

ADVANCER

NEWS BULLETIN

August 2024

Previous Annual Conference



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**CARPENTER'S FAMILY
LEGACY
ABRAHAM CARPENTER JR.**

Talk of the Land

3rd Generation of Farmers

Situated about 67 miles southeast of Little Rock and about 20 miles northwest of Pine Bluff sits the Carpenter's Produce farm along with one of the newest facilities "Carpenters Medical Group".

The Carpenter family has long been an important symbol of African American success in the field of agriculture, especially in a time and place when independent Black farmers faced monumental difficulties in remaining solvent. The family was part of a nationwide lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) alleging years of discrimination against Black farmers as related to lending practices. The suit was settled in 1999, though the Carpenters were among those appealing based on continuing practices of discrimination; the USDA negotiated an added settlement in 2010.



But for Katie Carpenter it all started in 1969 when she started selling vegetables from the trunk of her car locally and in Pine Bluff from a one-acre garden she planted in Grady, Arkansas.

During that time Abraham Sr. was working at a lumber mill nearby. With Katie making more money on the land raising vegetables, Abraham Sr. decided to quit his job and work full time with her. The initiative allowed the Carpenter family to grow multiple rotations of crops on the same land throughout the year. One acre would soon grow to five, then 20 and it now covers more than 1,500 acres in Lincoln County.

Now, three generations of Carpenters work providing produce to farmers' markets in Pine Bluff and Little Rock, the Carpenter store found in Pine Bluff, as well as Wal-Mart, Kroger, and other national food chains while Abraham Jr., serving as the manager of the business for the family. They grow over twenty-five to thirty diverse types of produce, but the major crops are greens, cantaloupe, okra, peas, yellow squash, zucchini, and the biggest and sweetest watermelons.

The Carpenter family started growing vegetables decades ago with aid from Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation, and Thomas Vaughns, Horticulture Specialist who was with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's (UAPB) during that time.



Where there is life to live, perseverance, love and faith keep this family going. Katie taught her children to love and to help others and to treat other people as they wanted to be treated. With over 35 family members working they employ an additional 40 to 50 seasonal workers during the peak planting and harvesting times of the year.

In June 2020, the Carpenter operation received a cultivation license from the state's Medical Marijuana Commission, with products hitting the market, after a delay, in September 2022.

Cannabis flower from Carpenter Farms is on Arkansas dispensary shelves, making the Southeast Arkansas cultivator the seventh Arkansas grower to bring products to market in addition to vape cartridges and edibles.

As the name of the business implies Carpenters Medical Group, Abraham Carpenter Jr. is an avid proponent of anything and everything to do with both businesses. As the manager he oversees both the produce farm and the medical group. Cannabis flower from Carpenter Farms is on Arkansas dispensary shelves, making the Southeast Arkansas cultivator one of the seven Arkansas grower to bring products to market.



Katie, Abraham Jr., Abraham Sr.

Today Abraham Carpenter Jr. has been an activist in agricultural spheres, notably in the field of water conservation, and has served with other organizations, including on the board of directors of the Delta Farmers' Cooperative and as president of the Arkansas Vegetable Growers Association. providing technical aid to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff where he received an Honorary Doctrine Degree in 2007 and served as Vice Chairperson for the Arkansas Parole Board from 2007 to 2012.

Abraham has received awards including the "Outstanding Farm Leadership Award from Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation, Jessie W. Mason Outstanding Leadership and Dedicated Service Award, and Honorary Chairperson of the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus. In 1988 the family was named "Farm Family of the Year" by Arkansas Farm Bureau, and in 2011 the family Abraham Sr., Katie and the children were inducted to the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame and in 2012 Inductee to Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame.

