



CULTIVATING THE LEGACY:

Transformative Impact

The Federation of Southern
Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund

Annual Report

2018-2019

Photographer Larry
Herman Land, Land

Photo of Doc Davis, Mechanic
and vegetable farmer from
Sledge, MS



THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20250-0100

July 26, 2019

Mr. Cornelius Blanding
Executive Director
The Federation of Southern Cooperatives
2769 Church Street
East Point, Georgia 30344

Dear Mr. Blanding and Federation Friends:

It is a great pleasure to congratulate you on the 52nd anniversary of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund.

I would like to recognize how important the Federation is to the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a partner and stakeholder. Your leadership within the Federation has been instrumental in the success of the Department and American agriculture. Your leadership and dedication have been a tremendous service to the agriculture industry.

Again, thank you for your hard work and commitment to the future of agriculture. I look forward to continuing our partnership to "Do Right and Feed Everyone."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonny Perdue".

Sonny Perdue



From the Board President

**Greetings to Farmers, Members,
Cooperatives, Landowners and Friends:**

Let me begin by thanking you for your dedicated service to rural America and all of its stakeholders- especially communities of color.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CAROLINA
Cornelius
Blanding
Executive
Director

In my capacity as Board President, along with fellow board members, I have witnessed the organization's growth in leadership, governance, and member services. In our efforts to position the organization for the next 50 years, we have restructured our staff by bringing aboard dedicated individuals who are committed to our vision and mission. Most importantly, new initiatives for youth outreach and involvement have been established to further build on the legacy of the Federation and its positive impact for generations to come.

As always, this organization remains devoted to its calling, which is to be effective advocates on behalf of those who deserve fairness and equity as they seek better lives for themselves, their families and communities. Over the past 50 plus years of serving the rural south, there have been and continues to be many documented success stories that are the direct result of the partnership the Federation enjoys with its membership and the communities in which they live.

We look forward to developing these and future stories and sharing them with the world through various platforms to serve as an inspiration for those who dedicate their lives to a more just and equitable society.

Once again, I want to thank the planning committee for the commitment they have shown in making this year's annual meeting a success. Enjoy as we move forward on this cooperative journey.

Committed to serving,
Shirley Blakley



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Photographer: Clay Williams at the James Beard Award Reception

The state of the Federation is stable and getting stronger. Our Federation is stable because of our legacy. Our legacy is our history and infrastructure. Our history includes 52 years of transformative impact. Our infrastructure includes our membership, our staff, our network as well as our land, buildings and equipment. We have held together a membership of black farmers, landowners and cooperatives across the South for over half a century. The impact of our membership can be seen throughout the various communities in which they live, work and serve.

Our legacy is our history and infrastructure which has transformative impact. As an organization, we own and control 1300 acres of land collectively-which includes a unique rural training & research center in Epes, Alabama. We collectively own multifamily housing that provides affordable housing & other opportunities in our own communities throughout the Black Belt of Alabama. We collectively own processing facilities that add value to the products that are produced by our membership and marketed collectively thru a regional marketing system.

Our work focuses on coop economic development, land retention and advocacy, but centers around our Regional Agroforestry Center, Regional Cooperative Development Center as well as our Regional Heirs Property & Mediation Center. Our impact includes transformational heirs property legislation and a new opportunity to save, protect and expand the land holding of black farmers and landowners. The impact of our staff and partnerships are evident in the many leadership roles they hold throughout the south, country and world. Thus, we must continue to cultivate the legacy, be agents of change and create transformational impact. Our work and our impact are transformative locally, nationally and internationally.

We have developed strategic priorities to guide us for the next 5 years while strengthening our foundation to sustain us into the next half century of work. As we continue to cultivate the legacy of a community owned institution envisioned over 52 years ago and sacrificed for by so many before us, we must stay true to our mission of being a catalyst for the development of self-supporting communities and we must always seek transformative impact!

Whether a member-owner, staff, or supporter, I thank you for being a partner in this work and continuing to cultivate a 52 year legacy of transformative impact.

