

WCSHC.COM GREENSBORO ECHO

SPECIAL EDITION January 2009 | 2nd Edition



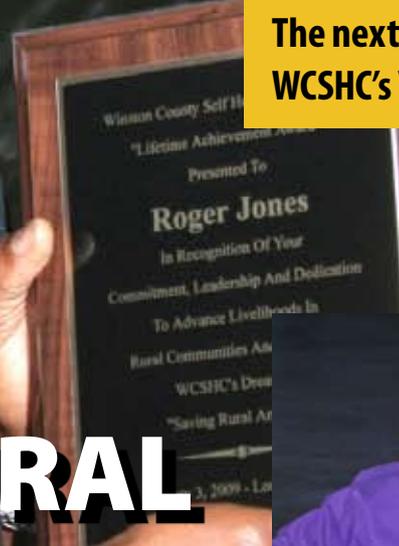
Guest speaker Dr. Homer Wilkes, NRCS

WCSHC and Simpson County Self Help acknowledged Roger Jones with a lifetime plaque/patron card

WCSHC Youth Group



The next edition will focus on WCSHC's Youth Conference.



SAVING RURAL AMERICA!



FASHION SHOW WCSHC STYLE!



WCSHC's Saving Rural America Workshop Presenters

FROM THE TEAM LEADER

Frank Taylor

Greetings,

The Winston County Self Help Cooperative organized in 1985 with four founding members' actives today...Omerio & Dee Dotson, Mary Hannah and Bobby Hardin. Our purpose is to help small farmers and landowners to purchase and sell in bulk with a goal of creating sustainability in rural communities. The co-op achieved multiple milestones in 2008 with a tenacious attitude to improve the quality of life in rural America. The co-op's membership increased to 53 members from three counties in eastern Mississippi (Winston, Choctaw and Lowndes). Members' average age 54 with a composition of 36 males and 17 females. Additionally, the co-op youth group comprises of 25 members from 6-18 years old and based in Louisville, Ms...involved with civic and community activities to empower the next generation of landowners and farmers. The co-op meets on first Monday 3:50pm at Winston County Extension Office in Louisville, Ms. We invite you to participate in all events sponsored by the Winston County Self Help cooperative. I am fired-up and ready to help save rural America.

Frank Taylor

Team Leader



WCSHC'S SAVING RURAL AMERICA AND YOUTH CONFERENCE 2009

GREENSBORO ECHO

WCSHC published 15 newsletters and "The Greensboro Echo Newsletter" will celebrate a milestone in 2009 by publishing their 100 edition. Additionally, the WCSHC Youth Group appeared in several national magazines and local newspapers. You can read previous newsletters by visiting www.wcshc.com and click on archive section.



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Secretary

Gloria Moore

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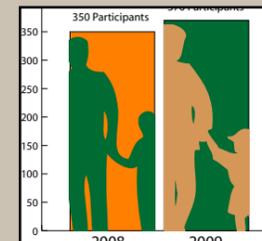
WCSHC's Saving Rural America Conference Workshop Presenters

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PARTICIPANTS FROM VISITING STATES

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2008 & 2009 Saving Rural America and Youth Conference Attendance Statistics

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2009's Saving Rural America and Youth Conference

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**Guest Speaker
Dr. Homer Wilkes**

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**FASHION SHOW
WCSHC STYLE!**

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2009 SAVING RURAL AMERICA CONFERENCE CANDID SHOTS

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WCSHC's Saving Rural America Workshop Presenters



Anna M. Kleiner
Southeastern Louisiana University, Sociology/Criminal Justice Professor, Hammond, LA



Dr. Jeanne Jones
MSU Department of Wild Life and Fishery, Natural Resources Enterprise



Dr. Homer Wilkes
NRCS & Guest Speaker

Paul Casey
Farm Manager, Heifer Project International



Helen D. Brooks
Marketing Coordinator, Market Manager Alcorn State University Extension Program



Ronald Westbrook
East Mississippi Community College



Walter Jackson
NRCS



Dr. Daryl Jones
MSU Department of Wild Life and Fishery, Natural Resources Enterprise



