

# SOUTHERN RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

*“Small Town in Global Society”*



**February 3 – 6, 2007  
Mobile, Alabama**

**Southern Rural Sociological Association Meeting**  
February 3 – 6, 2007

***“Small Town in Global Society”***

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## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

<b>8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.</b>		<i>CONCOURSE LOBBY</i>
<b>REGISTRATION</b>		

**8:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.**

**SRSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING** **202 A**

**9:45 A.M. – 10:45 P.M.**

**SRSA RURAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE MEETING** **202A**

Organizer:

Glenn Israel, University of Florida

Participants:

Glenn Israel, University of Florida  
 Usman Adamu, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff  
 Don Albrecht, Texas A&M University  
 Bo Beaulieu, Southern Rural Development Center  
 Frank Beck, Illinois State University  
 Ed Reeves, Morehead State University  
 Mark Schafer, Louisiana State University  
 Doug Smith, Western Kentucky University  
 Dreamal Worthen, Florida A&M University

**11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.**

**PANEL DISCUSSION** **202A**

**The 2007 Farm Bill: Policy Options and Consequences for  
 Small, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers in the South**

Organizers:

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University  
 Doris Newton, USDA/Economic Research Service  
 Ntam Baharanyi, Tuskegee University

Facilitator:

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University

Participants:

Albert J. Allen, Mississippi State University  
 Doris Newton, USDA/Economic Research Service  
 James Novak, Auburn University  
 Kenneth Stokes, Texas Cooperative Extension  
 Ntam Baharanyi, Tuskegee University

**12:15 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.**

**LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)**

**1:30 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**202A**

**Small Town Agriculture**

Moderator: E'licia L. Chaverest, Alabama A&M University

**Examining the Economic Impact of Birmingham Farmers' Markets on the Local Economy**

Mukiibi Michael, Alabama A&M University  
James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University  
Joseph Molnar, Auburn University  
Leah Rigdon, Auburn University  
Arthur Siaway, Tuskegee University

**Factors Affecting Fresh Tomato Consumption in the United States**

Kimberly Curtis, Alabama A&M University  
Duncan Chembezi, Alabama A&M University  
Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&M University  
Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&M University

**The Feasibility of Investment in Greenhouse Tomato Production as an Alternative/  
Supplemental Enterprise for the Small Farmer in Alabama**

Kimberly Curtis, Alabama A&M University  
Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&M University  
Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&M University

**PAPER SESSION**

**202B**

**Leisure and Leadership Issues**

Moderator: Douglas Smith, Western Kentucky University

**Brains and Brawn: Event Analysis of Collegiate Rodeo Athletes**

Gene L. Theodori, Texas A&M University

**Texas Latino Attitudes Toward the Environment and Outdoor Recreation Participation**

A. Lopez, Texas A&M University  
C. Torres, Texas A&M University  
N.J. Silvy, Texas A&M University  
R.R. Lopez, Texas A&M University

**Leadership Development Programs: Enhancement of Individual, Social or Community  
Capital?**

Patricia H. Dyk, University of Kentucky

**Are Agricultural Leadership Development Programs Building Global Leaders?**

Eric K. Kaufman, University of Florida

**2:45 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**SOUTHERN RURAL SOCIOLOGY EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING**

**202B**

**3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**SAAS OPENING SESSION** **WEST BALLROOM**  
**Immigration Policy**

**5:00 P.M. – ONWARD**

**SAAS RECEPTION/SUPER BOWL PARTY** **EAST and WEST BALLROOM**

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

<b>8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.</b>		<b>CONCOURSE LOBBY</b>
<b>REGISTRATION</b>		

**8:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION** **202A**  
**Agricultural Innovations**

Moderator: Jack Thigpen, North Carolina Sea Grant College Program

**Profitability of Organic Production on Small Farms in Alabama**

Staci Huddleston, Alabama A&M University  
 Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&M University  
 Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&M University

**Spatial Contours of Potential Biomass Crop Production: An Extension and Measures of Change**

Frank M. Howell, Mississippi State University  
 Jeremy R. Porter, Mississippi State University  
 Philip B. Mason, Mississippi State University  
 Troy B. Blanchard, Mississippi State University

**The Internet and U.S. Farmers' Markets: The Impact of Structural Pluralism on the Internet Adoption by Farmers' Markets**

Seungahn Nah, University of Kentucky  
 Kathryn Ellis, University of Kentucky  
 Donna Hancock, University of Kentucky  
 Jesse Horn, University of Kentucky  
 Randy Weckman, University of Kentucky

**Utilization of Cultural Models and Collaborative Learning to Advance Management of the North Carolina Blue Crab Fishery**

Sara E. Mirabilio, North Carolina Sea Grant College Program  
 Michael Paolisso, University of Maryland  
 Jack Thigpen, North Carolina Sea Grant College Program

**PAPER SESSION**  
**Law and Policy**

202B

Moderator: Gene L. Theodori, Texas A&M University

**The Overlooked Significance of ‘Place’ in Law and Policy**

Debra Lyn Bassett, Florida State University College of Law

**Shifting Approaches to Environmental Regulation and Small Water System Capacity Development: A Case Study**

Kim Steil, Mississippi State University Water Resources Research Institute

**Protecting Homeplace: An Examination of the Legal and Cultural Implications of Heir Property in Alabama’s Black Belt**

Janice F. Dyer, Auburn University

**Effectiveness of the Regional Councils of Governments in Alabama: A Comparative Case Study**

Shakeesha Washington, Auburn University

<b>9:30 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.</b>
<b>BREAK</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CONCOURSE LOBBY</b></span>

**9:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

202A

**Sustainable Agriculture and Quality of Life – I**  
**Co-sponsored by SRSA and SAEA**

Organizers:

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University

Jeffrey Jordan, University of Georgia – Griffin

Moderator: Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University

**Sustainable Agriculture and the Social Sciences: Getting Beyond Best Management Practices and Getting Into Food Systems**

Jeffrey Jordan, University of Georgia – Griffin

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University

**The Role of Southern SARE Research Projects in Enhancing Quality of Life of Community Lives in the Southern Region**

Keiko Tanaka, University of Kentucky

Victoria Bhavsar, University of Kentucky

**Support of Civic Agriculture in Black Belt Counties of Five Southeastern States: The Role of Community Governance**

Terrance Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

Osei Yeboah, North Carolina A&T State University

Benjamin Gray, North Carolina A&T State University

Victor Ofori-Boadu, North Carolina A&T State University

**Expanding the Marketing Opportunities and Sustainable Production Potential for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers in Louisiana and Mississippi**

Anna M. Kleiner, Southeastern Louisiana University  
John J. Green, Delta State University

**PAPER SESSION**

**202B**

**Rural – Urban Issues**

Moderator: John K. Thomas, Texas A&M University

**Sociological Imagination for Service: Everything is Not Great**

George Floro, Sul Ross State University

**Rural – Urban Patterns of Obesity in the U.S.: Testing Socioeconomic and Lifestyle Hypotheses**

Philip B. Mason, Mississippi State University  
Frank M. Howell, Mississippi State University

**On the Urbanicity of Metropolitan Areas: Population and Landuse Change, 1970 – 1990**

Jeremy R. Porter, Mississippi State University  
Frank M. Howell, Mississippi State University

**Social, Economic and Environmental Effects of Urbanization on the Sustainability of Small Farms in Tennessee and Arkansas: An Application of the Delphi Process**

Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University  
Usman Adamu, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

**11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**AWARDS LUNCHEON and PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

**Small Town in Global Society**

Dr. Don E. Albrecht, Texas A&M University

NOTE: *The Awards Luncheon and Presidential Address will be held in the Overlook Room at the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center.*

**1:15 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.**

**POSTER SESSION**

**PREFUNCTION/UPPER CONCOURSE**

**Texas Latino Attitudes and Behavior Toward the Environment**

A. Lopez, Texas A&M University  
C. Torres, Texas A&M University  
N.J. Silvy, Texas A&M University  
R.R. Lopez, Texas A&M University

**Barriers to Health Care Access among Residents of the Southern Black Belt Region of the United States**

Benjamin Gray, North Carolina A&T State University  
Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University  
Marcus Bernard, North Carolina A&T State University

**1:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**202A**

**Sustainable Agriculture and Quality of Life – II**  
**Co-sponsored by SRSA and SAEA**

Organizers:

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University  
 Jeffrey Jordan, University of Georgia – Griffin