Cooperatively,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Blanding'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Cornelius Blanding
Executive Director



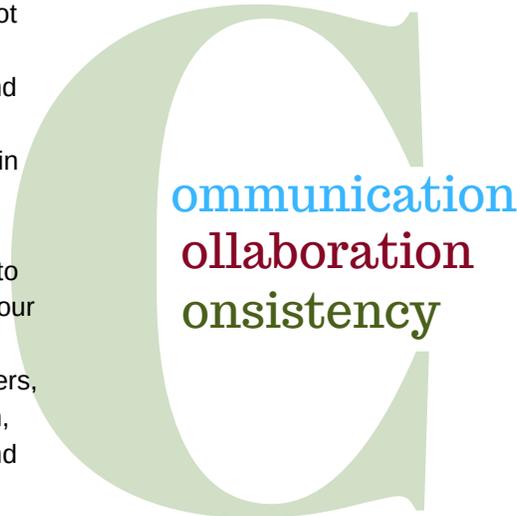
COMMUNICATIONS & MEMBER RELATIONS

This annual report presents the perfect opportunity to toot the horn and highlight all the amazing progress for the organization as well as the Office of Communications and Member Relations. It's been a dynamic year working to preserve and expand the Federation's work as a leader in advocacy for black farmers and landowners.

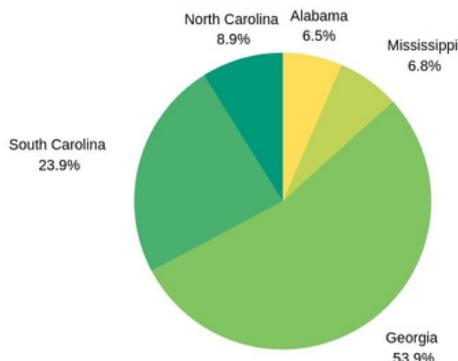
The office worked within the framework of the three C's to deliver clear, effective, and engaging communication to our member farmers, landowners, cooperatives and supporters. Working collaboratively with staff and partners, we were able to bring many stories, targeted information, and news to help guide and educate the membership and the communities we serve.

Last year, we surveyed our membership and the results created the foundation for our communication and membership plan. In 2018-2019, we expanded our member communications through monthly emails, quarterly newsletters, traditional media, and social media expansion. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Increased the number of active individual, cooperative, and sustaining members by 120
- Launched a new website that house all FSC/LAF activities. Our membership and partners can now pay dues, get information, donate money, and register for all events on one site
- Stayed engaged with our supporters and reached out to our youth community through new social media platforms
- Expanded staffing in the department to increase effectiveness and expand the Federation's influence
- Created and launched new tools, and info graphics to create, critique and influence policies that impact rural America



SNAPSHOT OF INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP BASE



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cooperatives



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COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

GOAL
MEMBER
COOPERATIVES
TO GROSS
\$1M
PER YEAR

The strategy for cooperative economic development involves a multi-faceted and multi-tiered approach to wrestling with the numerous and diverse challenges that come with working with people and communities to improve their lives. We implemented a comprehensive program, executed at different levels, in order to engage our member owners - along with non-member groups and individuals - in economic empowerment through cooperatives.



Urban Agriculture Initiative

Regional Cooperative Development

To fully grasp cooperative development across the South, one must start with “the Big Picture”; a regional perspective. To meet demand that are broad, deep, and varied, our program contains the following components: (a) Education through CoopEcon; (b) Empowerment through a Cooperative Development Consortium; (c) Site visits; (d) Financing through a Regional Loan Fund; and (e) Marketing through a regional marketing system branded as SoCo.

CoopEcon 2019: An annual conference designed to provide ongoing education to people interested in starting new cooperatives, strengthening existing cooperatives, expanding knowledge and gaining skills related to cooperative development. The theme was “Back to Basics”. With nearly 60 participants from five states and the Virgin Islands in attendance, participants had an opportunity to dive deep into the curriculum which included; financing, marketing, governance, communication, and audit-ready files.

Cooperative Development Consortium: This component builds cooperative institutional power across the South by creating and strengthening State Associations which in turn organize Cooperative Development Centers. State Associations are the states’ administrative and governance arm. The Cooperative Development Centers coordinate the strategies and activities of member cooperatives. This consortium (State Association, Cooperative Development Center and individual cooperatives) enables the Federation to have maximum impact and a larger footprint in each state. This also enables us to better and more effectively coordinate our programs across the region and beyond.



Cleveland/Akron Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative

The Federation’s **Regional Loan Fund** is the product of the historic merger between the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and the Emergency Land Fund. Its existence was based on the need that members had for access to credit to help retain and develop family owned lands. Over time, challenges in securing adequate capitalization and some defaults put the Loan Fund in jeopardy. Nonetheless, the basic framework has been maintained and the Federation is currently developing strategies to adequately capitalize the fund to again provide non-extractive credit to members for cooperative development and land retention.