Julia Wolverson
Consultant, New Endeavors Training and Consulting Group



Bill Kitchings
MS Forestry Commission



Ben Burkett
MAC



Tom Heard
USDA-NRCS



Carolyn Banks
Alcorn State University

PRESENTERS

Sandra Ford
MS Forestry Commission

Tim Reed
MS Forestry Commission

Norma Tillman
Tri-County Cooperative

Mike Skipper
MS State Extension

Chuck Lea
NRCS

Billy Lipsey
Farm Service Agency



Dr. Ann Wells
Springpond Holistic Animal Health



Lamar Burgess
USDA-NRCS



Latrice Moore
Farm Service Agency

Crayton Coleman

Mississippi State University Extension Service



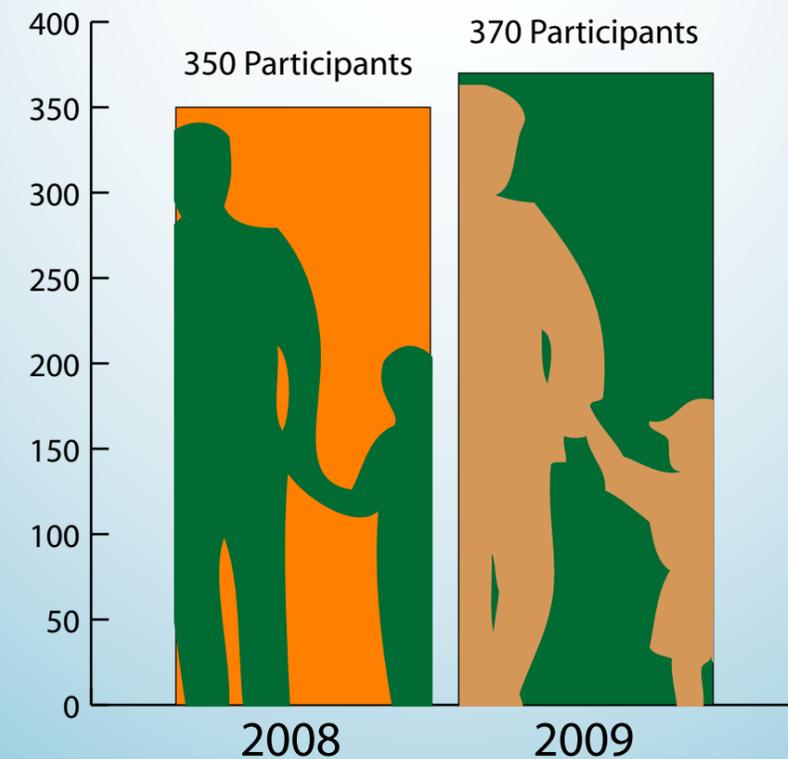
Anya Johnson
Greene/ Sumter Enterprise

PARTICIPANTS FROM VISITING STATES

2009's Saving Rural America and Youth Conference had participants from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, and Tennessee.



2008 & 2009 Saving Rural America and Youth Conference Attendance Statistics



(L) WCSHC's Team Leader Frank Taylor talks with (m) James Ford and (r) guest speaker Dr. Homer Wilkes of NRCS

2009's Saving Rural America and Youth Conference

"Bringing Families together to help save Rural Communities"

By Frank Taylor

Farmers, landowners, youth and service providers gathered for Winston County Self Help Cooperative's Saving Rural America and Youth Conference on January 2 & 3, in Louisville, Ms at the National Guard Armory. This year's theme of "Bringing Families together to Help Save Rural Communities" drew interest from 240 adults and 130 youth. Participants from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, and Tennessee enjoyed two days of learning, networking and developing plans for 2009 according to Melvin Everett of Wayne County Self-Group, Waynesboro, Ms. "We partnered with Winston County Self-Help to provide organizational trainings and community events. Last year's conference allowed our members opportunities to form friendships and relationships with farmers from different states which provided inspiration throughout 2008."

Friday's Activities

Registration started 11:00a.m with Robin Matthews, Equilia Miller and Gloria Moore registering participants. Youth members opened conference with flurries of welcome

activities. The youth first workshop focused on Developing Communication Skills and Resolving Conflicts led by Crayton Coleman from Miss State Extension Service. Julia Wolverton opened the adult session with Organizing and Starting a Non-profit Organization. Ronald Westbrook-East Central Community College presented starting a home-based business via Internet. Walter Jackson-NRCS dispensed information on improving grazing practices and Frank Taylor-WCSHC led a session on firing up your members.

