

# SOUTHERN RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

***“Opportunities and Challenges in Rural Areas: Professionals  
and Communities Working Together to Achieve Success”***



**February 2 – 5, 2008  
Dallas, Texas**

**Southern Rural Sociological Association Meeting  
February 2 – 5, 2008**

***“Opportunities and Challenges in Rural Areas: Professionals and Communities  
Working Together to Achieve Success”***

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# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

**8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**REGISTRATION**      *GRAND HALL FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER*

**8:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.**

**SRSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**      Dallas Ball Room D3

**9:45 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**      Dallas Ball Room D3

**Nonprofits in the Service of Communities: Experiences from the Field.**

Organizers:

LaDelle Kay, The Greater Longview United Way, Inc.  
Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

Participants:

Rosalind P. Harris, University of Kentucky  
Branden Johnson, Special Health Resources for Texas  
LaDelle Kay, Greater Longview United Way, Inc  
Doris Ramaly, Longview Interfaith Hospitality Network  
Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University  
Dreamal Worthen, Florida A&M University

**11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**      Dallas Ball Room D3

## **Community Health Issues**

Moderator:

James Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

**Relationships of Conspiracy Beliefs About HIV/AIDS to Socio-demographic Variables Among HIV-Positive African Americans**

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University  
Tsegaye Habtemariam, Tuskegee University  
Berhanu Tameru, Tuskegee University  
David Ngawa  
V. Robnett

**Dietary, Physical Activity and Socioeconomic Determinants of Weight Outcomes in U.S. Youth**

Kofi Adu-Nyako, North Carolina A&T State University  
Jeremiah Richie, Iowa State University

**Exploring the Relationship Between Obesity and Physical Inactivity in Rural North Carolina**

Marcus Bernard, North Carolina A&T State University

**Factors Contributing to Hospital Choice Patterns in Rural Mississippi: A Study of Neshoba and Newton Counties**

Brooklyn J. Anderson, Mississippi State University Extension Service

**12:15 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.**

**Lunch (on your own)**

**1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D2**

### **Rural Agricultural Issues**

**Moderator:**

Kenrett Jefferson-Moore, North Carolina A&T State University

**The Impact of Rising Energy Prices and Potential Input Substitution in Cotton Production: Implications for the Southeastern U.S.**

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

Osei Agyeman Yeboah, North Carolina A&T State University

**Trends and Structure of Value-Chains and Value-Added Agriculture in Alabama**

Danyelle M. Starks, Alabama A&M University

James Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

**What is the Knowledge Level and Attitude of Tennessee Consumers Towards Biotechnology?**

Fisseha Tegegne, Tennessee State University

Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University

Ahmad Aziz, Tennessee State University

Surendra Singh, Tennessee State University

**Barriers to the Adoption of Organic Agriculture by Conventional Producers in Texas**

Michael H Lau, Sam Houston State University

Douglas H Constance, Sam Houston State University

Roger D Hanagriff, Sam Houston State University

**The Influence of Type of Contact with Extension on Client Satisfaction**

Sebastian Galindo-Gonzalez, University of Florida

Glen D. Israel, University of Florida

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

### **Rural Energy Development**

**Moderator:**

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University

**Water Issues Related to Biomass Production in “Optimal” Production Zones**

Brooklyn Anderson, Mississippi State University

**Energy Production and Quality of Life: A Tale of Two Counties**

Gene L. Theodori, Sam Houston State University

**An Economic Analysis of Farmers Ability to Produce Ethanol Based Crops in the State of North Carolina**

Darius Hale, North Carolina A&T State University

Donald McDowell, North Carolina A&T State University

**Cellulosic Ethanol: Enabling Black Belt Farmers to Benefit from the Demand for a Supply of Clean Domestically Produced Energy**

Harwood Schaffer, University of Tennessee

2.45PM – 3.30PM

**Southern Rural Sociology Editorial Board Meeting**

**Dallas Ball Room D2**

3.30PM – 5PM

**SAAS Opening Session**

**Dallas Ball Room A3**

5PM – Onward

**Reception/ and Super Bowl Party**

**Dallas Ball Room B/C**

## **Monday February 4**

**8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**REGISTRATION**

**GRAND HALL *FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER***

**8:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D2**

### **Rural Education**

**Moderator:**

Rosalind Harris, Kentucky State University

**Student Leadership Behavior in Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Accessing Leadership Behaviors and Experiences of Undergraduate Students**

Bryan Patterson, University of Florida

Glen D. Israel, University of Florida

**The Preparation of Future Secondary Agriculture Education Teachers to Work with Students with Learning Disabilities**

Paula E. Faulkner, North Carolina A&T State University

Connie D. Baggett, Pennsylvania State University

**The Nonmetro Achievement Gap in Mathematics: Median and Quantile Regression Analysis on Two National Probability Samples of High School Seniors**

Edward B. Reeves, Morehead State University

Jesse Lowe, University of Oregon

**Community Effect of Kindergarten to Fifth Grade Math Achievement**

Glen D. Israel University of Florida

**9:30 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.**

**BREAK**      **GRAND HALL FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER**

**9:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D2**

**Globalization, the Rural Consumer and Change**

**Moderator:**

Anna Kleiner, South Eastern Louisiana University

**Gap and Globalization**

Sameena Khan, Sam Houston State University  
Ben Robertson, Sam Houston State University

**Community-based Social Marketing: A New Approach to Fostering Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles**

Patricia Grace, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Eric Kaufman, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

**Rural Consumer Culture, Democratization and the Global New South: A Case Study of Wal-Mart in the Alabama Black Belt**

Joan Weston, Ohio University

**How Far From the Tree Does the Apple Fall? Conceptualizing “Local” in a Florida Farmers Market**

Allison E Lutz, Oklahoma State University  
Damian C Adams, Oklahoma State University

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

**Alternative Enterprises, Agricultural Prosperity and Limited Resource Farmers**

**Moderator:**

Kim Bradford, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Limited Resource Farmers’ Perceptions Towards Alternative Enterprises in Southeastern North Carolina**

Kenrett Y. Jefferson-Moore, North Carolina A&T State University  
Jannety M. Mosley, North Carolina A&T State University  
Robert Monroe, North Carolina A&T State University

**Predictors of Interest in and Practice of Organic Agriculture in Texas**

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University  
Jin Young Choi, Sam Houston State University

**Where Furrows Run Deep: The Long-term Strength and Resiliency of Freedmen’s Settlements in Central East Texas**

Jeffery Roth, Austin State University  
J.B. Watson Jr., Austin State University

**11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**LUNCHEON**

**PRESS CLUB**

**1:15 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.**

**POSTER SESSION FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER**

**The relationship Between Perceived Barriers to Health Care and Self-rated Health in the 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

**Meth and the Rural South: Down Home Cooking**

Sean Cash, Sam Houston State University

**"Good Ol' Boy" Networks and Justice in Rural Texas**

Travis Miller, Sam Houston State University

**Socialization and Education in Native America and Rural America**

Trina Thornton, Sam Houston State University

**Pushing the Earth**

Catherine Yeu, Sam Houston State University

**Loss of Community in a Small Town**

Nicole Miller, Sam Houston State University

**Government Intervention in Sex Education**

Jenni Northen, Sam Houston State University

**A Genogram Presentation: Mi Familia, My Family**

Elizabeth Davila, Sam Houston State University

**High School Students' Perception and Level of Familiarity with the Cooperative Extension Service, Experiment Stations and 4H**

Marcus M Comer, Chastity Warren-English, North Carolina A&T State University and  
Michael Harmon, Trinity High School