SoCo is the regional marketing system and cooperative marketing arm of the Federation. It enables cooperatives and producers from across the region to collectively market commodities, expand market opportunities, secure fair prices, and increase incomes. Beyond the ongoing small markets that SoCo provides to producers year after year, the Federation’s regional marketing team is currently developing new and potentially lucrative opportunities in New England and Minnesota, along with partnerships with Live Nation and Organic Valley.

Disaster Relief

Last fall, hurricanes tore through the Southeastern US, leaving many farmers with damaged and destroyed property and flooded fields. South Carolina bore the brunt of the storms’ strength, so we partnered with Farm Aid to deliver direct relief to 20 farmers and critical information to the general farming community.

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Texas

Sometimes, cooperatives can be developed by converting long standing businesses or organizations. This involves utilizing the existing structure and applying cooperative principles, planning, documentation, and governance. This is the path that the Landowners Association of Texas (LAT) is undertaking. LAT is an organization of black landowners, farmers, and ranchers with eleven chapters across the state. For decades it has also been a member of the FSC/LAF, and through this partnership, we're working to convert chapters into cooperatives; develop a State Association; and position the Association to have a broader impact by becoming the Cooperative Development Center of Texas.

Strategic Initiatives

Being a catalyst for advancing cooperative development as an instrument for economic empowerment is one of the cardinal precepts of our mission. As such FSC/LAF recognizes that achieving our goals requires that we work to develop cooperatives in the short term and seize opportunities for future development. Consequently, the role of our strategic initiatives is to play "the short and long game" as it were; to help build the sustainability of the cooperative movement in the rural south.

Cooperative Development In Mississippi

Mississippi Association of Cooperatives (MAC)
President, Jessica Foxx of Beat 4 Cooperative



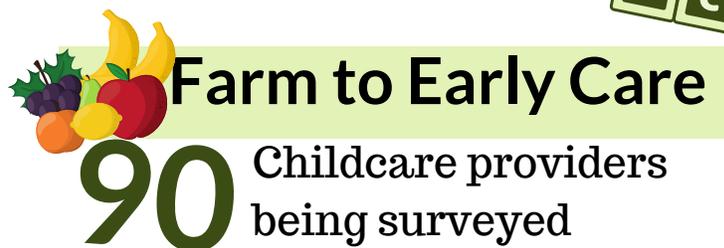
Currently MAC, consists of twenty-two cooperatives and three associate cooperatives. This year the Mississippi office provided technical assistance in the form of strategic planning, board training, and strategic and business plan development. We continue to provide support to local cooperatives and individual farmers through workshops, field days, and site visits.

SDFR 2019 Statistics and outcomes:

Number of cooperatives assisted	13
Number of new groups assisted	5
Number of farmers /ranchers assisted	325
Number of farmers/ranchers reached	475
Number of female farmers assisted	188

Credit Union Development

The Federation currently has six Credit Union members in Alabama and Mississippi that are managing resources in the millions. Once upon a time, there was twice this number meeting the financial needs across the region. The economic shifts in the national economy and changes in regulations by the National Credit Union Administrative (NCUA) have made it harder for newly emerging and smaller credit unions to develop. We're currently working with partners to address NCUA policies while we work to strengthen existing credit unions.



Diversifying Our Cooperative Development Program

MAC is strong in the area of cooperative development. MAC staff has also been very successful in farm to school activities under the Project for a Healthy Mississippi Initiative. This project provided locally grown vegetables to schools as well as education to students on food, health, agriculture, and nutrition. Recognizing that we have experience with a diverse base of cooperatives and schools, we are working toward making an impact by building childcare cooperatives with home based childcare providers. This initiative focuses on the need home-based childcare providers have to reduce business related expenses, increase incomes, gain back office administrative support, while furnishing their communities with reasonably priced services.



Veteran Farmer Outreach

MAC created a relationship with AFIA (Armed Forces in Agriculture) in our first quarter. Currently, there are 31 veterans enrolled in MAC programs.

Outreach specialists participated in meetings to inform veterans about the benefits of farming and conduct home visits to those that are interested in beginning a farm or ranch.

