



▶ Administrator Speaks 1



▶ FARMERS CONFERENCE-2
▶ FSA SAFETY DAY... 3-4



▶ SPECIAL EMPHASIS... 6-8
▶ SDA SUCCESS STORY9
▶ PRODUCERS IN THE NEWS.....12

ISSUE
3

VOLUME
1

YEAR
2006

FSA *focus*

FOCUSED ON RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS FSA EMPLOYEES ON THE JOB & IN THE COMMUNITY

Candid One on One:

FSA Administrator Tours MS & Addresses STO Employees

Administrator Teresa Lasseter addressed MS State Office Employees on April 12th in an informal Q & A session.

Ms. Lasseter informed the group that she wanted to visit the state months ago following the disaster, but her colleagues and superiors sometimes fail to recognize the significance of interacting with field support and farmers. This is the longest visit she has ever spent with one state. (2 days)

She commended MS FSA for the excellent job employees have done to meet the stringent needs and demands of the farmers who have suffered from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Topics discussed were Budget, Outreach, IT, FSA Tomorrow, GIS and Disaster.

She wanted employees to know they have a great SED (Mickey L. Black) who fights hard for MS, but more importantly, MS has a friend in her.



(Left to right: District 4 Director Larry Rogers, FLO Kevin Brown, PT Joleene McKenzie, Mrs. Lasseter, CED Jimmy Woodruff, SED Mickey L. Black, & PT Peggy King)

Administrator's MS Schedule:

04/11 - Visit with MS Farm Bureau Director David Waide & Visit with Staffers from Sen. Thad Cochran's Office | Visit with FSA State Office Employees | Meeting with Specialist Steve Melton & District Directors regarding MS Disaster & ECP Programs

04/12 - Met with State Committee Members Stops in Simpson & Covington Counties Visit to Southern Counties in Districts V Pearl River, Hancock, Harrison, Stone, Lamar, Forrest

04/13 - Visited District IV Counties: Jones, Jasper, Smith, Rankin

ASU/MAC JOINT ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

SMALL FARMERS: "EMBRACING NEW IDEAS"

WOMEN IN BUSINESS CONFERENCE: "FROM DREAMS TO REALITY"

SED & Conservation Specialist Serve on USDA Panel Discussion on Hurricane Katrina Efforts

Alcorn State Extension Service in partnership with the MS Association of Cooperatives, headquartered in Jackson, held their 17th annual joint conference for small farmers and women in business March 27-29, 2006. This is the first year the conference was held in Vicksburg, MS. Registered attendance of 250 gathered at the Vicksburg Convention Center to gain insight and information from agency and industry experts. **FSA Outreach Specialist J. Latrice Hill-Moore** again served on the program planning committee.

The purpose of the annual conferences is to provide technical assistance and information to small farmers and women in business.

This year's theme for the farmers was "Embracing New Ideas". Topics were included to equip farmers with relevant data to help improve overall production, introduce creative ideas to enhance farm income, introduce post Katrina marketing opportunities and provide tools that will assist small farmers in becoming better managers and stewards of their farms.

The theme for the women in business was "From Dreams to Reality". Workshops were held to provide information to enhance skills to maximize potential business opportunities, provide women with necessary steps to start a business and provide information on available funding for start ups and how to successfully promote businesses.

Keynote Speaker for the first day was Dr. Gladys Vaughn, USDA Director of Outreach, Washington, D.C. A panel discussion was also held the first day comprised of state and USDA agencies addressing Katrina-related issues. **Mickey L. Black, SED & Conservation Specialist Steve Melton** addressed the audience on FSA's ECP and upcoming disaster programs. Other directors/agencies present: USDA NRCS, USDA RD, US Forest Service, USDA RMA, MS Forestry Commission, Governor's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding, Renewal.

Ralph Paige, Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives headquartered in Albany, GA addressed the crowd during lunch. Other speakers for the first day included Jason Roller, USDA AMS who spoke on the Farm to School Lunch Program and Robin Taylor, of the IRS in Atlanta, GA who spoke about taxes and the farm.