Moderator: Jeffrey Jordan, University of Georgia – Griffin

**Produce Sections, Town Squares, and Farm Stands: Comparing Local Food in Community Context**

Sarah Hultine, University of Illinois  
 Stephen Gasteyer, University of Illinois  
 Leslie Cooperband, University of Illinois  
 Pat Curry, University of Illinois

**Regulatory Barriers to Sustainability in the Specialty Meat Sector**

M.R. Worosz, Michigan State University  
 A.J. Knight, Michigan State University  
 C.K. Harris, Michigan State University  
 D.S. Conner, Michigan State University

**Organic Bifurcation and Quality of Life: A Look at Certified and Non-Certified Organic Farmers in Texas**

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University  
 Holly Lyke Ho-Gland, Sam Houston State University

**PAPER SESSION**

**202B**

**Rural Health and Well-Being**

Moderator: Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University

**Making the Connections: The Importance of Rural Journalism in Community Health Efforts**

Laura M. Hall, University of Southern Mississippi

**Human Well-Being Comparison Between Alabama's Black Belt and the Southern Cumberland Plateau Regions**

Nevia C. Brown, Alabama A&M University  
 Rory Fraser, Alabama A&M University

**Determinants of Cigarette Consumption in the U.S. (1975 – 2005)**

Staci Huddleston, Alabama A&M University  
 Duncan Chembezi, Alabama A&M University  
 Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&M University  
 Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&M University



<b>3:00 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.</b>
<b>BREAK</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CONCOURSE LOBBY</b></span>

**3:15 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

**ROUNDTABLE SESSION** **202A**  
**Black Belt Community Activists and Scholars Exchange Stories and Ideas  
About Working Together for Social Change**

Organizer:

Rosalind P. Harris, University of Kentucky

Participants:

Ntam Baharanyi, Tuskegee University  
Sarah Bobrow Williams, Southern Black Women's Rural Initiatives  
Sokoya Finch, Florida Family Network  
Shirley Sherrod, Federation of Southern Cooperatives  
Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University  
Veronica Womack, Georgia College and State University  
Dreamal Worthen, Florida A&M University

**PAPER SESSION** **202B**  
**Youth and Rural Communities**

Moderator: Edward B. Reeves

**How to (Thoroughly) Explain the Rural Gap in Reading and Math Achievement with  
Quantile Regression**

Edward B. Reeves, Morehead State University  
Jesse Lowe, Morehead State University

**Community Effects on Kindergarten to Third Grade Educational Achievement**  
Glenn D. Israel, University of Florida

**Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship Camps: The Impact on Kentucky Communities  
and the Global Society**

Donna Hancock, University of Kentucky

**What Is a Usual Source of Care? Medical Homes and Continuity of Care for Children on  
Mississippi Medicaid**

C.J. Campbell, Mississippi State University  
J.S. Cossman, Mississippi State University  
J.B. Ritchie, Mississippi State University

**4:45 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.**

**SRSA BUSINESS MEETING** **202A**

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

<b>8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.</b>
<b>REGISTRATION</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CONCOURSE LOBBY</b></span>

**8:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**202A**

**Human Dimensions of Agriculture – I**

Moderator: Thomas Gray, USDA Rural Development Cooperative Programs

**Farm Structure and Agricultural Input Markets in North Carolina's Black Belt**

Godfrey Ejimakor, North Carolina A&T State University

Makesi Ormond, North Carolina A&T State University

**Alabama Farmers' Markets: A Prediction of Market Size and Market Segmentation**

LaMonica Ginton, Alabama A&M University

Odili Onianwa, Alabama A&M University

Gerald Wheelock, Alabama A&M University

**An Evaluation of Waste Management Practices at Small Livestock Operations in Alabama: Summary and Preliminary Analysis**

Ericka Soumare, Alabama A&M University

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University

**Choosing a Formal Cooperative Structure to Fit the Imperatives of a Middle Agriculture**

Thomas Gray, USDA Rural Development Cooperative Programs

George Stevenson, University of Wisconsin – Madison

**PAPER SESSION**

**202B**

**Poverty and Inequality**

Moderator: Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University

**Mexican American Poverty in the Texas Borderland: The Influences of Family Structure, Metro Location and Characteristics of Individuals**

Carlos Siordia, Texas A&M University

**Income Inequality in the Alabama Black Belt: Spatial Analysis at Sub-County Level**

Buddhi Gyawali, Alabama A&M University

Rory Fraser, Alabama A&M University

James Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

John Schelhas, Tuskegee University

**Food Stamps, Race, and Rural Food Insecurity**

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University

**Food Security, Obesity, and Household Status among Female Food Pantry Clients in East Alabama: Results of an Exploratory Study**

Patricia A. Duffy, Auburn University  
 Claire Zizza, Auburn University  
 Marina Irimia-Vladu, American University of Sharjah  
 Francis A. Tayie, Auburn University

<b>9:30 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.</b>
<b>BREAK</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CONCOURSE LOBBY</b></span>

**9:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**202A**

**Human Dimensions of Agriculture – II**

Moderator: Glenn D. Israel, University of Florida

**Residential Differences in Attitudes Toward Florida Agriculture**

Eric K. Kaufman, University of Florida  
 Glenn D. Israel, University of Florida  
 Tracy Irani, University of Florida

**Farm Policy and Destabilizing Rural Southern Communities: The Case of Black Cotton Farmers**

Jerry Pennick, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund  
 Heather Gray, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund

**Tennessee Consumers' Knowledge and Attitudes towards Biotechnology**

Fisseha Tegegne, Tennessee State University  
 Safdar Muhammad, Tennessee State University  
 Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University  
 Surendra Singh, Tennessee State University

**Consumer Perceptions and Willingness-to-Pay for GM-Free Food Products in Southern Underserved Communities**

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University  
 E'lícia L. Chaverest, Alabama A&M University

**PAPER SESSION**

**202B**

**Community and the Environment**

Moderator: Gene L. Theodori, Texas A&M University

**Community Leaders' Perceptions of Energy Development in the Barnett Shale**

Brooklynn J. Anderson, Texas A&M University

**Framework for Rural Sustainable Tourism Development in Nicaragua**

Edwin Vladimir Cordero, University of Texas at Brownsville  
 Yeong Nain Chi, University of Texas at Brownsville  
 Msc. Maritza Vargas Paiz, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, León

**Rights and Wrongs: Competing Claims of Environmental Responsibility in Northeast Alabama**

Zachary Henson, Auburn University

**Ideologically Structured Information Exchange Among Environmental Groups**

Laura Robinson, Auburn University

Conner Bailey, Auburn University

Mark Dubois, Auburn University

**11:15 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.**

**SRSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

**202A**

# ABSTRACTS

## (arranged by day/time)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:45 A.M. – 10:45 P.M.

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

202A

#### The 2007 Farm Bill: Policy Options and Consequences for Small, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers in the South

Congress will soon be gearing up for the 2007 farm legislation debate. What do we see coming down the road and what will its impacts be on agricultural producers, consumers and local communities? The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) held a series of listening sessions in 2005 to gather information from farmers about how the current farm program is working and what they would like to see changed. Specifically, the USDA wanted feedback in three areas: Does the current policy do enough to encourage and support the next generation? Does the policy foster the right atmosphere to succeed in farming? Can more be done to expand groundbreaking success in cooperative conservation efforts? The USDA is currently analyzing 4,348 comments that have been received. "The 2007 Farm Bill will affect America's entire agricultural community, so I believe our entire agricultural community should have a say in the process. I welcome input from across the nation about what is working and what we can do to improve farm policy." - Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture. Even with these comments, the exact nature of the reauthorized farm legislation will never be known until the actual farm bill is debated and concluded. Prospects are that the 2007 farm legislation will change significantly to account for the problems inherent in the 2002 farm legislation. The real issue, however, is "how will these policy changes affect the small and limited resource farm operations, beginning farmers and local communities?" Given the diverse nature of southern agriculture, consisting mostly of small farm operations, producing a diverse mix of enterprises (mainly minor crops and livestock), any change in farm policy could have major long term implications. This symposium will identify and discuss some of the likely changes contemplated for the next farm legislation and highlight how these policy changes might impact the structure of southern agriculture. Specifically, what are the environmental/conservation, sustainability, commodity policy, marketing and risk management, agricultural trade, and rural development issues and changes that may likely impact small and limited resource farms, beginning farmers and rural communities in the South?

#### Organizers:

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University  
Doris Newton, USDA/Economic Research Service  
Ntam Baharanyi, Tuskegee University

#### Facilitator:

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University

#### Participants:

Albert J. Allen, Mississippi State University  
Doris Newton, USDA/Economic Research Service  
James Novak, Auburn University  
Kenneth Stokes, Texas Cooperative Extension  
Ntam Baharanyi, Tuskegee University

1:30 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.

