



Winston County Self Help Cooperative

NEWS FLASH

JULY 2013 | 2nd Edition

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WCSHC Changing Rural America on July 22, 2013



By Frank Taylor

As people drove pass Winston County Self Help Cooperative's Demonstration Farm located east of Louisville, MS in the Bethel Community, they decelerated and observed more than 50 farmers & youths assimilated under shade trees for WCSHC's Tenth Business Session and Grazing Field Day. WCSHC members wore their standard color of forest green t-shirts stitched with gold letters. Our color scheme represents

WCSHC's Mantra of "Saving Rural America" according to member Mary Hannah. Although Mother Nature emitted oppressive heat, nevertheless, members & visitors arrived one hour in advance to engage with Service Providers. Members wanted applicable information in lowering input cost to spawn more income from their livestock operations. We are here on this Monday afternoon July 22, 2013 to learn, relax, and indulge in local foods which included Jean Harper's Homemade Vanilla Ice

Cream. The Co-op's designed a Tier Presentation prototype to accommodate each session".

Session One: Focused on improving forages and marketing cattle. Dwight Jackson, NRCS, GLCI- Specialist talked extensively in managing your forages and instituting practices to enhance production and extending forages season. "Jackson said your forages should sustain & supply adequate nutrition for 11 months out of the year. A Forage Management Plan will impart essential points of guidance to reduce input costs. You must test soils in the dormant months of November or December and implement recommended applications". Jackson examined WCSHC Demonstration Farm's Forages and made broad suggestions to improve production. WCSHC Member Alonzo Miller said "We use this farm for our Pass on Heifers. WCSHC will import a new class of heifers to this location by mid September for breeding purposes. This process should conclude by December 17, 2013 in hope of bred heifers. We hayed this pasture on June 30, 2013 and rolled 87 fertilized bales. WCSHC sells bales to members at production cost as a membership benefit. Additionally, we plan to sectionalize 10 acres to exploit drilling a special hybrid of forage based on Winston County's growing zone. If, this

test plot fulfills our objectives, then, we would broadly recommend this strategy to Co-op Members". Dwight Jackson suggested WCSHC cover bales of hay to help maintain quality. The proper nutrition adds marbling and hanging weight to carcasses. Cattle Buyers' base purchases on genetics, structure and demeanor; therefore, producers should monitor and cull animals as soon as possible. Jackson ended by advocating WCSHC Members to discuss opportunities in volume sales.

Session Two: Encompassed Winston County Self Help Cooperative's 10th Business Session with a timely start of 5:25p.m. Members and visitors read minutes silently as Frank Taylor called for acceptance and approval. WCSHC's Minutes thoroughly described July's work-plan activities with modest successes. Taylor reminded members of FSA's County Committee Nomination period ends on August 1, 2013. Also, he requested individuals to celebrate Christmas in July by paying their Property Taxes, insurances and mortgage on time-Your Family Christmas Gift in July. Jean Harper reported Louisville Farmers' Market continues to add vendors weekly from the local area with fantastic results. Market opens

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"Saving Rural America"

each Thursday from 4-6p.m. at the Louisville Coliseum. Several individuals indicated they submitted housing applications to USDA Rural Development. WCSHC 10th Business Session concluded with a bevy of activities planned for August.

Session Three: Ensnared Winston County's First Term Chancery Clerk- Julie Cunningham. She described the Chancery Clerk Office as the house of records for Winston County. We maintain all county official documents including Marriage Licenses, Land Deeds, liens, county transactions and guardianships. We serve as Secretary for Winston County's Board of Supervisors and pay county's bills after approval. We process Homestead Exemption Applications and Assessment Rolls through the State Tax Commission. Julie's presentation detailed upcoming

Delinquent Tax Sale scheduled for Monday August 26, 2013 at the Courthouse Annex Room. The Delinquent Tax Sale allows individuals or organizations to pay delinquent taxes on the behalf of the delinquent tax payers. The payer of delinquent taxes receives a place holder lien based on years paid. A person must pay three consecutive years then applying for a tax or conveyance deed through court system. However, a delinquent individual can redeem their property by paying back taxes, penalties and accrued interest to retain Fee Simple Ownership. Funds derived through tax sale helps defray county's ongoing expenses.

Session Four: WCSHC Youth Groups met separately and discussed an array of activities centered on the upcoming 2013-14 school year. WCSHC Youth Leaders emphasized the need for Parental & Community Support in structuring a successful school year. Parents should

participate in school meetings to develop relevant policies for the masses of students. We will encourage parents to request meetings with recent appointed Superintendent of Education and advocate for a healthier school population by consuming quality lunches. We hope this Superintendent will support local farmers by implementing a Farm to School Program according to Youth Leader Elaine Hopson. Farm to School Program will allow our Cooperative Members to sell locally grown vegetables directly to Louisville Public Schools System. This component will help improve health of students and contribute dollars back to local economy. Additionally April Divine Food-Corp Assignee ended Youth Session by asking a variety questions focused on the Natural Resources and encouraged students to earn good grades. The Winston County Self Help Cooperative conveys thanks to April for a

year of service in changing lives in Rural America and much success in your future.

Session Five: As closure of WCSHC 10th Business Session rapidly approached several members echoed their enjoyment of meeting outside and reaping Mother Nature's benefits of clean air and water. "Gloria Moore said this Business Session aided in relieving stress and afforded Youth Members an opportunity to learn from senior co-op members. You could hear the insects chirping without interference of manufactured noises." 12 year old Kaylen Todman from Manassas, VA, said this is cool and I like being outside meeting other individuals and learning how farmers grow animals and raise vegetables. I will share my farm experiences with friends and classmates in Virginia". As darkness loomed over the hills members and visitor consumed hot dogs, cold drinks, water and Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream.

WCSHC Photo Gallery from Monday's Meeting