The second day was spent touring successful farming operations: Forestry Tour: Brabson Farms; Cattle Farm Tour: Headley Farm in Claiborne County; Horticultural Crops/Cattle: Wyatt Farm; Soybeans & Wheat Tour: Aziz Farm in Warren County; and the ASU Model Demonstration Farm on the campus of Alcorn State University. Information on varietal, cultural, fertilizer and few crop rotations were provided to small-scale vegetable producers through on-farm demonstrations. The farmers also were able to learn and view the GPS precision farming tractor and equipment; and the ASU Center for Plant Biotechnology where they learned of a project entitled "Biotechnology Application in Vegetable Production."



Conservation Specialist Steve Melton

FEATURED WORKSHOPS:

- How to Kick Start Your Business
- Business Plan – A Must!
- Alternative Crop Production
- Farm Labor – Do you Need It?
- The Art of Networking Your Business
- Funding Opportunities – Where's the Money?
- Designing a Low Lost Drip Irrigation
- Creating a Farm Legacy
- Women's Health
- Alternative Grazing
- Farm Plans – "The Key to Being Successful"

Dr. Dalton McAfee – ASU Extension
Director
Melbah M. Smith – MAC Director

L to R: MS Forestry Commission Deputy Director Jimmy Mordica, USDA Office of Outreach Director Dr. Gladys Vaughan, ASU Extension Director Dr. Dalton McAfee, Alcorn State Dean of Ag/Research & Extension Dr. Robert Arthur



FSA / PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE FARM SAFETY DAY

Special Guests Make FSA Event Successful!

FSA hosted their 2nd Progressive Agriculture Safety Day in Lawrence County April 13, 2006 at the James Givens Agri-Building. Progressive Agriculture accepts applications from individuals/organizations willing to conduct and coordinate safety camps in their communities. For two years, **Outreach Specialist J. Latrice Hill-Moore** has attended training and hosted camps in Lawrence County. With the help and oversight from **Co-Coordinator FSA CED Tony Thames**, the event was a hit with the kids!

The 230 4th graders were divided into 10 groups named after 9 Lawrence County Ag pioneers & 1 beginning farmer. (These producers were also locally saluted by Hill-Moore during National Ag Week). Some were present for the event.

The big hits this year were 4 “special” presentations. The day opened with a guest appearance by **WLBT Meteorologist Paul Williams** who spoke in the general session on Weather Safety. The closing session was “**Rollover Rover**” by the MS Dept. of Transportation, which demonstrates what happens when a seatbelt is not worn.

The Fire House was also a big hit. The groups gathered inside the 2-story house, as the speaker taught fire safety, the house filled with smoke and the kids were taught how to exit safely from a house fire. **McGruff the Crime Dog** and **Sheriff Thames** paid a visit...unfortunately Smokey the Bear was busy fighting fires and cancelled.

Officials on hand were **Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith**, Chair of the Senate Ag Committee, local Representative **Joey Hudson**, and the Superintendent of Education **Russell Caudill**.

A hamburger meal with all the fixings was provided by the **Lawrence County Cattleman’s Association**.



Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (2nd from left) was on hand all day for the event. Sen. Hyde-Smith is Chair of the MS Senate Ag Committee. Also pictured are her sister Sherry Hyde Thames (I), and retired Lawrence Co. Asst. Superintendent of Education & Former Monticello Alderman James W. Hill, Sr.

“Rollover Rover Demonstration”



4th Grade Participants in the 2006 Farm Safety Day



WLBT-TV Meteorologist Paul Williams & teachers demonstrate lesson on “Cold Fronts” to kids

Scenes from: 2006 FSA/Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

FSA/Progressive Farmer Safety Day Sessions:

- ATV Safety- MS Farm Bureau Federation (Jackson)
- Bicycle Safety – MSU Extension
- Electrical Safety – Southern Pine EPA (Taylorsville)
- Bicycle Safety – MSU Extension
- First Aid- Lawrence Co. Hospital
- Fire House – MS Dept. of Health (Jackson)
- Fire Truck Tour – Monticello Fire Dept.
- Drug/Tobacco- Partnership for a Healthy MS
- Tractor Safety – MS Farm Bureau Federation (Jackson)
- Hand Washing Safety (Glo-Germ) - MSU Extension
- Food Safety – USDA FSIS (Bay Springs)
- Crime Safety – Lawrence Co. Sheriff's Dept.
- Featuring
McGruff the Crime Dog
- Weather Safety – WLBT-TV
- Seatbelt Safety –MS DOT (Jackson)
- Chemical Safety – ASU Extension
- Hunter Safety- MS Fish & Wildlife
- FSA Tattoo/Face Painting

- Volunteers:
- Monticello Cattleman's Association (Meal sponsor)
 - Lawrence County FSA
 - John McTaggart- Marion County FSA (resident of Lawrence Co.)
 - Ella Martin- Marion County RD (resident of Lawrence Co.)
 - Lawrence County NRCS
 - Lawrence County FFA Chapter AmeriCorps
 - James Hill, Jr. – Lawrence Co. Hospital
 - James Hill, Sr. –Lawrence Co. Schools
 - Jannah Yates - Photographer

Thanks to all the employees and volunteers who made this event a success!



