

THE ADVANCER

NEWSLETTER October 2023

Annual Conference and Membership Meeting



October 26 – 27, 2023

Brinkley Convention Center located at 1501 Weatherby Drive, Brinkley, AR 72021.
Link to Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkce6qqz8iH9YWK0j_FBZ5csLrrxwQT8Tv

PRESS RELEASE

**Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation
43rd Annual Conference and Membership Meeting
October 26th and 27th
Hosted By
Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation**

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) 43rd Annual Conference and Membership Meeting will be held October 26th and 27th, hosted by Arkansas Land Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) at the Brinkley Convention Center located at 1501 Weatherby Drive, Brinkley, AR 72021. This year's conference theme: **"Prosperity with Disparity"** highlighted by national and State Speaker, which will bring to conference participants vital resource information designed to bridge the historical economic gap of equity opportunity for the underserved population and communities.

Thursday October 26th will be the Youth Conference Day 1

Keynote speaker Michael Eubanks, a Saxophonist and Mental Health Therapist will focus on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of teens, college, and university students, removing barriers to care so students get the support they need. Youth will take part in oratorical leadership competition. The focus areas will be Occupational Career Pathways for Success Through Agriculture. College and University representatives will discuss financial resources for continued education opportunities. Colleges and universities will also offer educational information displays and one on one networking discussions with youth.

Friday October 27th, General Conference and Membership Meeting Day 2

The Opening Morning Session speaker will be Marcus Eubanks the grammy award film producer, the Luncheon Speaker is Kenneth Walker Assistant Chief of Natural Resource and Conservation Services from Washington, DC. Other participating State leadership will be Michael Sullivan State Conservationist with NRCS, Doris Washington, State Executive Director, with Farm Service Agency and Jill Floyd, State Director for USDA Rural Development.

Scheduled workshops offer the bridge of resource opportunity and equity gap for conference participants to achieve economic prosperity. Sessions will include Heir Property, Conservation and Financial Resource opportunities for rural and urban farmers, ranchers and foresters, housing, small business owners and community economic development grant programs and the discrimination financial aid application process.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkce6qqz8iH9YWK0j_FBZ5csLttceQT8Tv

or call (870) 734-3005.



MISSION STATEMENT

ALFDC is a nonprofit land-based community economic development organization, serving and affecting forty-two counties in the delta region of Arkansas.

At ALFDC, sustainable rural community development is our highest value. Our work is guided by the belief that progressive social and economic change and land ownership are the basis for self-determination and self-reliance.

ALFDC is committed to a comprehensive strategy to enhance family farm development, housing and technology opportunities for farm and rural families, opportunities and services to youth and their families, rural economic development, and innovative environmentally safe and economically sound sustainable agricultural initiatives.

CONFERENCE PURPOSE

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCADC) has designed ALFDC 43rd Annual Conference agenda to address the specific needs of its members, partners, supporters, family farmers and rural residents by supplying leading experts in farming, housing, youth services, and rural economic development. The nation and the state's underserved population continue to struggle in a strong economy. These rural and urban underserved residents are seeking solutions to help them sustain the progress they have made and find opportunities to continue to diversify, grow, and improve their quality of living. This 2023 Conference is designed to bring them those solutions.



Letter From the President

Dear Members, Farmers, Landowners, Business Owners, and Supporters

Again, the board of directors has given me the opportunity to invite you to Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) Annual Conference and Membership Meeting, hosted by Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC). This year's 43rd annual event will be held **October 26th and 27th at the Brinkley Convention Center, located at 1501 Weatherby Drive, Brinkley, AR 72021.**

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis further highlighted what has been well known over the years, the inequities that exist with the underserved and unserved segments of our rural and urban population. Given the existing circumstances and (ALCDC) continued work to address the causes and effects, we envisioned this conference theme to be most fitting: **"Prosperity with Disparity."**

We are providing a conference agenda that will allow invited state and national agency specialist an opportunity to offer conference participants, state and national program resource opportunities that address the existing equity gap with the minority and socially disadvantaged segments of our population. This years in person event has given us the opportunity to bring together the brightest minds to address the barriers that to often limit our progress, and vision to prioritize our aspirations, needs and interest of our rural and urban underserved population. We will also address the tangled fate of prosperity and the struggle of why the disparities are so extreme, along with an update on the 22007 application for discrimination. Why might one person fare so much better than another living just a short distance away? The answer of course is complicated with the facts and cause of the adverse effect for those who bear the historical and current cost of discrimination.

