibit Hall A
9:30 pm – 11:30 pm	PAWC Professional Meet & Greet	Hospitality Suite

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa | Montgomery, Alabama

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00 am – 11:45 am	PAWC Registration	Convention Center Registration Booth
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast * Breakfast will end promptly at 8:00 am	Exhibit Hall A
8:00 am – 9:45 am	84 th PAWC Opening Session	Exhibit Hall A
9:45 am – 10:00 am	Break & Visit with Exhibitors	Exhibit Hall Foyer
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions I	See Below
Session 1	Recent Advances & Useful Strategies for Enhancing Viable Small Ruminant Enterprises	Riverview 1
Session 2	Beyond the Harvest: Connecting Local Producers to Markets and Supply Chain	Riverview 2
Session 3	Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Applications – Part I	Riverview 3
Session 4	84 th Theme: Deep Roots, Rich Yields: Leadership, Legacy & and the Land – Grant Mission	Riverview 4
Session 5	Rooted in Sustainability: Empowering Communities Through Ecological Education and Urban Forestry	Riverview 5
Session 6	Weather Predictions, Disaster Preparedness and Response: Translating Research into Information that Communities Can Use	Riverview 6
Session 7	Unlocking Local Economic Potential – Building Businesses & Developing Communities	Riverview 7
Session 8	Small Steps, Healthier Lives: Moving, Breathing, and Creating for Diabetes Prevention	Riverview 8
Session 9	Building Your Brand & Social Media Presence with Cowgirl Candance	Montgomery 7
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm	PAWC Advisory Board Meeting (closed session)	Montgomery 4
12:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch on your Own	

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
12:15 pm – 3:00 pm	PAWC Tour of the EJI Legacy Sites *Your PAWC badge is your ticket*	EJI Legacy Sites
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Special Screening - Harvest X	Montgomery 5
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions II	See Below
Session 10	Healthy Plants, Resilient Farms, Managing Disease, Rainfall, and Changing Growing Conditions	Riverview 1
Session 11	Beyond the Farm Gate: Building Profitable Meat Enterprises	Riverview 2
Session 12	Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Applications – Part II	Riverview 3
Session 13	Cultivating Innovation, Empowering Leaders: Advancing Entrepreneurship Through Mentorship and Community Partnerships	Riverview 4
Session 14	USDA Updates & Review of Programs and Services	Riverview 5
Session 15	Preserving the Legacy: Understanding the Origins of Heirs' Property & Alternative Pathways to Proving Ownership	Riverview 6
Session 16	Beyond the Surface: Advancing Shellfish Restoration and Microbial Diversity Research	Riverview 7
Session 17	Powering the Future: Land-Grant Universities & Regional Economic Transformations	Montgomery 5
4:00 pm – 6:15 pm	PAWC Registration & Help Desk	Renaissance Convention Center Registration Desk
5:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Cultivating Connections: Celebrating New Roots Networking Reception & Small Business/Farmer Showcase Sponsored by National Black Food & Justice Alliance	Alabama A & B
5:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Visit with the Exhibitors	Concourse All
6:00 pm	Doors open for G.W.C. Hall of Fame Banquet & Dr. Ulysses Washington Sr. (Delaware State University) Awards & Memorial Banquet	Exhibit Hall A
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	G.W.C Hall of Fame Banquet	Exhibit Hall A
9:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Networking Session	Hospitality Suite

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa | Montgomery, Alabama

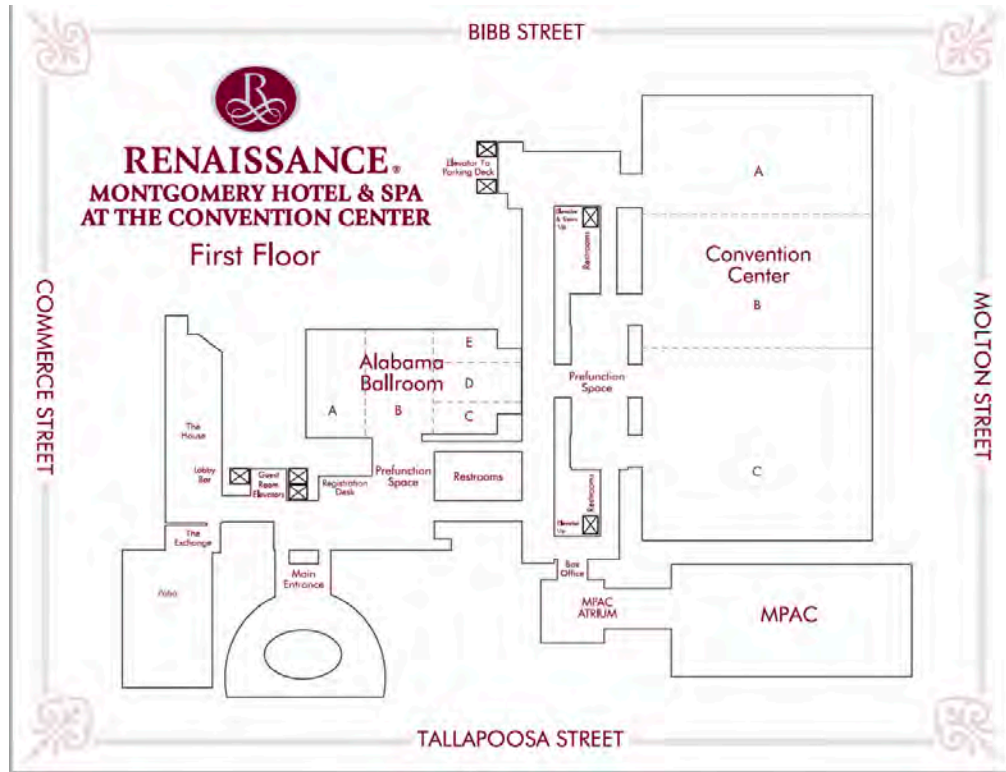
AGENDA AT A GLANCE

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast *Breakfast ends at 8:00 am*	Exhibit Hall A
7:30 am – 11:00 am	PAWC Registration	CC Registration Booth
8:00 am – 9:30 am	The Owusu Bandele Memorial Plenary Session	Exhibit Hall A
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Break & Visit with the Exhibitors	Exhibit Hall A
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Session III	See Below
Session 18	Advancing Organic Agriculture in the Southeast: Soil, Pest, Human Health Challenges, and Market Opportunities	Riverview 1
Session 19	From Pasture to Plate: Navigating Beef Markets, Processing, and Food Supply Resilience	Riverview 2
Session 20	Small Spaces, Big Opportunities: Adaptable Growing Systems for Food Security	Riverview 3
Session 21	Special Interest Meeting	Riverview 4
Session 22	Weathering the Future: Research Innovations in Ozone Exposure, Drought Forecasting and Agricultural Resilience	Riverview 5
Session 23	The Power of Storytelling: Sharing Knowledge, Gathering Insights, and Transforming Food Systems	Montgomery 5
12:15 pm – 2:00 pm	L.A Potts Success Stories Luncheon	Exhibit Hall A