**PAPER SESSION**  
**Small Town Agriculture**

202A

### **Examining the Economic Impact of Birmingham Farmers' Markets on the Local Economy**

Mukiibi Michael, Alabama A&M University  
 James O. Bukenya, Alabama A&M University  
 Joseph Molnar, Auburn University  
 Leah Rigdon, Auburn University  
 Arthur Siaway, Tuskegee University

Recently, much emphasis has been given to the economic importance of farmers selling in local markets. Interest in farmers' market activity in the US has also increased in the past few years as consumers' apparent desire for fresh, locally produced food has led them to shop the markets in increasing numbers. Using a case study of Birmingham Farmers' Market the goal of this study was to assess both market participation and the local economic impact that can be credited to the market activity; some of the many relevant questions that arise are addressed, as the results of a 2006 Birmingham survey of market participants are presented. Approximately \$4 million in total sales were estimated through consumer reporting for a 10 mile radius around the market. This \$4 million in sales was used to assess the overall economic impact of the Birmingham farmers' markets.

### **Factors Affecting Fresh Tomato Consumption in the United States**

Kimberly Curtis, Alabama A&M University  
 Duncan Chembezi, Alabama A&M University  
 Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&M University  
 Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&M University

For several decades fresh tomato acreage seemed to have declined across the nation. Although tomatoes are produced in every state in the U.S., only about 20 states produce them commercially. Thousands of farms produce tomatoes but only 30% of the harvested acres go toward fresh tomato consumption. Auspiciously, tomato consumption has consistently increased over the years, and research by the National Food and Agricultural Policy Project forecasted that consumption will reach 21 pounds per capita by the year 2012. This increase sparked an interest as to what factors caused this constant rise in consumption. The study is based on annual data of tomato production and consumption from the USDA and the data was analyzed using regression analysis. The study determined that the price of tomatoes, per capita average income, and per capita fresh tomato consumption in the previous period significantly affected U.S. fresh tomato consumption over the years.

### **The Feasibility of Investment in Greenhouse Tomato Production as an Alternative/ Supplemental Enterprise for the Small Farmer in Alabama**

Kimberly Curtis, Alabama A&M University  
 Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&M University  
 Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&M University

The focus of this study was in using greenhouse-grown tomatoes, a nontraditional enterprise, as an alternative or supplemental way to generate revenue to the small farms in Alabama. Farmers in Alabama faced difficulties in the past in maintaining their agricultural enterprises because of extremely hot temperatures and lack of rainfall, and those same issues exist today. Greenhouse-grown tomatoes are in a controlled environment and allow management to oversee the inputs the plants receive and how often. The Net Present Value Method was adopted to determine the

profitability and financial feasibility of investing in a greenhouse solely for the production of tomatoes. This analysis was conducted under different scenarios regarding discount rates and sources of capital. Preliminary indications are that greenhouse-grown tomatoes are an acceptable enterprise and are feasible for the small farmer in Alabama.

## **PAPER SESSION**

**202B**

### **Leisure and Leadership Issues**

#### **Brains and Brawn: Event Analysis of Collegiate Rodeo Athletes**

Gene L. Theodori, Texas A&M University

Over the past eight decades, college rodeo has evolved from small, single-campus fund-raisers, celebrations, and/or competitions into an internationally recognized North American collegiate sport. Throughout its history, though, the sport has received virtually no attention in the sociological literature. The purpose of this paper is to contribute to the writings on college rodeo. In this paper I present a detailed description of the academic majors of collegiate rodeo athletes – both cowboys and cowgirls. I then empirically examine the associations among certain individual-level characteristics of collegiate rodeo athletes and the events in which they compete. I conclude the paper with possible implications of the findings and make suggestions for future research. Data for this study were collected in a 2003 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association membership survey.

#### **Texas Latino Attitudes Toward the Environment and Outdoor Recreation Participation**

A. Lopez, Texas A&M University

C. Torres, Texas A&M University

N.J. Silvy, Texas A&M University

R.R. Lopez, Texas A&M University

Building rapport with emerging stakeholders and understanding differences in stakeholder attitudes is needed for the overall success of natural resource policies and management decisions. The Latino community (76% of Mexican descent) is one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the U.S. Research on Latino environmental and natural resource attitudes which considers their unique sociocultural characteristics is limited. Additionally, research concerning Latinos of Mexican descent has been overlooked in various states, including Texas, who holds the second largest Latino population in the U.S. The objective of our study was to determine environmental and natural resource attitudes of Texas Latinos of Mexican descent and to compare these with their outdoor recreation participation levels. We surveyed Texas college students (n=635) and determined that acculturation did not have a significant effect on environmental attitudes and outdoor recreation participation. We recommend future research consider using multi-site, mixed-method surveys when working with the Latino population.

#### **Leadership Development Programs: Enhancement of Individual, Social or Community Capital?**

Patricia H. Dyk, University of Kentucky

Leadership training programs designed to develop leaders by preparing participants to take an active role in advancing the state or community for the common good have been on the rise. However, questions have arisen regarding who benefits from such investments and what type of individual, social or community capital is enhanced. This presentation will discuss the results of a survey of Kentucky directors and alumni of community-based leadership programs designed to address the question: How are individual leadership characteristics, civic engagement and/or community development enhanced by participation in small group leadership development

programs? Results will provide insights into the benefits and impacts of participation to individuals, groups, and communities as well as the extent to which participants are better prepared to lead in a global society.

### **Are Agricultural Leadership Development Programs Building Global Leaders?**

Eric K. Kaufman, University of Florida

“Looking forward, globalization offers rural America a new set of challenges and opportunities” (Henderson & Weiler, 2004, p. 2). As our world becomes increasingly globally connected, the demand for (and shortage of) global leaders also increases. Efforts to address that need in the United States include about 40 state- or regional-level leadership development programs that serve rural and/or agricultural populations (W.K. Kellogg Foundation, 2001). Increasing participants’ understanding of international issues is a common objective of many of these programs (Howell, Weir, & Cook, 1982; W.K. Kellogg Foundation). According to experts on the global marketplace, all leaders, domestic and global, need to understand the ramifications of globalization and take on the role of global citizens (Goldsmith, Greenberg, Robertson, & Hu-Chan, 2003). This paper seeks to investigate the objectives of agricultural and rural leadership development programs in the Southeast United States and evaluate their relationship to competencies identified for global leadership development.

## **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

**8:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**202A**

**Agricultural Innovations**

### **Profitability of Organic Production on Small Farms in Alabama**

Staci Huddleston, Alabama A&M University

Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&M University

Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&M University

Small-farms need alternative/supplementary enterprises to add to their net farm-income because approximately 40,000 Alabama families are having a difficult time making a living from farming. U.S. farmers are farming organically to lower input costs, conserve renewable-resources, capture high-value markets and boost farm-income. Large managerial costs, risk of a new way of farming, limited awareness of organic systems, and limited access to capital are some of the obstacles farmers face when transitioning from conventional to organic farming. This study determines the economic feasibility of organic production on small-scale farms in Alabama. It investigates the impact of this business venture on cash flow for small farmers and to determine if it provides them a satisfactory supplementary income. A linear-programming model was used to determine the optimal combination of enterprises. Preliminary results suggest that organic production is feasible for small farms.



### **Spatial Contours of Potential Biomass Crop Production: An Extension and Measures of Change**

Frank M. Howell, Mississippi State University  
 Jeremy R. Porter, Mississippi State University  
 Philip B. Mason, Mississippi State University  
 Troy B. Blanchard, Mississippi State University

The recent and projected status of energy production and consumption in the U.S., resulting in substantial dependencies upon foreign oil, has continued to provide pressure on domestic energy security. Alternative energy programs such as biomass energy systems are currently under development (Dept. of Energy 2005). President Bush identified such programs in his State of the Union address in January 2006 as one of his strategic initiatives for the remainder of his term. All told, bio-energy systems, and biomass crop production in particular, will be important elements of national security, economic vitality, and public policy. Using a model originally developed at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Graham et al. 1997), we update their 1992 estimates of potential biomass crop production for the years 1997 and 2002. Using spatial analysis methods, significant clusters of counties reflecting high potential biomass crop "zones" are identified for the U.S. as well as changes over the decade of 1992-2002. The implications of these spatial contours for energy policy for alternative biomass crop production are discussed.