The Inheritance of the Legacy of Prosperity

USDA Updates Farm Loan Programs to Increase Financial Freedom, Resilience and Profitability for Agricultural Producers

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announces changes to the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Farm Loan Programs, effective Sept. 25, 2024 — changes that are intended to increase opportunities for farmers and ranchers to be financially viable. These improvements, part of the [Enhancing Program Access and Delivery for Farm Loans rule](#), demonstrate USDA’s commitment to improving farm profitability through farm loans designed to provide important financing options used by producers to cover operating expenses and purchase land and equipment.

“USDA recognizes that Farm Service Agency’s loan making and servicing activities are critical for producers, especially in tough times. Providing borrowers the financial freedom to increase profits, save for long-term needs and make strategic investments is the best way to ensure the nation’s farmers and ranchers can build financial equity and resilience,” said Zach Ducheneaux, FSA Administrator. “Implementing these improvements to our Farm Loan Programs is the next step in our ongoing commitment to removing lending barriers that may prevent access to credit for borrowers, especially those who need it most.”

Farm loan policy changes outlined in the Enhancing Program Access and Delivery for Farm Loans rule, are designed to better assist borrowers to make strategic investments in the enhancement or expansion of their agricultural operations.

The three most notable policy changes include:

- Establishing a new low-interest installment set-aside program for financially distressed borrowers. Eligible financially distressed borrowers can defer up to one annual loan installment per qualified loan at a reduced interest rate, providing a simpler and expedited option to resolve financial distress in addition to FSA’s existing loan servicing programs.
- Providing all eligible loan applicants access to flexible repayment terms that can increase profitability and help build working capital reserves and savings. By creating upfront positive cash flow, borrowers can find opportunities in their farm operating plan budgets to include a reasonable margin for increased working capital reserves and savings, including for retirement and education.
- Reducing additional loan security requirements to enable borrowers to leverage equity. This reduces the amount of additional security required for direct farm loans, including reducing the frequency borrowers must use their personal residence as additional collateral for a farm loan.

Additional Farm Loan Program Improvements

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA’s FSA has embarked on a comprehensive and systemic effort to ensure equitable delivery of Farm Loan Programs and improve access to credit for small and mid-size family farms. FSA has also included additional data in its [annual report to Congress](#) to provide information that Congress, stakeholders, and the general public need to hold USDA accountable on the progress that has been made in improving services to under-served producers. This year’s report shows FSA direct and guaranteed loans were made to a greater percentage of young and beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as improvements in the participation rates of minority borrowers. The report also highlights FSA’s microloan program’s new focus on urban agriculture operations and niche market lending, as well as increased support for producers seeking direct loans for farm ownership in the face of increasing land values across the country.

USDA encourages producers to reach out to their local FSA farm loan staff to ensure they fully understand the wide range of loan and servicing options available to assist with starting, expanding, or maintaining their agricultural operation. To conduct business with FSA, please contact your local USDA Service Center. FSA helps America’s farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit, www.fsa.usda.gov

Outreach Meeting Held at Marks Community House, Quitman County Marks, Mississippi June 27, 2024

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) held a community stakeholder meeting on June 27, 2024.

Round-table discussion included the agency resources:

Rural Development (RD)

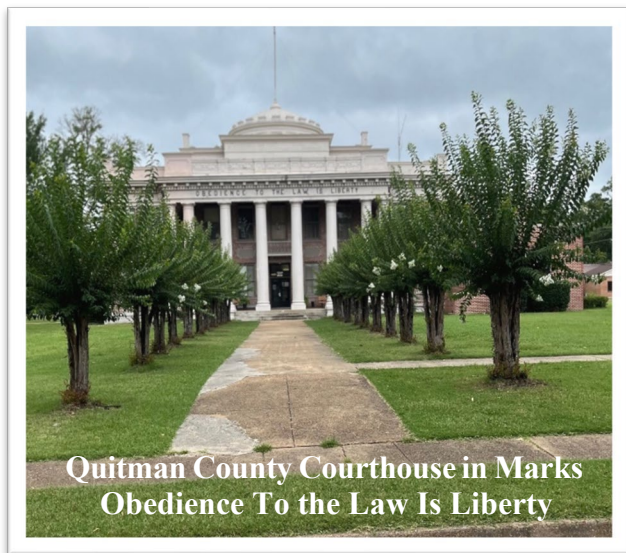
RD helps rural areas to develop and grow by offering Federal aid that improves the quality of life. RD targets communities in need and then empowers them with financial and technical resources.