**Differences in the Opinions and Attitudes of Undergraduate Agriculture Majors toward Agroterrorism**

Tanya Delancy, Sammy Comer, and Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University

**Broken Promises and the Decreasing Presence of the Black Farmer: Public Advocacy Barriers in Implementing the 1999 Pigford Civil Rights Case Consent Decree Settlement (Pigford v. Glickman, No. 97-1978 and No. 98-1693 D.D.C.. July 14, 2000)**

Marna R. Weston, University of Florida

**Keeping Up with Good Agricultural Practices: The Case of Limited Resources Audiences**

Mary Mafuyai-Ekanem, Brandi White, Monique McAlister, and Keith R. Baldwin, North Carolina A&T State University  
Sandra Strayhorn, USDA-RMA, Raleigh Regional Office

**1:45 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D2**

### **Rural Quality of Life**

**Moderator:**

Godfrey Ejimakor, North Carolina A&T State University

**Community Action and Economic Development in the Gulf Counties of Alabama after Hurricane Katrina**

Andrew Zekeri, Tuskegee University

**Cohabitation in Rural Families**

Mary Ann Davis, Sam Houston State University

**Gendered Analysis of Community Satisfaction and Attachment on Perceived Individual Well-being in Rural Texas**

Sameena Khan, Sam Houston State University

**Insights into Housing Affordability for Low-income Rural Families**

Jessica Kropczynski, University of Kentucky

Patricia Hyer Dyk, University of Kentucky

**A Regional Assessment of Threats and Opportunities in Southern Illinois**

Courtney G. Flint, University of Illinois

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

### **Community Organization and Social Change**

**Moderator:**

Dreamal Worthen, Florida A&M University

**Building Organizational Capacity in the Context of Disaster: A Study of Community-based Nonprofit Service Providers in Louisiana and Mississippi**

Anna Kleiner, Southeastern Louisiana University

John Green, Delta State University

Katie Kerstetter, Delta State University

JoLynn Montgomery, University of Michigan School of Public Health

**Sense of Community and the Extent of Community Action**

Ben Robertson, Sam Houston State University

Yolanda Lopez, Sam Houston State University

**Establishing a Black Belt Community Action and Studies Association**

Rosalind Harris, University of Kentucky

**Investigating Collaborative Partnerships Among Community Action Agencies in the Southeast**

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A & T State University

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

Edward Fosu, North Carolina A & T State University

**Developing Community-based Leadership Collaboratives**

Patricia Hyjer Dyk, University of Kentucky

**3:30 P.M—3:45 P.M.**

**Break**

**GRAND HALL FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER**

**3:45 P.M — 5:15 P.M**

**SRSA BUSINESS MEETING**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

**Moderator:**

Enefiok Ekanem, President, Rural Sociological Association, Tennessee State University

**The State of the Southern Rural Sociological Association**

Gene L. Theodori, President Elect, Sam Houston State University

Larissa Barnhart, Sam Houston State University

**Tuesday, February 5**

**8 AM—9:30 AM**

**REGISTRATION**

**GRAND HALL FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER**

**8:30 AM —10:15 AM**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

**Innovations in Small Farm Agriculture**

**Moderator:**

Donald McDowell, North Carolina A&T State University

**The Green Industry in North Carolina**

Godfrey Ejimakor, North Carolina A&T State University

Harry Sutton, North Carolina A&T State University

**From Local Tree Species to Rural Sustainable Economic Development: Mesquite Bioenergy Research Possibilities in South Texas**

Yeong Nain Chi, University of Texas at Brownsville

**Countervailing Power, Monsanto and the Tillamook Dairy Cooperation**

Thomas W. Gray, USDA Rural Development Cooperative Programs

**Economic Feasibility of Organic Vegetable Production on Small Farms in Alabama**

Staci Huddleston, Alabama A&M

Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&M

Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&M

**Farmer Survey on Adoption of BMP's**

Frank Clearfield, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**BREAK**

**10:15AM—10:30AM**

**10:30 A.M.—12PM**

**SRSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

**DALLAS BALL ROOM D3**

# **ABSTRACTS**

**(Arranged by day/time)**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

**9:45 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

**“Nonprofits in the Service of Communities: Experiences from the Field.”**

Organizers:

LaDelle Kay, The Greater Longview United Way, Inc.  
Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University

Participants:

Rosalind P. Harris, University of Kentucky  
Branden Johnson, Special Health Resources for Texas  
LaDelle Kay, Greater Longview United Way, Inc  
Doris Ramaly, Longview Interfaith Hospitality Network  
Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A&T State University  
Dreamal Worthen, Florida A&M University

This session creates a space for community-based organizations to share their experiences in addressing community problems, and to facilitate dialogue between scholars and community leaders for exploring and exchanging ideas pertaining to:

1. Challenges faced by community people, community-based organizations and scholars in addressing the needs of communities
2. Challenges faced by communities in forging genuine partnerships with scholars
3. The extent to which the experience of community-based organizations should inform the work of scholars?

**11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

**Community Health Issues**

Moderator:

James Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

**Relationships of Conspiracy Beliefs About HIV/AIDS to Socio-demographic Variables Among HIV-Positive African Americans**

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University  
Tsegaye Habtemariam, Tuskegee University  
Berhanu Tameru, Tuskegee University  
David Ngawa, Tuskegee University  
V. Robnett, Tuskegee University

Despite prior research showing that a significant proportion of African Americans hold conspiracy beliefs about HIV/AIDS, no research has investigated conspiracy beliefs among African Americans that are HIV-

positive and the subgroups most likely to endorse such beliefs. We examined endorsement of conspiracies about HIV/AIDS among HIV-positive African Americans and the relationships of their sociodemographic characteristics to HIV/AIDS conspiracy beliefs. We conducted a self-administered survey with a sample of 205 HIV-positive African Americans patients in Alabama's Black Belt Counties. Study participants reported their agreement with some statements about beliefs in HIV/AIDS conspiracies. Sociodemographic variables in the analysis included gender, educational attainment, and age. Bivariate analyses indicated that more than one-third (36.6%) somewhat or strongly agreed that "people who take the new medicines for HIV are human guinea pigs for the government," 28.9% somewhat or strongly endorsed that "the medicine that doctors prescribe to treat HIV is poison." 52.7% strongly endorse that "HIV is a manmade virus," 43.1% strongly agreed that "AIDS was produced in the government's laboratory," and 56.1% somewhat or strongly agreed that "there is a cure for AIDS, but it being withheld from the poor." Multivariate analyses indicated that stronger HIV/AIDS beliefs were significantly associated with educational attainment and age. The set of sociodemographic variables explained a small amount of the variance in conspiracy beliefs about HIV/AIDS ( $R^2$  range=0.13-0.14). Findings suggest that conspiracy beliefs may be a barrier to HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in African American communities and health service use.

### **Dietary, Physical Activity and Socioeconomic Determinants of Weight Outcomes in U.S. Youth**

Kofi Adu-Nyako, North Carolina A&T State University

Jeremiah Richie, Iowa State University

The objective of this study was to identify the influences of dietary, physical activity, and socioeconomic factors on youth obesity. An individual's weight outcome is a function of the interaction between energy consumed and energy expended. Energy consumed depends on the individual's dietary patterns, and energy expended depends on the individual's activity patterns. Energy balance can also be mitigated by biological factors stemming from gender, age, and ethnicity. Results for the combined data found gender to be a significant predictor of weight status; being male increased the probability that an individual would fall into a high weight category. Increased income was found to increase the probability that a male would fall into a high weight category. Younger males were found to be at a higher probability for falling into high weight categories. Results from this study found ethnicity to be a significant predictor of weight outcomes in females. More specifically, being black or Hispanic increased the probability of females being in high weight categories. Physical inactivity was a significant predictor of weight outcomes in females. High levels of sedentary activities increase the likelihood that a female will be in high weight categories. Food assistance participation was found to be a significant determinant of weight outcomes in females. Having a family member participating in food assistance programs lowered the probability of a female falling into high weight outcome categories. Calorie intake and fat intakes were not significant in predicting weight outcomes in either gender.