### **The Internet and U.S. Farmers' Markets: The Impact of Structural Pluralism on the Internet Adoption by Farmers' Markets**

Seungahn Nah, University of Kentucky  
 Kathryn Ellis, University of Kentucky  
 Donna Hancock, University of Kentucky  
 Jesse Horn, University of Kentucky  
 Randy Weckman, University of Kentucky

Community structural pluralism, defined as the degree of diversification within the community, has been of importance to the relationship between structural features and their impact on community organizations' activities. Relying on the theory, this study examines how community structural pluralism can affect the Internet adoption by U.S. farmers' markets. Data were collected using secondary data analyses from various sources, such as Marketing Services Branch of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and US Census. Then, community structural pluralism index was created by a summary of the 50 U.S. states' rank position on three characteristics, such as population, per capita income, and percent of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher educational level. The result reveals that farmers markets in more pluralistic states have a greater ratio of Websites than ones in less pluralistic states. This study confirms the theory of community structural pluralism and its impact on the adoption of new communication technologies by community organizations.

### **Utilization of Cultural Models and Collaborative Learning to Advance Management of the North Carolina Blue Crab Fishery**

Sara E. Mirabilio, North Carolina Sea Grant College Program  
 Michael Paolisso, University of Maryland  
 Jack Thigpen, North Carolina Sea Grant College Program

The blue crab supports North Carolina's most valuable commercial fishery in terms of total landings, value, processing, participation, employment, and the amount of harvest gear used. Finding ways to increase the quality of technical expertise, while simultaneously increasing the involvement of stakeholders in the fishery management process, has been perhaps the fundamental challenge of policy formation for years. It is more the norm for scientific knowledge to suppress traditional ecological knowledge, because this knowledge is based on the unpredictability of nature. This project married cultural model information with a larger

collaborative learning approach. In this process, NC blue crab fishery stakeholders (commercial crabbers/dealers, university researchers, fishery managers, and non-governmental environmental organizations) exchanged information via three dialogue workshops. Through these, stakeholders were able to 1) establish a commitment to working together, creating workshop protocols and group covenant; 2) summarize all issues and interests related to management of the fishery in the Albemarle region, NC; 3) define a shared problem and goal; and 4) develop implementable actions that would foster continued communication between stakeholders and work towards creation of a sustainable commercial blue crab fishery in the Albemarle region. More generally, the project improved communication and understanding among blue crab fishery stakeholders, refined the methodology for reducing conflict among stakeholders by integrating community-based knowledge into policy discussions, and increased recognition of the importance of collaborative learning based on cultural models as an approach to make informed decisions on controversial resource management issues.

**PAPER SESSION**  
**Law and Policy**

**202B**

**The Overlooked Significance of ‘Place’ in Law and Policy**

Debra Lyn Bassett, Florida State University College of Law

Law has long been reluctant to integrate knowledge and developments from other disciplines. Consistent with this approach, although a growing number of social scientists have argued that “place” matters, the impact of these perspectives largely has been overlooked in the law.

Current discourses mute and minimize “place.” Indeed, “place-based” language often is viewed as narrow-minded and parochial. Not only are laws typically drafted and implemented without regard to place, but current discussions of globalization inherently undercut “place” by an emphasis on dispersion and consistent reach. A perhaps unintended consequence of heralding globalization is the homogenization of “place,” in which “place” is viewed as interchangeable, a mere neutral backdrop without independent significance.

It is these unexamined, and unjustified, assumptions of similarities without regard to “place” that form the focus of this paper, set in the context of the significance of “place” and rural policies.

**Shifting Approaches to Environmental Regulation and Small Water System Capacity Development: A Case Study**

Kim Steil, Mississippi State University Water Resources Research Institute

This paper presents a case study of the Southeastern Regional Small Public Water Systems Technical Assistance Center’s success in enhancing small system capacity and building sustainable partnerships. For many people living in the Southeast, small public water systems are vital to their physical health and the economic prosperity of their community. In order to operate, these systems require technology and skills, investments over time, and effective public leadership. The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act reauthorization is regarded as one of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation passed to date because of its impact on improving small water systems. The amendments marked a dramatic shift from a command-and-control approach to regulation dominated by a vertical stove-pipe hierarchy, to a more horizontal partnership approach in which water suppliers and state and local officials provide input to and shape the direction of the regulatory process. Capacity-building is particularly important to this new approach.

**Protecting Homeplace: An Examination of the Legal and Cultural Implications of Heir Property in Alabama's Black Belt**

Janice F. Dyer, Auburn University

When a landowner dies without a will, his or her descendants inherit the property as a communal interest. Heir property, as it is often called, is a common form of landownership among African Americans in the rural South. Because the title to the land is not clear, there are many legal complications: ineligibility for housing programs, inability to secure a mortgage or sell timber, and vulnerability to land loss through partition and tax sales. Despite these problems, heir property is still common and many families make no attempts to clear their titles. While the legal implications of heir property are well documented, the cultural side to this phenomenon has been largely ignored. Based on personal interviews with heir landowners and others, this paper examines why, despite the numerous problems associated with it, heir property persists and how it may serve as a source of social, cultural, and familial security.

**Effectiveness of the Regional Councils of Governments in Alabama: A Comparative Case Study**

Shakeesha Washington, Auburn University

COGs are governmental units designed to provide regional coordination and assistance in obtaining grants from state and federal agencies. COG members include county and municipal governments and these local governments are represented on a COG by elected or appointed officials. There are twelve COGs in Alabama. The proposed research will focus on two of these, Lee-Russell Council of Governments (Lee and Russell counties) and South Central Alabama Development Commission (Bullock, Butler, Crenshaw, Lowndes, Pike and Macon).

**9:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**202A**

**Sustainable Agriculture and Quality of Life – I**  
**Co-sponsored by SRSA and SAEA**

**Sustainable Agriculture and the Social Sciences: Getting Beyond Best Management Practices and Getting Into Food Systems**

Jeffrey Jordan, University of Georgia – Griffin  
 Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University

In this paper we examine the successes and challenges of sustainable agriculture. While officially built upon the three-legged stool of environmental stewardship, economic profitability, and social quality of life, sustainable agriculture programs and research in general, and in the South in particular, has focused on the environmental leg of the stool. Research and education on sustainable agriculture has centered on the introduction and adoption of best management practices designed to enhance environmental quality. We laud the significant accomplishments of these efforts but argue that for the development of a truly sustainable agriculture, there is a distinct and growing need to get beyond the environmental aspects and into the economic and social arenas of sustainability.

### **The Role of Southern SARE Research Projects in Enhancing Quality of Life of Community Lives in the Southern Region**

Keiko Tanaka, University of Kentucky  
Victoria Bhavsar, University of Kentucky

As an institutional mechanism, funding agencies – whether public or private and multinational or local – play a key role in actualizing perspectives about sustainable agriculture. By funding research and development, education and training, and/outreach activities, these agencies shapes the processes of transforming agriculture and rural communities, and therefore the quality of life for farmers and rural residents. To understand how the goal of sustainable agriculture and the direction to achieve it is shaped through a public funding agency, this paper examines trends in sustainable agriculture research and education projects funded by the Southern Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (SARE) programs in the last 15 years. The paper presents our recommendations to future researchers and to SARE for research strategies that may allow SARE to continue its contributions to the enhancement of quality of life for farmers, rural residents, and rural communities.

### **Support of Civic Agriculture in Black Belt Counties of Five Southeastern States: The Role of Community Governance**

Terrance Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University  
Osei Yeboah, North Carolina A&T State University  
Benjamin Gray, North Carolina A&T State University  
Victor Ofori-Boadu, North Carolina A&T State University

Researchers including Delind (2002) Lapping (204), Lyson (204) and Flora (1990) have argued convincingly in support of the capacity of alternative agricultural models (variously referred to as community supported agriculture, community-based agriculture and civic agriculture) to support holistic community development. It is argued that community-based agriculture needs the support of all sectors of the community to be sustainable, and for it to contribute to sustained, holistic community development.

In this paper we are interested in answering two questions: (1) what is the status of support for sustainable models of small farm agriculture? And (2) what forms of community governance structures are most suited for mobilizing communities to respond to the challenges of sustainable community and community-based agriculture development in an era of globalization? To answer the first question, we will analyze data gathered from a telephone survey of 500 randomly selected residents of five Southeastern states. To answer the second question, we will synthesize insights from the literature and listening sessions conducted with community-based organizations in the states identified above to propose a community governance model that is supportive of sustainable community based agriculture and holistic community development.