We realize how important it is to partner and support others in their endeavors to address the needs of the underserved. It is for this reason we are again inviting you to partner and take part in this year's conference. You have optional sponsorship support levels. Your opportunities to contribute are outlined in detail on pages 5 and 6. In recognition of your generous support, you or your organization will be recognized both days in the conference program book.

We are looking forward to your attendance and participation in this year's event. People like you make it all possible for us to have a positive impact in the lives of our rural an urban Americans dreams and hope.

Sincerely,

Dr. Calvin King Sr.

Board of Directors



Dr. Brian Cornelious



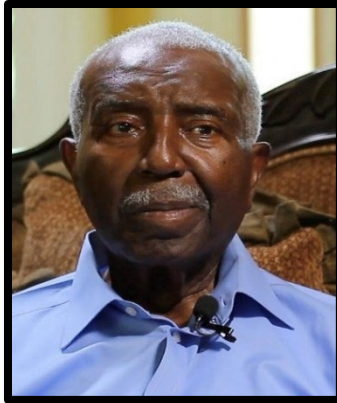
Corey Farmer



Evette Browning



Mary Bone



Judge Berlin Jones



Burthel Thomas



Roger Smith



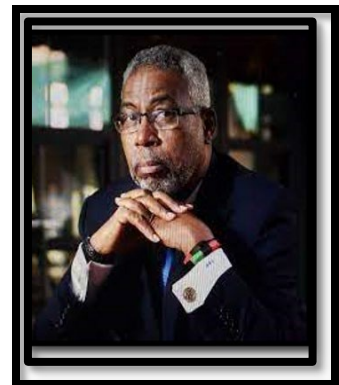
James C. Lowery



Curtis Tate



Harvey Williams Jr.



Dr. Odell Carr



Linda Wilson



Julius Handcock



Darrin Davis



Harrison Locke

SPONSORSHIP OPTION ONE

FUNDING LEVELS AND BENEFITS



PLATINUM LEVEL - \$20,000.00

- Recognition as an 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



GOLD LEVEL - \$10,000.00

- Recognition as an ALCDC Affiliate
- Opportunity for a company speaker to take part in a conference panel (as available)
- Half-page corporate display in conference booklet
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees
- Receive a half-page display in our quarterly newsletter for one year



SILVER LEVEL - \$5,000.00

- 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



BRONZE LEVEL - \$2,500.00

- 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



ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE



**SPONSORSHIP OPTION TWO
FUNDING LEVELS AND BENEFITS**

**SPONSORSHIP OPTION TWO
SPONSOR A CONFERENCE FUNCTION**

FUNCTION	SUPPORTING CONTRIBUTIONS
Educational Panel	\$1,000.00
Youth Oratorical Competition	\$4,000.00
Annual Youth Day Luncheon	\$4,000.00



BENEFITS

Recognition as an ALCDC Affiliate Fellow in the program booklet
Verbal recognition during the function sponsored
Company Logo displayed on sign at the speaker podium
Receive a quarter page display in our quarterly newsletter for one year



DAY TWO “FARMING and RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

FUNCTION	SUPPORTING CONTRIBUTIONS
Morning Session	\$1,000.00
Workshops	\$4,000.00
Annual Luncheon	\$4,500.00



BENEFITS

Recognition as an ALCDC Affiliate Fellow in the program booklet
Verbal recognition during the function sponsored
Company Logo displayed on sign at the speaker podium
Receive a quarter page display in our quarterly newsletter for one year

If your first option is not available, we will contact you to discuss other options.

