Extension Connections

The Official Letter of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System

January /February 2005

Direct Line

The year 2005 will be one of implementation — following 2004 as a year of transition and 2003 as a period of planning. Assistant directors have been asked to focus on getting the Priority Program Teams fully operational in each of the 14 priority areas. Strategic action plans will be finalized for each of our six program focus areas:

Agriculture
Forestry and natural resources
4-H
Urban living
Family and consumer resources
Community and economic development

The Program Development Unit will provide training to optimize team performance and program development. Extension Team Projects that establish specific goals and objectives are under development to serve as guides for team members’ activities and efforts. New program initiatives in poultry by-product utilization and inland mariculture are well under way.

Input from the series of recently completed regional meetings with constituents is being assembled. Overall, we were encouraged to maintain an overall comprehensive offering of programs with specific goals that will create economic benefits and jobs in our state. It was also quite clear that our constituents want easily accessed information available to them through our web site. More details will be available when the compilation and assimilation of the input is complete.

Ed Richardson, Auburn University interim president, has established the President’s Commission on Agriculture to develop recommendations for positioning agriculture, forestry, natural resources and other related programs for the next five to 10 years. Points getting attention include how the various colleges, schools, Cooperative Extension and Experiment Station are connected to serve citizen needs and to enhance economic impact (jobs). Funding needs of these units are also being examined. The President’s Commission is online at http://www.auburnag.org. You and others are invited to go online to learn more about the commission’s charge and activities and to provide input.

Leaders at AAMU and AU are working diligently to develop procedures that will continue the unified Alabama Cooperative Extension System beyond the end of the initial time period covered by the August 1995 court order. This is expected to include state legislation to codify the unified system and the Operational Policies and Procedures Manual to guide the operation of the system. We will share the details as they are finalized.

George Young

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System lost a dedicated specialist and respected colleague with the unexpected death of George Young Dec. 19.

Young joined Alabama Extension 24 years ago as an Extension economist in farm business management. In 1984, he took over as coordinator of Extension’s farm analysis program.

He began his Extension career in Illinois after earning both bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Illinois.

In 1991, Young began his work in international Extension when he was selected to serve on the first team of economists to help Poland make the transition to a market driven economy. Following the initial trip to Poland, he traveled to 14 foreign countries representing Extension and Auburn University. In 1995, he was named Extension’s coordinator of international programs.

“George influenced many lives and families through his work as a farm business management specialist and his work in international agricultural development.”

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES, AND TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY, COUNTY GOVERNING BODIES AND USDA COOPERATING

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.
Gaines Smith, Extension interim director, “He enjoyed the respect of many people in Alabama, the nation and numerous international countries.”

Paul Mask, assistant director for agriculture and natural resources, echoed Smith’s sentiments.

“George’s hard work shaped the farm management program into the vital effort it is today,” said Mask.

“Through his leadership, this program is known as one of the best of its kind in the nation.”

Young’s career was recognized just prior to his death when he was awarded the Extension System’s Distinguished Career award.

**Extension Presents Length of Service Awards**

The 2004 Extension awards luncheon was held Dec. 10 at the 4-H Youth Development Center in Columbiana. Extension Interim Director Gaines Smith presented the Length of Service awards as well as a number of other awards.

### THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

**Sharon M. Stewart**  
Hale County

### THIRTY YEARS

**James Childress**  
Print Shop/AAMU

**Annie J. Tyree**  
St. Clair County

### TWENTY YEARS

**Joy W. Brown**  
Biosystems Eng/Auburn

**Willie E. Datcher**  
Green County

**Dennis Delaney**  
Agronomy & Soils/Auburn

**Willie D. Larkin**  
CRD/Auburn

**Kathy W. Lindsey**  
Morgan County

**Eleanor Mathews**  
Cleburne County

**Timothy D. Reed**  
Franklin County

**Olenda J. Richardson**  
EARO/SWARO/Auburn

**Barbara J. Struempler**  
Ext. Nutritionist/Auburn

**Lynn B. Wilson**  
4-H Center

### TEN YEARS

**Laura B. Booth**  
CRD/Auburn

**Kimberly Burgess**  
Reg. EFNEP Specialist

**Isaac B. Chappell Jr.**  
Calhoun County

**David J. Cline**  
Ext. Specialist/Fisheries

**Michael A. Davis**  
Blackbelt Reg. Res. Ext. Center

**Mark R. Dubois**  
Fisheries & Wildlife Specialist

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**Glenda J. Frederick**  
4-H Center

**Jonathan B. Gladney**  
Hale County

**Queen Ester Harris**  
Montgomery County

**Mary Ann Henley**  
Greene County

**Charles P. Hesselein**  
Orn. Horticulture Res. Center

**Emily B. Kling**  
4-H/Auburn

**David Koon**  
Barbour County

**Margaret C. Lawrence**  
Ext. Specialist/Communications

**Mary P. Malone**  
Morgan County

**Sharon J. McBride**  
Washington County

**Frances D. Scoggins**  
4-H Center

**Tyrone D. Smith**  
Madison County

**Kathleen A. Tajeu**  
CRD/Auburn

**Yvonne D. Thomas**  
Montgomery County

**David H. West**  
Calhoun County

**Kimberly J. Wilkins**  
Chambers County

**Rudy P. Yates Jr.**  
Marengo County

**Paul H. Waddy**  
EARO/Auburn

**Ruth H. Hunter**  
Barbour County

**Thelma Elizabeth Gottler**  
Morgan County

**Rebecca M. Dollman**  
State Leader, Prog. Dev./AAMU

**D. Ray Rice**  
SWARO/Auburn

**Karen M. Thompson**  
Franklin County

**Terry L. Shackelford**  
DeKalb County

**Carolyn F. Bivins**  
Escambia County

**H. Randall Armstrong**  
Lauderdale County

**Julia J. McCollum**  
Mobile County

**PERSONNEL Kudos:**

- **Valerie Conner**, Interim Autauga County Extension Coordinator and Regional Extension Agent, was recognized by the Autauga County Farmers Federation for her outstanding contributions to Autauga County.
• **Willie D. Larkin**, Extension Community Development Specialist, received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award at Lee County’s 2005 Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast.