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The Farm Service Agency implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster, and farm marketing programs through a national network of offices. Farm loan programs are Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans, Emergency Farm Loans, Farm Loan, Farm Operating Loans, Farm Ownership Loans, Funding, Guaranteed Farm Loans, Microloans, Minority and Women Farmers and Ranchers, Native American Loans, Program Data and Youth Loans

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS supplies leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, support, and improve our natural resources and environment.



Participants received additional information on Rural Development's Business Development-Intermediary Relending Program, the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) High Tunnel Initiative, and FSA's Farm Ownership Loan Program.

ALCDC is modeling solutions at the community level to farmers to produce and distribute high quality, fresh, affordable products and marketing pathways and resources they need. As we have clearly seen the connections between small-scale agriculture and the stability of our food systems, as well as our collective well-being, ALCDC is working to support farmers selling into local and regional markets and directly to consumers.

USDA Appoints New Members to the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the appointment of 20 new members to the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers. This committee is part of USDA’s support for equitable access to USDA’s services and programs and creating more market opportunities for local and regional production.

“The next generation of farmers, whether continuing a multi-generational operation or starting anew, deserve the very best opportunities,” said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small. “The Biden-Harris administration is convening this committee so young farmers have a voice in policies to level the playing field for small and mid-sized producers, strengthen Members appointed to the committee are:

rural economies and enhance food security and safety.”

Committee members represent ranching and farming producers, related state and Tribal agricultural entities, academic institutions, commercial banking entities, trade associations, and related nonprofit enterprises. All committee members have previously demonstrated the ability to serve on behalf of new and beginning farmers, minorities, women, and persons with disabilities and to represent small establishments and geographic diversity. Committee members work in academia, industry, government, public health organizations, and industry and consumer organizations.

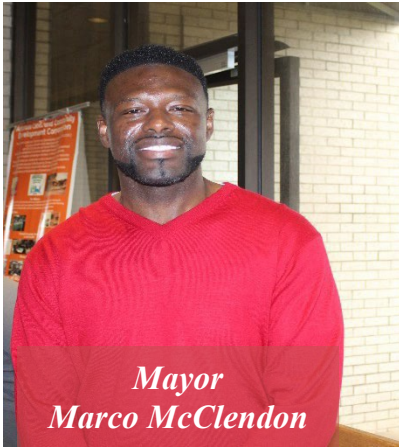
<p>Regular Government Employees (RGEs) Denis Ebodaghe, Washington, D.C., National Institute Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Sarah Campbell, Washington, D.C., Farm Service Age (FSA)</p>	<p>State Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Programs David Robbins, California Christopher Laughton, Connecticut Shelby Myers, Indiana</p>
<p>Nonprofit Organizations Thai Nguyen, Colorado Chandler Mulvaney, Colorado Jeanette Lombardo, Texas Loutrina Staley, Alabama Kathryn Brandt, Michigan</p>	<p>Farmers and Ranchers Nancy Brannaman, Iowa Darlene Goodgame, Georgia Joseluis Ortiz, New Mexico Ana Rodriguez, Puerto Rico Dustin Wiese, Minnesota</p>
<p>Higher Education Institutions E’licia Chaverest, Alabama Gregory Goins, North Carolina Jonathan LaPorte, Indiana</p>	<p>Technical and Other Assists Alexandria Moxley, Montana Edward Hunt, North Carolina</p>

First established in 1992, the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers (ACBFR) advises the Secretary of Agriculture on strategies, policies, and programs that enhance opportunities for new farmers and ranchers.