FFAers sort T-shirt before buses arrive



Two-Story Fire House



McGruff the Crime Dog enters

Lawrence County Supt. of Education Russell Caudill observes ATV Safety



L to R Lawrence Co. Sheriff Joel Thames & Co-Coordinator/CED Tony Thames

FARM LOAN OUTREACH:



FSA PARTICIPATES IN POULTRY MONEY SEMINARS

The MS Poultry Association and Southeast MS RC & D Council held four poultry money seminars in south MS earlier this year. Area Loan Specialist Randy Saxon spoke to the producers about FSA's guaranteed and direct loan programs. The seminars were held in Newton, Bay Springs, Collins and Waynesboro. There were on average 40 producers at each seminar.

Poultry producers received CEU credits for attending the seminars.



FSA PARTICIPATES IN 2006 MAGNOLIA BEEF & POULTRY EXPO

Area Specialist Randy Saxon also represented FSA at the Annual Beef/Ag Expo on April 13 in Raleigh, MS. Saxon set up an Outreach Exhibit and interacted with hundreds of producers at the Smith County Ag Complex. Subjects covered at the Expo were "Forage Weed Control", "Water Supply & Water Quality for Poultry Houses", a "Beef Injection Site Demo" and Lester Cole spoke about reducing possible wind damage to poultry houses with minimal investment. The Expo was sponsored by MSU Extension Service and Community Bank.



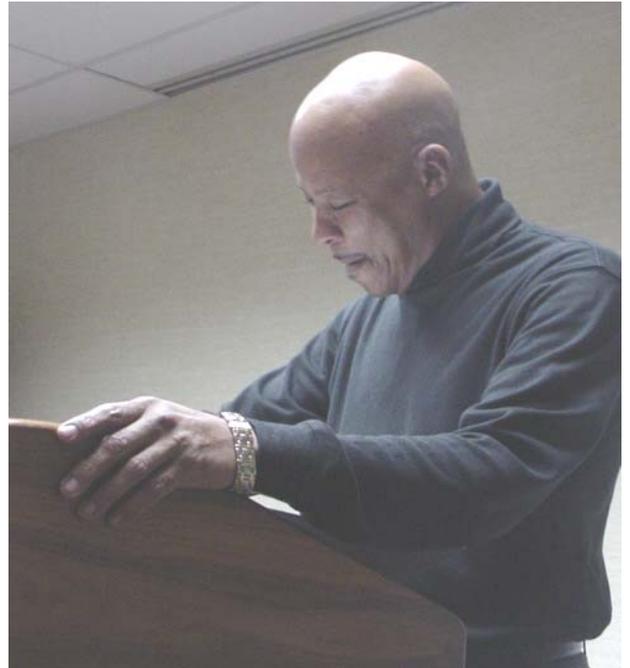
SPECIAL EMPHASIS CORNER by: *Jean Phillips-Hudson*

Hello from Special Emphasis/Civil Rights! I'm Jean Phillips-Hudson your SEP/CR Manager! Just wanted to share a few events/celebrations observed by FSA offices the past few months. Here in the State Office, we have observed Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March) so far this year.



The Black History Month's Theme was "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civic Institutions". Farm Loan Specialist Al Taylor spoke to us briefly about the theme and his personal involvement in fraternal, social & civic organizations such as Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Blacks in Government and the NAACP. Afterwards, all employees took part in a team Crossword Puzzle Competition. The winners were given coupons towards "soul food" purchases from Popeyes, and all winners received a 2006 Black History bookmark. The staff enjoyed a "Soul Food" luncheon following the game.