### **Exploring the Relationship Between Obesity and Physical Inactivity in Rural North Carolina**

Marcus Bernard, North Carolina A&T State University

Obesity and physical inactivity are common in the U.S, but few studies have examined the issue within the context of rural populations. Lower-income and rural residents are less likely to meet physical activity guidelines and one reason may be barrier differences in rural versus urban areas. Rural residents in general and rural minorities in particular may present a higher risk profile than the general public, and obesity may have a different correlation with rural than urban areas (Parks, Housemann, and Brownson 2003). The paper makes use of the 2005 North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey results to study obesity and physical inactivity within rural populations of the state. A logistic regression model is developed with the dependent variable, obese measured as categorical variable such that if a person reports that he is obese, and the variable takes the value "1" otherwise "0". The primary independent variable is combination of residence (rural/urban) and race/ethnicity. Other independent variables include age, gender, education, income, limitations in activities, and smoking

status. Preliminary results show that rural adults have less formal education, are poorer, and are more likely to report having fair or poor health status than are their urban peers. Obesity was more prevalent among rural than urban adults and a slightly larger proportion of rural adults were more physically inactive than their urban peers.

### **Factors Contributing to Hospital Choice Patterns in Rural Mississippi: A Study of Neshoba and Newton Counties**

Brooklyn J. Anderson, Mississippi State University Extension Service

Rural health care has long presented opportunities and challenges to rural populations, health care providers, administrators, policy makers, and academics. One such challenge involves understanding the health facility use patterns of rural citizens. Identifying these patterns can help decision-makers formulate planning and development strategies that will most effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the local population.

This paper looks specifically at hospital choice patterns among survey respondents in Neshoba and Newton Counties in East Mississippi. Spatial and statistical analyses are employed in order to determine socio-demographic as well as attitudinal factors influencing hospital use decisions. This study uses a variety of analytical tools and techniques, to include descriptive statistics, exploratory factor analysis, and geographic information systems (GIS).

**1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D2**

### **Rural Agricultural Issues**

**Moderator:**

Kenrett Jefferson-Moore, North Carolina A&T State University

### **The Impact of Rising Energy Prices and Potential Input Substitution in Cotton Production: Implications for the Southeastern U.S.**

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

Osei Agyeman Yeboah, North Carolina A&T State University

Cotton consumption and production in the US has been experiencing a down turn since 1995. This is in part due to severe competition from cheap supplies from other countries and the fierce competition face by the US textile industry from countries that are endowed with cheap labor resulting in the closure of several textile mills. In addition, the competition has led to massive offshore movement of many textile producing firms to enable them stay profitable. These events have severe economic implications for Southeastern US where Cotton supports more than 180,000 jobs and generates close to \$20 billion in business revenue.

It is envisage that, this situation would worsen as textiles mills continue to shutdown in response to high energy costs and cotton production becomes less attractive as per unit cost of production increases with the increase in energy prices. This study uses a translog cost function to estimate energy substitution in cotton production in southeastern US. The model shows how the economy will adjust to rising energy prices and the degree of substitution between energy, fertilizer, capital, and labor to determine output and factor price changes. The present estimates show that cotton farmers will substitute labor for energy input but fertilizer is a complement. The findings from this study present an idea of the potential to substitute other inputs for energy. This is useful in policy making and also for farm management decisions by cotton farmers, especially small cotton farmers who are most vulnerable.

### **Trends and Structure of Value-Chains and Value-Added Agriculture in Alabama**

Danyelle M. Starks, Alabama A&M University

James Bukenya, Alabama A&M University

As farmers struggle to find ways to increase farm income, interest in “adding value” to raw agricultural products has grown tremendously over the years. Value-added food-processing and industrial value-added manufacturing are the two dominant categories of agricultural value-added commodity processing. By focusing on Alabama, this paper discusses the role of the value-chains beginning to shape the contemporary structure of agriculture in the state. The paper presents information about the contribution of value added production to the state’s economy at the global, regional and country levels, as well as information about trends in productivity since the 1950s. The results give a reasonable indication of the importance of value added production at the state and regional levels and highlight how emerging changes in value-chains and value-added agriculture might affect rural development strategy in coming years. Finally, the main differences in the structure of the value added industry between different products are highlighted.

### **What is the Knowledge Level and Attitude of Tennessee Consumers Towards Biotechnology?**

Fisseha Tegegne, Tennessee State University

Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University

Ahmad Aziz, Tennessee State University

Surendra Singh, Tennessee State University

Biotechnology applications cover various areas including agriculture. There are proponents and opponents regarding the benefits and risks associated with the technology. This paper assesses knowledge level of Tennessee consumers and their attitude towards biotechnology using data collected from residents in selected urban areas of Middle and West Tennessee counties. A private market research firm was hired to collect the data via telephone survey using an instrument developed by researchers. Questions covered by the survey include the benefits and potential risks of biotechnology, putting biotechnology information on food labels, willingness to pay more for non-biotech products as well as socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Three hundred usable responses were received. Preliminary results show that the consumers surveyed had somewhat limited knowledge about biotechnology. Attitude 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 the 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. This reflects the concern that people have about safety of the food they consume.

### **Barriers to the Adoption of Organic Agriculture by Conventional Producers in Texas**

Michael H Lau, Sam Houston State University

Douglas H Constance, Sam Houston State University

Roger D Hanagriff, Sam Houston State University

The production and consumption of organic food and fiber products has increased steadily over the past few decades. Domestic demand exceeds domestic supply. This paper investigates the barriers to the adoption of organic production practices by conventional farmers and ranchers in Texas that expressed an interest in organic agriculture. Both production and marketing barriers are investigated. A random sample of 977 producers was carried out using a Modified Dillman mail survey approach. The analysis indicates that the barriers vary by commodity group. Some policy recommendations are made based on

the results of the analysis.

### **The Influence of Type of Contact with Extension on Client Satisfaction**

Sebastian Galindo-Gonzalez, University of Florida

Glen D. Israel, University of Florida

The quality of the services provided by the Florida Cooperative Extension is measured using a customer satisfaction survey. Overall, customer satisfaction has been high. It is important, however, to determine if the quality of the clients' experience is equally high across different contact modes. We explored whether the type of contact, namely, telephone call, office visit, or planned program, affects the quality of clients' experience and whether these perceptions differ by gender using survey data from 2003 to 2006. No significant associations were evident between the type of contact and both the overall satisfaction with Extension and the accuracy of the information received. However, interactions were observed for gender on contact mode and satisfaction and accuracy. Significant associations also were found between contact mode and both the timely delivery and the relevancy of the information, whereby the mode affected male respondents satisfaction but not females. The opportunity to use the information and the number of contacts with Extension were also significantly associated with the type of contact. These relationships were significant for females but not for males. A comprehensive understanding of the effects that contact type has on the quality of the experience can be used to increase clients' satisfaction and patronage.

## **PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

### **Rural Energy Development**

#### **Moderator:**

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University

#### **Water Issues Related to Biomass Production in "Optimal" Production Zones**

Brooklyn Anderson, Mississippi State University

With recent advances in alternative energy production, the biomass industry has received much attention in popular and academic literature. Our nation's growing energy demands and efforts to minimize dependence on foreign oil have led to an increase in biomass production. This increase ushers in both advantages and disadvantages, from feasibility as well as sustainability standpoints. Because advantages and disadvantages vary between crop types, it is important to examine these differences.

