

# Building A Food Safety Training Program To Empower Disadvantaged Producers In Alabama

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## EMPOWERING FARMERS

Alabama Extension | Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension | Communities Improvement Association





## Problem Statement / Issue Definition:

The ultimate goal of the Empowering Farmers Project is to help limited resource minority growers in the Black Belt region of Alabama meet challenges to farm viability faced by local producers.





## Approach / Methods:

The proposed training will build on available resources developed by the Produce Safety Alliance, Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance, and educators nationwide by **adapting** these curricula and **delivery** methods to meet the needs of limited resource, low-vision, low-hearing, and low-literacy growers and processors.



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Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind

Deaf. Blind. Limitless.



Farm Innovation Project

Alabama  
Georgia  
Mississippi



## Results / Outcomes:

- Conducted canning workshop to teach safe food processing for producing jams and jellies that can be sold under Cottage Law.
- Conducted Produce Safety Growers Training in conjunction with FSOP Farm Innovation Project. Farm Innovation activities were used as supplemental materials and hands on demonstration to increase learning comprehension for growers. Growers participated in a hands-on Food Safety Plan and hGAP Plan writing session post grower training.



## Results / Outcomes:

- Developed and conducted Alabama Cottage Food Law Overview for farmers and producers as part of valued added and business startup.
- Developed and conducted Marketing Safe Local Produce workshops for growers who sell to the farmers markets. Added an Agribusiness component. Farmers participated and attended the Tuskegee 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Farmers Conference.



## Results / Outcomes:

- Developed supplemental slides for Produce Safety growers training to accommodate low vision and low literacy growers.
- Provided magnifying glasses and PA System to accommodate low vision and low hearing farmers and producers in all workshops conducted.
- Developing Produce Safety Growers training word list.
- Utilizing Empowering Farmers advisory board of disadvantaged growers and producers to provide guidance on curriculum development and modifications throughout the process and farmer recruitment.