Site visits were conducted with many of the farmers actively producing and harvesting crops. The veteran farmers that are considering loans and benefits participated in farm loan workshop(s).

The mentoring component has assisted the veteran farmers to produce quality crops. Training will have to be ongoing due to a lack of agricultural knowledge; workshops, and one-on-one contacts will continue to be a part of our work of growing beginning veteran farmers and ranchers.

South Carolina

The Federation has a large base and engaged membership of farmers, ranchers, and landowners in South Carolina supported by a team of out-reach and technical assistance consultants. This year, with funding from USDA's National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) we are able to strengthen outreach efforts even more and offer eligibility assistance to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers. Half of all the farmers who attended information and educational sessions had never participated or utilized NRCS programs.

In November 2018, hurricane Florence hit South Carolina. The rain from the system soaked the region, dumping nearly 40 inches of rain causing widespread flooding that took weeks to recede. We established a disaster relief program for our members who were affected by the storm and delivered much needed aid in partnership with Farm Aid.



Farmers receiving aid from Farm Aid disaster relief. Eboni with SC Lifetime Members: Ed Wilson & Kimberly Williams

Program Highlights!!!

The MAC staff informed socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers of various programs and many attended the 3rd Biennial Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Conference in Hattiesburg and Natchez. MAC staff also participated in the event for professional development training.

Sixty youth participated in the Noxubee County High School Youth Agriculture Enterprise field day in April. The youth learned about agricultural enterprises, USDA youth loans, value-added production, etc. Many students have parents that have a small farm/ranch or garden.

A field day was also held in Noxubee County in late May for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers, youth, and families attended training from USDA agencies, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives, etc. The participants received information on crop production, food safety, livestock production, cooperative development, and farm finance.

Cooperatives: Leading, Serving, and Growing Rural Communities

Georgia

The Federation's Georgia Field Office provided outreach, technical, and educational assistance to approximately 477 members/farmers. Services were provided through informational workshops, Georgia Farmers Conference, meetings, and one-on-one assistance. Topics covered included cooperative development, marketing, estate planning, land retention and USDA programs. The Georgia Field Office staff worked closely with Federal and State agencies and other partners to provide workshops and meetings for farmers. The objective was to make sure that as service providers, the Federation, along with USDA and other entities were able to deliver pertinent information and assistance. The goal is to ensure that farmers can have confidence in the process. This was especially critical in 2018 when South Georgia farmers suffered major setbacks from hurricane wind and water.

Cooperative Development & Outreach Specialist and Coops

Outreach Specialist provided direct one-on-one assistance to 150 members and farmers who visited the Georgia Field Office. The visits pertained to developing individualized business plans for each farmer. Overall assistance is provided in accordance with the needs specifically identified for each farmer. The farm visits were supplemented by 210 telephone counseling sessions.



Cathy Kendrick with Farmer Ricky Dollison

By the Numbers

- 14 Cooperative Development workshops**
- 7 USDA Informational Workshops held**
- 1 Hurricane Michael Disaster Relief update**
- 1 Financial Resources (GA Development Authority)**
- 1 Credit Restoration (Credit Restoration of Georgia)**
- 210 Members/farmers attended workshops**
- 1025 Incoming calls to the Georgia Field Office for assistance**
- 5 Documents notarized at the Georgia Field Office**
- 5 Veteran farmers assisted with USDA programs**
- 210 Telephone counseling sessions.**
- 18 Farmers applied for Georgia Agricultural Tax Exempt cards**
- 15 Applications for loans totaling \$2,088,967 were completed**
- 5 Micro loan approved for \$119,953**
- 3 Farm ownership loans approved for \$275,000**
- 1 Bank loans approved totaling \$337,000**
- 3 Debt servicing loans approved for \$120,000**
- 5 Reconsideration/meeting held with FSA**
- 24 Cost share applications completed for NRCS practices**

Worked with South Georgia farms to receive approved operating loans totaling

\$1,357,014

Georgia Farmers Conference 2019

The 36th Annual Georgia Farmers Conference was held February 14 & 15, 2019 and engaged approximately 275 attendees from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. The conference is a learning opportunity, but also includes vendors & exhibitors including USDA exhibitors: Southern SARE, NASS, Rural Development, and Farm Service Agency. USDA also participated in workshops that included APHIS (Livestock management, Farm Management Planning, Risk Management,

FSA, Forestry, and NRCS. Other workshops included coop development, beginner farmers and ranchers, heirs property, Census of Agriculture, mediation and regional marketing opportunities. Farmers also attended our annual Farmers Appreciation Dinner. An update on Row Crops and Cattle Expectations for 2019 was provided by University of Georgia. A USDA resource panel shared the 2018 Farm Bill update; followed by a congressional update. The keynote speaker was Georgia Agriculture Commissioner, Gary Black.