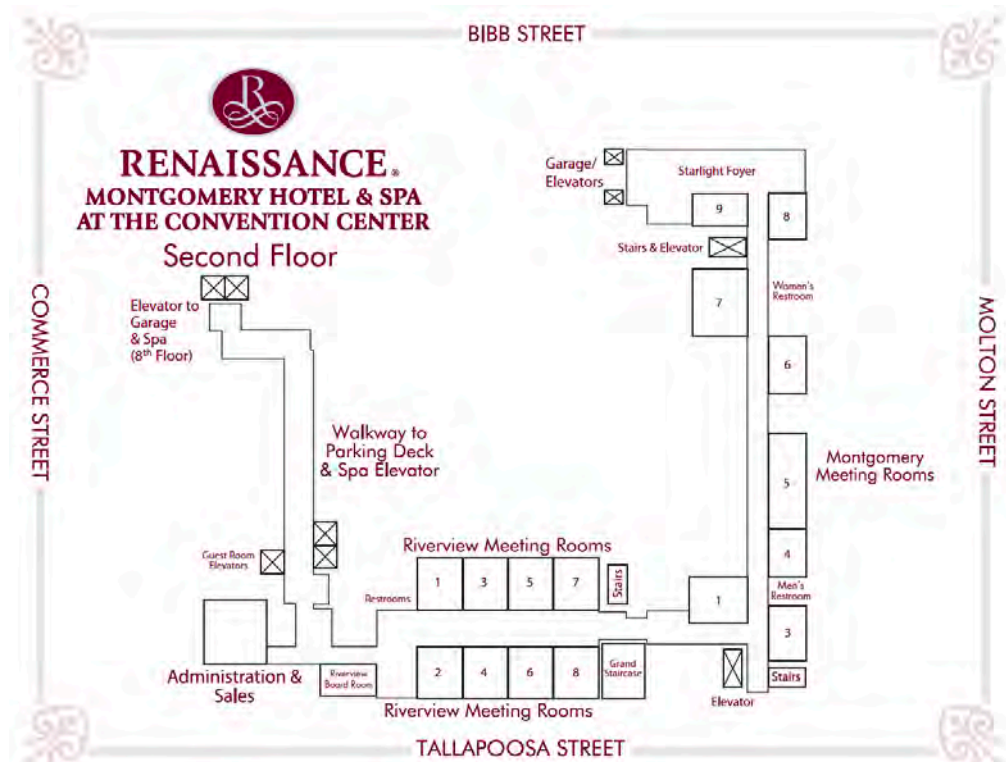
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Closes & Breakdown	Exhibit Hall A
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Professional Poster Set up	Alabama A & B
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Concurrent Session IV	See Below
Session 24	Advancing Food and Nutrition Security through Artificial Intelligence	Riverview 1
Session 25	Innovative Agroforestry and Improved Livestock Farming Practices: Voluntary Participation of Farmers and Incentives	Riverview 2
Session 26	Preserving the Land, Protecting the Legacy: Navigating Legal and Cultural Challenges of Heir's Property	Riverview 4
Session 27	Building & Sustaining Our Legacy: Challenges and Future Opportunities on Forested Properties	Riverview 5
Session 28	Environmental Issues	Riverview 6
Session 29	Reconsideration of Value: Three Structural Reforms the 2027 Farm Bill Could Address	Riverview 8
Session 30	From Metabolomics, Cardiovascular Risk Factors, Obesity, and Hypertension Prevention	Montgomery 4
Session 31	Center of Excellence – Emerging Technologies	Montgomery 7
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm	Professional Poster Presentation & 84 th PAWC Sign off Celebration Break	Alabama A & B
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Special Screening of Harvest X	Montgomery 5
9:00 pm – Until	PAWC Networking Session	PAWC Hospitality Room

RENAISSANCE MONTGOMERY HOTEL & SPA AT CONVENTION CENTER

First Floor



Second Floor



LET'S CONNECT!



The 84th PAWC will be using WHOVA as the official mobile app. Use the Whova app to plan your conference experience, stay updated on the latest news, view summaries of each presentation, view your schedule, submit evaluations, ask questions, and more!

Instructions for Using the Whova App

1. Download the WHOVA app from the App Store
2. Enter the email address you used for event registration
3. Create a password and type in your name
4. Create an account if needed
5. Click on the link that was provided or search for the 84th Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC)
6. Create or edit your profile. You will be able to connect with other participants via the app.



NETWORK: **RENAISSANCE**

PASSWORD: **PAWC2026**

PAWC Bus Schedule



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

Trip	From	To	Departure Time
1	Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center – Front Entrance	Tuskegee University – Kenney Hall 	7:30 AM
2	Tuskegee University – Kenney Hall 	Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center -- Front Entrance	1:00 PM
3	Tuskegee University – Kenney Hall 	Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center	3:30 PM
4	Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center- Front Entrance	Tuskegee University BTW Statue 	10:00 PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

Trip #	From	To	Departure Time
1	Tuskegee University BTW Unveiling Statue 	Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center	6:45 AM
2	Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center Front Entrance	Tuskegee University – BTW Statue 	9:30 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

Trip #	From	To	Departure Time
1	Tuskegee University BTW Unveiling Statue 	Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center	6:45 AM
2	Renaissance Montgomery Convention Center Front Entrance	Tuskegee University – BTW Statue 	6:30 PM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026

7:00 am – 8:00 am

Breakfast – Exhibit Hall A

Breakfast will end promptly at 8:00 am

7:00 am - 11:45 am

PAWC Registration Desk- CC Registration Booth

8:00 am - 9:45 am

Deep Roots, Rich Yields:

Leadership, Legacy, and the Land-Grant Mission Artistic Expression

Written by James Brady, OmniGro

Presiding: Ronald Howell, Virginia State University

Invocation: John Williams, USDA-APHIS (Retired)

Greeting & Welcome from Tuskegee University: Mark A. Brown, Tuskegee University

Greeting and Welcome from Tuskegee University. College of Agriculture, Environment, & Nutrition Sciences: Olga Bolden-Tiller, Tuskegee University

Introduction of Special Guest: Melvin Carter, USDA- NIFA

Special Guest: Devon Westhill, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights

Stretch Break (5 minutes)

- **Introduction of Keynote Speaker:** Larry Holmes, *USDA NRCS (Retired)*
- **Keynote Speaker:**

Rev. Dr. Heber Brown, III, Black Church Food Security Network



Reverend Dr. Heber M. Brown, III has been a catalyst for personal transformation and social change for more than twenty-five years. For nearly fourteen years, he served as pastor of a Baptist church in Baltimore, where he saw and experienced firsthand the impacts of food apartheid. This experience inspired him to launch the Black Church Food Security Network, which advances food security and food sovereignty by co-creating Black food ecosystems anchored by nearly 300 Black congregations, in partnership with Black farmers and other food justice stakeholders. He serves on numerous boards, including Bread For The World, Black Farmer Fund, and Future Harvest. Rev. Brown has garnered numerous awards and is the author of the forthcoming book, Nothing More Sacred: Radical Stories Of Black Church Faith, Food and Freedom.

- **Introduction of Special Guest:** Tasha M. Hargrove, *Tuskegee University*

Cowgirl Candace

Candace Morrow, known as Cowgirl Candace, is a fourth-generation farmer, rodeo cowgirl, and international award-winning journalist. Based in Georgia's Black Belt Region, she's carved a digital storytelling enterprise that reimagines agriculture and outdoor adventure. She's pioneering today's online economy, connecting her farm heritage and Southern culture authentically to today's major brands and celebrity campaigns. Follow her on IG @thecowgirlcandace to experience her land and legacy story.



- **Recognition of Sponsors** – Tasha Hargrove, *Tuskegee University*
- **Closing Remarks & Conference Announcements** – Tasha Hargrove & Karen Craig, *Tuskegee University*

9:45 am – 10:00 am Break & Visit with Exhibitors – Exhibit Hall A

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Concurrent Session I

Concurrent Sessions I

SESSION	MEETING ROOM	TITLE
1	Riverview 1	Recent Advances & Useful Strategies for Enhancing Viable Small Ruminant Enterprises
2	Riverview 2	Beyond the Harvest: Connecting Local Producers to Markets and Supply Chain
3	Riverview 3	AI Farms Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Applications – Part I
4	Riverview 4	84 th Theme: Deep Roots, Rich Yields: Leadership, Legacy & and the Land – Grant Mission (SS)
5	Riverview 5	Rooted in Sustainability: Empowering Communities Through Ecological Education and Urban Forestry
6	Riverview 6	Weather Predictions, Disaster Preparedness and Response: Translating Research into Information that Communities Can Use
7	Riverview 7	Unlocking Local Economic Potential – Building Businesses & Developing Communities
8	Riverview 8	Small Steps, Healthier Lives: Moving, Breathing, and Creating for Diabetes Prevention
9	Montgomery 7	Building Your Brand & Social Media Presence with Cowgirl Candace

Meeting Room - Riverview 1

Session 1: Recent Advances and Useful Strategies for Enhancing Viable Small Ruminant Enterprises

Moderator: Ralph Noble, South Carolina State University

Presenters:

- Integrated Strategies for Viable Small Ruminant Enterprises
Uma Karki, Tuskegee University
- Recent Advances in Controlling Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Goats
Byeng Min, Tuskegee University
- Least-cost Supplemental Strategies for Profitable Year-Round Animal Production
Nar Gurung, Tuskegee University
- Animal Welfare as a Business Strategy: Linking Welfare, Productivity, and Profitability
Chuck Okere, Tuskegee University
- Value-Added Marketing of Small Ruminant Products through Small Processors & Local and Regional Outlets
Derris Burnett, Tuskegee University

