Greetings AACAAS Member (Life Member)

Mark your calendars for June 7-9, 2006, for the AACAAS meeting in Opelika, Alabama. We will be hosted at the Marriott Hotel at the Robert Trent Jones Grand National Golf Course. Room rates are $109 per night reserved under AACAAS. Call 1-800-593-6456 to make your reservations.

Once again this year, pre-conference tours will be conducted for ACES employees (retirees welcome) on Tuesday, the 6th of June. There are four scheduled. They are as follows:

**Agronomy**
- Shorter, Marvyn, Society Hill area. Leonard Kuykendall and Jeffrey Clary are coordinators. Cotton, corn, peanut rotation system.

**Fisheries/Wildlife**
- 3,000 acre Turkey/Deer/Quail/Timber Management Area. Raymond Newman’s Farm in Beulah (East Lee County) Dani Carroll and Chuck Browne (Lee County) will coordinate.

**Livestock**
- Derrell Rankins farm (Chambers County) and Lawler Purebred Angus farm (Lee County). Henry Dorough and Kim Wilkins will coordinate.

**Horticulture**
- TBD - Shane Harris, Chip East and Stan Roark will coordinate.

Sites for the pre-conference tours are determined as of this writing and could possibly be subject to change. I am leaving this to the discretion of the tour coordinators. They will contact each PPT Team with details as time nears. We have coordinated these pre-conference tours so they hopefully compliment the professional development tours and strengthen the conference overall.

The youth program will be all day on Thursday, the 8th. They will be spending the day at my place up on Lake Martin. Heath Potter and my son Trevor are co-chairs. In addition, my two sisters, Lisa and Jennifer, will be house hostesses as Cathy and I will be on professional development tours. The youth will grill burgers for lunch, have opportunities to swim, ski, wakeboard, relax in the shade and take naps if they get tired or sunburned (hopefully not!). Mommas are welcomed if they want to accompany the little ones. The house is kid friendly, and I am certain they will have a good time.

Supper will be boating across the Lake for Pizza at Chuck’s Marina (not mine). We will have them back near the end of the Scholarship Auction.

Professional Development tours will be somewhat different this year. We have three to choose from. There is no official spouses’ tour. Spouses (of both genders) are welcome to attend the tour of their
choice, with or without their spouse. The tours and sites we have scheduled cover a wide variety of interests. There should be something for everybody.

Shopping opportunities will be on your own. There will be maps and directions to all "the good stuff" in the Auburn/Opelika area.

Professional tours on Thursday are as follows:

**Agronomy**: Dave Han/Beth Geurtal, tour guides.  
"Behind the scenes look at Jordan Hare and Hitchcock Field." A look at how athletic turf is managed. Lunch in the Letterman’s Lounge.

**Livestock**: Smokey Spears/George Richburg, tour guides.  
Tour the brand new facilities at the vet school, beef teaching unit, swine unit. Mike Carroll will cook ribeyes for lunch at the Beef Teaching Unit.

**Horticulture**: Kerry Smith/Cathy Browne, tour guides.  
Visit the regionally recognized gardens of Jim Scott on Lake Martin. Bring your cameras. This one I have toured numerous times with Master Gardener groups and can never get enough—a truly amazing landscape. There will be a catered lunch on Jim’s grounds.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone in Opelika in early June.

Sincerely,

Chuck Browne  
President, AACAAS