

# Small Farms Research Center (AAMU) sponsored landowners and producers to attend 2014 SSAWG Conference

The Small Farms Research Center sponsored 66 producers to attend the 2014 Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSAWG) Conference, January 16-18, 2014. The scholarship recipients took advantage of the following cutting edge lessons: sustainable and organic production, in fields and in high tunnels, grazing and holistic livestock management, direct and cooperative marketing, farm and food policy, enterprise and business management, local food systems and local farm tours.

This conference consisted over 1,500 farmers, landowners, extension agents, specialist and community leaders from the southern region. The majority of the producers/farmers sponsored by the Center were indeed appreciative of this great opportunity and it was expressed through formal letters.

*The scholarship I received to attend the SSAWG Conference 16-18, January 2014 provided me educational training and materials to create a healthy environment in my underserved community. During the SSAWG Conference, I acquired the knowledge that sustainability is the discipline needed to create a healthy food and agricultural system in my underserved community.*

*---Corneilia B. Orr, new and beginning farmer, Madison County*

*One change I am excited about is the new momentum to help minority and beginning farmers across our land. My wife Reba and I just got back from the three day Southern SAWG Conference (Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group) in Mobile, Alabama We want to give a special thanks to JaMarkus Crowell and E'Licia Chaverest from Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama for all they have done to inspire and encourage us and all minority and beginning farmers.*

*--Danny & Reba Skillman, new and beginning farmer, Blount County*

*Thanks so much for making it possible for me to attend the conference. It was great. I met so many people that shared their humble beginnings and a worth of knowledge. This is just what people in my position need!!*

*--Charlene Gaines, new and beginning farmer, Morgan County*



*2014 SSAWG Conference. A few producers and landowners sponsored by the Small Farms Research Center. Picture taken by Mr. JaMarkus Crowell, Program Assistant for Small Farms Research Center.*