Meeting Room - Riverview 2

Session 2: Beyond the Harvest: Connecting Local Producers to Markets & Supply Chains

Presenters:

Moderator: Desmond Mortley, Tuskegee University

Part I: Strengthening Postharvest Education Through Stakeholder-Guided Resource Development

- Kristin Woods, Tuskegee University
- Kenisha Gordon, Tuskegee University
- Shecoya White, Tuskegee University
- Lucy Asare-Baah, Tuskegee University

Part II: Closing the Gap: Aligning Food Production with Consumer & Institution Demands

- Factors Associated with Agrifood Supply-Chain Involvement in West Virginia
Saman Herath Bandara, West Virginia State University
- Demand for Locally Grown Fruits and Vegetables from Small Independent Grocery Stores in Kentucky
Siddhartha Dasgupta, T.G. Shittu, and S. Sarr, Kentucky State University

Meeting Room – Riverview 3

Session 3: AI Farms - Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Applications – Part I

Moderator: Rui Chen, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Lessons from AI Farms and the Next Five Years
Vikram Adve AI FARMS National AI Institute and Donald Gillies University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Developing High-Throughput Phenotyping Tools for
Gregory Bernard, Tuskegee University
- High-throughput Extraction of Canopy Traits for Crop Improvement
Andrea Eveland, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
- AI FARMS: A Collaborative Vision

Meeting Room - Riverview 4

Session 4: Deep Roots, Rich Yields: G.W.C. Legacy & Creating A Path to A Sustainable Future

Moderator: Zeila Wiley, Kansas State University

Presenters:

- George Washington Carver as an Essential Pathway to a Sustainable Future
Jim Embry & Jennifer Bailey, Systems Transformation Partnership
- Rebuilding the “Tuskegee of the West”
Curtis Pitts, Kansas Industrial and Educational Institute of Topeka
- George Washington Carver’s Legacy: Becoming Imagineers for a Sustainable Future
Jim Embry, Systems Transformation Partnership

Meeting Room - Riverview 5

Session 5: Rooted in Sustainability: Empowering Communities Through Ecological Education and Urban Forestry

Moderator: Iris Cole – Crosby, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff

Presenters:

Part I: Community- Based Environmental Education: Teaching & Learning through Urban Forestry, Gardens, & Sustainable Agriculture

- Christina Hylton, Dominique Lowe, Askia Hylton, and Kelli Floyd, Regenerative Institute of Community Education (R.I.C.E.)

Part II: Reimagining Ecological Education at HBCUs: A “How-To” Approach to Experiential Learning Programming and 4DEE Module Development

- Rashidah Farid-Tilghman, Ashley Wiseman, & Brianna Smith, Tuskegee University

Meeting Room – Riverview 6

Session 6: Weather Predictions, Disaster Preparedness and Response: Translating Research into Information That Communities Can Use

Moderator: Souleymane Fall, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- (1) Advancing Resilient Agriculture Through Improved Weather Predictions & Extreme Preparedness
Gamal El Afandi, Tuskegee University
Jadwiga Richter, NSF National Center for Atmospheric Research
- (2) Producer Voices in Disaster Recovery: Using Photo Voice to Inform Agricultural Resilience
ChaNae' Bradley, Fort Valley State University
- (3) Updates from the 1890 Extension Disaster Education Network Advisory Group
William Hodge, Tuskegee University

Meeting Room – Riverview 7

Session 7: Unlocking Local Economic Potential – Building Businesses & Developing Communities

Moderator: Ralph Christy Cornell University

Part I: Advancing Small Business as an Economic Development Strategy

Panelists:

1. Kendy Alvarez, Covation Center, Inc.
2. Ernie Davis, Dimensional Energy
3. Iwan Azis, Cornell University

Part II: The Impact of Pull Factor Metrics on the North Carolina Economic Distress Tier System

Presenters:

- Raymond Thomas, North Carolina A & T State University

Meeting Room – Riverview 8

Session 8: Small Steps, Healthier Lives: Moving, Breathing, and Creating for Diabetes Prevention

Description: This engaging, interactive workshop introduces participants to practical strategies to prevent Type 2 diabetes and promote healthier lifestyles through education, physical activity, stress management, and creative expression. Participants will explore evidence-informed diabetes prevention strategies, engage in accessible movement activities, practice deep breathing techniques, learn about healthier beverage choices, and participate in a therapeutic coloring activity designed to encourage relaxation and mindfulness.

Moderator: Tameka King, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Learning Together to Prevent Type 2 Diabetes
Faye Hall Jackson, Tuskegee University
- Move More: Stretching & Deep Breathing Techniques
Fileve Palmer, Southern Tier West & Lauren McCallister, Indiana University
- Sips & Therapeutic Coloring Activity
Fileve Palmer, Southern Tier West
- Healthier Living Commitment
Faye Hall-Jackson, Tuskegee University

Meeting Room – Montgomery 7

Session 9: Building Your Brand & Social Media Presence

Moderator: Tiffani Williams, Tuskegee University

Speaker: Candace Morrow, Tuskegee University

12:15 pm – 1:45 pm PAWC Advisory Board Meeting (closed session) – Montgomery 4

12:15 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch on your own

12:15 pm – 3:00 pm PAWC Tour of the EJL Legacy Sites

Your Badge is Your Ticket

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm Special Screening – Harvest X - Natalie Baszile (Co-Director), Hyacinth Parker (Co-Director), Trevite Willis (Producer), and Dawn Porter (Executive Producer)

Moderator: Lindsey Lunsford, Tuskegee University

Description:

The Nelson brothers are on a mission to become the largest farmers in the US, but after two years of poor harvests, the new year brings as much opportunity as uncertainty. This season, the brothers must work together as they farm more land than ever, facing the headwinds of equipment failures and familial tension along the way.



3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions II

SESSION#	ROOM	TITLE
10	Riverview 1	Healthy Plants, Resilient Farms, Managing Disease, Rainfall, and Changing Growing Conditions
11	Riverview 2	Beyond the Farm Gate: Building Profitable Meat Enterprises
12	Riverview 3	Ai Farms - Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Applications_– Part II
13	Riverview 4	Cultivating Innovation, Empowering Leaders: Advancing Entrepreneurship Through Mentorship and Community Partnerships
14	Riverview 5	USDA Updates & Review of Programs and Services
15	Riverview 6	Preserving the Legacy: Understanding the Origins of Heirs' Property & Alternative Pathways to Proving Ownership
16	Riverview 7	Beyond the Surface: Advancing Shellfish Restoration and Microbial Diversity Research
17	Montgomery 5	Powering the Future: Land-Grant Universities & Regional Economic Transformations

Meeting Room - Riverview 1

Session 10: Healthy Plants, Resilient Farms, Managing Disease, Rainfall, and Changing Growing Conditions

Moderator: George Hunter, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Old Foes in a New System: Plant Disease Management for Hemp Growers in the United States
Evan Buckner, The Pennsylvania State University
- Yield Evaluation of Two Parthenocarpic Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) Varieties in a Wiregrass Tunnel House
George Hunter, Billie Grant, Victor Khan
, Edward Sparks, Jeffrey Moore, Tuskegee University and J. Currington & J. Currington, III, Currington Associates
- Working with the Land: Rainfall – Only Specialty Crop Production on a Small Alabama Farm
Jacqueline McArthur, Tuskegee Honey LLC
- The Effect of Three Planting Dates on the Yield of Two Varieties of Turnips (*Brassica rapa* L. subsp. Rapa) Grown in a Tunnel House
Billie Grant, Victor Khan, George Hunter, Edward Sparks, Jeffrey Moore, J. Currington and J. Currington III, Tuskegee University
- Yield Response of Two Parthenocarpic Zucchini Squash Varieties (*Cucurbita pepo*) Grown in a Wiregrass Tunnel House
Kenisha Gordon, Victor Khan, Billie Grant, George Hunter, Edward Sparks, Jeffrey Moore, Tuskegee University and J. Currington & J. Currington, III, Currington Associates
- Periodic Washing of Tunnel House Roofs
Victor Khan, Justin Tate, George Hunter, Billie Grant, Edward Sparks, Jeffrey Moore, Tuskegee University, J. Currington and J. Currington, III; Currington Associates