Southern Alternative Pecan Coop

A popular Georgia project, Southern Alternatives Pecan Coop, is gearing up for its 2019 pecan season and will be purchasing pecans from FSC/LAF member growers. The coop will be offering shelled halves, pieces, and a variety of value added products.

Rural Training and Research Center & Alabama State Association of Cooperatives

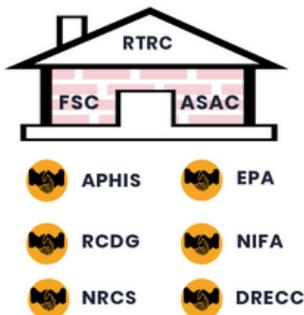


The RTRC

- Local Administrative office
- A dormitory that holds 70 over night guests
- A large multi-purpose building
- Agricultural research and demonstration sites
- Agroforestry center
- Silvo-pasture goat herd
- A nature trail
- Two fishing ponds

The collective membership of the Federation owns the Rural Training and Research Center (RTRC), which is located between the towns of Epes and Gainesville, Alabama. The Federation and the Panola Land Buying Association together own more than 1300 acres of farm and forested land, which form the land base of the RTRC. The RTRC facilities were built between 1971 and 1974 as a place to provide meeting and training space for the Federation’s membership across the rural south.

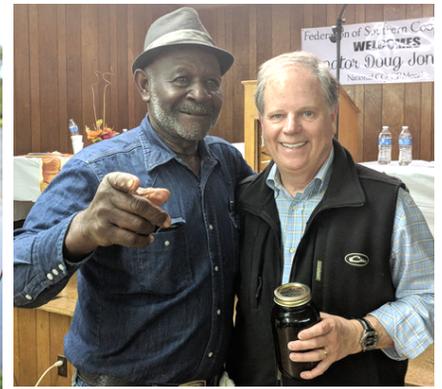
Over the years, through various partnerships we are able to maintain, for the benefit of our membership, a 1-acre irrigated fenced garden with rotating plasti-culture crops, a food safety training shed, a screened raised bed enclosure, a hoop house, a fruit tree orchard with alley cropping, and an aquaculture hydroponic greenhouse.



The RTRC is also the base of operations for the Alabama State Association of Cooperatives (ASAC) outreach and technical assistance staff. At the RTRC, FSC and ASAC staff work collaboratively on projects with USDA – Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA – Rural Development (RCDG), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USDA-National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, (NRCS) and Democratizing Rural Electric Cooperatives Campaign(DRECC). Each program and partners contributes significantly to our success.

FSC in partnership with APHIS provided outreach, education, and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (SDFR) to increase awareness and understanding of the APHIS programs and services in 6 Southeastern States. FSC engaged livestock producers in various activities to ensure that they were knowledgeable of sustainable agricultural practices for raising healthy animals in a sound environment. FSC also maintained its partnership in the project with Tuskegee University's Veterinary Ambulatory Program and Teaching Hospital in providing on-farm technical assistance to livestock producers in Western Alabama counties.

The Federation along with ASAC and NRCS established a multi-year agreement to provide technical assistance to SDFR on how to qualify and apply for NRCS programs and practices. Once qualified and approved, we provide ongoing technical assistance during the implementation process. The project will focus on 16 counties including Marengo, Perry, Dallas, Wilcox, Butler, Macon, Hale, Greene, Bullock, Lowndes, Barbour, Sumter, Washington, Clarke, Monroe and Choctaw Counties. This agreement also provided support for the annual Forestry Camp



On site bee hive, forestry camp, National Coop Month with AL Sen. Doug Jones

We also signed a multi-year agreement with NIFA for a Beginning Farmer's project that will identify farmers, ranchers, and producers that are heavily involved in their local cooperative, and recruit them to mentor new and beginning farmers and ranchers and help them become self-sustainable farm operators. The project has been so successful that we were asked by many new and beginning farmers to continue and expand it. We will closely monitor this outcome based project and, through an independent evaluator, focus on the following measures; the number of new farm start-ups, the completion of business, marketing and development plans for each participant and net farm income for each participant.