As the afternoon drifted into darkness WCSHC members served catfish, cold slaw, bake beans and sodas in preparation for WCSHC's fashion show and gospel singing. Dean Miller orchestrated an outstanding fashion show with a taste of country living and urban flair. The country living category included Brenda Johnson, Lee Mark Taylor, Willie Matthews, Brenda Johnson, Omerio and Dee Dotson showed-off coveralls, straw hats and head-scarps. Larry Miller-fly guy dapped in all black attire and hat. The Faith Jubilees Gospel Singers from Brooksville, MS elevated spirits through worship and praises.

Location: National Guard Armory 2320 HWY 15 S. Louisville, MS

Saturday's Activities

January 3, 2009



Cooperative members started preparing breakfast at 5:40a.m, which included sausages, biscuits, coffee, fruits, and juices and fruit. The first participants arrived at 6:00a.m and concurrent sessions started promptly at 7:00a.m. Walter Jackson-grazing practices, Helen Brooks-marketing fresh vegetables, Carolyn Banks-record keeping, Jeanne and Daryl Jones natural resource enterprises, Ann Wells and Paul Casey-animal health, Ben Burkett and Anna Kleiner- mapping community resources, Sandra Ford and Bill Kitchen-managing your forestland, Charles Jackson, George Heard, Lamar Burgess and Yolanda Jackson USDA updated participants on the farm bill. The luncheon program started 11:30a.m with Mississippi State Conservationist Dr. Homer Wilkes delivering profound words of caring for lands through local participation in conservation programs. He encouraged participants to become members of county committee, working groups, and other auxiliaries to influence policy. WCSHC membership presented Dr. Wilkes with a plaque of appreciation for his commitment to serve farmers and landowners. WCSHC and Simpson County Self Help acknowledged Roger Jones with a lifetime plaque/patron card for his work through Heifer International South Central Office. Jones will retire in February as Project Director. The cooperative raffled a quilt donated by co-op member Omerio Dotson. Jennifer Hopkins and Oneida Moore provided needed blood pressure screenings. The conference ended with a soul food meal grown by cooperative members. The menu included turnip, mustard and collard greens, chicken, hamburgers, sweet casserole, bread-pudding, and assortment of sodas. Participants expressed thanks to Mattie Triplett, Roy Eichelberger, Hubert Nicholson, Mary Hopkins, Maxie Gardener, Shirley Coleman, Denisha Gladney, Cedric Johnson, Linda Stephens, Elaine Hobson, and Janice Hopkins for preparing a fantastic meal.

Winston County Self Help Cooperative conveys thanks to each individual for participating in their Saving Rural America and Youth Conference. The co-op membership looks forward to 2010 conference.



Oneida Moore & Jennifer Hopkins, "Winston County Sisters on The Move" administered free blood pressure tests and other health evaluations to participants.



The Faith Jubilees Gospel Singers from Brooksville, MS elevated spirits through worship and praises



Gloria Moore, Robin Matthews, and Equilla Miller managed the registration table during the conference.



GUEST SPEAKER DR. HOMER WILKES

Dr. Wilkes was appointed Mississippi State Conservationist of USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, in 1994. He earned BS, MBA and Doctorate Degree from Jackson State University. He is a native Mississippian "Caring for the Land to Help Save Rural Communities".



WCSHC membership presented Dr. Wilkes with a plaque of appreciation for his commitment to serve farmers and landowners.



Sandra Ford, Tim Reed, & Bill Kitchings of MS Forestry Commission



Anna M. Kleiner, Southeastern Louisiana University & Ben Burkett, MAC



Participants listening and gathering information on improving grazing practices



(Seated right) WCSHC member Cedric Johnson & Kim Crisler (seated on the far left) are receiving free needed blood pressure screenings.

FASHION SHOW

WCSHC STYLE!

Friday, January 2, 2009



Brenda Johnson



Thomas Coleman



Willie Matthews



Founding members Dee & Omerio Dotson worked the runway "literally" during the WCSHC's Fashion Show.