Meeting Room: Riverview 2

Session 11: Beyond The Farm Gate: Building Profitable Meat Enterprises

Moderators: Clarissa Harris & Shecoya White, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Pastured Poultry: Strengthening Local Food Systems Through Small-Farm Production
Alicia Jordan, Triple J Farm
- Direct-to-Consumer Meat Sales – From Producer to Customer - Turning Livestock into a Brand
RedBib
- Value-Added Meat Products – Making More for the Carcass
Vivian Kanyi and Elise Jackson
- Organic/Grass-Fed Beef – Producing Beef for Specialty Markets
Gregory Smith
- From Vision to Reality: Building and Advancing a Meat Processing Facility
Tyler Pearson
- Pasture Poultry – Building a Profitable Pasture-to-Plate Poultry Enterprise
Alicia Jordan, Triple J Farm

Meeting Room: Riverview 3

Session 12: AI Farms – Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Applications – Part II

Moderator: Gregory Bernard, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- From Data to Decisions: AI-Enabled Monitoring Systems for Smart Farming
Isabella Condotta, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Structural Sequencing Comparison for Improved Crop Environmental Resilience
Matthew Hudson, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Leveraging Recent Biological Findings and Resources into Crop Statistical Genetics
Alexander Lipka, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Robotic Navigation and Manipulation Challenges in Urban High Tunnels
Girish Krishnan, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Meeting Room - Riverview 4

Session 13: Cultivating Innovation, Empowering Leaders: Advancing Entrepreneurship Through Mentorship and Community Partnerships

Moderator: David Nii Tackie, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Agriculture Business Innovation Center (ABIC): Preliminary Outcomes, Lessons Learned, and Opportunities for Strengthening Agricultural Entrepreneurship through 1890 Land-Grant Collaboration
Alex Meredith, North Carolina A & T State University
- Deep Roots in the Land-Grant Mission: Mentorship, Institution-Building, and Leadership Legacy from MANRRS to the UMES Partnership
Raphael Biassou Herisse, LegacIA and Capital, PLLC
- From Service to Partnership: Examining Community-Based Organizations' Experiences with Community-Engaged Partnerships
Zelia Wiley, Charles Carpenter, III, & Lonnie Hobbs, Jr. Kansas State University

Meeting Room - Riverview 5

Session 14: USDA Updates & Review of Programs and Services

Moderator: Miles Robinson, Tuskegee University (Retired)

Presenters:

- Monica Carroll, USDA Rural Development

Meeting Room – Riverview 6

Session 15: Preserving the Legacy: Understanding the Origins of Heirs' Property & Alternative Pathways to Proving Ownership

Moderator: Folashade Adalumo-Ntam, Tuskegee University

- Death and Dirt: The Black Agricultural Origins of Heirs' Property Research, 1971-2026
Ryan Thomson, Auburn University
- Unlocking Federal Aid: Are States Accepting Alternative Proof of Ownership for Heirs' Property Forestland Owners?

Presenters:

- (1) Cassandra Johnson Gaither, USDA Forest Service
 - (2) Marvis Gragg, Heir Shares
 - (3) Monica Gragg, Heir Shares
 - (4) Steve Norman, USDA Forest Service
- Assessing the Impact of Heirs' Property Education on Community Knowledge and Intended Actions in the United States.
 - (1) Adelina Rwabilimbo, Tuskegee University
 - (2) Eunice Waweru, Tuskegee University
 - (3) Roseanne Scammahorn, Mississippi State University
 - (4) Robert Zabawa, Tuskegee University

Meeting Room – Riverview 7

Session 16: Beyond the Surface – Advancing Shellfish Restoration and Microbial Diversity Research

Moderator: Duane Taylor, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Shellfish Restoration in Egypt: Investigating the Status of Bivalves in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea
Mostafa Mandour, Suez Canal University- Ismailia, Egypt and Mohamed Sebaq, University of Nebraska- Lincoln
- Biolog-Based Identification And Characterization of Bacterial Diversity In Irrigation Water: Insights into Food Safety Risks.
Abigail Ompong, C. Acheamfour, W. Long, Delaware State University

Meeting Room – Montgomery 5

Session 17: Powering the Future: Land-Grant Universities & Regional Economic Transformations

Moderator: Raymon Shange and Edward “Jerry” Pennick, Tuskegee University

Part I: The Economic Impact of 1890 Land–Grant Universities: Proven Engines of Economic Mobility – Advancing Community Economic Vitality

1. Dalal Alkordi, Tuskegee University
2. Gloria Bromell Tinubu, Tuskegee University
3. Monyai Chavers, Tuskegee University
4. Kourtney Sherrod, Tuskegee University
5. Baile Braxton, Tuskegee University

Part II: The Impact of Data Centers in the Historic Black Belt Region

1. Monyai Chavers, Tuskegee University
2. Gloria Bromell Tinubu, Tuskegee University
3. Kourtney Sherrod, Tuskegee University

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Cultivating Connections: Celebrating New Roots Networking Reception – Alabama A & B

Tuskegee University (TU) and the National Black Food and Justice Alliance (NBFJA) invite you to celebrate their growing partnership to establish an Agroecology Center at TU, joining NBFJA's growing constellation of Black-led Agroecology Centers.

Join us for a special networking hour where we will spill the beans and pass the peas by connecting with available resources, discover emerging opportunities, and sample local products from farmers, producers, practitioners, researchers and community leaders that help keep Alabama's food system vibrant!

4:15 pm - 6:15 pm

PAWC Registration & Help Desk – *Convention Center Registration*

5:00 pm – 6:15 pm

Visit with the Exhibitors – *Concourse All*

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

G.W.C. Hall of Fame Awards Dinner & Dr. Ulysses Washington Sr. (Delaware State University) Memorial Recognition– *Exhibit Hall A*

Presiding: Melvin Carter, USDA – NIFA

Invocation:

Larry Holmes, USDA-NRCS (Retired)

Presentation of George Washington Carver Award I and II:

Robert Zabawa, Tuskegee University

Closing Comments:

Raymon Shange, Tuskegee University

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Breakfast** – *Exhibit Hall A foyer*

**Breakfast will end promptly at 8:00 am **

7:00 am – 12:00 pm PAWC Registration – *Convention Center Registration*

8:00 am – 9:30 am **The Owusu Bandele Memorial Plenary Session** – *Exhibit Hall A*

Presiding: M. Ray McKinnie, North Carolina A & T University

Part I: Remembering Dr. Owusu Bandele, Southern University A & M

Robert Zabawa, *Tuskegee University*

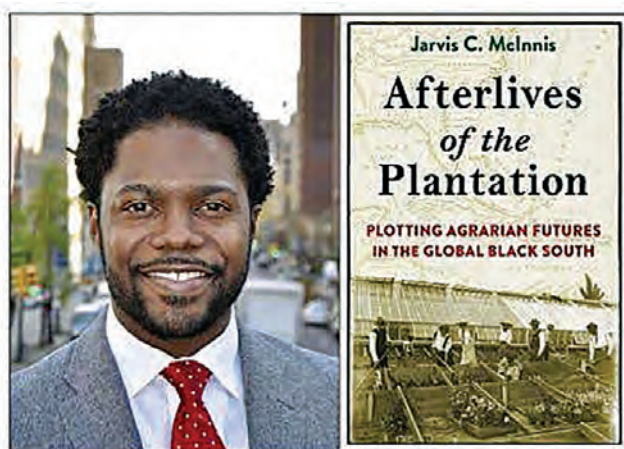
Part II: Updates from the National Policy Research Center & U.S. Forest Service

- Thaddeus Fairley, *National Policy Research Center*
- Michella Samuels-Foo, *U.S. Forest Service*