USDA’s Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE) provides administrative staff support for the work initiated by the committee. OPPE develops and maintains partnerships focused on solutions to challenges facing rural and underserved communities and connects those communities to the education, tools, and resources available to them through USDA programs and initiatives.

For more information, visit the [Advisory Committee on Beginner Farmers and Ranchers website](#).

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Outreach Meeting in West Memphis, AR.



*Mayor
Marco McClendon*

ALCDC hosted a Tri-State Rural and Community Economic Development Summit One USDA in West Memphis, Arkansas on July 25, 2024.

The summit workshop was designed as an open inclusion platform to provide resource information, training and technical support.

ALCDC, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and USDA Farm Service Agency partnered together to supply individuals, small businesses, including agriculture enterprises (farmers and ranchers), and communities, useful information, tools, resources, and an opportunity to engage in dynamic discussions outlining relevancies to Urban and Rural Economic Development.

To name challenges, shared best practices, and innovative solutions to accessing Equity and Equality Program Resource Opportunities the following topics were discuss:

- Prosperity Community Resources for Business Community Development Housing and Small Towns
- Conservation Resource Opportunities for Micro-Urban Agriculture
- Solutions and Resources to Address Heir Property Challenges
- Farm Certification, Alternative Crops, Local Food Supply, Marketing, Access to Farm Financing,
- and Farm support program services and opportunities for beginning farmers, ranchers, and veterans.

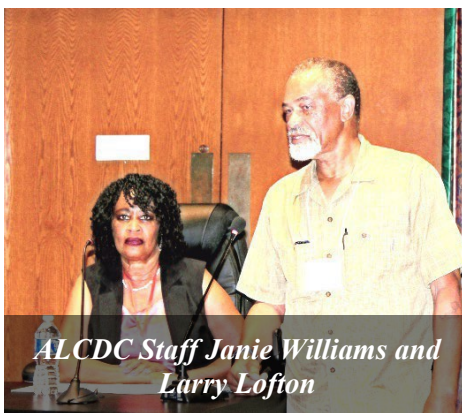


Dr. Calvin King Sr., and Mayor McClendon

Agriculture production plays a key role in rural and urban economies. As we build back better, we must create new and better markets for all producers and consumers. ALCDC wants you to know that we are supporting a new generation of historically underrepresented farmers who are seeking success in the industry, as they connect with their agriculture roots, build community networks and participate in this essential part of our economy. We want to thank the Mayor of West Memphis and staff and all those who attended the in-person/hybrid summit in West Memphis, AR and look forward to continuing to work with you as a catalyst in Urban and Rural Economic Development.



*Earle Mayor Jaylen Smith
And a participant at meeting*



*ALCDC Staff Janie Williams and
Larry Lofton*



Participant at meeting

REGISTER NOW!

44th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hosted by Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation

October 24-25, 2024

“The Legacy of the Inheritance of
Prosperity with Disparity”

Event will be held at the **Brinkley Convention Center** located
At **1501 Weatherby Drive**, Brinkley, AR 72021
Contact: (870) 734-3005 or Visit www.arlcdc.org



ALCDC Conference Sponsorship & Vendor Opportunities

Help us make the 44th Annual Conference Great!

We are thrilled to extend a sponsorship invitation to your organization in view of the 44th Annual Conference. Activities will take place on October 24-25th, 2024, at the Brinkley Convention Center, Brinkley, AR 72021. Please take advantage of the sponsorship packages below.

PLATINUM LEVEL

- Recognition as ALCDC Affiliate Fellow
- Verbal recognition during conference opening and closing ceremonies
- Full Corporate page displayed in conference booklet
- Opportunity for Company speakers to take part in conference panels (as available)
- Opportunity to set-up Company information booth in conference entrance area.
- Prominent Company name and logo on conference website
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees.
- Receive a full-page display in our quarterly Newsletter for one year.

\$20,000.00



Dr. Calvin King Sr.