**Appointments:**

• **Amy Winstead**, Regional Extension Agent, Houston County, Dec. 1, 2004
• **Torhonda Lee**, Regional Extension Agent, Pickens County, Dec. 16, 2004
• **Billie W. Hood**, Lee County Administrative Secretary, Jan. 5
• **Amy Kelly-Hill**, Agent Assistant, Tallapoosa County, Jan. 10

**Resignations:**

• **Mary A. Shirley**, Winston County Administrative Assistant, Nov. 30, 2004
• **Catherine Miller**, Extension Agent, Ft. Rucker, Dec. 17, 2004
• **Susanne Walker**, Agent Assistant, Covington County, Dec. 17, 2004
• **Yvette Dudley**, Agent Assistant, Ft. Rucker, Dec. 31, 2004
• **Mark Mayeske**, Urban Regional Extension Agent, Jefferson County, Dec. 31, 2004
• **Marla K. Faver**, Regional Extension Agent I, Baldwin County, Jan. 7
• **Kara Neloms**, Agent Assistant, Lauderdale County Jan. 7
• **Sherry Chandler**, Agent Assistant, Tuscaloosa County, Jan. 7
• **Rebecca F. Turner**, Extension Agent, Family Programs, Jan. 24

**Retirements:**

• **Larry J. Craft**, County Extension Agent, Montgomery County, Dec. 31, 2004
• **Essie B. Jones**, Agent Assistant, Tuscaloosa County, Dec. 31, 2004
• **Karene N. Richardson**, Etowah County, Dec. 31, 2004

**ACES FAMILY HAPPENINGS**

• Our condolences to the family of **Ralph Latimer**, retired Supply and Logistics Specialist, who died Oct. 15.
• Our sympathies to the family of **Sara Frances Conner**, retired Lauderdale County Agent, who died Oct. 30.

• Our condolences to the family of **Dorothy Overbey**, retired Consumer Education Specialist, who died Nov. 4.
• Congratulations to **Janice Hall**, Autauga County Regional Extension Agent, on the birth of her daughter, Alena Elisabeth, Nov. 29.
• Our sympathies to the family of **Helen B. Hill**, retired Pickens County Home Demonstration Agent, who died Dec. 4.
• Our condolences to **Bob Drakeford**, Extension Specialist, Volunteer Programs, on the death of his father-in-law, Louie Schackel.
• Our sympathies to **Randy Robertson**, Extension Publishing Warehouse Associate, whose father-in-law, Johnny McHargue, died Dec. 15.
• Our condolences to the family of **George Young**, Extension Economist, Farm Analysis Coordinator, who died Dec. 19.
• Our condolences to **Brenda Henson**, Montgomery County Agent Assistant, whose mother, Lucia V. Jackson, died Dec. 20.
• Congratulations to **Kay Gill Sims**, Madison County Agent Assistant, and her husband on the birth of their son, Kalan Dion, Dec. 31.
• Congratulations to **Wendy Padgett**, Clarke County Regional Extension Agent, and her husband on the birth of their son, Matthew Cecil, Jan. 2.
• Our condolences to the family of **John Sellers**, retired Calhoun County Extension Agent, who died Jan. 5.
• Our sympathies to **Gerald Thompson**, Limestone County Regional Extension Agent, whose father, R.H. Thompson, died Jan. 7.
• Congratulations to **Amy Burgess**, Marshall County Agent Assistant, and her husband on the birth of their daughter, Abby Kathryn, Jan. 8.
• Our sympathies to the family of **Hoyt Webb**, retired Tallapoosa County Agent Coordinator, who died Jan. 16.
• Our condolences to **Earnestine Jones**, 4-H Extension Program Office Administrator, whose mother, Annie J. Cooper, died Jan. 18.
• Our sympathies to **Sharon Stewart**, Hale County Administrative Assistant, whose father, Alvin McCrory, died Jan. 23.
• Our condolences to the family of Martha Robertson, wife of **Fred Robertson**, retired Extension Director, who died Jan. 24.
• Our condolences to Evelyn Crayton, Assistant Director — Family and Community Programs, whose father, James Justice Ford, died Jan. 30.

Proposals Funded:

• Elaine Alberson, Choctaw County BOE for Southern Choctaw Elementary School, $15,599
• Shannon Norwood and Charles Burmester, Cotton Inc. for Analysis of Variable Rate Nitrogen, $2,500
• Walter Prevatt, Clemson University for SE Beef Cattle Marketing Schools, $2,422
• Rick Wallace, ADEM for Vegetative Treatment Workshop, $5,000

Proposals Submitted:

• Tony Cook to NASA for Extending NASA Education Resources through 4-H, $55,008
• Kathleen Tajeu to UAB for Racial and Ethics Approaches to Community Health, $15,000
• Katanga Mants to Black Belt Community Foundation for Wilcox County Youth Leadership, $2,500
• Laura Booth to USDA for Alabama Healthy Homes Project, $3,000
• Wayne Brewer to PHIS for Gypsy Moth Survey, $48,700
• Ellen Abell, Francesca Adler-Bader and Kathleen Tajeu to USDA for Beginning Education Early and Healthy Rural Families, $134,000

Gaines Smith, Interim Director