Part III: Fireside Chat with Jarvis C. McInnis, Duke University

Moderator: John Tilghman, *Tuskegee University*

Speaker: Jarvis C. McInnis, *Duke University*



9:30 am – 10:00 am **Break & Visit with the Exhibitors** – *Concourse All*

10:00 am – 12:00 pm **Concurrent Sessions III**

Concurrent Sessions III

SESSION#	ROOM	TITLE
18	Riverview 1	Advancing Organic Agriculture in the Southeast: Soil, Pest, Human Health Challenges, and Market Opportunities
19	Riverview 2	From Pasture to Plate: Navigating Beef Markets, Processing, and Food Supply Resilience
20	Riverview 3	Small Spaces, Big Opportunities: Adaptable Growing Systems for Food Security
21	Riverview 4	Special Interest Group Meetings
22	Riverview 5	Weathering the Future: Research Innovations in Ozone Exposure, Drought Forecasting and Agricultural Resilience
23	Montgomery 5	The Power of : Sharing Knowledge, Gathering Insights, and Transforming Food Systems

Meeting Room – Riverview 1

Session 18: Advancing Organic Agriculture in the Southeast: Soil, Pest, Human Health Challenges, and Market Opportunities

Moderator: Kokoasse Kpombrekou-A

Presenter: Karen Wynne, Rosita's Farm

Meeting Room – Riverview 2

Session 19: From Pasture to Plate: Navigating Beef Markets, Processing, and Food Supply Resilience

Moderator: Clarissa Harris, Tuskegee University

Part I: Policy, Prices, Processing, and Parasites: Challenges and Opportunities in the Contemporary Beef Industry

Presenters:

- Derris Burnett, Tuskegee University
- Ralph Noble, South Carolina State University
- Veronica Royal, Tuskegee University
- Tony Frazier, Animal Industries
- Erin Beasley, Alabama Cattlemen's Association

Part II: Protecting the Herd and the Food Supply: Practical Biosecurity for Small Livestock Producers

Presenters:

- Terrance Bell, Federation of Southern Cooperatives

Meeting Room – Riverview 3

Session 20: Small Spaces, Big Opportunities: Adaptable Growing Systems for Food Security

Moderator: Kavonne Granger, Oklahoma State University

Presenters:

- The Solution to Better Health is Your Backyard: Community-Rooted Urban Food Systems as Preventive Health Infrastructure
JohnElla Holmes Reece, Kansas Black Farmers Association
- From Soil to Wellness: Building a Vertically Integrated Multi-Generational Community Food Business
Erica Turner, Fresh Greens Market & Nourished Reset
David Turner, Trill Farms
- Omnigro – Adapted Growing Modules -Off-Grid Greenhouse
James Brady, Omnigro

Meeting Room – Riverview 4

Session 21: Special Interest Group Meetings

Meeting Room – Riverview 5

Session 22: Weathering the Future: Research Innovations in Ozone Exposure, Drought Forecasting and Agricultural Resilience

Moderator: Gamal El Afandi, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Spatial and Temporal Evaluation of PM2.5 and Ozone Exposure Risks Across Counties in Alabama
Santosh Sapkota, Tuskegee University
- Drought-Based Composite Index System for Informed Decision-Making and Risk Management for Alabama's Farmers
Sara Guterrez Diaz, Joseph Quansah, and Souleymane Fall, Tuskegee University
- Improving Modeling and Forecast Product Delivery in Agricultural Lands
Eniola Olakanmi, Tuskegee University; Ruben Doria, EE SSW, Water and Technology; Souleymane Fall, Tuskegee University, and Joseph Quansah, Tuskegee University
- PPI Meteorological Variability in Alabama and its Relevance to Climate-Smart Forestry: A Statistical and Machine Learning Assessment
Kailash Basnet and Gamal El Afandi, Tuskegee University
- Sensitivity of WRF-ARW Precipitation Forecasts to Planetary Boundary Layer and Microphysics Schemes for the August 2022 Jackson, Mississippi Flash Flood
Reda Algendy and Gamal El Afandi, Tuskegee University
- Spatiotemporal Modeling Of Wildfire Risk And Carbon Emissions In The Alabama Black Belt Using Machine Learning
Salem Ibrahim, G. El Afandi, M. Kreye, and S. Fall, Tuskegee University

Meeting Room – Montgomery 5

Session 23: The Power of Storytelling: Sharing Knowledge, Gathering Insights, and Transforming Food Systems

Moderator: Kendy Alvarez, Covation

Presenters:

Part I: Story Sharing in Community: Collective Storytelling as a Pathway to Food Systems Transformation

- Lindsey Lunsford, Tuskegee University
- Natilee McGruder Kyle, Growing Green LLC

Part II: Cultivating Stories – Methods To Gather, Record, and Share

- Fileve Pamer, University of Pittsburgh – Bradford
- Lauren McMallister, Three Flock Farm and Indiana University

12:15 pm – 2:00 pm L.A. Potts Success Stories – Exhibit Hall A

Presiding: Barrett Vaughan, Tuskegee University

Invocation

William Hodge, Tuskegee University

Welcome & Greetings

Raymon Shange, Tuskegee University

Recognition of Success Stories

Tyrone D. Smith, Tuskegee University

2:15 pm – 4:15 pm Concurrent Sessions IV

SESSION #	ROOM	TITLE
24	Riverview 1	Advancing Food and Nutrition Security through Artificial Intelligence
25	Riverview 2	Innovative Agroforestry and Improved Livestock Farming Practices: Voluntary Participation of Farmers and Incentives
26	Riverview 4	Preserving the Land, Protecting the Legacy: Navigating Legal and Cultural Challenges of Heir's Property
27	Riverview 5	Building & Sustaining Our Legacy: Challenges and Future Opportunities on Forested Properties
28	Riverview 6	Environmental Issues
29	Riverview 8	Reconsideration of Value: Three Structural Reforms the 2027 Farm Bill Could Address Thaddaus Dawson, Jr., National Appraisal Policy Resource Center
30	Montgomery 4	From Metabolomics, Cardiovascular Risk Factors, Obesity, and Hypertension Prevention
31	Montgomery 7	Center of Excellence – Emerging Technologies at PAWC

Meeting Room: Riverview 1

Session 24: Advancing Food and Nutrition Security through Artificial Intelligence

Moderator: Gregory Bernard, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Data-Driven Food Demand Forecasting for Alabama Food Pantries
Rui Chen, Tuskegee University
- From Photo to Nutrition: An AI Agent for Alabama Food Pantries
Hutama Bramantyo, Auburn University
- Lakeview Baptist Food Pantry Case Study
Brett Coppenger & Megan Coppenger, Lakeview Baptist Food Pantry
- Food Bank of East Alabama Case Study
Martha Henk, Food Bank of East Alabama
- Cowlytics
Fabrice Masumbuko, Cowlytics

Meeting Room: Riverview 2

Session 25: Innovative Agroforestry and Improved Livestock Farming Practices: Voluntary Participation of Farmers and Incentives

Moderator: Uma Karki, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Overview of AMP Agroforestry and Livestock Projects
Uma Karki, Tuskegee University
- Voluntary Participation of Alabama Farmers and Incentives for Pasture Improvement, Rotational Grazing, and/or Silvopasture Development
Timothy Sylvester and Uma Karki, Tuskegee University
- Voluntary Participation of Maryland Farmers and Incentives for Alley Cropping of Fruits and Vegetables
Lila Karki and Mamata Koirala, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Voluntary Participation and Incentives for Southeast (AL, MS, GA, SC, NC, TN) Farmers Willing to Implement Agroforestry Practices
Suresh Sharma and Uma Karki, Tuskegee University

Part II: Barriers to Cover Crop Adoption and the Role of Hands-on Extension Education in Producer Decision-Making: Evidence from Alabama and Georgia Crop-Livestock Systems

- Rimal Parshuram and Nar Gurung, Tuskegee University

Meeting Room – Riverview 4

Session 26: Preserving the Land, Protecting the Legacy: Navigating Legal and Cultural Challenges of Heir's Property

Moderator: Robert Zabawa, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- How Do Legal Rules and Culture Impact Rates of Heirs' Property: Alabama v. Vermont?
Jacy Fisher, Gregory Varner & Associates & Francine Miller, Vermont Law School Center for Agriculture & Food Systems

Meeting Room - Riverview 5

Session 27: Building & Sustaining Our Legacy: Challenges and Future Opportunities on Forested Properties

Moderator: Deja Perkins, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Deja Perkins and James Jackson, Tuskegee University

Meeting Room – Riverview 6

Session 28: Environmental Issues

Moderator: Gamal El Afandi, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Monitoring Environmental Pressures on Temporary Wetlands in Tuskegee, AL
Katie Dames, Tuskegee University
- The Effect of Environmental Perceptions on Willingness to Pay for Sustainable Food Attributes and its Variation Across the U.S. Region

- Mitigating Gas Emissions & Promoting Carbon Storage through Biochar Application & Alternative Forage Integration in Grazing Meat Goat Systems
Hossam Ismael, Byeng Min, Mariline Hilaire, Santosh Chaudhary, and Bipana Budha, Tuskegee University
- Machine Learning and Geospatial Modeling of Heavy-Metals Uptake for Phytoremediation in Alabama's Black Belt Region
Muhammad Irfan, Gamal El Afandi, and Kailash Basnet, Tuskegee University

Meeting Room – Riverview 8

Session 29: Reconsideration of Value: Three Structural Reforms the 2027 Farm Bill Could Address

Moderator: Billie Grant Tuskegee University

Presenters:

Part I: Reconsideration of Value: Three Structural Reforms the 2027 Farm Bill Could Address

- Thaddaus Dawson, Jr., National Appraisal Policy Resource Center

Part II: Who will Farm the Land Next?

