

On Being Heard: Alabama Black Farmers

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Alabama Disadvantage Farmers

Alabama disadvantage farmers make up approximately 3.14% of the farm population in Alabama (48,753) 2007 and 2.34% (43,223) 2012.



A decreased in farms in Alabama
Sources

www.agcensus.usda.org

<http://www.aamu.edu/Academics/alns/SFRC/Pages/default.aspx>



Disadvantage Farmers

- Who are they?

Women

Blacks

Asians

The women “If agriculture is something you have a passion for, stay strong when you’re knocked down,” said Yeager, who grew up on a Conecuh County farm. “Get up; dust yourself off, and persevere.”

Source

<http://alfafarmers.org/stories/news-detail/women-in-ag-plowing-new-ground#.Vxk4ZPmDGko>



The Women Farmer's

- Alabamian Wendy Yeager is one of thousands of moms and wives plowing new ground for females in agriculture nationwide. Yeager, the primary operator of the 940-acre Bell Place Farm. Wendy's farming decision is supported by the 2012 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Census of Agriculture, that the past 10 years marked a 21 percent rise in women working in ag-related fields. It not just Wendy,



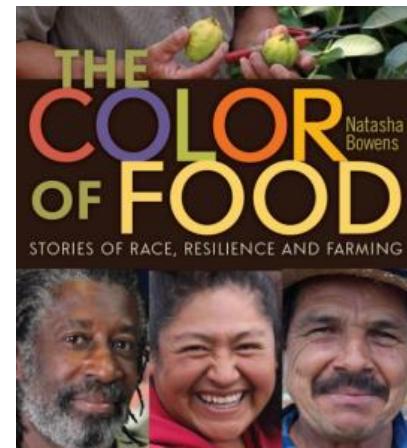
Source

<http://alfafarmers.org/stories/news-detail/women-in-ag-plowing-new-ground#.Vxk4ZPmDGko>



The Women Farmer's Con't

- Natasha Bowens Food sovereignty activist and author of The Color of Food began farming in the late 2000's as a brown person. On Being Heard her Brown.Girl.Farming blog is dedicated to documenting her journey as an urban farmer.



Source

<https://annamaryas.com/2015/01/21/farming/>



The Women

- Or Sandra Simone of Huckleberry Farms in Alabama
- Many of these journeys got started because no one would listen, they were rejected time and time again like Sandra and Natasha or Wendy. One of Wendy's stories that she tell is when salesman or folk visit the farm they ask for her husband. Not expecting to her as the farmer.
- Women Farmers are concerned for the Quality of Food that goes on the table. They are concerned for the distribution of these foods.
- The work that Backyard garden brings to the voice of Being Heard is to be celebrated like Jenga Mwendo in the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans.

Source

<http://www.ssawg.org/first-time/sandra-simone-huckleberry-hill-farm-al>



The Black Farmer

- The experiences of the Disadvantage Farmers in Alabama have been challenging.
- Building farms that are sustainable and viable have been a key issue for the black farmers.
- The research conducted in 2012 by USDA provide great historical detail analysis on the African American farmers in Alabama from 1832 -2000 which found Alabama to have the second highest number of cooperatives in the Southern states

Source

All Information from www.agcensus.usda.org



Black Farmers

- Black farmers in the U.S represented 1.32% of total farms or 2,709 in 2007 and those farms were increased in 2012 to 2,779.



Alabama A & M

- The Small Rural Farm Center of AAMU was established in 2000 to conduct research and provide services to small farms in 22 of Alabama's counties in the Northern region.

Source

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=ZXUbUXsKSI8



Alabama A & M

- This topic *On Being Heard* is the primary reason given in the Small Farm Center brochure introduction and that is to provide the answers that frustrated farmers, veterans, and socially disadvantaged and beginner farmers were experiencing.



Choices of Farming

- Fruit
- Vegetable
- JB Turner



Source

http://blog.al.com/huntsville-times-business/2011/10/madison_county_farmer_raises_t.html



AAMU

Billy B. Bridgeforth: A fourth generation farmer from Tanner, AL. The Darden Bridgeforth & Sons farm grows cotton, corn, wheat, soybeans and canola.

Advocates on behalf of Black farmers in the US and abroad as chairman Of the National Black Growers Council.



The Asian Farmer

- According to the USDA Census of Ag Asian farmers represent 0.11% of all farmers in Alabama in 2007
- In 2012 Asian farmers represented 0.16%.



Alabama A & M

- These farmers were frustrated on being heard for answers to simple questions to locate and understand information provided to them. As well as the overload of information that they could filter through for the answer.
- Professor Duncan Chembezi is the AAMU Center Director duncan.chembezi@aamu.edu

Source

<http://www.aamu.edu/Academics/alns/SFRC/Pages/default.aspx>



AAMU and Cooperative Extension

- The SMFC work collaboratively with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to host and present workshop to assist farmers in gaining new knowledge of farming resources to build and sustain their farms.
- To assist in grant opportunities

Source

<http://www.aamu.edu/Academics/alns/SFRC/Pages/default.aspx>



On Being Heard

- There are a number of resources that disadvantaged farmers can go to for help.
- AAMU <http://www.aamu.edu/Academics/als/SFRC/Pages/default.aspx>
- USDA
- <http://www.start2farm.gov/search>



Thank You!