Women's History Month theme was "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams". Although there are several women who exemplify this theme, one local person immediately came to mind. Mayor Mary Hawkins-Butler, Mayor of Madison, Mississippi. The staff enjoyed listening to how she molded her dream for Madison into a reality. Farm Loan Specialist Monica Short provided the prayer. After the speech, the employees enjoyed a delicious lunch with the Mayor.



STO Farm Loan Specialist Al Taylor



Hon. Mary Hawkins-Butler - Mayor of Madison, MS



Rev. Anthony Norwood — "I stay prepared, even brought my own salt!"



SED presents plaque to Mayor Hawkins-Butler

Women Recognized at Women's History Program:

Mary Hawkins-Butler- Mayor of Madison, MS

Teresa Lasseter – Administrator FSA

Carolyn Cooksie – Deputy Administrator FSA

Judy Rocconi – District Director FSA (MS)

To address the absence of information about women in America's schools, the National Women's History Project led a movement to have Congress designate a celebration to recognize women's historic achievements. The goal was to ensure that information about the myriad ways women have changed America would be part of our children's education.



Human Resources Asst. Jean Jordan: "One scoop or two?"

In 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation calling on the American people to remember the contributions of women. By 1987, fourteen governors had declared March as Women's History Month, and that same year, Congress and the President followed by declaring March as National Women's History Month.



FLO Specialist Monica Short

The purpose of women's history is not to idealize women. On the contrary, the stories of women's achievements present an expanded view of the complexity and contradiction of living a full and purposeful life.

Pamela Vance, Farm Loan PT in Coahoma County submitted the following observation for Coahoma County:

"The program was attended by Pamela Vance, FLPT, Patricia Kemp, Program Technician and Bobbie Butler Farm Loan Manager. The theme was The Firsts: Local Living Pioneers Paving the Way and Making a Difference.

The following black firsts were saluted: Olenza McBride the first black principal of Clarksdale High School. Audrey Ball the first black superintendent of Coahoma County Schools. Donell Harrell the first black superintendent of Clarksdale City Schools. Andrew Thompson the first black sheriff of Coahoma County and Henry Espy the first black mayor of Clarksdale who is also the brother of the former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and the father of State Representative Chuck Espy. The students played out scenes from the life of the firsts.



Mayor Henry Espy, Sheriff Andrew Thompson, Donell Harrell, Audrey Ball, Olenza McBride

We were serenaded with several renditions from the Clarksdale High School Choir, Clarksdale High School Blues Band and the Clarksdale High School Concert Band of which my daughter **Jennie Butler** is a member.

We were blessed to be able to witness five local living first pioneers who have set a firm foundation for those to come. They told us as African American we possess strength and a craving for victory that surpasses all others because of the struggles we endured to get where we are today.

The message was well received by all in attendance.

We would like to thank our great President who handed down the Proclamation to pay tribute to those great "unsung heroes" of yesteryear and of today. Also thanks go to our SED, **Mickey Black** for granting us leave to be a part of a celebration such as this."

-Pam Vance-Coahoma County PT

*Jean's Tip
for Special
Emphasis:*

In observance of SEP, here are some suggestions you might want to consider:

- Contact your local Chamber of Commerce, schools, and local organizations for speakers who will come and volunteer to speak for you. (Lunch and learn)
- Prepare a calendar for that observance with the events that will be happening in the city.
- Potluck luncheons (Black History-Soul Food or Hispanic-Tacos, etc)
- Prepare a banner for the office for customers to see stating which observance month it is.
- Prepare some type of trivia and then come together over lunch and announce the winner(s) of the trivia.
- Prepare a PowerPoint presentation and distribute to other organizations, etc.
- Present a fashion show
- Don't forget to share your activity with us! Send to jean.phillips-hudson@ms.usda.gov or call me at 601-965-4300 x 146.

Remember the Goal: To promote diversity within USDA and to ensure that women, minorities, and people with disabilities are provided equal opportunity in USDA employment and program delivery activities.

-Jean



Dolores Fratesi

ONE ON ONE WITH LAUREN FARMS: AN FSA SDA SUCCESS STORY

Hill-Moore: When did you start your catfish operation?

Fratesi: "L & S Fish Farms began hatching catfish fingerlings in 1986. The farm began business in 1973 and raised soybeans, rice and wheat. As row crop operations changed with the economics of the times, my husband Steve saw the need to diversify."

Hill-Moore: How did FSA help you get started?