- Hajjah Lennora Pierrot-Ansari, Tuskegee University
- Gregory Smith, Smith's Farm & Ranch, Tuskegee

Meeting Room – Montgomery 4

Session 30: From Metabolomics, Cardiovascular Risk Factors, Obesity, and Hypertension Prevention

Moderator: Norma Dawkins, Tuskegee University

Presenters:

- Plasma metabolomics profiles reveal distinct metabolite changes in a diabetic mice model fed blueberry powder-supplemented diets

John Onuh, Aishat Adejoh, Jossy Onuoha, Chastity Bradford; Tuskegee University and Christopher Kucha, University of Georgia

- The efficacy of collard green and blueberry diets on cardiovascular risk factors in an obese animal model: The Ozempic Effect.
Jacqueline Yeboah, Fahim Eashat, Chastity Bradford and Norma L. Dawkins, Tuskegee University
- Recruiting Prehypertensive Adults in Alabama Black Counties in a Cardiovascular Prevention Study: Challenges
Isabella Jiminez, Lanisha Hall, Sh'Nese Holmes, Norma L. Dawkins, Anderea Cherrington, Tuskegee University and University of Alabama ,Birmingham

Meeting Room – Montgomery 7

Session 31: Overview of the Center of Excellence – Emerging Technologies

Moderator: Olga Bolden-Tiller, Tuskegee University

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm	Professional Poster Presentation & 84th PAWC Sign Off - Alabama A & B
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Dinner on your Own
8:00 am – 9:00 pm	Special Screening of Harvest X – Montgomery 7
9:00 pm – Until	PAWC Networking Session – PAWC Hospitality Room

PROFESSIONAL POSTERS

- (1) Hair Shedding and Mashona Impact Fertility in a Spring – Calving Dexter Cow Herd Using Non-Traditional Cattle Genetics
Richard Browning, Jr., Emily Hayes, Cevat Tartan, Maria Leite-Browning, Tennessee State University
- (2) Evaluating a Low-Cost Aeroponic System for Sustainable Arugula Production in North Florida
Sanai McBean and K. Davis, Alabama A & M University
- (3) Pollinators in Cultivated Farmland and Unmanaged Site with Different Floral Plants
Yong Park, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
- (4) Junior MANRRS Institute: Agricultural Food Systems Perceptions of Kansas Elementary School Students
Zelia Wiley, Lonnie Hobbs, and C. Carpenter, Kansas State University

TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHERS PROGRAM FARMER MENTOR POSTERS

(1) **Johnathan Eaves**

Farmer Mentor: Tuskegee Honey LLC, Tuskegee, AL

(2) **Kavonne Granger**

Farmer Mentor: Tuskegee Honey LLC, Tuskegee, AL

(3) **Jalexicia Hargrove**

Farmer Mentors: Tri-County Agricultural Cooperatives, Batesville, MS & Fort Valley State University

(4) **Dylan Sims**

Farmer Mentor: Black Soil Kentucky, Lexington, K

(5) **Sharai Tarpley**

Farmer Mentor: Tuskegee Honey LLC, Tuskegee, AL

(6) **Clay Taylor, Jr.**

Farmer Mentor: Tri-County Agricultural Cooperatives

(7) **Duane Taylor**

Farmer Mentor 1: Robert Gates, Tri -County Agricultural Cooperatives, Batesville, MS & Tuskegee Honey LLC



Tuskegee University – AGBS 452: Internship in Agribusiness

- (1) **DeAsiah Brown**, Tuskegee University
Internship Location: CISC Tuskegee University
- (2) **Laila Brown**, Tuskegee University
Internship Location: New Communities at Cypress Pond
- (3) **Octavian Brown**, Tuskegee University
Internship Location: CISC - Tuskegee University
- (4) **Gabrielle Chisholm, Tuskegee University**
Internship Location: Yugo, Opelika, AL
- (5) **Naima Griggs**, Tuskegee University
Internship Location: USDA -NIFA
- (6) **Kyla Hardrick**, Tuskegee University
Internship Location: New Communities at Cypress Pond
- (7) **Emerie Hedgpeth**, Tuskegee University
National Crop Insurance Services
- (8) **Betty Rivers**, Tuskegee University
Internship Location: Texas Southern University's HBCU Corps
- (9) **Atiya Salam**, Tuskegee University
Internship Location: USDA -FAS
- (10) **Jamyracle Williams**, Tuskegee University
Internship Location: Alabama Ag Credit

2026 GAMMA SIGMA DELTA–84TH PAWC STUDENT COMPETITION BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

THE 4TH ANNUAL GLOBAL AGRIBUSINESS CASE COMPETITION:



**CASE: Keeping Agriculture Profitable:
Strategic Solutions to Rising Input Costs**



Team 1: Gideon Nyarkoh, Josephine Nyame, Fridah Kendi (*Tuskegee University*).

Mentor: Dr. Kenisha Gordon

Team 2: Shannon Hosey, Kennedi Brazil, Travis Moore (*Fort Valley State University*).

Mentor: Brian Cornish

Team 3: Dharma Raj Katuwal, Anuj Dhakal, Mouhamodou Diack (*University of Maryland Eastern Shore*).

Mentor: Dr. Lila Karki

Team 4: Veronica Royal, Vivian Kanyi, Ashton Shelton (*Tuskegee University*).

Mentor: Dr. Shecoya White

Team 5: Suraj Singh Thagunna, Victoria Diaz Hanzer, Simala Wright (*University of Maryland Eastern Shore*).

Mentor: Dr. Lila Karki

Team 6: Kevonna Ford, Kennedy Venable, Nyla Vaughs (*Tuskegee University*).

Mentor: Dr. Lindsey Lunford

Team 7: Kyla Hadrick, Emerie Hedgspeth, Kristina Marie Horton (*Tuskegee University*).

Mentor: Dr. Tasha Hargrove

Team 8: Samaar Davis, Cameron Shellman, Allanah Hammond (*Fort Valley State University*).

Mentor: Dr. Brian Cornish

Team 9: Naima Griggs, Betty Rivers, Jamyracle Williams (*Tuskegee University*).

Mentor: Dr. Tasha Hargrove

Team 10: John Amonoo, Adriana Cornie, Omolola Adeyinka (*Tuskegee University*).

Mentor: Dr. Zabawa

Team 11: Anthony Ngandwe, Aiden Burrows, Tadan Ferguson (*Kentucky State University*).

Mentor: Kristel Smith

Team 12: Ayodola Olantuji, Mary Ado, Aishat Aina (*Tuskegee University*).

Mentor: Dr. Zabawa

Team 13: Elijah Love, Nigel Maringwa, Zora Cheatham (*Kentucky State University*).

