

For immediate release

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Economic Development Conference & Organic Certification Workshop

March 16 & 17, 2007 The Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc. will be hosting the **National Organic Program, featuring Organic Certification Workshop** and the **Economic Development Conference** with Rural Coalition, Washington, DC; Langston University, Langston Oklahoma; USDA, Concentric Management Applications, Washington, DC; City of Wewoka; and Youth Development and Capacity Building, Inc of Dacula, GA.

Programs will be held at different locations. Reference both **dates and locations below**:

On March 16, 2007 the hands-on workshop regarding **Record and Bookkeeping** would held at **Americas Best Value Inn** (1-40 and Harrison Ave) in Shawnee, OK; from **1:30PM to 5:30PM**. The following personnel will be conducting these workshops: Quinton Robinson of the Rural Coalition, Washington, DC, Scott Mexic, Director of External Affairs, Washington DC.

On March 17, 2007 the **Economic Development Conference** will be held from **(9:00AM-5:00PM)** at the **Hargrave Community Center (Corner of Hwy 270 and Hwy 56) in Wewoka, Ok**. Bruce Knight, USDA, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Washington DC will speak on the current **2007 Farm Bill**. Annabelle Romero, USDA, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Washington, DC will give a presentation on **How to Improve USDA Services for Small and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers**. Presentations on Alternative Business Enterprise, Tourism, Commerce, and Future Youth Development Initiatives will be presented in the afternoon session.

John Boyd, President of the National Black Farmer Association will provide information on Senate bill S515, the Pigford vs. Veneman Remedy Act. This bill is about legislation to reopen the lawsuit for the 72,000 applicants that were denied. Willard Tillman heads the **Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc.**, and he hopes that while attending this two day educational program, you will extend your funding, partnership, and opportunity to help others in need. **Partnership is our theme, so let's partner with all that are in attendance.**

For additional information on this program and the Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project, Inc. contact Willard Tillman at (405) 201-6624.