Fratesi: "L & S received its first FSA Guaranteed Loan in 1986. The catfish industry was just emerging. The potential was unrealized and FSA gave the first catfish entrepreneurs the opportunity to capitalize on a product with great potential. The operation now hatches over 32 million catfish fry annually. Over 400 water acres are devoted to raising fingerlings that will be sold in MS, AL, AR, LA and TX. The hatchery operates on a 24 hours basis from May to July. Sales to farmers with grow-out ponds continue on a 12 month basis."

Hill-Moore: What encouraged you to diversify to include prawn and not just catfish?

Fratesi: "We soon recognized the need to diversify. Having worked with Mississippi State University in catfish research, we were quick to agree to work in freshwater prawn research. As seafood is second only to oil in the trade deficit, there is an obvious need for production in the United States. Shrimp has surpassed tuna for several years as the number one consumed seafood product. The freshwater prawn is more closely related to lobster. The taste and texture are like lobster. The prawn has half the fat of marine shrimp, fewer calories. There is no salt, very low iodine (which gives other species the salty, "fishy" taste) and low cholesterol. A recent Harvard University study states that the high protein and low fat of shrimp actually improves the cholesterol ratio and lowers triglycerides. Prawns are an extremely healthy product with no compromise on taste! The mild flavor makes it a favorite of chefs and good cooks. But we had a vision for the freshwater prawn. A value added product would enable the farmer to carry a product from the pond to the table. This would enable the prawn producer to participate in the income from the raw product to the finished product. Lauren Farms has received a **USDA grant** for value-added products."

Hill-Moore: Did FSA help with the prawn as well?

Fratesi: **FSA** helped, as Lauren Farms received the first freshwater prawn loan.... I believe, in MS. We had worked for 5 years in developing the technology to hatch and to grow the prawns in ponds. Using data from our experience **FSA** supported our application be formally begin a freshwater prawn hatchery and grow-out farm. Sales of both PL's, juveniles, fresh and frozen product increase annually. Lauren Farms' extensive marketing campaign has introduced this premium USA grown product to the consumer. We find that while once being a well kept secret in the South, freshwater prawns are now in great demand by consumers, restaurants and retail stores. **Lauren Farms will be the largest prawn producing grower in the US in 2006 with 16 acres of production.**"

Hill-Moore: Wow! That's wonderful!! Give me a couple of reasons why other women should consider starting out in this business?

Fratesi: Raising Freshwater prawn is great for many reasons. Prawns are a lucrative source of income sold on the pond bank. The season is only 120 days offering a "part-time" venture. The family can become involved in the simple day-to-day process. As the industry grows, other by-products of the prawn may become profitable. Chitin is a major research project at this point.

Hill-Moore: Thanks so much for taking a moment for the FOCUS!

LAUREN FARMS

Leland MS

Owners: Dolores & Steve Fratesi

www.laurenfarms.com

**FSA Guaranteed Farm Ownership
Loan**

DIXIE NATIONALS – SHOWCASING THE BEST OF THE BEST!!!

FSA has double interest in the Dixie National Rodeo/Livestock Shows each year. Not only are we represented by some of our best youth loan borrowers, we are also represented by none other than our own CHILDREN!! Here are a few of the best!



YAZOO COUNTY - BOATNER

Rebecca Boatner, a member of the Yazoo County 4-H club received a Dixie National Academic Scholarship. She has shown livestock for nine years and has earned many awards & honors in local, district and state competitions. Rebecca is the daughter of Timmy & Glynda Boatner (Yazoo County Farm Loan PT) and is an honor roll student at Benton Academy. She plans to attend Holmes Community College this fall and major in nursing.

JASPER COUNTY - WOODRUFF

Josh Woodruff, son of Jasper County CED Jimmy Woodruff, had the Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog and the Champion Brahman Steer (Slick Sheared Division) at the 2006 Dixie National Junior Roundup. He has been a member of the Jasper County 4-H Livestock Club since age 3!



Perry County 4-H member Aaron Lott won Reserve Champion with his Simmental bull at the 2005 Mississippi State Fair & Livestock Show. Aaron is the son of Arlon Lott of Beaumont.

Submitted FSA Youth Loan Champions:

Smith County:

Grand Champion Goat:

Alex Sullivan

Davey Robinson

Leake:

Reserve Champion English Steer:

Taylor Reeves



Leake County - Taylor Reeves

SOMETIMES, IT JUST PAYS OFF.....

