

CONSERVATION Showcase

Madison County Hosts “Changing Faces of Agriculture” Tour and Teacher Workshop

By [Kathy Walker](#) District Administrative Coordinator, Madison County SWCD, Huntsville, AL

The sixth-annual Madison County “Changing Faces in Agriculture” Tour and Teacher Workshop were held on June 17th and 18th.

A group of 50 area business people, educators, and elected officials loaded two buses on the 17th for a tour of Madison County farms and historical sites showcasing the importance of agriculture.

Participants saw firsthand how farming and farm equipment have evolved over the years. The group toured Butler & Sons Farm, Poplar Ridge School, F & W Farm, J. Sparks

Hydroponic Farms, Mann Farm, and Historic Downtown New Hope.

The teacher workshop followed on the 18th at Huntsville Utilities Water & Gas Department. Sixteen educators attended the one-day workshop featuring several ag related hands-on activities that could be taken back to their students. Presenters included Dr. Doug Phillips, Discovering Alabama; Jeannie Reeves Director, Ag Research Cotton Inc.; Rick Terry, Decatur Transit; John Hasenbein, Bunge Corp; Rex Vaughn; Jason Thomas; Stewart McGill; Think Like a Farmer Panel, and Jay Grantland, WaterWorks Discovery.



This year's events were sponsored by the Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Madison County Farmers Federation, ServiceFirst Bank, Discovering Alabama, Cotton, Inc., Woodall Grain, SWDA/Covanta, Madison County Schools, Huntsville Utilities Water and Gas Department, A&M Agribition Center, and AMRV RC&D.