This paper sets the stage by reviewing the issues and concerns involved with growing traditional row crops versus perennial (annual) crops, such as switchgrass, highlighting the relative advantages of perennials over traditional crops. The paper then shifts to a discussion of one of the major potential drawbacks associated with growth of perennial crops—water supply availability. It is likely that, as the trend toward perennial production progresses, conflicts will arise between various water uses in regions determined to provide "optimal" biomass production potential in terms of rent, yield prices, and production costs. Potential water-related conflicts are identified and recommendations for future research are proposed.

#### **Energy Production and Quality of Life: A Tale of Two Counties**

Gene L. Theodori, Sam Houston State University

Data collected in two counties in north central Texas – Johnson County and Wise County – were used to empirically explore issues associated with energy production and quality of life. The two counties are located in a natural gas-producing region commonly known as the Barnett Shale. The Barnett Shale

region contains the largest unconventional natural gas reservoir in Texas and is one of the largest onshore fields in North America. The counties selected for in-depth study were purposely chosen to reflect differing levels of established energy development. Wise County was selected to represent a site with relatively mature development. Conversely, Johnson County, the county that was referred to as an emerging “sweet spot” when this research was conceptualized (2005), was chosen to represent a site where large-scale exploration and production activities were just beginning. The data reveal certain differences between the citizenry of the two counties with respect to attitudes toward the exploration and production of natural gas, as well as actions that individuals have taken in response to the large-scale energy development. Possible implications of these findings for community leaders are advanced, as are suggestions for future research.

### **An Economic Analysis of Farmers Ability to Produce Ethanol Based Crops in the State of North Carolina**

Darius Hale, North Carolina A&T State University

Donald McDowell, North Carolina A&T State University

On August 8, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the National Energy Policy Act of 2005 into law. One of the provisions of the Act was to increase the amount of biofuels (usually ethanol) that must be mixed with gasoline sold in the United States to triple the current requirement. As a result of this Act coupled with the continuing oil shortage and high fuel cost, interest in the use of agriculture crops as an alternative, environmentally friendly and renewable source of energy has proliferated. The increase in demand for sugar and starch base crops as biofuels feedstock has positively affected their prices. Consequently, farmers are faced with the prospect of producing corn and other crops for traditional uses or alternatively for ethanol (a gasoline additive and extender). Thus, the objective of this study is to determine the feasibility of North Carolina farmers to supply selected feedstock for the production of biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel). A combination of descriptive statistics, enterprise budgets and linear programming analysis will be employed to determine the feasibility of producing corn and soybeans for ethanol production. Capital budgeting techniques; payback periods, breakeven points and net present values will also be calculated to substantiate the findings.

### **Cellulosic Ethanol: Enabling Black Belt Farmers to Benefit from the Demand for a Supply of Clean Domestically Produced Energy**

Harwood Schaffer, University of Tennessee

Rising crude oil prices and concerns for renewable fuels have increased the attention given to the production of ethanol. Most of the ethanol plants—particularly farmer-owned cooperatives—have been located in the Corn-belt where there are few African American farmers. Cellulosic ethanol, which is more cost efficient than corn based ethanol, is expected to begin coming online by 2012.

While corn yields in the Black Belt are below those of the corn-belt, the Black Belt, with its longer growing season, is well suited to the production of biomass that could be converted to ethanol and other valuable co-products in cellulose to ethanol plants.

This paper identifies the social, economic, and agronomic issues that need to be researched in order to enable Black Belt farmers to grow the biofuel feedstock and organize cooperatives for the production of cellulosic ethanol and its co-products

# MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

PAPER SESSION

Dallas Ball Room D2

## Rural Education

### Moderator:

Rosalind Harris, Kentucky State University

### **Student Leadership Behavior in Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Accessing Leadership Behaviors and Experiences of Undergraduate Students**

Bryan Patterson, University of Florida

Glen D. Israel, University of Florida

Throughout the United States businesses and government organizations are finding it difficult to fill leadership positions because of a lack of trained leaders. It has been described as a leadership void. Industry leaders seek new employees who can lead quickly after they join an organization. College graduates who can exhibit leadership skills early and often as a new professional are likely to be hired and advance quickly in their career. Employers want and value competence in communication, adaptability, problem-identification and solving, self-management, teamwork and leadership skills. This paper identifies leadership behaviors and practices of undergraduate college students enrolled the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) at the University of Florida. Survey data is used to describe CALs students in terms of their personal demographics, academic leadership development, student leadership experience and community leadership experience. This paper will examine how demographic variables are predictors of leadership behaviors of CALs students. It also examines gaps between CALs students' leadership experiences and self-perceived leadership practice.

### **The Preparation of Future Secondary Agriculture Education Teachers to Work with Students with Learning Disabilities**

Paula E. Faulkner, North Carolina A&T State University

Connie D. Baggett, Pennsylvania State University

Teacher education programs are faced with an increased number of students with learning disabilities enrolling in secondary agricultural education programs. Consequently, pre-service teachers have expressed a need for additional education to work with students with learning disabilities. The purpose of the study was to examine the preparation pre-service teachers report to receive in pre-service programs to work with students with learning disabilities in secondary agricultural education programs. A survey instrument was designed and mailed to recipients in fall 2006. A total of 69 completed surveys were returned for a response rate of 27.3%. Over half of the respondents completed one special education course and acquired skills for teaching students with learning disabilities during a field experience. The study also revealed that pre-service teachers, when based on gender and classification, reported being equally prepared in pre-service programs to teach instructional techniques, accommodations, and the federal legislative acts.

### **The Nonmetro Achievement Gap in Mathematics: Median and Quantile Regression Analysis on Two National Probability Samples of High School Seniors**

Edward B. Reeves, Morehead State University

Jesse Lowe, University of Oregon

Sociologists have increasingly paid greater attention to the spatial dimension of social inequality (Lobao *et al.* 2007). This paper explores the spatial inequality of mathematics achievement in American high

schools. Achievement in math is strongly linked to postsecondary educational success and therefore with adult status attainment. Roscigno and Crowley (2001) have developed and tested a spatial theory of educational inequality. Our study extends the test of this theory using NELS 1992 and ELS 2004 cohorts of high school seniors. We examine the extent to which family resources, private school attendance, and student opportunity to learn account for geographic differences in mathematics achievement. Our analysis is unusual in that it employs median regression and quantile regression methods. We find that school-related factors are as important for understanding the nonmetro achievement gap as family socioeconomic status. Moreover, we show that much of the gap is explained by exposure to advanced mathematics classes in high school. This finding suggests that the nonmetro achievement gap may be closed with school-related policies and strategies.

### **Community Effect of Kindergarten to Fifth Grade Math Achievement**

Glen 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 math achievement of younger students. Analyses of test scores show that children who attend a school in rural, nonmetro area are disadvantaged at entry into kindergarten and also have the lowest gains through fifth grade. Students who attended school in a community with a higher level of economic well-being, employment diversity, and average education also performed better on the standardized math test. These community effects remained present after controlling for school and family factors. The results are problematic for policy makers because community structures are not easily modified.