Working in the loan business we get to see the different sides of the business. The happy side when the borrower first gets a loan; the tough times, when disaster strikes; the emotional times when hardships arise forcing some to sell out or lose their farms. But then there are the GOOD times – when a borrower voluntarily pays off or graduates. Recently this borrower came in and made his very last payment. Everyone celebrated in his accomplishment. It's times like these that our hard work and efforts pay off!



FLM Bobby Taylor & Ben Cross

“The cost of annual chattel checks to a borrower’s home: \$300.00
The cost of correspondence over the years to a borrower: \$27.00
The cost of a borrower voluntarily paying off his note: **PRICELESS!!**
There are some things money can’t buy. For everything else, there’s FSA Farm Loans!” ☺

QUITMAN COUNTY FSA YOUTH OUTREACH

Quitman County FSA recently participated in a youth field day in Marks, MS. PT Diana Lambert, PT Sheenah McCollins & CED San Garrison spoke to the kids on about conservation and distributed CRP bracelets.



PRODUCERS IN THE NEWS.....



“Master Dairyman”

◀ Brad Bean

Amite Co. Producer

“2006 High Cotton Award Winner (Delta States)”

Joe Bostick ▶

Tishomingo County Producer



**“MS 2006 Commercial
Cattleman of
the Year”**

◀ Ron Melancon

Wilkinson Co. Producer

OUR CHILDREN, WHO COULD BE PROUDER?



STO Farm Loan Specialist Al Taylor's daughter Allison (1st row on left) is a member of the Madison Jags. The energetic Madison Middle School Jags dance team is a crowd favorite performing at all home football and basketball games.

Jeff Davis PT Deidra Donaldson has a lot of reasons to smile these days. Her daughter, Kadeeisha Tanisha Lott, age 9, has been chosen as a State Finalist in the National American Miss Mississippi Pageant to be held July 22, 2006 at the beautiful Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, AL. The pageant is held for girls ages 7 through 9. The winner of the pageant will receive a \$1,000 cash award, the official crown and banner, a bouquet of roses, and air transportation to compete in the national pageant at Disneyland in California. Pageants are held for girls ages four to eighteen, in five age groups.

The National American Miss pageants are dedicated to celebrating America's greatness and encouraging its future leaders. Each year, the pageant awards thousands in scholarships and prizes to recognize and assist in the development of young women nationwide. All activities are age-appropriate and family-oriented.

The National American Miss pageants are for "Today's Girl" and "Tomorrow's Leaders." The pageant program is based on inner beauty, as well as poise and presentation, and offers an "All-American spirit of fun for family and friends." Emphasis is placed on the importance of gaining self-confidence, learning new skills, learning good attitudes about competition, and setting and achieving personal goals. The pageant seeks to recognize the accomplishments of each girl while encouraging her to set goals for the future.

We wish Kadeeisha the best of luck this summer as she competes!

Joseph Short, son of Monica and David Short, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Joseph is a member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 30, sponsored by St. Richard's Catholic Church in Jackson and part of the Andrew Jackson Council, Eastern District.

The Eagle Scout award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 4 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.



Kadeeisha Lott —daughter of Jeff Davis PT Deidra Donaldson

GRADUATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BRANDON SMITH – Son of GIS Specialist James Smith graduates May 24th from Brandon High. Brandon recently received three awards at the FFA Banquet. He already has **two** summer jobs lined up is looking forward to attending Hinds Community College this fall. Whew! What an achiever! Congratulations Brandon!



DEANGELO WILLIAMS- Well, he's not my son, but he's my little cousin and I love him like a son. My cousin's son Deangelo Williams of Wynne, Arkansas was drafted in the **1st** round of the National Football League. A former running back for Memphis State, D is now a Carolina Panther and will proudly wear his old high school number #34 for the Panthers. Plans are underway already for my big family birthday bash in New Orleans when the Panthers play the Saints on my birthday. (New Years' Eve). So, you all know where I'll be this football season. North Carolina! But thanks to all of my FSA friends who voted for him during the Heisman **Online** Voting Contest. He finished 4th in the Vote for Heisman.com Online Competition.