Mentor: Sait Sarr

2026 Gamma Sigma Delta Student Competition

Abstract Authors and Titles

GRADUATE ORAL (Nos. 1–47)

1. **IN VITRO ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY AND IN VIVO LIPID BIOMARKER RESPONSES TO BLUEBERRY SUPPLEMENTATION IN HIGH-FAT-FED DIABETIC MICE MODEL**
ADEJOH, AISHAT O.¹, J. Onuoha², C. N. Bradford², and J. O. Onuh*¹
¹Department of Integrative Bioscience, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088. ²Department of Biology, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088
2. **PUBLIC HOUSING IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ALABAMA, UNITED STATES AND ABUJA, NIGERIA: A REVIEW OF LITERATURE**
ADOLE, PAUL¹, K. St. John¹, R. Z.¹, J. Jimmeh*², and R. N.³
¹Dept. of Ag. and Envi. Sciences, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088. ²School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences, Discovery Farm Educational Center, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, AR 71601
3. **SKIN CANCER RISK PERCEPTIONS AND SUN-PROTECTION PRACTICES AMONG FARMERS IN EASTERN KENTUCKY**
AKINOLA, EBENEZER A.¹, G. Besona¹, and F. Bebe*¹
¹College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40601
4. **SENSITIVITY OF WRF-ARW PRECIPITATION FORECASTS TO PLANETARY BOUNDARY LAYER AND MICROPHYSICS SCHEMES FOR THE AUGUST 2022 JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI FLASH FLOOD**
ALGENDY, REDA A.¹ and G. El Afandi*¹
¹Dept. of Ag. and Envi. Sciences, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088
5. **BIOPOLYMER-BASED INDICATOR FILM FOR REAL-TIME MONITORING OF CHICKEN MEAT FRESHNESS**
AYANNIYI, GBEMISOLA M.¹, M. Wells¹, M. Abubakar², and A. Sobhan*¹
¹Department of Agriculture, Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS 39096. ²Department of Biology, Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS 39096
6. **EFFECT OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING ON CHATGPT ADOPTION AMONG TENNESSEE EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS**
BARSON, ABRAHAM¹ and A. Lawani*²
¹Department of Agricultural Business and Education, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209. ²Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843
7. **METEOROLOGICAL VARIABILITY IN ALABAMA AND ITS RELEVANCE TO CLIMATE-SMART FORESTRY: A STATISTICAL AND MACHINE LEARNING ASSESSMENT**
BASNET, KAILASH¹ and G. El Afandi*¹
¹Dept. of Ag. and Envi. Sciences, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088
8. **DRONE-ASSISTED PASTURE ROTATION ENHANCES POLYUNSATURATED FATTY ACID DEPOSITION IN BROILER MEAT AND LAYER EGGS**
BISWAS, BISWAJIT KUMAR¹, M. R. Hoque², P. Maharjan², and S. Nahashon*¹
¹Department of Food and Animal Sciences, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209. ²Department of Poultry Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77840
9. **FOOD SAFETY, SENSORY ACCEPTABILITY, AND MARKET POTENTIAL OF GOAT MEAT JERKY IN THE UNITED STATES**
BROADNAX-JACKSON, ELISE M.¹ and C. Harris*¹
¹Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088
10. **BIOPESTICIDE EFFICACY FOR MANAGEMENT OF BOTRYTIS BUD ROT IN CANNABIDIOL HEMP**
BUCKNER, EVAN¹, F. Gottschalk⁴, M. Umaña³, J. Kaminski², and P. Esker*¹
¹Department of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology, Penn State, University Park, PA. ²Department of Plant Sciences, Penn State, University Park, PA. ³Universidad EARTH, Ciencias Agrícolas, Limón Province, Costa Rica. ⁴Universidade Estadual Paulista, Engenharia Agrônoma, São Paulo, Brazil
11. **PRIME EDITING TO STUDY THE FUNCTIONAL ROLE OF Pi42(t) IN RICE BLAST RESISTANCE**
CHAPAI, DHARMA PRASAD¹, Y. Huang¹, Y. Jia², and S. K. Ponniah*¹
¹Department of Agriculture, School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, AR 71601. ²USDA-ARS, Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center, Stuttgart, AR 72160

12. **EFFECTS OF DIETARY BIOCHAR SUPPLEMENTATION ON RUMEN MICROBIAL COMMUNITY STRUCTURE AND ENTERIC METHANE EMISSIONS IN BOER × SPANISH MEAT GOATS**
CHAUDHARY, SANTOSH¹, B. Budha¹, M. Hilaire¹, V. Kanyi¹, H. Ismael¹, H. Abdo¹, H. Wang², and B. R. Min^{*1}
¹Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088. ²Department of Biology, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088
13. **TEMPORAL DYNAMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF SOIL GREENHOUSE GAS FLUXES IN A FIG-BASED ALLEY-CROPPING SYSTEM**
DHAKAL, ANUJ¹ and L. B. Karki^{*1,2}
¹Department of Agriculture, Food, and Resource Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853.
²UMES Extension, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD 21853
14. **ASSESSING THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF HANDS-ON ALLEY-CROPPING ACTIVITIES ON STUDENTS' LEARNING AND INTEREST IN CAREER PATHS**
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85. **WILDLIFE DETECTION ACROSS HABITAT TYPES AT TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY**
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86. **EVALUATION OF REDUCED HOP ACID FRACTIONS AS MODIFIERS OF RUMINAL FERMENTATION**
CLAYTON, AMORÉ A.¹, J. Drouillard², and L. Souza Monteiro²
¹Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL 36088. ²Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506
87. **SEGMENTED GOAT-MEAT DEMAND IN THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES: EVALUATING CONSUMPTION AND PURCHASING BEHAVIOR**
DAVIS, SAMAAAR¹, B. Cornish^{*1}, N. Pattanaik¹, B. Kouakou¹, M. Ibrahim¹, and B. Onyango²
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88. **EVALUATION OF BLAST REACTIONS OF ADVANCED BREEDING LINES IN THE UNIFORM REGIONAL RICE NURSERY (URRN)**
RAY, KYLAN L.¹, H. Box², P. Braithwaite³, S. K. Ponniah^{*1}, and Y. Jia²
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89. **A NOVEL SOLID STATE ISE ARRAY – INSPIRED FROM PARILLA, WANG, AND OTHERS – FOR THE PURPOSES OF pH AND IONICITY OF SOIL SOLUTION AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY WATER QUALITY**
SHELBY, ANDRE, JR.¹, S. K. Ponniah^{*1}, and Y. Huang¹
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90. **ADDRESSING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY THROUGH BACKYARD AND COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATION GARDENS: A MARYLAND CASE STUDY**
WAIBA, PADMA K.¹, L. Karki^{*2}, and E. Escobar²
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UNDERGRADUATE POSTER (Nos. 91–124)

