
**SECOND
BUTLER/CUNNINGHAM
CONFERENCE
ON
AGRICULTURE AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

Trends and Opportunities for Rural Land Use

November 3-4, 2003

**Montgomery Embassy Suites Hotel
300 Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104**

Co-Sponsors:

**Alabama A & M University
Alabama Cooperative Extension Service
Alabama Forestry Foundation
Alabama Soil and Water Conservation
Committee
Southern Environmental Center
Tuskegee University**

First Butler/Cunningham Conference on Agriculture and the Environment

Common Misbeliefs about Alabama Agriculture

Birmingham Marriott Hotel

The Butler/Cunningham conference series will explore issues related to agriculture and forestry, the environment, and rural life in Alabama. This series is funded through a generous endowment by Eugene Butler and Emory Cunningham to the Auburn University College of Agriculture.

Purpose of the First Conference

Agriculture is often touted as Alabama's major industry. Agriculture is indeed important to the state's economy, yet many Alabamans are not aware of the complexities of modern farm life and agriculture. Long gone are the days of 40 acres and a mule. Today's farmer must be a production scientist, engineer, accountant, environmental specialist, etc. Future generations will be even less familiar with agriculture and rural life in Alabama.

What does Alabama agriculture look like now? What will it look like in the year 2020? What effect does it have on the environment? How can the rural-urban interface exist in harmony in the years ahead, particularly with those issues related to the environment?

Even without definitive answers, these questions seriously merit our consideration. This conference will help make all of us more aware of the state's agricultural industry, and gain new insights for dealing with current issues and changes on the horizon. You can be an important part of the dialog on this subject through your participation in the conference.

Conference Program

November 13, 2002

8:30-10:00	Registration and Breakfast Reception
10:00-12:00	Session 1 , The Present and Future World of Agriculture
12:00-1:00	Lunch (on your own)
1:00-3:15	Session 2 , Our Ag Heritage: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going?
3:15-3:45	Break
3:45-5:40	Session 3 , Agriculture and the Environment: In Harmony or Dispute?
6:00	Reception

November 14, 2002

7:00-8:00	Breakfast Reception
8:00-10:00	Session 4 , Should We Keep the Land in Agriculture?
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-12:00	Session 5 , How Are Changes in Agriculture Affecting Rural Communities?
12:00-1:30	Lunch (with speaker)
1:30-3:15	Session 6 , Wrap Up: Where to from Here?

Public Opinion Poll

A public opinion poll on Alabama agriculture, the environment, and rural life will be conducted with the assistance of the Center for Governmental Services at Auburn University. The results of this poll will be presented and discussed at the conference.

Speakers

An impressive list of speakers from across Alabama and the nation have agreed to participate, including journalists, high-level government officials, university professors and administrators, representatives of agribusiness, environmentalists, farmers, and state representatives. These speakers will present fresh views that have not been presented in previous conferences on related topics in Alabama.

Housing

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Birmingham Marriott at a special conference rate. Information on making room reservations will be provided in the final conference brochure to be available April 1.

Registration

The registration fee will include two breakfast receptions, one luncheon, refreshments during breaks, and the evening mixer on November 13. Registered participants will receive copies of the results of the public opinion poll on Alabama agriculture and information summarizing the status of Alabama agriculture.

Additional Information

For final brochure and registration information, complete the form below and send to:

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For specific questions about the conference, contact:

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