Deangelo & Latrice at 2006 Senior Bowl in Mobile, AL after the game



A FEW STATS:

Holds the school and Conference USA career-record with 6,026 yards rushing, joining Tony Dorsett of Pittsburgh (6,082 yards, 1973-76), Ricky Williams of Texas (6,279, 1995-98) and Ron Dayne of Wisconsin (6,397, 1996-99) as the only players in NCAA Division I-A history to gain more than 6,000 career rushing yards...His 362 points scored not only set Memphis and conference records but also rank ninth on the Division I-A all-time chart...Holds the Division I-A career record with 7,573 all-purpose yards, breaking the previous mark of 7,206 by Williams (6,279 rushing, 927 receiving)...Produced the top three rushing seasons in school history (1,430 in 2003 ranks third; 1,948 in 2004 ranks second and 1,964 in 2005 is a school and conference season-record)...55 touchdown runs shattered the old Memphis record of 36 by Dave Casinelli (1960-63)...

Deangelo Williams (seated in his race car) with other Memphis State football teammates.

Want to get away? Come to the Four Winds Resort of Poplarville.....

Since Hurricane Katrina, several employees have been detailed to Pearl River County to assist with sign ups and inspections. Hotels have been scarce since the hurricane. However trailers have been set up at the county office for employees on detail. Farm Loan Manager Jackie Williams wanted employees to know first hand what to expect when they report for their tour of duty. Read his article below.

“Attached are pictures of our resort. These are 3 trailers made by Four Winds. They are 32 and 34 foot with slide-outs, making them very comfortable. They have full kitchens with refrigerators. Our office also has a full kitchen if you desire to cook. Bathroom has a shower. We suggest you bring a small TV, as the trailers have antennas, but no cable. Coffee is made by your Farm Loan Manager every morning at 6:00 am in the office. We suggest you bring king-size sheets, towels, pillows, blankets, alarm clock, etc. when you visit us. Poplarville has several eateries, including a seafood restaurant, a Po-Boy restaurant, Hardees, and Burger King. For anyone interested, and you will after a few days here, Poplarville is a dry county. However, after work, the drive to Bogalusa, La. is about 20 miles west and has a great drive-though daiquiri shop. Not much night life here, but after a day in the office, it won't matter! After a few days of hard work, we may be able to give you a guided tour of the coast!”

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!!!!

Your personal concierge,
Jackie Williams-FLM

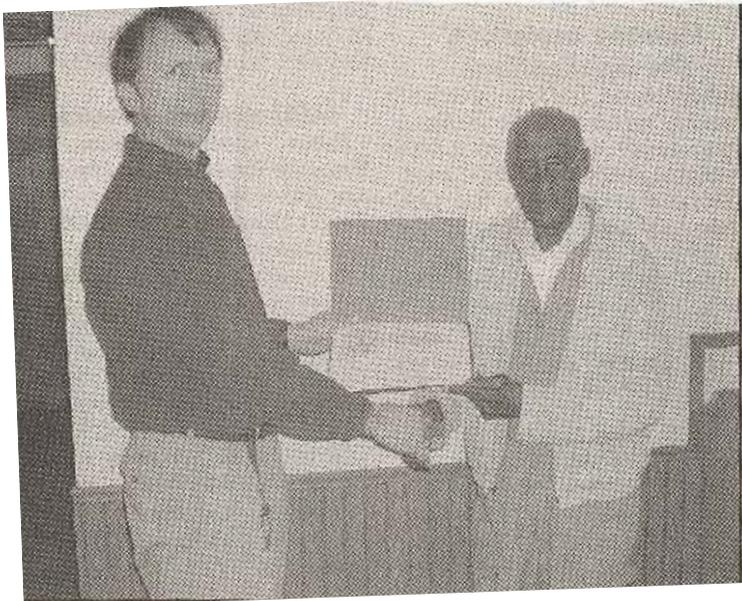


COUNTY COMMITTEE (COC) SALUTES!!



Calhoun FSA Honors Aubrey Enochs

Mr. Enochs served the past nine years as advisor to the Calhoun County Committee. The Committee recently presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. Pictured l to r: Wayne Doler, Rocky Fleming, Enochs, T.A. Beckett and CED Derek Adams.



JOHNSON HONORED FOR 13 YEARS OF SERVICE

92-year old Albert Johnson of Eupora was recently honored by Webster County with a certificate of appreciation for his service. To the best of Mr. Johnson's memory, he only missed one meeting in the 13 years that he served!