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April 30, 2018

Dear Members and Life Members,

Please accept this letter as your personal invitation to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) of the Alabama Association of County Agricultural Agents and Specialists (AACAAAS). **The AM/PIC is scheduled for June 6-8, 2018 at the Montgomery Marriot Prattville Hotel and Conference Center at Capitol Hill**, located off exit 179 of I-65 in Prattville (2500 Legends Cir, Prattville, AL 36066). An excellent time of professional development and fellowship is expected.

Without delay, please make your hotel reservations. The hotel rate is \$129/night + 12% tax. You can call 334-290-1235 and ask for the block: Alabama County Agricultural Agents and Specialist. You can also use the link supplied in the email dated 4/20/18 from AACAAAS. **All rooms must be reserved by May 4, 2018.**

The AM/PIC begins on **Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 p.m. with two (2) concurrent professional development sessions. Workshop 1 (1 – 3 p.m.) will be presented by Dr. Ayanva Mujamdar. His workshop will focus on constructing relevant evaluation questions in order to collect data needed for program evaluation. Workshop 2 (1 – 3 p.m.) will be presented by Juanita Winegar and Tim Hooper. Their focus will be finding non-traditional sources of grant funding to fund programs you are already doing. After the workshops, all AACAAAS members will break into their assigned AACAAAS committees for meetings.

Golf is the only planned recreational activity of the AM/PIC. Life member, Dennis Peterson will direct the golf outing on Wednesday. You will be playing the Judge Course and green and cart fees are \$68/person. **Please contact Dennis (251-656-5654) if you wish to participate.** Additional recreational opportunities are available (pool, whirlpool, tennis courts and walking/jogging trail). Please check the hotel's website for more information (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mgmmm-montgomery-marriott-prattville-hotel-and-conference-center-at-capitol-hill/?app=resvlink>).

A welcome dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening at the Doster Memorial Community Center in Prattville (424 S Northington St, Prattville, AL 36067). Dean Paul Patterson will join us with a welcome and update from the College of Ag at Auburn University.

**Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**, starts with the Open Business meeting. Both Dr. Gary Lemme and Dr. Allen Malone will provide an Extension update. AM/PIC sponsors and 2018 AACAAAS Award winners will also be recognized during the open business meeting. By 9:00 a.m., we will be loaded up on busses and off to tour. This year, you will have 2 tour options to choose from. Both will leave and return to Prattville about the same time.

**Tour 1: Food Systems Tour.** We will tour Sysco Foods in Calera, Petals From the Past in Jemison and the Chilton Food Innovation Center.

**Tour 2: Natural Resources Tour.** We will get a behind the scenes tour at Natureplex (<https://www.alabamawildlife.org/>) in Millbrook, Plantation Tree Company near Selma and The Hugues Property (prescribed burns).

The Awards Banquet and Charles R. Moody Youth Scholarship Auction (**coat & tie, please**) will start at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday evening in the Conference Center. The 2018 AACAA Youth Scholarship recipients, Achievement Award winners, Distinguished Service Award Winners and AACAA Friend of Extension recipient will be the focus of the banquet. The evening will conclude with the always entertaining scholarship auction!

**Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** starts with the AACAA Memorial Service followed by the closed business meeting for active AACAA members (associate members are excused) and a separate business meeting for the AACAA Life Members. We will conclude our formal program on Friday with a precision agriculture demonstration by SunSouth and TriGreen.

The Catfish Cabin (3011 Cobbs Ford Rd, Millbrook, AL 36054) is the location of our concluding luncheon hosted by the AACAA Life Members. Additionally, new association retirees will be honored and AACAA officers and directors installed.

A hospitality suite will be open each evening.

### **Spouses Program**

Darrue Sharpe (334-320-1135) is leading the spouses program which begins on **Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**. Vans will pick up participants from the hotel at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday for a delightful program from 2 – 4 p.m. “All About Herbs” with Debbie Boutelier. For most people, their interest in herbs begins with using them in the kitchen adding lots of flavor to recipes. But herbs can be incorporated into everyday lives. Debbie will discuss culinary herbs, herbs for tea, herbs for beauty products, herbs for cleaning products and herbs for ornamental products. On **Thursday**, transportation will again be provided from the hotel. Spouses will tour the Buena Vista Mansion which was built in the 1840’s, dine at KimberLia’s in downtown Prattville for lunch and visit the shops of downtown Prattville. The restaurant is located in the Prattville Mercantile Building that was completed in 1855 by Daniel Pratt. Spouses will return to the hotel by 3:30 p.m. Spouses are on their own for **Friday morning**. The pool, walking trail, tennis and shopping are all at the hotel or very close by.

### **Sons and Daughters Youth Program**

Eric Shavey (256-504-0351) has a fun and action-packed schedule for our youth. The youth will need to check in from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. on **Wednesday**. The theme for the youth program will be “Exploring Alabama’s Natural World.” Eric’s uncle will entertain the youth with a “Sticks to Staffs” presentation. **Thursday** will be spent at the Natureplex (<https://www.alabamawildlife.org/>) in Millbrook followed by a movie and pizza. Pickup is at 9 p.m. on Thursday night. Birdhouses, raptors and organized games are on tap for **Friday beginning at 8:15 a.m.** Pickup is at 11:15 a.m.

Please submit your AM/PIC registration form and payment to Rickey Hudson, Treasurer by **May 11<sup>th</sup>**. The member registration fees for a first-time attendee is waived, if their early registration form is received by the deadline. Note, you may also include a \$25 or more donation for the County Agents Kitchen (CAK) along with your registration fees. All donations are certainly accepted and very much appreciated for this important public relations event. If making a CAK donation, please indicate the amount in the final section of the registration form.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Prattville June 6-8<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, contact me at [kriesla@auburn.edu](mailto:kriesla@auburn.edu) or 334-539-2129.

Sincerely,

*Lisa A Kriese-Anderson*  
Lisa A. Kriese-Anderson  
President, AACAA