Our Southern Regional Agroforestry Center (SRAC) was established in 2016 through a memorandum of understanding between the NRCS, Forest Service, and the National Agroforestry Center. The SRAC is a multi-dimensional initiative that is being designed to conduct research, extension, training and education using agroforestry practices and natural ecosystems resources that are advantageous to African American landowners. Training and education activities are being designed to address the increasing need to engage small and limited-resource farmers and forest landowners in agroforestry practices. An extension and outreach component will focus on increasing awareness and the adoption of agroforestry practices among African American landowners. The research component of the SRAC will explore the contributions and viability of agroforestry practices and recommend sustainable practices to landowners. The SRAC works across the southeastern United States where most of our membership is located.

The RTRC remains the center site for local, state, regional, national and international groups to hold meetings, trainings, family reunions, rural and recreational retreats, weddings, and many other activities. We are aggressively planning to expand, modernize, and improve the facilities and services of the RTRC over the next few years to better serve our membership, partners and communities.



People attended events at the RTRC this past year



Federation led advocacy for first ever Farm Bill Policies Addressing Heirs Property Related barriers to Participating in USDA Programs

Nearly 40 years after the Federation was commissioned by Congress to conduct a study titled, “The Impact of Heir Property on Black Land Tenure in the Southeastern Region of the United States”, the Federation’s work and advocacy have led to transformative policies for heirs property owners in the 2018 Farm Bill. The new heirs property legislation creates a bridge to a more diverse and sustainable food system which encourages equity and inclusion of all farmers, even those farming on family-owned land with undivided title (heirs property). It also help solve one of the main causes of black farm and land loss.

One of the primary objectives of the Federation’s Regional Heirs Property and Mediation Center is to work with a network of partners to develop research based policies that help reverse the trend of African-American land loss and increase the number of African-American farmers who (with clear title to land) can qualify for USDA and other programs and services. The 2018 Farm Bill ensures that farmers of color operating on heirs property can finally access critical USDA programs.

The 2018 Farm Bill affords fair access to USDA programs for farmers and ranchers who operate farms on heirs property by:

- 1 Providing those current and future producers with a farm number as a first step toward becoming eligible for USDA programs.
- 2 Identifying uniform alternate forms of documentation in each state as evidence of control of the land, including self-certification.
- 3 Providing authority to establish a loan program through qualified intermediaries to work with heirs to resolve heirs property ownership problems.
- 4 Providing authority to the Secretary to collect data and perform analysis on trends in farmland ownership and operation, transitions of farms and ranchers to new generation of owners and operators, and also to help understand the impact of unresolved land tenure issue on the ability of producers to operate farms and pass them on to new generations of farmers.

Over the last year, The Regional Heirs Property and Mediation Center has continued advocacy and education efforts to ensure full implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill by holding farm bill workshops and presentations at key advocacy events across the nation:

- Mississippi Policy Conference, Tunica, MS
- RME Farm Bill Symposium Kansas City, Missouri
- USDA Farm Bill Listening Session Washington, DC
- USDA Farm Bill Listening Session Jackson, MS
- USDA-NRCS/ NOPBE/NRCS Black History Month Program – Little Rock, AR
- SDFR Policy Center at Alcorn University, New Orleans, LA
- National Family Farm Coalition Winter/ Summer Meeting Washington, DC/ Sioux Falls, SD
- Rural Coalition Meeting, Washington DC
- Coalition of Agricultural Mediation Programs, Denver, CO
- Tuskegee University Small Farmers Conference, Montgomery , AL
- Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC), Tuskegee University, Opelika, AL



Summer Family Farm Coalition meeting

<p>450 Families Helped</p>	<p>Saved 2500 Acres Tax Assessed Value \$15 Million</p>	<p>7 Land Retention Workshops 300 Persons attending</p> 
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The 2018 Farm Bill Expands State Agricultural Mediation Grants to Support Mediation Services Related to Farm Transition

The Federation is the USDA certified agricultural mediation provider in Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana. The Farm Bill expands the services of agricultural mediation programs. The agricultural mediation programs will now be authorized to work on lease, family farm transitions, farmer/neighbor conflicts, organic certification issues, and other issues designated by either the USDA Secretary of Agriculture or the state's Secretary of Agriculture. In addition, we can now provide credit counseling.