**9:45 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D2**

### **Globalization, the Rural Consumer and Change**

#### **Moderator:**

Anna Kleiner, South Eastern Louisiana University

#### **Gap and Globalization**

Sameena Khan, Sam Houston State University

Ben Robertson, Sam Houston State University

In this paper we employ a social change and development conceptual framework to interpret the case of "Gap and Globalization" to inform discussions regarding the globalization of economy and society. This research focuses on Gap and its effect on labor markets. The research topic is timely and salient because companies like Gap, Inc. are dominant actors in the global clothing industry. The social change and development conceptual framework focuses on the process of globalization. For the purposes of this paper, globalization is operationalized as: (1) decentralization of production; (2) informalization of labor; and (3) global sourcing. Data were gathered through extensive Internet searches and analysis of Gap, Inc.'s website. The conclusion is that while Gap, Inc. claims to uphold its social responsibility in factories around the world, it continues to exploit its employees and the third world nations that house these independent factories for capitalistic gain.

### **Community-based Social Marketing: A New Approach to Fostering Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles**

Patricia Grace, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Eric Kaufman, Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Sustainability” has become a concept applied to many aspects of our daily lives. Extension and community educators across the country are beginning to address issues of sustainability by educating the public on pertinent topics. However, numerous studies have documented that education alone often has little or no effect upon sustainable behavior. In addition to educating, our role often requires us to serve as “change agents.” Doug McKenzie-Mohr, an environmental psychologist, has developed a method he calls *Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM)* which draws heavily on research in the social-psychological aspects of behavior change. It uses tools that have been identified as particularly effective in fostering change. This presentation will review the four step process of *CBSM* which includes conducting barrier and benefit research, developing programs to overcome barriers, pilot testing and program evaluation. We will also discuss other *CBSM* tools including prompts, commitments, community norms, and crafting vivid messages and images. A brief literature review will be provided.

### **Rural Consumer Culture, Democratization and the Global New South: A Case Study of Wal-Mart in the Alabama Black Belt**

Joan Weston, Ohio University

The impact of Wal-Mart on local communities has quickly become an old topic often couched as a debate about the effects of globalization on local economies. This current incarnation of the Wal-Mart local-global debate focuses on the relationship between the reorganization of the consumer retail industry in the Alabama Black Belt and impact of democratic reforms in Sumter and Greene County, Alabama. The reorganization of the local consumer retail industry of small cities, townships and the rural communities surrounding these cities and townships has been at the heart of Wal-Mart’s expansionist policies. However, an examination of the relationship between democratization in the United States and the reorganization of the consumer retail industry has been largely absent from discussions of the social and economic impact of Wal-Mart and the processes of globalization. The reorganization of the consumer retail industry coupled with the democratic reforms of the 1950s and 60s created a set of social, economic, and political dynamics that make turning a profit difficult for consumer retail firms in the rural Black Belt, even for the large-scale global retailer Wal-Mart. Here, I argue that African Americans living in both Greene and Sumter counties received long-term political and short-term economic benefits from the reorganization of the local consumer retail industry that began in the mid-1960s. Thus, the loss that some African American residents mourned when the Wal-Mart Discount Store closed its doors can be interpreted as an emotional expression and a public recognition of the political, economic and psychological leverage that former tenant farmers acquired during the period in which Wal-Mart participated in the local consumer retail market.

### **How Far From the Tree Does the Apple Fall? Conceptualizing “Local” in a Florida Farmers Market**

Allison E Lutz, Oklahoma State University

Many consumers seek out locally grown foods to enjoy fresher produce while supporting local farmers. Sociological and economic research has identified the ambiguous nature of the term ‘local’ but has not provided a concrete definition. In mid-2007, we conducted an intercept survey at a Florida farmers’ market to identify: 1) how farmers’ market shoppers geographically define ‘local’; 2) their level of commitment to purchasing local produce measured by a cost-availability matrix; and 3) their willingness to pay (WTP) for local produce. We found a great deal of variability in respondents’ perceptions of ‘local’ in the context of fresh produce. A small percentage of shoppers are highly committed purchasers of local produce, but most are opportunistic buyers with a slightly increased WTP for local produce. Results from this study imply that small farms and agro-food networks may benefit from using ‘local’ marketing schemes and engaging highly-committed buyers.

PAPER SESSION

Dallas Ball Room D3

## **Alternative Enterprises, Agricultural Prosperity and Limited Resource Farmers**

### **Moderator:**

Kim Bradford, Natural Resources Conservation Service

### **Limited Resource Farmers' Perceptions Towards Alternative Enterprises in Southeastern North Carolina**

Kenrett Y. Jefferson-Moore, North Carolina A&T State University

Jannety M. Mosley, North Carolina A&T State University

Robert Monroe, North Carolina A&T State University

The state of North Carolina has instituted a statewide initiative promoting programs and projects fostering entrepreneurship as a means of economic growth. However, there are various populations of farm businesses within the state that have not been reached. With portions of the region experiencing low socioeconomic statuses, there is a need to establish alternative enterprises in order to sustain businesses in rural communities.

The objective of this study is to assess the attitudes and behaviors of limited resource producers in southeastern North Carolina. Data were obtained through a nonprobability sampling of alternative farmers in a four-county area using a 4-point Likert scale. Questions focused primarily on entrepreneurs' willingness to take risks of alternative enterprises. Results showed that producers are willing to take on alternative enterprises with increased net farm benefits and are more willing to adopt enterprise that will not require more work and responsibility than they were currently undertaking.

### **Predictors of Interest in and Practice of Organic Agriculture in Texas**

Douglas H. Constance, Sam Houston State University

Jin Young Choi, Sam Houston State University

The production and consumption of organic food and fiber products has increased steadily over the past few decades. Domestic demand exceeds domestic supply. This research investigates two topics. The first topic is the predictors of conventional farmers and ranchers in Texas being interested in organic agriculture. The second is the predictors of conventional farmers and ranchers in Texas adopting organic agriculture. A random sample of 977 producers was carried out using a Modified Dillman mail survey approach. Preliminary analyses indicate that several factors such as type of producer category, years farming, farms size, and selected market and production conditions contribute to both interest in and adoption of organics

### **Where Furrows Run Deep: The Long-term Strength and Resiliency of Freedmen's Settlements in Central East Texas**

Jeffery Roth, Austin State University

J.B. Watson Jr., Austin State University

While the history of African-Americans in Texas has received increasing scholarly attention, the pivotal role of African-Americans in Texas rural life has been neglected. The history of African-Americans in rural regions of Texas is potentially being lost at an increasing rate, due to land retention issues, lack of preservation resources, and limited public awareness of the cultural value of historically African-American rural communities. This paper will detail the study of African-American freedmen communities in the Nacogdoches, Texas area, with a special focus on the Upshaw Community in western Nacogdoches

County, a traditional agricultural community settled by freedmen from Tennessee sometime before 1900. Current residents, who trace their ancestry to the original founders of the community, sustain the Upshaw Community, also referred to as County Line, Texas. Following emancipation, many freed slaves in the United States believed that freedom was embodied in a place, and they formed thousands of all African-American rural communities across the Deep South, including eastern Texas. In Nacogdoches County, Texas, freedmen formed no fewer than thirteen of these communities, which exemplify the movement that took place in former slave-holding states. Many of these communities, known as freedmen settlements, freedom colonies, or freedom towns, still exist in some form. This paper will detail the role of freedmen communities in central east Texas, within the context of the general historical phenomenon of freedmen community settlements, and demonstrate how rural people formed an important element of national African-American heritage and triumph over oppression through successful rural agriculture and community-building practices.