Presenters



Dean and Larry Miller orchestrated an outstanding fashion show with a taste of country living and urban flair.



Lee Mark Taylor



Linda Stephens



Roy Eichelberger

2009 SAVING RURAL AMERICA CONFERENCE CANDID SHOTS

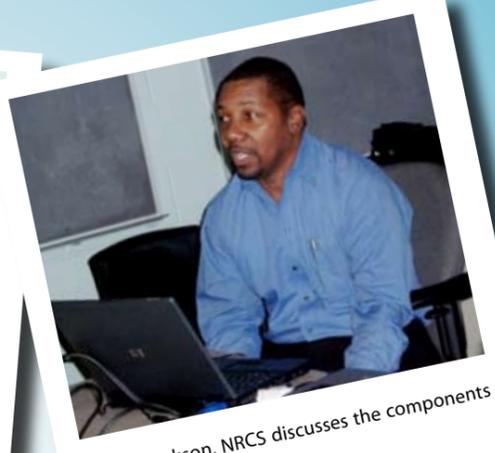
Vote on your experience at the 2009 WCSHC's Saving Rural America & Youth Conference @ www.wcshc.com



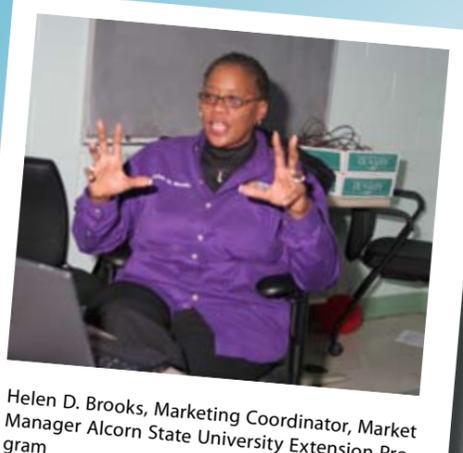
Ronald Westbrook-East Central Community College presented starting a Home-based Business via Internet.



Bill Kitchings, Mississippi Forestry Commission



Walter Jackson, NRCS discusses the components of the grazing system.



Helen D. Brooks, Marketing Coordinator, Market Manager Alcorn State University Extension Program



Roy Eichelberger grilling some chicken.



These participants are focused and alert for more-knowledge on their specific workshop.



Tom Heard & Lamar Burgess USDA-NRCS



Dr. Ann Wells, Springpond Holistic Animal Health



Paul Casey, Farm Manager, Heifer Project International displaying a electrical fence to the workshop participants



Home style cooking is being prepared in the kitchen.



Participants are taking important notes on Timber Management Enterprises.



WCSHC's founding member Omerio Dotson & Kim Crisler



Dr. Daryl Jones, MSU Department of Wild Life and Fishery, Natural Resources Enterprise



Dr. Jeanne Jones, MSU Department of Wild Life and Fishery, Natural Resources Enterprise



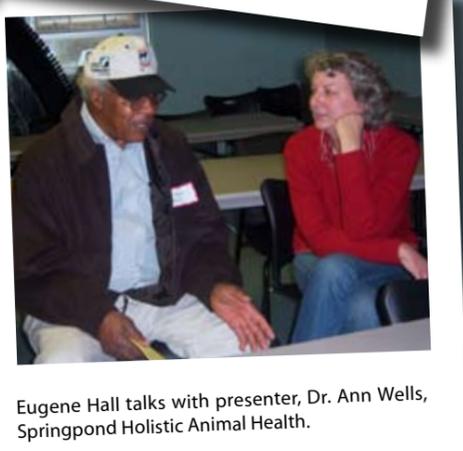
WCSHC's Team Leader Frank Taylor & Mayor of Louisville, MS, Daniel E. (Moe) Yarbrough, Sr.



Jennifer Hopkins of "Winston County Sister on the Move" checks Wardell Bradford blood pressure.



Participants took time to meet and greet during lunch break.



Eugene Hall talks with presenter, Dr. Ann Wells, Springpond Holistic Animal Health.

Winston County Self Help Cooperative conveys thanks to each individual for participating in their Saving Rural America and Youth Conference. The co-op membership looks forward to 2010 conference.