This paper will provide insights concerning two factors critical to the holistic development of rural communities, i.e., the status of community support for sustainable small farm development and governance structures that support collective community decision-making. Policy makers and practitioners should find these insights useful in their efforts to promote holistic community development.

**Expanding the Marketing Opportunities and Sustainable Production Potential for Minority and Limited Resource Farmers in Louisiana and Mississippi**

Anna M. Kleiner, Southeastern Louisiana University

John J. Green, Delta State University

We report the findings and recommendations from a planning project funded by the Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture and Education (SARE) program designed to bring together minority and limited resource farmer organizations, regional non-profit organizations, regional universities, and a variety of customer interests. Participants worked collaboratively to identify opportunities and challenges associated with expanding access to diverse agricultural markets and creating incentives for sustainable production. Findings show a continuing need to access financing, land, equipment, education, and technical support, and to develop innovative cooperative arrangements and expand opportunities for youth involvement in agriculture. The rural development policy implications of these findings will also be analyzed. This project has been a collaborative effort between Southeastern Louisiana University, Delta State University, the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives, the Northeast Louisiana Black Farmers and Land Owners Association, the Morehouse Parish Black Farmers and Land Owners Association, and Heifer Project International.

**PAPER SESSION**

**202B**

**Rural – Urban Issues**

**Sociological Imagination for Service: Everything is Not Great**

George Floro, Sul Ross State University

Within the frame of public sociology a sociological imagination analysis will provide the background for building publics among disadvantaged people. The craft for the analysis leading to discovery and informed sociological practice brings sides of dichotomies together, such as the local and the global and the grassroots and the elite. They go together and need not be perpetuated as divisive. Rural sociologists have already established relationships with disadvantaged rural people in regional areas. The goal is more service and more rapid learning. Steps might be: making a connection, establishing a cooperative relationship, building the foundation for caring, learning to cope with the opposition that the mixture of participants will precipitate, suffer together, and launch a collaborative program. By this time participants are ready for collaboration -- a higher form of cooperation that requires trust.

Paper begins with a critique of professional and bureaucratic excesses: Everything is NOT great!

**Rural – Urban Patterns of Obesity in the U.S.: Testing Socioeconomic and Lifestyle Hypotheses**

Philip B. Mason, Mississippi State University

Frank M. Howell, Mississippi State University

The presence of childhood overweight has increased in the United States during the last twenty-five years and has become an important health issue. However, there have been few nationally representative studies performed to better understand the rural-urban patterns of childhood bodyweight. Using the 1976-80 NHANES II survey, Sobel et al. (1996) found that rural youth were more likely to be overweight, largely due to socioeconomic differences favoring urban children. Because adverse health consequences from childhood obesity can carry into adulthood, it is imperative that additional studies be done to better understand how rural origins affect overweight. Using the 1986-2004 Monitoring the Future (MTF) survey series and the 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), we estimate trends in rural-urban bodyweight since Sobel et al.'s

study, testing for a potential difference between rural farm and rural non-farm youth and for whether socioeconomic factors account for any observed differences. We further examine rural-urban differences in obesity using recent YRBS data to assess whether dietary intake and physical activity explain the rural youth population's propensity to be overweight.

### **On the Urbanicity of Metropolitan Areas: Population and Landuse Change, 1970 – 1990**

Jeremy R. Porter, Mississippi State University

Frank M. Howell, Mississippi State University

The population dynamics surrounding the “rural rebound” of the 1970s have been the focus of a voluminous literature in rural demography (Beale 1975; Brown & Wardwell 1980). The recent debate on whether the 1990s witnessed a smaller version of this pattern of deconcentration has led some demographers to question the spatial evenness of these patterns. The “urban character” of many non-metropolitan counties that subsequently became classified as metropolitan has led some to wonder if the “classification” process masked the urbanization extant in some counties at a given year (Johnson et al. 2005; also Isserman 2001). We turn this question on its ear by examining the “rural character” of metropolitan areas over the 1970-1990 period. Using a perspective owing to Wilkinson (1991) on measuring rurality, we combine population size, density, and change with landuse, landcover (LULC) data based upon national remote sensing efforts to agricultural production data from the 1978 and 1992 Censuses of Agriculture and link these datasets to political boundaries for counties and metropolitan areas. By examining the “rural character” of each metro area at each time period and how it is associated with population growth and decline in its surrounding non-metropolitan terrain, we develop a more comprehensive picture of how urban and rural characteristics comprise metropolitan areas in the United States.

### **Social, Economic and Environmental Effects of Urbanization on the Sustainability of Small Farms in Tennessee and Arkansas: An Application of the Delphi Process**

Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University

Usman Adamu, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Small farms play an important socio-economic role in the lives of rural residents of the United States. About 66.3% of Tennessee's farms were 1 to 99 acres while 29.4% were 100 to 499, implying that a total of 95.7% of the farms in the state were less than 499 acres, a rather significant place for small farms. In Arkansas, 46.0% of farms were between 1 to 99 acres while 39.6% were in the 100 to 499 acre range for a total of 85.5% of farms in the state under 499 acres. Only 14.5% of farms were 500 acres or more in Arkansas. Nationally, 84.1% of farms were 1 – 499 acres. Of the 26.38 million acres of land in Tennessee, about 11.68 million acres or 44.3% were classified as farmland, a drop of 1.1% from 1997 to 2002. In 2002, the average farm size in Tennessee and Arkansas were 133 and 305 acres, respectively, compared to a US national average of 441 acres (USDA). This presentation is based on findings of a bridge grant, funded by the USDA, to identify and assess emerging opportunities and threats facing small farms in Tennessee and Arkansas. Extension professionals, administrators, researchers, and farmers considered small farm experts were identified and contacted for written responses to a nine-question survey instrument developed by collaborating institutions for the project. The Delphi process used in identifying potential threats and opportunities is described and findings on the social, economic and environmental effects of urbanization on the sustainability of small farms in Tennessee and Arkansas are presented and discussed.

**1:15 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.**

**POSTER SESSION**

***PREFUNCTION/UPPER CONCOURSE***

**Texas Latino Attitudes and Behavior Toward the Environment**

A. Lopez, Texas A&M University  
 C. Torres, Texas A&M University  
 N.J. Silvy, Texas A&M University  
 R.R. Lopez, Texas A&M University

Building rapport with emerging stakeholders and understanding differences in stakeholder attitudes is needed for the overall success of natural resource policies and management decisions. The Latino community (76% of Mexican descent) is one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the U.S. Research on Latino environmental and natural resource attitudes which considers their unique sociocultural characteristics is limited. Additionally, research concerning Latinos of Mexican descent has been overlooked in various states, including Texas, who holds the second largest Latino population in the U.S. The objective of our study was to compare environmental attitudes of Texas Latinos of Mexican descent with their stated environmentally friendly behavior. We surveyed Texas college students (n=635) and determined that sociocultural factors did not have a significant effect on environmental attitudes and behavior. The influence of demographic characteristics as well as available resources are discussed.

**Barriers to Health Care Access among Residents of the Southern Black Belt Region of the United States**

Benjamin Gray, North Carolina A&T State University  
 Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University  
 Marcus Bernard, North Carolina A&T State University

The major purpose of this study is to examine the extent to which healthcare barriers are uniquely associated with individual differences in self-rated health. An understanding of these perceived barriers to health care is critical to improving health care access across many of the impoverished areas of the South. Further, self-rated health can be easily accessed and is predictive of many types of health outcomes such as mortality and health care use. Data is currently being collected by telephone from a sample of 800 rural residents in the Southern Black Belt Region of the United States. The results of this study should be useful for policymakers interested in improving the health status of the residents of this region.

**1:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**202A**

**Sustainable Agriculture and Quality of Life – II**  
**Co-sponsored by SRSA and SAEA**

**Produce Sections, Town Squares, and Farm Stands: Comparing Local Food in Community Context**

Sarah Hultine, University of Illinois  
 Stephen Gasteyer, University of Illinois  
 Leslie Cooperband, University of Illinois  
 Pat Curry, University of Illinois

A growing literature has grappled with the emergence of local food markets as an alternative to the conventional agricultural model. A common discourse in this literature assumes that the development of local food system venues, such as farmers' markets, are positive, community building initiatives. Too often left out of this discourse are empirical assessments of the

relationship between the community characteristics that lend themselves to success of farmers' markets or similar initiatives. Further, when farmers' markets are not significantly patronized by community members, does this necessarily mean that people do not value local produce? This article uses the results from surveys of producers, farmers' market consumers, and a random sampling of residents in parts of Illinois to answer these questions. We use convention theory to help categorized communities per their acceptance of farmers' markets. Our findings demonstrate that communities that support local food enterprises hold more civic and interpersonal conventions, and less supportive communities follow the industrial and market conventions more often associated with conventional agriculture. Having said that, the findings also demonstrate that even in communities where farmers' markets have not had significant success, residents still value local food, but tend to seek it through direct exchange with individual farmers. The paper then presents several strategies for strengthening all sectors of the food system that will build on the differing conventions held by communities.