FSC/LAF Adds NEW Certified USDA Agricultural Mediation Program in LOUISIANA

The Louisiana Agricultural Mediation Program (LAMP) has been certified by the United States Department of Agriculture as the mediation service provider in Louisiana to assist in the resolution of disputes between participating USDA agencies and their program participants. The goal of the program is to provide a voluntary mediation and training program in the State of Louisiana to resolve disputes between the USDA and its clientele through neutral mediators who guide parties involved in agricultural disputes. The meditations will involve a thorough discussion of the issues and help the parties identify and fully consider possible resolutions. The mediation program also seeks to resolve disputes between farmers and private agricultural lenders.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding with Southern University Law Center, FSC/LAF will receive significant support and capacity from the Southern University Mediation Law Clinic in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Southern University Mediation Law Clinic will focus specifically on mediation involving the Rural Development agency while meditations from other USDA agencies will be conducted by program staff or contract mediators.

FEDERATION WILL HOST A NATIONAL HEIRS PROPERTY CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER 2019

The Regional Heirs Property and Mediation Center will host its inaugural FORWARD 2020: National Heirs Property Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, December 4-6, 2019.

This will be the nation's largest gathering of heirs property owners. Expert land retention practitioners from across the US. Forward 2020 will offer an opportunity to attend interactive, train-the-trainer, Master Classes taught by experts and one-on-one meetings with resource professionals. More information and registration will be available on the Federation's website.

STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF . ATLANTA OFFICE

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Cornel Crawford, Director of Finance
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RURAL TRAINING &

RESEARCH CENTER • EPES, AL

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Joe Barnes, Outreach Specialist
Nicole Bell, Food Safety Specialist

In Loving Memory



Mrs. Mattie Mack, Board Member

Mattie Mack raised and educated four children of her own and 38 foster children on a small family farm, doing chores and learning responsibility. She organized and became President and spokesperson for the Kentucky Minority Farmers Association since 1991 and served faithfully and with dedication as a member of the Federation's Board of Directors for a quarter-century.

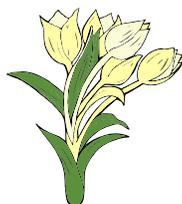
Mrs. Mattie was an outspoken and wise representative of small farmers and small tobacco farmers, throughout the South; and gave testimony to Congress on the tobacco program and other aspects of farm policy, including discrimination by USDA toward Black farmers, women farmers and other farmers of color. We celebrate the life and legacy of Mattie Mack and recognize her contribution as the board representative for the state of Kentucky.



Ms. Catherine Denise Hooks-Kendrick

Your cherished memories will continue to bring us moments of joy. There are special people in our lives who never leave us because they will always remain in our hearts. Though your days among us were too brief and our grief at your loss is never ending, we draw comfort from the knowledge that you have found safe refuge in the lord and in our hearts, where no darkness or pain can ever touch you now.

Your death does not diminish the profound benediction of a life lived in such Godly service. Your legacy of service, compassion, and dedication will continue to inspire all the lives you have touched; the time with you on earth, we humbly submit in faith and appreciation to God as he cuddles you.



Reflections

Family Time

Pausing to remember
Is viewing how we have lived
All we have seen,
heard and done
Pausing to remember
Is calling up plans and goals
Set-backs and accomplishments
Efforts and omissions

Pausing to remember
Is revisiting a check-list
Of all that brought us here
Inspired and directed us
Carried and pushed us

Pausing to remember
Is giving weight to
Meaningful experiences
and to those not so valued

So pausing time
Is family time
And family time
Is a remembering time

Our FSC is in family time
We look back to
Mule drawn plows
Hand-picked cotton and
Family grown vegetables
We look back to
Harvest time gatherings
Families and neighbors helping
Families and neighbors

Our FSC is in family time
We look back to leaving the
Dusty rows of the fields
To march the dusty roads
Of towns and offices
To fight for freedom rights
To keep our land and homes,
To raise our voices and hopes
To keep our vote and our progress
To preserve the treasures
Of our communities