91. **DIURNAL VARIATION IN CHLOROPHYLL CONTENT OF SEAGRAPE (COCOLOBA UVIFERA) ON SOUTH WATER CAYE, BELIZE**
ADDISON, KIABI¹, L. Waller¹, and G. Ozbay^{*1}
¹Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Delaware State University, Dover, DE 19901
92. **AQUAGUARD: AN LSTM-BASED PREDICTIVE DISSOLVED OXYGEN FORECASTING AND AUTOMATED AERATION SYSTEM FOR AQUACULTURE PONDS**
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93. **CONSUMER DEMAND AND WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR SPECIALTY MEAT PRODUCTS IN SOUTHERN U.S. MARKETS**
BUTLER, AVA¹ and N. De Silva^{*1}
¹Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Sherman Lewis School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, Langston University, Langston, OK 73050
94. **FEWER INPUTS, SAFER FOOD: A REVIEW OF AI-DRIVEN PRECISION AGRICULTURE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND FOOD SAFETY**
CHAMBO, SIMON¹ and K. Harris^{*1}
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95. **FROM PIXELS TO PRODUCE: UAV MULTISPECTRAL IMAGING FOR RAPID HORTICULTURAL TRAIT EVALUATION IN HEAT-STRESSED TOMATO**
COLBERT, BRAYLON H.¹, S. Kunwar^{*1}, D. R. Kandel¹, S. Chowdhury¹, K. De Silva¹, D. Jones¹, and R. Boateng¹
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96. **FLIGHT SIMULATION'S EFFECT ON QUEEN BEES AND ITS RELATION TO MATING PERFORMANCE AND COLONY STRENGTH**
DYMANDA, KALUNDA B.¹, D. Melvin¹, D. Hutchinson², D. Kroh², and H. Li-Byarlay^{*2}
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97. **EATING MEALS AWAY FROM HOME AND CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH AMONG U.S. ADULTS**
ECHOLS, AKAYLIN¹, A. Williams², and S. Fagbodun^{*1}
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98. **COMPARATIVE BIOACTIVITY OF RICE BRAN FROM ARKANSAS-GROWN RICE CULTIVARS**
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99. **EFFECTS OF FORAGE TYPE AND CONCENTRATE LEVEL ON METHANE OUTPUT AND HEAT PRODUCTION IN MEAT GOATS**
GILPIN, ROSHANE¹, D. Gulich^{*1}, R. Puchala¹, A. Sonibare¹, H. Tejeji¹, A. Patra¹, and I. Tovar-Luna¹
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100. **COMPARISON OF BABY KALE GROWTH PERFORMANCE IN SOIL-BASED AND HYDROPONIC GROWING SYSTEMS**
GREEN, AH'MAYA¹, T. White^{*1}, D. White¹, R. Nedd¹, and I. Young¹
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101. **ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY: A HANDS-ON APPROACH**
GUELACHE AROUNA, MARC WILLIAM¹ and K. Harris^{*1}
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102. **STUDENT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION EXPERIENCES IN SMALL FARM SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, AND FLORIDA**
HARRIS, ERIC R.¹, R. Butler¹, R. Hooper¹, K. Clavin¹, H. Simmons¹, K. Blackman¹, T. Rashid¹, E. Ali¹, B. Bhatta¹, and D. Collins^{*1}
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103. **CONSUMER SENSORY ACCEPTANCE OF GOAT MEAT: EVIDENCE FROM CONSUMER TASTE EVALUATIONS**
HODGES, KATELYNN¹, B. Cornish^{*1}, N. Pattanaik¹, M. Ibrahim¹, B. Kouakou¹, F. Hollis¹, J. Lee¹, and B. Onyango²
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104. **ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF COVER CROP (WINTER WHEAT) ON SOIL MOISTURE DYNAMICS AND AGRO-HYDROLOGY**
LEE, LACANDYCE O.¹ and A. K. Saha^{*1}
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105. **INTERACTIVE EFFECTS OF SEEDING DENSITY AND IRRIGATION LEVEL ON BIOMASS, MORPHOLOGY, AND WATER-USE EFFICIENCY OF FOUR BRASSICACEAE MICROGREENS UNDER CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT**
LOVE, ELIJAH¹ and M. Chowdhury^{*1}
¹School of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40601
106. **WHAT LIVES BENEATH OUR FEET? SOIL MACROINVERTEBRATES IN TWO CAMPUS HABITATS**
MCCARGO, JADE¹, A. Yuknis¹, and K. Kamminga^{*1}
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107. **WALKING COOLER: EXAMINING SURFACE TEMPERATURE AND MITIGATING HEAT EFFECTS THROUGH GREEN SPACE CORRIDOR CONNECTIVITY AT TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY**
MCNEIL, CHRISTIAN A.¹ and D. Perkins^{*2}
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108. **EFFECTS OF FLIGHT CONDITIONING ON REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE AND POST-INSEMINATION SUCCESS IN INSTRUMENTALLY INSEMINATED HONEYBEE QUEENS**
MELVIN, DAKOTA B.¹, D. Hutchinson², K. Dymanda¹, and H. Li-Byarlay^{*2}
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109. **INTEGRATING NON-DESTRUCTIVE PHYSIOLOGICAL TRAITS FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF ABIOTIC STRESS IN RHIZOMA PEANUT (ARACHIS GLABRATA BENTH.)**
MITCHELL, KAYA A.¹, S. Basak¹, A. Siddique¹, and S. Samuels^{*1}
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110. **AGRICULTURAL FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION LOAN REPAYMENT ACROSS GEORGIA COUNTIES**
MOORE, TRAVIS¹ and B. Cornish^{*1}
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111. **DEVELOPMENT OF A CELL LINE-DERIVED ZEBRAFISH XENOGRAFT MODEL FOR GLIOBLASTOMA DRUG SCREENING**
MUHIA, MONIQ¹, H. Wanjala¹, G. Ramena^{*1}, and A. Rodriguez²
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112. **THE EFFECTS OF COMPOST ON SOIL HEALTH**
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113. **EFFECTS OF FORM OF SELENIUM ON THE CIRCULATING CONCENTRATIONS OF CHOLESTEROL DURING THE LUTEAL PHASE OF COMMERCIAL GOATS**
NOOKS, ZORA¹, O. Oyewo¹, E. Oduntan¹, and S. N. Carr^{*1}
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114. **FROM FARM TO FORK: INTEGRATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR HEALTHY EATING AND WELL-BEING**
OGUNBADE, OLUWADEMILADE E.¹ and K. Harris^{*1}
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115. **IN VITRO DRY MATTER DIGESTIBILITY OF WARM-SEASON LEGUMES ADAPTED TO KENTUCKY FORAGE SYSTEM**
PITTS, TIMOTHY¹, R. Ewetade¹, I. Salako¹, E. Workman¹, and A. R. Hines^{*1}
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116. **SEQUENTIAL PROBIOTIC AND ENZYBIOTIC DIETARY SUPPLEMENTATION IMPROVES SURVIVAL OF LITOPENAEUS VANNAMEI POST-LARVAE CHALLENGED WITH VIBRIO PARAHAEMOLYTICUS**
REED-GUY, INNOCENCE¹, R. B. Kurapati¹, G. Ramena¹, T. Bosteels², and Y. Ramena^{*1}
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117. **HOW WATER APPLICATION METHOD WOULD AFFECT SOYBEANS YIELD AND CROP WATER PRODUCTIVITY: A COMPARISON OF FURROW AND SURFACE DRIP IRRIGATION (SDI) METHOD**
RHODES, KYLIE¹ and A. K. Saha^{*1}
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118. **SHOOT CALCIUM SIGNALING DYNAMICS UNDER SALT AND DROUGHT STRESSES IN THE MODEL PLANT ARABIDOPSIS THALIANA EXPRESSING THE R-GECO REPORTER**
ROBERSON, ETHAN A.¹, M. Egnin^{*1}, I. Ritte¹, G. C. Bernard¹, M. Okoma¹, S. Critchlow¹, T. Brooks¹, E. Smith¹, and M. Frank²
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119. **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND FOOD IS MEDICINE: A DATA-DRIVEN SOLUTION TO FOOD INSECURITY AND NUTRITIONAL HEALTH**
SHIMO, GERALD¹ and K. Harris^{*1}
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120. **CLOSING THE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS GAP IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: A DATA-DRIVEN ANALYSIS OF SMALL-SCALE FARMS**
SNELL, BRIANNA J.¹ and T. Hook^{*1}
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- 121. EVALUATING ANNUAL RYEGRASS FODDER × SERICEA LESPEDEZA BLENDS AS AN ALTERNATIVE CONSERVED FEED**
TINGLE, KAYLA¹, R. Ewetade¹, I. Salako¹, E. Workman¹, and A. R. Hines*¹
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- 122. EXAMINING OBESITY AND USING GARDENING AS A STRATEGY TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY AND HEALTHY EATING IN CHILDREN**
TUFFOUR, JASHINA F.¹ and K. Harris*¹
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- 123. EFFECT OF BIOCHAR ON SOIL MOISTURE RETENTION COMPARED WITH COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER**
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- 124. “EDGE EFFECT” ON WOODY SPECIES’ ABUNDANCE AND DIVERSITY**
WILLIS, CAITLYN¹ and F. Onduso*¹
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NON-COMPETITIVE GRADUATE ORAL (Nos. 125–126)

- 125. DEEP ROOTS, LOST GROUND: ENSLAVED AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE, BLACK LAND OWNERSHIP, AND THE BLACK LAND DISPOSITION CRISIS IN LOUISIANA**
GORDON, JA’EL T.^{1,2} and C. Chappell*¹
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- 126. IMPACT OF EXTENSION-LED COMMUNITY URBAN GARDENING IN MARYLAND**
THAGUNNA, SURAJ S.¹, L. Karki*^{1,2}, D. Katuwal¹, A. Dhakal¹, M. Diack¹, and P. Waiba³
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- 127. STUDENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS: COWPEA PRODUCTION**
SIMMONS, HARVEY, JR.¹, D. Collins*², J. Coleman³, D. Miller³, E. Sarigul⁴, and K. Agyepong⁴
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- 128. AI IN EDUCATION: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE WORKFORCE**
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