

11th National Black Land Loss Summit
February 20-22, 2009
Tillery and Franklinton Center at Bricks, NC

Theme: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

WHY A SUMMIT?

Prior to the now historic class action lawsuit brought by black farmers, Tim Pigford vs. Glickman, Secretary of USDA, African Americans had been losing nearly 9,000 acres of land per week for years. Yet, between the end of slavery and 1920, African Americans showed an impressive capacity for excellence by establishing nearly one million farms on approximately fifteen million acres. Since then, however, our farms and owned farmland have declined precipitously. Farm numbers have declined by roughly 98 percent and our owned farm acres have decreased by over 50 percent. Even recently, our farm numbers have continued to decline. Between 1982 and 1997 alone, the number of black-operated farms nationwide fell nearly 45 percent, while many southern states saw a decline of over 50 percent. In North Carolina, the home of the lead plaintiff in the Pigford case, black farms declined by a staggering 66 percent during the 1980s and 1990s. Today, new methods of counting small and disadvantaged farms make direct comparisons since 1997 difficult and should be viewed with caution. For those of us on the ground, things do not seem dramatically better. To add insult to injury, many rural southern communities endure environmental degradation, health risks and loss of economic vitality as part of nationwide environmental injustice and racism. This injustice is worsened by the loss of farmland and control of our communities. A national Black Land Loss Summit is an opportunity to jointly craft and rework our focus, perhaps returning to our original concerns about fairness and health in the countryside, in this post-Pigford era.

DISCRIMINATION and the USDA

The *Pigford v. Glickman Consent Decree* has failed miserably and the struggle for survival has become more crucial. In April 2009, it will have been eleven years since the Pigford Consent Decree was declared “*a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of the claims brought in the case*” by Judge Paul Freidman, and yet so little progress has been made for black farmers.

See Reverse Side for PROPOSED AGENDA

FRIDAY – February 20, 2009

2:00pm – Registration Opens – Tillery Community Center, Tillery, NC

3:00 – BFAA Organizing and Board Meeting

Select a recommended slate of officers

Vision and Mission Statements

Transition from Pigford

Education and Advocacy

- Research
- Family farms vs. industrial operations
- Local food vs. corporate
- Health & community vs. greed

BFAA as leadership in the Black farm movement

Partnering with Agriculturalists

Commitment to the organization

- Going from chapters to state representatives
- Black Family Farmers ARE Middle Class
- Plan of Action
 - One or two primary agenda items for the year
- Relationship with other organization
 - What organizations do we want to partner with
 - Establishing BFAA with International Land Groups
- Other items

4:30 - Plastics Demonstration Project for Small Scale Farmers with Live - Quinton N. Robinson, Esq.

5:30 – Dinner – The Resettlement Café

7:00 – Depart for Franklinton Center for the nights stay

SATURDAY – February 21, 2009

8:00am - Breakfast

9:00 Workshop Bio Mass & Wood – NC State University Extension Service, Dennis W. Hazel, PhD

Renewable energy is now constantly in the news. This includes energy from wood, or as it is termed with respect to renewable energy "woody biomass." It has been specifically mentioned in several of the last State of the Union Addresses. Landowners are very aware that their farms and forests are being viewed as a future source of energy for our country, but little information has been made available to them to help them understand what it means for them.

10:00 Break

10:15 Workshop – Risk Management – Attorneys Dania Davy and Crystal Middleton

"Your Farm, Your Business" featuring the LLPP SmartGrowth Business Center and addressing the farm as a business and choice of entity. "Family Wealth: Planning Today for Tomorrow" addressing estate planning and succession issues.

11:30 Local Foods – Dorothy Barker, Director of Spring Plant (Confirmed)

Operation Spring Plant, Inc. (OSP) has found that over the few years food safety issues and local food systems are hot topics. These issues focus on GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) and GAHP (Good Agricultural Handling Practices). OSP through its marketing arm, Prize of The Harvest, has been very busy working with and building inner city markets in the northern states and establishing distribution facilities in areas of North Carolina. People are challenged in securing fresh fruits and vegetables with less pesticides and herbicides. Why is it that everyone except local communities and especially local small farmers has ownership in food supplies?

12:30 Lunch

2:00 White Privilege and the Costs to African American Farmers

Waymon Hinson, PhD, Director, Office of Strong Family Development, Chickasaw Nation

Ada, OK

3:00 Workshop – Farm Bill 2008 – (Confirmed)

Lloyd Wright, Former Director USDA Office of Civil Rights and Attorney Quinton Robinson

4:30pm Continue BFAA Board Meeting

- Vote on Board Officers
- Select Action Items for 2009

5:00pm Adjourn