**1:15 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.**

**POSTER SESSION    *FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE CENTER***

**The Relationship Between Perceived Barriers to Healthcare and Self-rated Health in the 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 main purpose of the current investigation is to examine the extent to which health care barriers are uniquely associated with individual differences in self-rated health. Self-rated health can be easily assessed and is predictive of health care use and other health outcomes. In this sample of 817 residents of the eleven-state black belt region, the six healthcare barriers examined uniquely accounted for almost the same amount of variance in self-rated health and as did the demographic variables. In conclusion, healthcare barriers were just as important as age, race, gender, and education when accounting for explained variance in self-rated health. Future studies should consider intervening on health care barriers to improve self appraisals of health and subsequently improve health outcomes.

**Meth and the Rural South: Down Home Cooking**

Sean Cash, Sam Houston State University,

Rural America has always held folklore and stories of rouges and moonshiners who fight authority but are portrayed in a Disney Robin Hood manner. Recently a new type of group has appeared that fights authority is meth dealers. This group is involved in the production and distribution of meth. These manufacturers set up labs in very isolated or remote areas and produce meth and distribute it into local communities or depending on the size and production capacity of the lab several communities. Meth has become a new cash crop in the rural south displacing agriculture and affecting the microscale economies of small communities. This drug is also imported from Mexico. Meth is popular in the rural areas because of the cost of production and the large cash benefits for persons who likely are very poor (Appalachia) and are losing money in agriculture. Another benefit of producing meth in rural areas is the relative simplicity of obtaining the chemical elements necessary for production than in urban areas. In the past age of moonshiners so called because it was stilled and created at night by the shine of the moon to hide from neighbors and authorities. Law enforcement has a difficult time controlling meth production because of: lack of funding, lack of training and methods of detection. Raiding a meth lab is very dangerous activity for several factors: volatility of the manufacturing process, dealers either rigging a self destruct feature or fighting the police.

## **"Good Ol' Boy" Networks and Justice in Rural Texas**

Travis Miller, Sam Houston State University

The intent of this research is to investigate the social phenomenon popularly known as the "Good Ol' Boy" Network defined here as an informal relationship amongst members and affiliates of law enforcement, legislative and judicial bodies within the social ecosystem of a rural town or other collective entity. In particular, the "Good ol' Boy" Network shall be investigated in terms of inequality of justice towards the individual citizen caught up (legitimately or illegitimately as may be the case) within the legal and/or criminal justice system. This research is based on the hypothesis that such an entity as the "Good Ol' Boy" Network has existed and continues to exist in rural Texas despite the best efforts of legislators and policymakers and that the remoteness of a town/city and its population size are directly linked to the extent that a "Good Ol' Boy" network has proliferated within it. Specifically, I hypothesize that the smaller an individual town or city, the greater the influence of the "Good Ol' Boy" Network upon the various social happenings within it, including enforcement of legislation, criminal justice proceedings being bent against minorities or those individuals/classes/groups which do not fit in to said city and levels of power and discretion given to individuals operating in the power of the state (or perhaps more rightly said the "municipality").

## **Socialization and Education in Native America and Rural America**

Trina Thornton, Sam Houston State University

Native Americans live in the equivalent of rural communities.

Their communities are not given the same chances as are available in a large urban community. Schools in rural communities are restricted by the number of students which limits funding. The state government does not allocate extra money, other than the required funding given per student attending schools. Native American reservations are also geographically isolated restricting availability to resources such as libraries, computer servers and access to higher education. These are also limited due to the lack of funds. These facts mirror the lack of educational amenities in rural communities. While urban areas have access to city taxes and industrial or corporate funding rural and Native American reservations are disadvantaged by relying only on limited government funding. These communities are behind the national averages in access to public services. I include government data and statistics for rural and Native American reservations. These show the differences between metropolitan areas versus the rural areas with less monetary and educational means. I will use an example of a Native American child's socialization and the limited education and occupational opportunities which are there available pathways for careers.

## **Pushing the Earth**

Catherine Yeu, Sam Houston State University

Increasingly rural women are seeking employment options as sources of income. Military bases are traditionally in rural areas, where women have, in recent decades, held civilian jobs usually the only non farm option for employment. At the same time recruitment efforts by the military are targeting rural areas as sources for troops. Recruitment goals are driven by the war in Iraq, with a lower base of males enlisting. The all voluntary military seeks rural recruits due to more traditional values supporting military enlistment. Now females, 15% of the current armed forces, are targeted. Those women who are enlisting in the traditionally male military have to try harder in order to be accepted by men. As a woman in the military my poster presentation will depict the added efforts and physical challenges that women face to gain acceptance in the military. The title of this poster presentation is taken from a photo of a female military recruit doing pushups, her face in the earth.

### **Loss of Community in a Small Town**

Nicole Miller, Sam Houston State University

I am doing my poster presentation on the Loss of Community in a Small Town. My research will consist of life experiences within the town of Sealy, Texas and will involve a series of photographs and other media showcasing the decline not only of the physical state of the town but also of the feeling of "community" within Sealy as time has passed. My research will focus on the social drama behind the development (or lack thereof) of Sealy and its impact on the residents of Sealy. Special emphasis will be placed on the impact of the upcoming Trans-Texas corridor that is likely to cut straight through Sealy, possibly altering its physical and social landscape drastically.

### **Government Intervention in Sex Education**

Jenni Northen, Sam Houston State University

I am doing my poster presentation on the impact of Abstinence Based Sexual Education on Rural communities in Texas. My research will focus on correlations between exclusively abstinence based programs and rates of pregnancy/std's. Further, I will focus on the social impact that the debate of this issue has sparked in rural communities, particularly on divisions between religious and secular sectors of the rural community.

### **A Genogram Presentation: Mi Familia, My Family**

Elizabeth Davila, Sam Houston State University

The genogram, which is a form of a family tree, represents primarily three generations on both my parents sides. It displays basic facts of those relatives I have included in my paper such as occupation, religion, nationality and ages. The chart helps reveals different behavioral patterns and traces relationships within my family, and the ten page paper elaborates on each topic shown on the genogram. Further explanations on issues such as religion, occupation, political beliefs and reasons for migration are displayed in the paper as well. Through the paper and poster, one can see major differences between my mother and my father's culture, and how many factors including environment as well as status affect the outcome of those here today.

### **High School Students' Perception and Level of Familiarity with the Cooperative Extension Service, Experiment Stations and 4H**

Marcus M Comer, Chastity Warren-English, North Carolina A&T State University and  
Michael Harmon, Trinity High School

The purpose of this study was to determine high-school students' perception and knowledge of the Cooperative Extension Service (CES), Experimental Stations and 4H. The study measured students' attitudes and level of familiarity with CES, Agricultural Experiment Station, and 4-H. Findings indicated that students were not familiar with the CES, Experiment Stations nor the programs and services they offer. They were however somewhat familiar with 4-H. Both CES and school administrators and teachers should take action to inform students about the role of CES, the experiment stations and 4H in producing food and fiber, managing natural resources and promoting vibrant rural communities. Failure to meet this challenge could lead to declining public support and funding for programs essential to maintaining a competitive food and fiber sector and viable rural communities.