Our FSC is in family time

Carol
Prejean Zippert

FINANCIALS

FUNDERS/ SUPPORTERS

2018-2019

Combined Statement of Financial
Position August 31, 2018
Unaudited

Alcorn University/SDFR Policy Research Center

Assets	<u>This Year</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	568,123.00
Investments	
Receivables:	658,083.00
Grants and contracts	
Promises to give	275,908.57
State receivables	64,505.00
Accounts receivable, net	<u>44,281.02</u>
	384,694.59
Prepaid other	
Prepaid insurance	7,569.62
Total Current Assets	<u>9,540.63</u>
	1,628,010.84
Property and equipment, at cost	
Land	180,987.88
Land Improvements	62,035.81
Parking Lot	12,300.00
Buildings	1,341,380.52
Building Improvements	319,132.74
Equipment	554,547.10
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,841,938.37)</u>
Net Property and Equipment	628,445.68
Other Assets	
Deferred charges	<u>19,430.40</u>
Total Other Assets	19,430.40
Total Assets	<u><u>2,275,886.92</u></u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	272,027.93
Accrued leave	46,458.53
Accrued Expenses	348,578.93
Deferred Income	706,942.28
Other Liabilities	10,077.74
Notes payable:	
Current	18,062.07
Non-current	<u>563,793.42</u>
Total Liabilities	1,965,940.90
Net Assets	
Net Assets	398,929.73
Net Income	<u>(88,983.71)</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>309,946.02</u></u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	2,275,886.92

American Farmland Trust
Anonymous
Baltoro Trust
Capital Impact Partners
COBank
Cooperative Development Foundation
E.M. GITT Charitable Foundation
Farm Aid
Flora Foundation
Funds for Democratic Communities
Impact Assets
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation
Lawrence & Ann Weiner
Mary Reynolds Babcock
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives
National Cooperative Bank
Nationwide Insurance
National Cooperative Business Assn/CLUSA
New Society Fund
NRECA
Sharing Inc
Tides Foundation
Wilmington Trust
USDA- APHIS, NIFA, EPA,FSA,NASS, NRCS,OASCR,
OPPE, RCDG,
Rural Development
University of Georgia SARE
US Forest Service
US ENDOWMENT FORESTRY
US ENDOWMENT RCPP
US SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Winky Foundation
RSF for Social Change

Cooperative Membership

ALABAMA Alabama State Association of Cooperatives • Greene-Sumter Farmers Cooperative • Marengo County Farmers Co-op • Southeastern Goat Cooperative of Alabama • FOGCE FCU • Demopolis Federal Credit Union • Panola Land buying Association • PLBA Housing Development Corporation • Gainesville Health & Wellness Center of West Alabama **GEORGIA** Georgia State Association of Cooperatives • Georgia Child Care and Nutritional Assoc. • Child Development Center • Southern Alternatives • West Georgia Farmers Cooperative • Flint River United Producer's Cooperative • Ag First Community Cooperative • Days Community Cooperative • Faith Farmers Cooperative **KENTUCKY** Kentucky Minority Farmers Association **LOUISIANA** Louisiana Oysterman Association – Plaquemine Parish • Point Coupee Farmers Cooperative – New Roads • **MISSOURI** Missouri Rural Crisis Center **MISSISSIPPI** Mississippi State Association of Cooperatives • Attala County Self Help Cooperative • Beat 4 Farms Cooperative A.A.L • Bogue Chitto/Lincoln County Community Center • Family Farmers Cooperative • Indian Springs Farmers Association, Inc. • Kemper Regional Outreach Cooperative • Milestone Cooperative Association • Mississippi Delta Southern Rural Black Women in Agriculture • Mid-South Progressive Agricultural Group • Mississippi Meat Goat Producers • Mt. Zion Saving Lives Outreach Center • New Community Cooperative • North Bolivar Development Cooperative • North Delta Produce Growers Cooperative • Quitman County Development Organization • South Rankin County Farmers Association • Unlimited Community Agriculture Cooperative • Winston County Self Help Cooperative • East Central Federal Credit Union (HOPE) • First Delta Federal Credit Union • Shelby Bolivar County Federal Credit Union • Shreveport Federal Credit Union • **SOUTH CAROLINA** Axiom Farms • Farmers Co-op/CIA • Florence City Farmers Cooperative • Global Producers • Mid-Eastern Farmers Cooperative • Orangeburg Young Farmers Co-op • People's Cooperative • RAFFCO Farmers Co-op • Saluda Farmers Association • South Carolina Coastal • South Carolina Sea Island Farmers Co-op • Williamsburg and Clarendon Farmers Coop • **TEXAS** Texas Landowners Association