GOLD LEVEL

- Recognition as ALCDC Affiliate
- Opportunity for Company speakers to take part in conference panels (as available)
- Half-page Corporate display in conference booklet
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees.
- Receive a full-page display in our quarterly Newsletter for one year.

\$10,000.00



LaShiea Miller

SILVER LEVEL

- Display of Company name and logo in some marketing and day-of-event materials
- Quarterly page Corporate display in conference booklet
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees.
- Receive a quarter page in our quarterly newsletter for one year.

\$5,000.00



James Davis

BRONZE LEVEL

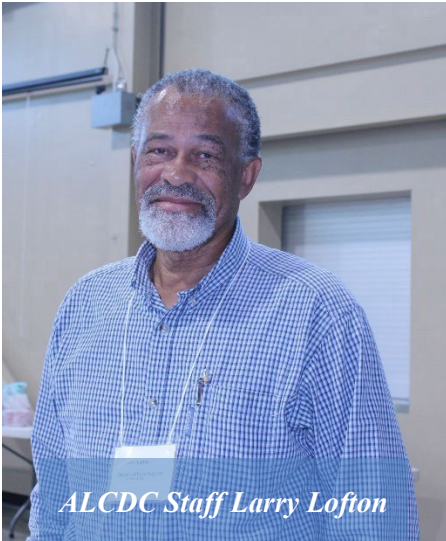
- Display of Company name and logo in some marketing and day-of-event materials
- Quarterly page Corporate display in conference booklet
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees.

\$2,500.00



All Contributions are Tax Deductible

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Summit Meeting in Lonoke, Arkansas



ALCDC Staff Larry Lofton

Arkansas Land & Community Development Corporation's (ALCDC) Hybrid One USDA Urban and Rural Community Economic Development Summit was hosted by the City of Lonoke at the Lonoke Community Center on August 22, 2024. Janie Williams, Farm Advisor Specialist addressed Presenters and Attendees with the Roundtable format of the Summit, where she was followed by Larry Lofton Ag. Farm Division Director of ALCDC.

USDA attendees included Kylan Williams, of National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Natosha Berry and Darlene Conner Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Kate Vom Steeg with Rural Development (RD).

Topics for discussion were as follows:

- Micro- Urban Farming and Conservation Program Opportunities with Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS Resource Opportunities for New Beginning Farmers & Ranchers and Underserved Farmers and Landowners
- Heir's Property – Equity Holding
- Farm Financing and USDA – Direct Farm Operating Plans, Micro Loan Program, and Loan Guarantees for purchasing land.
- USDA Rural Development and Program Resource Opportunities in Housing, Business, Community Facilities, Water- Sewer Systems, internet access and other grant opportunities.



Caitlin Skinner, Kylan Williams, Kennard Williams, Dr. Calvin King Sr.

Nitasha Berry, Darlene Conner, Cheryl Massey, Lashaundra Tucker, Tim Wilson



Dr. Calvin King Sr, President/CEO of ALCDC, began the Roundtable discussion with the opportunities available where she outlined the core steps and process of doing business with NRCS then expounded on the processes that are necessary to do business with USDA. The Farm Service Agency (FSA), Farm Loan Manager explained the opportunities of financing and Rural Development expound on the housing loan/grants available.

ALCDC acknowledges and thanks the City of Lonoke for hosting the One USDA Summit for Lonoke County and surrounding communities.

Single-Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program Announces the Payment Supplement Account Pilot

The Single-Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program (SFHGLP) is pleased to announce the Payment Supplement Account (PSA) Pilot. With the current market trends of higher interest rates, the SFHGLP recognizes the challenges our servicers face to provide effective loss mitigation, resulting in adverse outcomes for distressed homeowners in need of servicing relief.

The PSA Pilot will assist borrowers who have experienced a documented hardship that led to an involuntary inability to pay their mortgage obligation, require payment reduction to resume making a monthly payment and currently have a below market interest rate. The borrower must occupy the property and be ineligible for all other loss mitigation retention solutions prior to being reviewed for the PSA pilot.

