Current Mississippi Cooperator Personnel Supported by Delta OPRU

The University of Southern Mississippi
- Carol Connell
- Kathy Yadrick
- Holly Federico Huye
- LaShaundrea Crook
- Karen Zynda
- Martha Resavy
- Belynda Brock
- Brianya Perryman
- 2 Graduate Assistants
- 8 Part-Time Data Collectors

Alcorn State University
- Christopher Brown
- Marjuyua Rowser
- Cinda Catchings
- Bryant Lucas
- Gwendolyn Lucas
- Corvet McNeal
- Shirley Pope
- Mattie Rasco
- Angela Stanton
- Chasity Williams
- Patricia Leonard
- Edith Ezekwe
- Christie Walton
- Veronique Buck
- Ashley Harris
- Jennie Hatch
- Jordan Graves

2011 Personnel Levels Supported by Delta Obesity Prevention Research Unit

Alcorn State University - 17 Employees
The University of Southern Mississippi - 18 Employees

USDA, ARS, Delta OPRU
www.ars.usda.gov/spa/dopru

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Delta Obesity Prevention Research Unit—Mission Statement
The Delta Obesity Prevention Research Unit is coordinating a major research program that brings together the expertise of seven institutions in the three state region. These institutions and their research scientists provide unique skills and resources to the Delta. Their research will result in Lower Mississippi Delta specific recommendations for input into the 2015 Dietary Guidelines that will enable rural Lower Mississippi Delta individuals and families to adopt food and physical activity guidelines for sustaining healthy weights, preventing obesity, and reducing the risk factors for obesity related chronic diseases.

Mississippi Research Cooperators

USDA, ARS, Delta OPRU

USDA, ARS, Delta OPRU
USDA, ARS, Delta OPRU
USDA, ARS, Delta OPRU
Effectiveness of Women’s Social Club Members Adopting Modified Dietary Guidelines

Obesity rates in the Lower Mississippi Delta region are among the highest in the U.S., with less than 7% of Delta adults consuming a healthy diet that can reduce the risk of obesity. Evaluating the existing food patterns of Delta adults is needed. Adapting these existing patterns to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans will be achieved through the research conducted by the University of Southern Mississippi cooperating scientists. Minor, however, effective, modifications will be made to existing dietary patterns and evaluated for successful implementation in Mississippi social women’s organizations over a 12-month period. Successful results will improve the diets of dietary residents, specifically weight status and healthy blood pressure. For additional information, contact Dr. Carol Connell (carol.connell@usm.edu).

Alcorn State University Significant Publications:


Enhancing Fruit/Vegetable Consumption of African-American Mothers and Children in Southwest Mississippi

The prevalence of childhood obesity is of great proportions amongst rural, limited resource populations in the Lower Mississippi Delta region and particularly in Mississippi. Cooperating researchers at Alcorn State University are conducting research to reduce the current levels of obesity in these populations. Researchers will utilize a pre-/post-test design to determine the effectiveness of combining nutrition education with social support to help mothers make dietary changes. These changes will be monitored by looking for an increased consumption level of fruits and vegetables in the mother and her children (middle school age) Physical activity promotion will be provided to the children as a motivational factor to make healthier food choices. Contact Dr. Marijuya Rowser (mrowse@alcorn.edu) for additional information.