### **Regulatory Barriers to Sustainability in the Specialty Meat Sector**

M.R. Worosz, Michigan State University  
 A.J. Knight, Michigan State University  
 C.K. Harris, Michigan State University  
 D.S. Conner, Michigan State University

Using Michigan as a case study, we will detail how national, state, and local food safety regulations and their implementation affect the development and/or expansion of niche marketing opportunities in the specialty meat sector. For the purposes of this presentation, we limit our attention to three issues. First, we investigate how the elimination of state level meat inspections has affected the specialty meat industry. Second, we examine whether Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) programs have favored large processing facilities at the expense of small specialty meat producers and processors. Third, we discuss how farmer market policies and food safety regulations have impacted opportunities for market expansion of the specialty meat sector. Data for this project is currently being gathered via interviews with specialty meat farmers and processors, farmer market managers, association representatives, and food safety inspectors and regulators.

### **Organic Bifurcation and Quality of Life: A Look at Certified and Non-Certified Organic Farmers in Texas**

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University  
 Holly Lyke Ho-Gland, Sam Houston State University

Recent discussions in the literature on organic agriculture have noted a trend towards "conventionalization" or "bifurcation" of the organic sector. This trend includes a growth in "organic lite" modes of production centered on input-substitution practices and industrial scale and structure factors as opposed to "deep organic" modes of production more closely linked to livestock-crop symbiosis on a more moderate scale. There has been some argument that the industrial organic model does little to increase the quality of life in affected communities when compared to the more decentralized form of traditional organic systems. Similarly, the conventionalization/bifurcation trend argues that the organic certification regulations have supported the advance of conventionalization/bifurcation. In this paper we address this topic through an investigation into the structural, behavioral, and attitudinal aspects of certified and non-certified organic farmers in Texas. The research was funded by a Southern SARE planning grant in the year 2004-2005. The results indicate that these two groups are not as different in their structural, demographic, and attitudinal aspects as might be expected.



**PAPER SESSION****202B****Rural Health and Well-Being****Making the Connections: The Importance of Rural Journalism in Community Health Efforts**

Laura M. Hall, University of Southern Mississippi

Rural newspapers are a logical partner for scholars and practitioners conducting community health research and implementing health initiatives. Locally-owned newspapers, particularly in rural communities, serve as a trusted channel of health information *and* a likely source for information on community activities. An exemplar from central Appalachia will illustrate how one small-town newspaper worked in tandem with researchers from the University of Kentucky during a multi-stage community health assessment project. This presentation will describe how the *Licking Valley Courier*, a weekly, locally-owned newspaper, served as a method of informing rural citizens about community assessment efforts, notifying residents about assessment findings, recruiting participants to discuss potential solutions for addressing community issues uncovered in the assessment phase, and conveying possible solutions to problems that were uncovered during a series of public forums. This case study shares experiences and practical ideas for incorporating local institutions, such as newspapers or other forms of media, into community health assessments.

**Human Well-Being Comparison Between Alabama's Black Belt and the Southern Cumberland Plateau Regions**

Nevia C. Brown, Alabama A&amp;M University

Rory Fraser, Alabama A&amp;M University

Well-being is affected by changes in the community both physically by changes in the local ecosystem, and socially by changes in the dynamics in the community. The Black Belt region consists of eight counties in the southwest section and the Southern Cumberland Plateau consist of seven counties in the north central section of Alabama. In the two regions, studies have been done to understand Human Well-being and the implications of community well-being and equality. Both regions have experienced community well-being changes resulting from alterations in forestlands. In this study using a Human- Dimensions-of-Ecosystem Change framework, and US census data from 1980 and 2000, we identified human well-being indicators of income, education, and employment at the Census Block Group level to compare each community's well-being and identify what dynamics of the two communities are similar and different to help evaluate community equality.

**Determinants of Cigarette Consumption in the U.S. (1975 – 2005)**

Staci Huddleston, Alabama A&amp;M University

Duncan Chembezi, Alabama A&amp;M University

Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&amp;M University

Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&amp;M University

Approximately 44.5 million adults in the U.S. smoke cigarettes even though it will result in death or disability for half of all smokers. Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S., resulting in approximately 440,000 deaths each year and 8.6 million people have at least one serious illness caused by smoking. With larger level of smoking health-risk information and the interest of U.S. public health, governments have implemented effective policies. Therefore the factors that influence cigarette demand are important.

This study, based on U.S. cigarette consumption data from various reports of the Tobacco, Tax, and Trade Bureau and price data obtained from the USDA, will benefit the policy making process. Data was analyzed using regression.

This study found that only price of cigarettes and per-capita lagged consumption had statistically significant relationship with per-capita consumption in the U.S. Price a negative relationship and lagged consumption a positive one.

**3:15 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

**ROUNDTABLE SESSION**

**202A**

**Black Belt Community Activists and Scholars Exchange Stories and Ideas  
About Working Together for Social Change**

The Black Belt South has a long history of persistent poverty as well as strong traditions of grassroots and scholarly activism aimed at addressing the inequalities that shape the lives of people in the region. This session creates a space for dialogue between critical scholars and activists from the region to explore and articulate:

- challenges faced by community people and scholars in forming true partnerships
- efforts to support community voices so that they are heard and taken seriously in shaping and implementing policy and action
- obstacles to the natural emergence of community that serve to skew the distribution of power and resources

Organizer:

Rosalind P. Harris, University of Kentucky

Participants:

Ntam Baharanyi, Tuskegee University  
 Sarah Bobrow Williams, Southern Black Women's Rural Initiatives  
 Sokoya Finch, Florida Family Network  
 Shirley Sherrod, Federation of Southern Cooperatives  
 Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University  
 Veronica Womack, Georgia College and State University  
 Dreamal Worthen, Florida A&M University

**PAPER SESSION**  
**Youth and Rural Communities**

**202B**

**How to (Thoroughly) Explain the Rural Gap in Reading and Math Achievement with Quantile Regression**

Edward B. Reeves, Morehead State University  
Jesse Lowe, Morehead State University

Rosigno and Crowley (2001) present a theoretical rationale and empirical evidence for rural educational disadvantage. Nevertheless, their study, and others like it, uses estimation techniques that calculate the mean effects of school location and other predictors on student achievement. It is of considerable interest when such estimates are not uniform across the distribution of student achievement. Quantile regression, an econometric technique that was developed several decades ago, is well suited for this kind of problem. We use the NELS 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade longitudinal sample to assess the rural gap in reading and math achievement. In addition to school location, our quantile regression analyses include student demographics, family resources, and opportunity to learn measures as predictors. The implication of our findings is that researchers should not limit their study to mean effects alone. Doing so may contribute to flawed understandings of rural student achievement as well as to ill-advised policy.

**Community Effects on Kindergarten to Third Grade Educational Achievement**

Glenn D. Israel, University of Florida

Previous studies have shown that communities are an important factor in mediating the effects of families and schools on students' achievement in secondary schools. Community attributes such as organizational diversity, social inequality, economic and human resources, as well as location, can either support or inhibit educational processes. Using data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS), I explore the effect of community factors using place-level data on the educational achievement of younger students. Initial analyses of test scores show that children who attend a school in rural and limited resource communities are disadvantaged at entry into kindergarten. More rural children also have low gains through first grade.

**Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship Camps: The Impact on Kentucky Communities and the Global Society**

Donna Hancock, University of Kentucky

The Center for Rural Development held weeklong camps designed to emphasize skill development in the areas of technology, leadership and business while enhancing youth commitment to rural Kentucky. High school students from rural Kentucky developed their leadership abilities, which contribute to the enhancement of social capital and civic engagement while impacting the global society. The youth were involved in various community and economic development projects in rural Kentucky counties. Entrepreneurship and academic programs were developed to engage youth within their communities to combat the out migration of youth in rural areas. The camps focused on building leadership capacity with educational and cultural opportunities for youth. In an effort to build economic development, students designed business plans to encourage their long-term commitment to rural Kentucky. Students were encouraged to collaborate with other youth leaders and utilize their talents to impact the overall well-being of their rural communities and the global society.