The PSA will be funded by a Stand-alone Mortgage Recovery Advance (MRA) which will be incrementally utilized to first, payoff the arrearages accumulated during a hardship to bring the loan current and second, to supplement the principal portion of the borrower's payment in monthly increments and provide payment relief for three years. The PSA will remain with the servicer's lien as a non-interest-bearing, recoverable servicing advance. The MRA created under this pilot program will not be secured by a second lien in favor of Rural Development, which eliminates the need for notary fees, recording costs, and additional legal fees.

A complete list of parameters and terms for the PSA Pilot have been published in the [Federal Register](#). This pilot is effective July 24, 2024 and is anticipated to continue until July 24, 2026.

If you are interested in participating in this pilot or have any questions regarding this announcement, please contact the National Office Division at sfhglpServicing@usda.gov or (202) 720-1452.

Thank you for supporting the Single-Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program.

Help Resources

Policy Questions

Customer Service Center

Phone: 866-550-5887

Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Division

Phone: 202-720-1452

Rural Development Help Desk

For GUS system, outage or functionality assistance

Email: RD.HD@USDA.GOV

FACT SHEET: Celebrating Two Years of the Inflation Reduction Act

WASHINGTON, DC – Two years ago, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action and clean energy in world history. Key to the Biden-Harris Administration’s Investing in America agenda, this transformative law is lowering energy costs, creating new income streams, and tackling the climate crisis. The Inflation Reduction Act has given the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) historic resources to better serve communities nationwide.

"Through the Inflation Reduction Act, the Biden-Harris Administration ushered in a new era of innovation, prosperity for rural communities, and climate preparedness," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The historic resources it provided have helped USDA meaningfully improve the lives of every American by lowering energy costs, reducing wildfire risk, and bringing more farmers into our high-demand conservation programs, and more."

Combined with President Biden’s historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, American Rescue Plan, and other investments already underway, the Inflation Reduction Act makes a once-in-a-generation investment that supports rural communities and their infrastructure needs, while adapting to the climate crisis and creating better health outcomes for rural communities. Across USDA programs, the Inflation Reduction Act increases access to lower-cost clean energy, and climate-smart agriculture and conservation while creating good paying jobs. The legislation also protects communities from the increasing risks of wildfires and extreme heat.

These investments are contributing to the Biden-Harris Administration’s Justice40 initiative which aims to ensure 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing, and other investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

Building a Clean Energy Future

USDA is making the largest single investment in rural electrification since the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. In 2023, USDA made \$13.2 billion available to build electrification infrastructure in rural America with clean, affordable, reliable energy and enhance the quality of life in rural communities. USDA is deploying this funding to ensure communities have access to clean energy that lowers their energy costs and generates new income.

With Inflation Reduction Act funding, USDA:

- Provided more than \$525 million for 14 new clean energy projects that serve rural Americans through partially forgivable loans through the [Powering Affordable Clean Energy](#) (PACE) program. USDA made \$1 billion available in May 2023, and continues to roll out awards.
- Invested \$605 million in 4,529 projects that help agricultural producers and rural small businesses invest in renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements through the [Rural Energy for America Program](#) (REAP). Since the beginning of the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA has invested \$2.2 billion in over 7,200 REAP projects.
- Announced \$181 million to support 222 projects through the [Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program](#) (HBIIP) to increase the availability of domestic biofuels and give Americans additional cleaner fuel options at the pump.
- Will award \$9.7 billion through the [Empowering Rural America \(New ERA\) Program](#) that will help rural Americans transition to clean, affordable, and reliable energy. USDA is currently reviewing applications and expects to start announcing awards in the fall.

Investing in Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry

The Inflation Reduction Act takes aggressive action to address the climate crisis by making unprecedented funding available for USDA conservation, forestry and climate-smart agriculture programs.

