



Alcorn®

EXTENSION PROGRAM

Empowering People

1000 ASU Drive, #479 - Alcorn State, Mississippi 39096-7500 Telephone: 601-877-6128 Fax: 601-877-6694

Alcorn State 1890s AgrAbility Workshop Statistics

A total of 59 people from six states attended the workshop.

1890 Institutions

Alcorn State University, MS (25)

Florida A&M University (2)

Prairie View A&M University, TX (1)

1862 Institutions

Purdue University, IN (2)

Organizations/Agencies

Life Essentials, IN (1)

Field Safety Covers, MS (2)

Delta Community Farm Coop, MS (1)

North Delta Produce Growers Association, MS (1)

FSA – MS (2)

TK Martin Center, MS (2)

Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (2)

United Community Action Committee, MS (1)

Other Participants

MS farmers/ranchers (12)

AR farmers/ranchers (3)

TN farmers/ranchers (2)

Day 1 (Monday, September 12)

The workshop opened with a welcome from both ASU Dean School of Agriculture, Research and Applied sciences Dr. Ivory Lyles and Extension Administrator. Dr. Gregory Reed. Dr. Franklin Chukwuma, Coordinator for Off-Campus Centers was the workshop facilitator.

Mr. Anthony Reed, Interim Extension Associate Administrator, gave an overview of AgrAbility's purpose, while Mr. Chuck Baldwin and Mr. Paul Jones from Purdue University gave a short introduction to AgrAbility and showed a video on how AgrAbility has helped disabled farmers.

A Mississippi farmer panel composed of Mr. Donald Vowell, Courtney C. Casey, and Lauren C. Long, represented farmers with disabilities who have utilized and benefited from AgrAbility services and resources.

Mr. Bill Begley from Life Essentials showed a presentation about assistive technology with specialized lifts built into trucks and agricultural machinery, and demonstrated two all-terrain wheelchairs with accessories for activities such as hunting. He explained how the equipment is developed and how farmers are consulted on its development and trained on its use. During free time, many of the attendees got a chance to try out the Life Essentials equipment, as well as the specialized tools on a table near the front.

After-dinner meeting:

There was a discussion on barriers and opportunities for AgrAbility in working with the 1890 institutions, and how best to reach out to the target audience; followed by general questions and answer time.

Discussions on ways of reaching the target audience included: Churches, County Extension Offices, Landowner groups, Small Farm Workshops, Agriculture Field Days, and Farmer's Markets

Day 2 (Tuesday, September 13)

Mr. Paul Jones spoke about conducting a farm assessment and the challenges that are often faced. Then Chuck Baldwin gave an overview of the resources available on the AgrAbility.org website.

Paul Jones talked about the Importance of Assistive Technology and also mentioned that the AgrAbility.org website is the first place people often look for resources.

Representatives from the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services talked about the assessments the state can make and the resources available.

Mr. Robert Riggins and Rodney Johnson from USDA's Farm Service Agency then spoke about the importance of the 1890 schools to AgrAbility and also gave some pointers on applying for grants and financial assistance from USDA farm Service Agency.

The workshop concluded with an open dialogue among participants about the importance of the relationship between 1890s and AgrAbility. Participants completed an evaluation document to determine whether the workshop's goals and objectives were met.

Franklin O. Chukwuma, Ph.D.

Coordinator of Off-Campus Centers