### **What Is a Usual Source of Care? Medical Homes and Continuity of Care for Children on Mississippi Medicaid**

C.J. Campbell, Mississippi State University  
 J.S. Cossman, Mississippi State University  
 J.B. Ritchie, Mississippi State University

Do children on Mississippi Medicaid have a usual source of care? First, we defined what is meant by a usual source of care (USOC). Next, by examining data from administrative files for state fiscal years (SFY) 2002 and 2003, we described this target population ages birth through 17 years by enrollees and then by beneficiaries (had at least one claim filed each SFY) in terms of age groupings (infant, preschool, & school-age), level of enrollment (fully or not fully), and number of visits to providers. Data were analyzed by location of the provider (**where** the USOC is) and specialty (**who** the USOC is). Finally, the USOC percentages were calculated at the county level with an interest in determining what possible influences there could be on rural versus urban areas of the state for children on MS Medicaid with a USOC.

## **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

**8:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.**

### **PAPER SESSION**

**202A**

#### **Human Dimensions of Agriculture – I**

#### **Farm Structure and Agricultural Input Markets in North Carolina's Black Belt**

Godfrey Ejimakor, North Carolina A&T State University  
 Makesi Ormond, North Carolina A&T State University

Agriculture is an important component of North Carolina's Gross Domestic Product. The agricultural sector accounts for over 30% of the state's income. Recent national trends toward agricultural industrialization may have affected the factor markets in states such as North Carolina that depend on Agriculture for income. This is especially so, in rural communities where the importance of agriculture may be more pronounced when compared to the state as a whole. Substantial changes in the labor and land markets may have taken place in these communities. This has important implications for the quality of life because of the implied changes in employment and household income. A good understanding of the changes in the labor and land market is necessary to address any adverse effects of agricultural industrialization in these communities. Census of Agriculture data between 1987 and 2002 will be used to assess the impact of agricultural industrialization on farm structure in black belt counties in North Carolina. The data will also be used to develop a model of the demand for labor and land in the black belt counties. Changes in these input markets over time will be assessed.

#### **Alabama Farmers' Markets: A Prediction of Market Size and Market Segmentation**

LaMonica Ginton, Alabama A&M University  
 Odili Onianwa, Alabama A&M University  
 Gerald Wheelock, Alabama A&M University

This study uses information on Alabama farmers' market consumers data, including socioeconomic and demographic characteristics to predict the size of the market. The market is then segmented based on locality, gender, age and family structure to understand the importance of these variables in determining market size. The information was collected using a survey instrument administered to two samples groups. The first group consisted of an on-site sample of 222 consumers randomly selected from two metropolitan farmers' markets in Birmingham and Huntsville and the other consisted of a statewide random sample comprising of 212 consumers.

The data was analyzed using a linear regression model. The results show the relationship of locality, gender, age and family structure on market size.

### **An Evaluation of Waste Management Practices at Small Livestock Operations in Alabama: Summary and Preliminary Analysis**

Ericka Soumare, Alabama A&M University

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University

A commonly held assumption in social sciences is that only the large livestock operations are responsible for much of the environmental degradation, especially water pollution, associated with animal agriculture. Small livestock operations are overlooked when it comes to waste management because they individually are assumed not to pose real threat to water sources. However, little is known about the collectively impact that these small livestock farm operations may have on the environment and water quality. Alabama has a number of small livestock operations with less than 300 animal units; and many of these farm operations may indeed have impact on Alabama's water supply. The goal of this study is to assess if small livestock operations in Alabama have a waste management plan or follow recommended management practices. The study also isolates the factors that influence the waste management behavior of these small livestock farmers. This study is based on a survey of small livestock farms in Alabama with less than 300 animal units. County extension agents will assist in identifying livestock operations that fit this set criterion. The survey instrument will collect information on the prevalence of recommended waste management practices among small livestock farms; awareness of federal guidelines regarding waste management; whether these operations are meeting nutrient standards; or whether these farms have a waste management plan; and the methods used to treat manure. Demographic and socio-economic information will also be collected. The issue is to assess whether these demographic and socio-economic factors or other factors including farm characteristics influence a producer's likelihood to practice recommended waste management practices.

### **Choosing a Formal Cooperative Structure to Fit the Imperatives of a Middle Agriculture**

Thomas Gray, USDA Rural Development Cooperative Programs

George Stevenson, University of Wisconsin – Madison

This paper concerns cooperatives and the application of their structures to the national "agriculture-of-the middle" (AOTM) initiative. (See [www.agofthemiddle.org](http://www.agofthemiddle.org).) Cooperatives can be considered formal collective actions. Collective actions emerge out of pre-existing socio-economic and historical contexts (and larger societal dissatisfactions and dissent). Cooperatives are unique among economic organizations in that they are at once democratic associations of members as well as businesses. This dual character of cooperatives generates potentially creative tensions within the organization that are shaped as the cooperative interacts with its environment.

This paper reviews and summarizes:

- 1) AOTM interests as representing a potential for collective action, and cooperatives as an organizational and mobilizing instrument for realizing some of the AOTM goals,
- 2) reviews a series of general historical conditions, as representing pre-mobilizing conditions, and considers these aspects within the context of early 21<sup>st</sup> century food production, distribution, and consumption dynamics,
- 3) makes distinctions that exists historically in collective action, between quests for power (struggles to have) and quests for identity (claims to be).
- 4) and considers (within the historical review presented above) differing cooperative structures (locals, centralized, federations) for their appropriateness, given AOTM goals.

**PAPER SESSION**  
**Poverty and Inequality**

**202B**

**Mexican American Poverty in the Texas Borderland: The Influences of Family Structure, Metro Location and Characteristics of Individuals**

Carlos Siordia, Texas A&M University

This micro-level study<sup>1</sup> investigated and develops a descriptive model of how family structure, economy, and demographic characteristics influence the likelihood of poverty among Mexican American's (*Chicanos/Chicanas*) in the Texas borderland region. The sample used in the analysis includes the ten south-most Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) consisting of 49 Texas borderland counties. Three hypotheses are examined: 1) the relative presence of children increases the likelihood of poverty; 2) living in a non-metro location increases the likelihood of poverty; and 3) as the level of education increases, the likelihood of poverty decreases. Logistic regressions and cross tabulations are used to assess the relationship between likelihood of poverty in relation to the family structure, the economy, and the demographic characteristics along with various control variables (e.g. sex, PUMAs' location, education, language, occupation, age, citizenship status, nativity status, physical disability, and mean household size).

<sup>1</sup> This study borrows heavily upon Elizabeth Bergen's study: The Economic Context of Labor Allocation.

**Income Inequality in the Alabama Black Belt: Spatial Analysis at Sub-County Level**

Buddhi Gyawali, Alabama A&M University  
 Rory Fraser, Alabama A&M University  
 James Bukenya, Alabama A&M University  
 John Schelhas, Tuskegee University

This paper empirically examines the determinants of income inequality using a spatial framework of distribution of income inequality, employment, race, education, and community capitals in the Black Belt region of Alabama between 1980 and 2000. The analysis is conducted at the Census Block Groups (CBGs) level by taking into account for spatial disparity of the variables. Preliminary results suggest an increase in income inequality in the twenty year period. The results showed significant difference in the income inequality between African American and white dominant CBGs. Eventhough, income increased significantly in 2000, the income inequality was greater in 2000 in white dominant CBGs compared to the African American communities. The inference of this study is that while there has been an improvement in incomes, this was enjoyed by the few and the majority may not have seen the same level of improvement in the study area.

**Food Stamps, Race, and Rural Food Insecurity**

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University

Although we live in a wealthy nation, food insecurity, meaning when individuals and families have limited access to food or if their ability to obtain food is limited or uncertain due to lack of financial resources continues to affect millions of American families. In this study, I use data from rural Alabama to examine the argument that food stamps receipt and race can contribute to a higher probability of food insecurity than would be predicted by individual characteristics alone. Hierarchical regressions support this argument.

**Food Security, Obesity, and Household Status among Female Food Pantry Clients in East Alabama: Results of an Exploratory Study**

Patricia A. Duffy, Auburn University  
 Claire Zizza, Auburn University  
 Marina Irimia-Vladu, American University of Sharjah  
 Francis A. Tayie, Auburn University

This study reports results of a small-scale, exploratory study on 55 female clients of a food pantry in East Alabama. All respondents were age 50 or younger, not pregnant, and not-lactating. Most clients reported using food pantries only for a short time, but 16 percent reported long-term use. Not surprisingly, clients self-reported a high level of food insecurity, with 87 percent indicating at least some food insecurity. Obesity and overweight were common among respondents, with 67 percent of the sample having a BMI over 30. Thirty-eight percent of respondents currently smoke. Twenty-five percent reported at least one household member with a serious illness, while 41 percent reported having no health insurance. About half the clients received food stamps, and an additional 11 percent reported they had applied, but had been turned down. Overall, clients reported very low levels of household incomes, often coupled with low levels of education.