The Act made \$19.5 billion available for NRCS to address the demand for popular conservation programs that provide financial assistance to farmers and ranchers to help them both protect natural resources and enhance production. For Fiscal Year 2023, NRCS released data showing an investment of over \$2.8 billion in financial assistance for conservation and supported more than 45,000 contracts, more than any year in the agency's 89-year history. The agency released state-by-state data showing where investments went in FY23 for Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act funding.

For Fiscal Year 2024, which began October 1, 2023, the Inflation Reduction Act provided \$1.65 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), \$754 million for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and \$472 million for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). In Fiscal Year 2023 and so far in Fiscal Year 2024, NRCS has partnered with over 18,000 landowners to conserve 6.2 million acres through EQIP; and more than 5,800 to conserve nearly 7 million acres through CSP.

To further support conservation and climate-smart agriculture, NRCS also:

- Announced [\\$90 million for 53 Conservation Innovation Grant](#) (CIG) projects to support the development and adoption of new tools, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation and improve agricultural operations on private lands, including targeted projects to address enteric methane.
- Invested [\\$138 million for new climate-smart conservation easements](#) that farmers and ranchers use to conserve wetlands, grasslands and prime farmlands through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

The Inflation Reduction Act included \$300 million to improve measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification (MMRV) of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration in climate-smart agriculture and forestry. NRCS continued to implement this strategy and [released a set of webinars](#) in July 2024 to provide public updates on implementation.

Building on the investments made in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act also made \$4.9 billion in additional funding available to the Forest Service to protect communities from wildfire and invest in climate smart forestry.

Creating an Equitable Agricultural Future

The Inflation Reduction Act continues to invest in the future of producers by creating a diverse and equitable agriculture and food workforce, improving access to land and capital, and helping farmers keep farming. Recognizing producers have faced historic challenges as they work to feed and fuel our nation and world, USDA:

- Provided \$2.4 billion to over 43,800 distressed direct and guaranteed Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan borrowers, helping them reach long-term stability and operate successful, thriving agricultural businesses.
- Provided \$2 billion to 43,000 farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs prior to January 2021.
- Created the Increasing Land Access Program and selected 50 innovative projects totaling \$300 million to help improve access to land, capital, and markets for underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.
- Launched the NextGen program in 2023 to build and sustain the next generation of food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences workforce by investing \$262.5 million in training and support for more than 20,000 food and agricultural leaders through 33 project partners.

For more information on the USDA's implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, visit: www.usda.gov/ira.



ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal

From October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

_____ Individual Membership \$25 _____ Partnership Membership \$40

_____ Organizational Membership \$200

Member Benefits

Advocacy and Public Relations -ALCDC/ALFDC participates in federal and state hearing sessions that focus on policy development for its members, farmers, youth, and rural residents.

Member Opportunities -ALCDC/ALFDC offers leadership opportunities within the organization for our youth, farmers, and rural residents. As a member you will have the opportunity to serve on advisory committees in support of the organizations program service delivery work.

Marketing Opportunities -ALCDC/ALFDC offers cooperative marketing opportunities for rural and urban farmers, and businesses. We also offer the opportunity to present and set up an exhibit during our Regional Meetings and Annual Conference, along with faculty rental discounts.

Access to housing, farming, and youth services -ALCDC/ALFDC offers rural and urban residents technical aid and training for access to affordable housing, homeownership education business development, help in accessing farm financing resources for conservation practices, youth leadership development, education enrichment, and workforce readiness.

Information and Communication -ALCDC/ALFDC members can communicate with an ALCDC representative via phone or website concerning their farming, housing, business and youth service's needs. Members receive ALCDC updates and news through our quarterly newsletters and weekly e-letters and website.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return your application and tax-deductible contribution to:
ALCDC/ALFDC Membership
P.O. Box 743 • Brinkley, AR72021

ALCDC/ALFDC programs and services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status. On your compatible Android phone, Smart phone, or tablet-open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your Android phone, Smart phone, or tablet to join or renew membership.