### **Differences in the Opinions and Attitudes of Undergraduate Agriculture Majors toward Agroterrorism**

Tanya Delancy, Sammy Comer, and Enefiok Ekanem, Tennessee State University

In recent years, there has been increased concerns about agroterrorism, not only in the United States, but in many countries in the world. This study explores the opinions and attitudes of undergraduate agriculture students towards agroterrorism. Survey data collected for the study are analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. Results will be used in providing insights into students' understanding of agroterrorism

**Broken Promises and the Decreasing Presence of the Black Farmer: Public Advocacy Barriers in Implementing the 1999 Pigford Civil Rights Case Consent Decree Settlement (Pigford v. Glickman, No. 97-1978 and No. 98-1693 D.D.C.. July 14, 2000)**

Marna R. Weston, University of Florida

A direct need exists for program and policy planners to more effectively address the decline of the Black farmer. Though fragmented efforts exist to assist in the re-emergence of minority farmers, the absence of a comprehensive and immediate mandate to rectify past inequalities, broken promises, and stealth assaults upon Black farmers threatens the survival of these farm households. The current consideration of Title V of H. R. 2419, The Food and Energy Security Act of 2007 (known colloquially as The 2007 Farm Bill), includes language for Congress to satisfy the 1999 Pigford Civil Rights Case Consent Decree Settlement. I explore the actions of Congress from July 2007 to date in implementing the settlement. Specifically, I examine the rhetorical strategies of Presidential candidate, Barack Obama, who on August 8, 2007, wrote a letter, to then Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. The letter expressed Obama's concerns that Farm Service Agency (FSA) employees illegally used federal resources in sending emails to federal employees asking them to write their Representatives and Senators and encourage them to vote to deny compensation to Black farmers under the Pigford settlement. I conclude that Obama's advocacy has increased his standing among Southern voters, even though partisan divisions in Congress have stalled the passage of H. R. 2419.

**Keeping Up with Good Agricultural Practices: The Case of Limited Resources Audiences**

Mary Mafuyai-Ekanem, Brandi White, Monique McAlister, and Keith R. Baldwin, North Carolina A&T State University  
Sandra Strayhorn, USDA-RMA, Raleigh Regional Office

What you do not know may kill you, prevention is often better than cure. Consumers value proper handling of fresh produce. To meet this demand, producers are seeking certification to process fruits, vegetables, meats and dairy products on their farms. Good Agricultural Practices can reduce unnecessary risks, saving time and money.

**1:45 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D2**

**Rural Quality of Life**

**Moderator:**

Godfrey Ejimakor, North Carolina A&T State University

**Community Action and Economic Development in the Gulf Counties of Alabama after Hurricane Katrina**

Andrew Zekeri, Tuskegee University

The present and future economic viability of rural communities in the Gulf States of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina is dependent on action from multiple stakeholders, ranging from Federal, state, and local government to diverse members of the communities themselves. The purpose of this paper is to identify and analyze economic development strategies that are being considered by local communities, state and federal agencies in recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina, and to assess the extent to which the different stakeholders not only agree or disagree about approaches, but also understand each others' points of view. The research is needed to lay the groundwork for appropriate policies that facilitate effective long term local development efforts to meet the region's needs. Such policies are crucial given that many communities in the region are homes to persistent poverty, poor employment, unemployment, limited education, poor health and welfare dependency. The residents are, as the President's National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty put it in 1967, "people left behind." In 2007, it is still a region left behind in many respects.

### **Cohabitation in Rural Families**

Mary Ann Davis, Sam Houston State University

In recent decades, there have been rising rates of cohabitation. There are two aspects of cohabitation first as a pathway to marriage and second as an alternative to marriage. This paper analyzes data from Cycle 6 of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), female respondent data, to explore cohabitation in nonmetropolitan women, aged 15-44. Logistic regressions in nested models will examine whether those who live in non-metropolitan areas are more likely to cohabit (Model 1). Model 2 will add having children, and parity to the cohabitation model. Additional models will explore the interactions of other demographic variables: age, race/ethnicity; and religious preference in cohabitation among these women

### **Gendered Analysis of Community Satisfaction and Attachment on Perceived Individual Well-being in Rural Texas**

Sameena Khan, Sam Houston State University

While previous models of community attachment and satisfaction have included gender as a control variable, none have considered how gender affects an individual's level of community satisfaction and attachment.

Utilizing data collected in a rural community in Texas, I examine the effects of gender on community satisfaction and attachment on perceived individual well-being. There is considerable support for the hypothesis that community attachment and satisfaction are positively correlated with perceived individual well-being; yet the void between gender effect on community attachment and satisfaction is yet to be filled. I propose possible implications of these findings.

### **Insights into Housing Affordability for Low-income Rural Families**

Jessica Kropczynski, University of Kentucky

Patricia Hyer Dyk, University of Kentucky

Nonprofits and government entities model the standard set by US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing affordability, which states that a housing payment in excess of thirty percent of gross income is unaffordable. Many rural families in the South experience hidden costs in acquiring their basic needs such as food and clothing; it then becomes important to look at how these needs factor into the government equation for affordability. Using data from the NC1011 Rural Families Speak project, a multi-state research project that examines rural, low-income families with children, a ratio of income spent on housing is compared to the ability to fulfill basic needs. Using direct measures of fulfillment of Maslow's human needs, the understanding of affordability can be broadened to include the unique circumstances of the rural South.

### **A Regional Assessment of Threats and Opportunities in Southern Illinois**

Courtney G. Flint, University of Illinois

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has operated Dixon Springs Agricultural Center in Southern Illinois since the 1930s. The College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, seeking to evaluate the future of the Ag Center, instigated a regional assessment of Southern Illinois led by a team of rural sociologists. This multi-dimensional study engaged area stakeholders in key informant interviews and integrated data analysis across areas such as agriculture, water and forest resources, and socioeconomic and demographic dimensions. The dual purpose of the study was to explore the threats and opportunities facing the Southern Illinois region and to evaluate the role of the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center. The results indicated that Southern Illinois is a diverse, overwhelmingly rural region plagued by deep-seated disadvantages relative to the rest of the state, but has considerable assets, particularly natural amenities, an entrepreneurial spirit, and strong potential related to the Ag Center.

## Community Organization and Social Change

### Moderator:

Dreamal Worthen, Florida A&M University

### **Building Organizational Capacity in the Context of Disaster: A Study of Community-based Nonprofit Service Providers in Louisiana and Mississippi**

Anna Kleiner, Southeastern Louisiana University

John Green, Delta State University

Katie Kerstetter, Delta State University

JoLynn Montgomery, University of Michigan School of Public Health

Hurricane Katrina has challenged the ability of local nonprofit organizations to coordinate and deliver services to meet people's immediate and long-term needs. These service providers have had to evaluate internal and external organizational issues, such as addressing the increased demand for services and potential vulnerability to future crisis events. In this paper, we describe the organizational experiences, challenges, and recommendations of nonprofit service providers operating on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in Louisiana, based on qualitative interviews. We also assess the capacity-building strategies employed by five specific groups in Mississippi. Using the livelihoods model to frame interpretation, this analysis offers valuable insights as to how organizations can enhance their capacity to be more responsive at the grassroots level and expand their access to resources and participation in policy development.

### **Sense of Community and the Extent of Community Action**

Ben Robertson, Sam Houston State University

Yolanda Lopez, Sam Houston State University

Previous community literature has indicated an association between sense of community and community action; however it has yet to determine the extent of the action that is associated with an increase in sense of community. In order to determine the extent of community action that appears to be prompted by sense of community, secondary analysis of survey data collected by the Department of Rural Sociology at Texas A&M University of the west Texas community of Stanton, TX, was analyzed. Sense of community was measured using community attachment as an indicator, and community action was measured by asking people if they participate in organizations. After the association between the two was confirmed, three measures of the extent of community action were tested—number of organizations members maintain membership in, frequency of attendance at organizational meetings and whether or not a member was an officer in the organization. Findings are hypothesized to suggest an increase in sense of community facilitates an increase in the extent of community action.