**9:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**202A**

**Human Dimensions of Agriculture – II**

**Residential Differences in Attitudes Toward Florida Agriculture**

Eric K. Kaufman, University of Florida  
 Glenn D. Israel, University of Florida  
 Tracy Irani, University of Florida

Results of a telephone survey conducted on behalf of the Agriculture Institute of Florida show that Floridians feel that agriculture is “very important” to the state’s economy. The majority of respondents had a generally favorable opinion of Florida agriculture. A total of 380 completed surveys were obtained from a random sample of registered voters in the state. Descriptive statistics from this data set were reported by the Ag Institute in September 2006, and the current study seeks to explain the responses and attitudes toward Florida agriculture. Specific analysis will investigate the relationship between residential characteristics and registered voters’ overall opinions of Florida agriculture.

**Farm Policy and Destabilizing Rural Southern Communities: The Case of Black Cotton Farmers**

Jerry Pennick, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund  
 Heather Gray, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund

As the 2007 U.S. Farm Bill approaches, U. S. agriculture policies as they relate to subsidies and their global impact are coming under intense scrutiny. If subsidy payments are replaced with a policy that leaves farmers at the whim of a U. S. influenced global market system, Black farmers would be most vulnerable. In fact, one outcome of proposed policy changes might result be the demise of a significant number of Black commodity farmers. The resulting impact on southern rural communities could be devastating.

We will explore the New Deal farm policies of USDA Secretary Henry Wallace, how they have changed and the resulting corporate welfare system. This will be bolstered by responses from recent interviews of Black cotton farmers. To summarize, the findings are that these farmers, like

most commodity farmers, support agriculture policies that guarantee a fair price for their products and eliminate the corporate agriculture welfare system.

### **Tennessee Consumers' Knowledge and Attitudes towards Biotechnology**

Fisseha Tegegne, Tennessee State University  
Safdar Muhammad, Tennessee State University  
Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University  
Surendra Singh, Tennessee State University

This study assesses consumers' knowledge and attitudes towards biotechnology using data collected from randomly selected residents in Middle and West Tennessee counties. A private market research firm used telephone survey to gather the data using a survey instrument developed by the researchers. A series of questions including the benefits and potential risks of biotechnology, their attitude relating to putting biotechnology information on food labels as well as socio-economic characteristics of the respondents were asked. Three hundred usable responses were received. Preliminary analysis of the responses show that the consumers surveyed had somewhat limited knowledge about biotechnology. Attitudes towards its usefulness differed among different groups with younger, more educated and high income respondents being more favorably disposed towards the technology than older and less educated ones. Although most of the respondents indicated that they have less confidence in government ensuring the safety of biotechnology food products, they strongly support that biotechnology information should be mandatory on all food labels. A large number of respondents also expressed their willingness to pay more for food products that are certified as non-biotech or GMO-free. It can be discerned that consumers' perception is a reflection of the weight they attach to benefits relative to potential risks associated with the technology.

### **Consumer Perceptions and Willingness-to-Pay for GM-Free Food Products in Southern Underserved Communities**

Duncan M. Chembezi, Alabama A&M University  
E'licia L. Chaverest, Alabama A&M University

Consumers seem to be hungry for knowledge and information, especially concerning ingredients in the food they eat and labels on these food products. There are many reasons why individuals might deem it important to know whether biotechnology has been used in their food products. These include religious and aesthetic reasons. There are also those consumers who do not trust scientific assessments of food safety. While none of these considerations seems appropriate for a public policy judgment against the use of biotechnology, they are examples of the individualistic values that have traditionally been protected by policies that require informed consent. Many studies exist that have examined consumers' perceptions and their willingness-to-pay for genetically modified (GM) food products. However, the availability of similar studies for consumers in underserved communities is limited. This proposed paper focuses on this group of consumers and assesses their willingness-to-pay for GM-free food products. The USDA "Certified Organic" label implies that GM-free food products are available for consumers as an alternative. The study is based on data collected by the Southern AgBiotech Consortium for Underserved Communities (SACUC) in 2002. SACUC consists of ten states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.



**PAPER SESSION****202B****Community and the Environment****Community Leaders' Perceptions of Energy Development in the Barnett Shale**

Brooklynn J. Anderson, Texas A&amp;M University

For nearly half a century, rural economic development has been promoted as a means of improving the quality of life in rural communities. These development efforts, however, have often resulted in various forms of social disruption commonly referred to as the boomtown phenomenon. Boomtown impacts may be social, structural, or environmental in nature. In spite of findings that suggest a cautious approach to development, government officials in boomtowns have traditionally placed the highest priority on its economic outcome, rather than on social or environmental impacts. Furthermore, community leaders in energy boomtowns tend to either over-prepare or under-prepare for the adverse consequences of development.

Unconventional energy development in the Barnett Shale region of Texas presents local leaders with the responsibility of preparing for and responding to impacts that result from energy development at the local level. According to criteria set forth in previous research, however, the communities in this region may not qualify as boomtowns. Nevertheless, key informant interviews conducted in two Barnett Shale counties have shown that it is important to understand community leaders' perceptions of local energy industry activity and its community-level impacts in this region.

In order to gain a better perspective in this area, it may be necessary to take a fresh look at the criteria that are used to determine boomtown status. Changing times and changing technology have also led to changes in the types of impacts that affect communities that pursue energy development as a means of economic development. Key informant interviews have allowed a closer examination of what these impacts might be, and the degree to which they affect impacted communities.

**Framework for Rural Sustainable Tourism Development in Nicaragua**

Edwin Vladimir Cordero, University of Texas at Brownsville

Yeong Nain Chi, University of Texas at Brownsville

Msc. Maritza Vargas Paiz, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, León

The global economic and social climate is generally predicted to produce a strong increase in nature/culture-based tourism. With increasing proportions of senior citizens, for example, there will be greater emphasis on individual/self-determined holidays, and on educational and active recreational pursuits. Increasing environmental awareness will affect tourist demand, and natural and cultural resources will become more scarce and fragile. A long-term environmental friendly approach to tourism planning and management in Nicaragua is postulated. The purpose of this study is to framework the ecotourism development strategy associated with ecosystem management based on the principles of sustainable development in Nicaragua's rural communities with rich natural and cultural resources. With understanding planning and management processes in terms of demand and supply sectors, the rural sustainable tourism development strategy should integrate ecological management, information network, local participation, and environmental education in order to provide a guideline for public and private stakeholders in the sustainable tourism industry.

### **Rights and Wrongs: Competing Claims of Environmental Responsibility in Northeast Alabama**

Zachary Henson, Auburn University

This paper is concerned with a conflict between community members and two large confined animal feed operations (CAFO) producing hogs in northeast Alabama. The conflict is over smell and pollution associated with these operations. The research for this paper was done in the summer of 2006 using semi-structured qualitative interviews, snowball sampling, and participant and non-participant observation as primary methods and documentary research as a secondary method. I interviewed members of a community group focused on eliminating industrialized hog operations, members of the cooperative extension system, environmentalists, community members, and politicians.

In this paper, I show how cultural, legal, and political understandings of land use rights and responsibilities are created, destroyed, and recreated. I argue that both sides of the conflict – members of a community group and those involved in industrial swine production – mobilize support from NGOs, politicians, government institutions, and local residents. They create power by bringing together ideas and organizations.

### **Ideologically Structured Information Exchange Among Environmental Groups**

Laura Robinson, Auburn University

Conner Bailey, Auburn University

Mark Dubois, Auburn University

We use ideologically structured action framework and social network analysis to examine information exchange between 136 environmental groups in Alabama. This paper adds to the literature on resource mobilization among social movement organizations by exploring information exchange among a wide range of environmental groups across an entire state. Seventy-eight face-to-face interviews and fifty-eight phone interviews were conducted with environmental group leaders. Social network analysis was used to describe the structure of information exchange among environmental groups. Environmental groups were identified based on willingness to engage or not engage in political and legal activism to pursue their goals. We found activist groups are more likely to be connected to other groups and that the number of exchange relationships is more than double that found among neutral groups. We also found resources, such as time, funding, and knowledge have an impact on how the information resource is exchanged.