ALFDC/ALCDC Information Survey for Service

We are requesting that you complete the following survey and provide the requested information. This will give us added options for providing you with valuable service during these challenging times.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____ Home Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Is your phone a landline or a mobile? Landline _____

Mobile _____

Do you have access to the internet? Yes _____ No _____

Please check yes or no to all the following that apply:

Landowner: Yes _____ No: _____ Heir Prosperity Interest Holder: Yes: _____ No: _____

Row Crop Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____ Gardner: Yes: _____ No: _____ Small Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____

Vegetable Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____ Rancher (Livestock Operation): Yes: _____ No: _____

Small Business Owner: Yes: _____ No: _____ Veteran: Yes: _____ No: _____ New/Beginning Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____

Are you presently receiving any service from USDA? Yes: _____ No: _____

If so, which ones apply? _____ National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
_____ Farm Service Agency (FSA) _____ Rural Development (RD) _____ Forestry _____ Other

Do you have any conservation program service contracts? Yes: _____ No: _____

If you are an heir or a joint interest holder of land (farm, ranch, or woodland), has this property received any USDA program service? Yes: _____ No: _____

Does your property of interest have a Farm # assigned by USDA Farm Service Agency? Yes: _____
No: _____

Would you desire ALCDC to assist you with attaining a farm # from USDA to qualify you for additional USDA assistance? Yes: _____ No: _____

Please mail the information provided in the survey to:

Mary Harris

P O Box 743

Brinkley, Arkansas 72021



P.O. Box 907
Brinkley, AR 72021

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ABOUT THE ADVANCER

The Advancer is a publication of the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALFDC) printed quarterly and circulated as a public service and communication resource for our membership and constituents. The Advancer publication reaches a broad range of organizations and residents throughout the Delta and the United States.

The Advancer reflects the nature of our work—supplying self-help opportunities and support services to our farmers and others of limited resources in our sixty-six (66) county service area. ALCDC is committed to helping people become more productive and self-sufficient. We appreciate your comments and suggestions. Direct all comments and inquiries about this publication by phone to (870) 734-3005 or e-mail us at alcdc1934@yahoo.com.

If your mailing address is not correct, contact Mary Harris at (870) 734-3005.

ALCDC STAFF

Dr. Calvin R. King Sr. – President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Lashica Miller – Vice-President and Chief Financial Operation Officer (CFOO)
J.D. Davis – Vice-President of Programs and Policy
Barbara Erby – Director of Public Relations Marketing Administrative Service
Larry Lofton – Ag. Farm Division Director
Janie Williams – Farm Advisor Specialist, Youth Director
Michael Tucker – Farm Advisor
Ashley Crockett – Housing Director, Farm Advisor
Mary Harris – Office Manager, Farm Admin Asst.
Diamond Smith – Accts Payable, Farm Financial Analyst
Tomyra Privett – Administrative
MyKaitlyn Smith – Administrative Assistant
Endia Rapier – Accts Receivable, Site Manager
Nelson Hubbert – Environmental Engineer

Multi-Family Housing (Off-Site)

Ashley Crockett-McNeil Apartments Phase II, Crawfordsville, AR., Earle Duplex's,
Pinewood Apartment Development, Brinkley, AR
Keisha Caffey (Resident Manager)-Meadowbrook, Marianna, Helena-West Helena
Jennifer Jones (Resident Manager) Forrest City and Wynne

ALCDC MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of ALCDC is to supply advocacy outreach, technical aid, and training to limited resources small farmers and all rural residents to alleviate poverty, enhance sustainable farming and strengthen communities' economic sustainability and workforce readiness. ALCDC services and programs are available without regard to age, race, religion, gender, or physical handicap.

For Additional Information
Phone (870) 734-3005
Visit Our Website
www.arlcdc.org

Website for
ALFDC
<https://alfdc.webs.com>