### **Establishing a Black Belt Community Action and Studies Association**

Rosalind Harris, University of Kentucky

This session will encourage dialogue about establishing a Black Belt Community Action and Studies Association. We envision this to be a participatory process between representatives from communities and colleges/universities in the region. Potential functions of the Association would be promoting collaborations and partnerships, creating a clearinghouse of resources on community action, research and policy, sponsoring annual meetings of interested partners and others throughout the region and establishing a Black Belt Regional Studies and Leadership Development Program within higher learning institutions within the region. This Program would prepare a critical mass of leaders equipped to skillfully examine and act regarding the historical background, cultures and current social, economic and political realities of the Black Belt region.

## **Investigating Collaborative Partnerships Among Community Action Agencies in the Southeast**

Terrence Thomas, North Carolina A & T State University

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

Edward Fosu, North Carolina A & T State University

Although groups play an important role in social mobilization and in the provision of goods and services in rural areas, there is a growing recognition that there are many complex tasks in a global knowledge society that no single group working alone can effectively accomplish. In this study, we seek to describe community action agencies' collaborative networks in terms of: (1) gross structure, i.e., the entities involved in the collaborative relationship and (2) its dimensional structure—the primary underlying elements comprising the collaboration construct. Depth of relationship was described along a continuum from formal cooperation to very formal cooperation among entities. Data was collected via a survey of 344 (total population) community action agencies (CAAs) in eleven southeastern states. The response rate was approximately 45%. Factor analysis was employed to identify the underlying component structure of the collaboration construct, and frequency distributions were used to describe the structure of the collaborative relationships. The results indicate that collaboration in this study is comprised of two components, and the level of collaboration between CAAs and other entities was higher for collaboration with other community-based and faith-based organizations, and lower with businesses and universities. We feel that based on the results and policy recommendations, CBOs can successfully implement programs and initiatives designed to reduce poverty and enhance economic development. We believe that the insight gained from the study will further the understanding of the collaborative process and help community action agencies promote collaborative activity in community problem solving.

## **Developing Community-Based Leadership Collaboratives**

Patricia Hyjer Dyk, University of Kentucky

Leadership training programs designed to develop leaders by preparing participants to take an active role in advancing the quality of life of the community are proliferating throughout the rural South. However, few cities or counties are approaching the goal of creating "leaderful" communities through community-based collaboratives. This presentation will discuss one such initiative, shedding light on the challenges and rewards of developing successful reciprocal town-gown partnerships.

**3:45 P.M.—5:15 P.M**

**SRSA BUSINESS MEETING**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

### **Moderator:**

Enefiok Ekanem, President, Rural Sociological Association, Tennessee State University

### **The State of the Southern Rural Sociological Association**

Gene L. Theodori, President Elect, Sam Houston State University

Larissa Barnhart, Sam Houston State University

As part of its strategic planning process and in response to several requests voiced at recent business meetings, the Executive Council of the Southern Rural Sociological Association (SRSA) authorized the conduct of a membership survey in 2007. SRSA President-Elect Gene Theodori and Larissa Barnhart prepared and administered an online survey. The purpose of this paper is to summarize the membership survey findings, examine the SRSA's current state of affairs, and speculate on its future direction

**Tuesday, February 5**

**8:30 AM —10:15 AM**

**PAPER SESSION**

**Dallas Ball Room D3**

**Innovations in Small Farm Agriculture**

**Moderator:**

Donald McDowell, North Carolina A&T State University

**The Green Industry in North Carolina**

Godfrey Ejimakor, North Carolina A&T State University

Harry Sutton, North Carolina A&T State University

The production of ornamental and horticultural plants in North Carolina has increased significantly over the past few years. This trend may be a result of the continued decline in revenues from traditional crops such as tobacco. The trend is a positive one for many reasons. In addition to serving as an alternative source of income, green products are environmentally and aesthetically beneficial. The competitiveness and profitability of green products in North Carolina is a key factor for the continued growth of the industry in North Carolina. An understanding of the trends that contribute to the growth of the industry will help to promote its competitiveness. This study is a temporal and spatial analysis of the green industry in North Carolina. Historical data are used to analyze the dominant products in the industry, growth rates and geographic distribution of the products in North Carolina. The attributes of the regions where green products dominate will be ascertained and could be used to encourage the growth of the industry in other parts of the State, especially the rural ones.

**From Local Tree Species to Rural Sustainable Economic Development: Mesquite Bioenergy Research Possibilities in South Texas**

Yeong Nain Chi, University of Texas at Brownsville

The rise of ethanol as an alternative energy has transformed mesquite trees into a profitable renewable natural resource. Recent attempts have been made to harvest mesquite trees for their biomass to produce ethanol. It would provide the opportunity to create new jobs and put market value added on mesquite trees. South Texas with a semi-arid climate is ideally suited to the growth of mesquite trees. According to a previous research, a small 5 million gallon refinery would create 29 full time jobs with the lowest salary at \$30,000 annually. The estimated net profit of one of these small refineries would be around \$2 million per year. This study will try to estimate the average biomass yielded from selected sample mesquite trees for ethanol production in South Texas. This would be the first step in alleviating South Texas's dependency on petroleum which will profit local landowners and develop local communities' economy.

**Countervailing Power, Monsanto and the Tillamook Dairy Cooperation**

Thomas W. Gray, USDA Rural Development Cooperative Programs

Historically, agricultural cooperatives have been formed—in-part-- to oppose local, regional, and national monopoly/monopsony, and oligopoly/oligopsony power. With the advent of such organizational innovations as joint ventures, strategic alliances, outsourcing, mergers, and consolidations, some have questioned the continued relevancy, and ability of agricultural cooperatives to serve as countervailing agents in the market place. However when examining the rBGH controversy, re: Monsanto versus Tillamook Dairy Cooperative, Tillamook prevailed in being able to withdraw rBGH use from among its members. This action triggered similar decisions by other dairy firms. These actions were done in spite of Monsanto's attempts to derail its removal.

By detailing the rBGH hormone history from its initial introduction to its removal from Tillamook in 2005, the paper addresses questions related to: 1) specifying the various discursive logics used to justify and oppose (countervail) the use of recombinant bovine growth hormone, in the spheres of production and consumption, 2) highlight how various classic oppositions between cooperatives and investment firms (e.g. organized for use versus organized for return on investment) can get penetrated with this discourse, 3) how the Tillamook/Monsanto controversy can serve as an example of the continuing relevance of agricultural cooperation organization to countervail the power of larger organizations, while simultaneously achieving the voiced interests of independent farmers.

### **Economic Feasibility of Organic Vegetable Production on Small Farms in Alabama**

Staci Huddleston, Alabama A&M

Joseph Befecadu, Alabama A&M

Hezekiah Jones, Alabama A&M

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. United States 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 increase in the net cash flow for small farmers for this business venture and determines if it will provide them a supplementary income. A multi-period linear-programming model was developed to determine the optimal combination of enterprises that were the most profitable. Results suggest that organic production is a feasible alternative/ supplementary enterprise for small farms.

### **Farmer Survey on Adoption of BMP's**

Frank Clearfield, Natural Resources Conservation Service

A web survey on BMP adoption was developed and sponsored by a partnership composed of the Conservation Technology Information Center, the American Fertilizer Institute, private sector organizations, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This survey was opened for approximately a one month period from November to December 2007. Just less than 1,900 agricultural producers responded to the survey from all over the country. The information in the survey asked about adoption of BMP's, obstacles farmers face that hinder them from adoption conservation practices, frequency of soil testing, the importance of financial, educational, and technical assistance, use of new technologies related to nutrient management practices, and preferred avenues and sources for receiving information and assistance. Background information such as age, education, type of crops grown, size of farm, etc. will be used as control variables to determine whether adoption differences are influenced by differences in background. Preliminary results will be available and presented at the conference.

**10:30 A.M.—12PM**

**SRSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

**DALLAS BALL ROOM D3**