September 22, 2023

WEEKLY UPDATE

Application Deadline Extension

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture is extending the deadline for the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program to January 13, 2024, to give eligible farmers, ranchers and forest landowners more time to apply for assistance. The original deadline was October 31, 2023. This deadline extension is responsive to feedback from potential applicants, nongovernmental program administrators and community-based organizations working closely with USDA to inform and assist eligible individuals. The new deadline will allow more time to reach and help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners through direct, no-cost technical assistance and training sessions. The extension will also ensure everyone has adequate time to apply, including producers whose harvest season falls during the original application period.

“USDA knows it must earn the trust of the farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who are eligible for this program. That makes transparency in the administration of the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program crucial,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “In that spirit, after receiving feedback from organizations that have been supporting producers throughout the application process, we have made the decision to extend the deadline. We believe this is the appropriate action to take to ensure all eligible individuals wishing to apply are adequately informed about the program and have the opportunity to receive any necessary assistance.”

Since the opening of the financial assistance application process on July 7, the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program team has embarked on a nationwide outreach campaign and quickly opened 30 local offices across 26 states. Regional administrators have held well over 600 virtual and in-person events across the country. Cooperators have also held dozens of virtual and in-person events to complement these efforts while also educating their specific networks. Advertising on digital, print and radio channels targeting potentially eligible individuals and rural communities has also been deployed. These efforts have successfully allowed program staff to reach many potential applicants and will be further increased with the new, extended deadline.

This program delivers on Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides financial assistance for farmers, ranchers and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs prior to January 2021. Congress provided a total of \$2.2 billion for this program. The amount of money awarded to individuals through this program will depend on the number of eligible applicants and the consequences of the discrimination. Eligible individuals have the option to apply online or by submitting paper-based forms via mail or in-person delivery to local program offices. Applicants are not required to retain an attorney and should take precautions to protect themselves from [potential scams](#).

In addition to the application deadline change, the deadline to request records from USDA's Farm Service Agency for use in applications has been extended to Friday, Nov. 3, 2023. The application process was designed so that FSA records are not required, though relevant records may be attached to an application as additional evidence if they are available.

To learn more about the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program or receive assistance in English or Spanish, visit www.22007apply.gov, email info@22007apply.gov or contact the national call center at 1-800-721-0970 from 8 a.m. ET to 8 p.m. PT, every day except federal holidays. If you use sign language to communicate, you can use the 711 relay service to call. You may also email or contact the national call center if you have a disability and need another accommodation. Information about the program, resources, recent office openings and local events across the country is also available through a [weekly e-newsletter](#).

USDA's commitment to equity spans the Department's mission areas and agencies. We are actively working to build a USDA that ensures none of our customers are ignored or left behind. The Discrimination Financial Assistance Program is just one of many programs helping USDA rebuild trust, address systemic issues and improve service to people who may have been underserved by USDA in the past. To learn more about USDA's equity work and resources, visit www.usda.gov/equity.

A new tutorial video is available to walk people through the features of the DFAP online application. This video answers some frequently asked questions and can be accessed any time of day for questions you may encounter outside of technical assistance events.

The video covers:

- The process to create a new online application.
- Menu, navigational and key features of the online application.
- Requirements of the online application.
- Tips for resolving application errors.
- The process to certify and sign the online application; and
- Details on providing supporting documentation to the online application.



As a reminder, many more resources and FAQs are available on the program website under [Resources & Documents](#).

Link to watch video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ounOIItBUVuw&ab_channel=DiscriminationFinancialAssistanceProgram

ALCDC DRONE

An agricultural drone, otherwise known as an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), is used to watch the health of trees, land, and crops using high-tech sensors and digital and satellite imaging to supply comprehensive information about the land. These drones give the user the option of either watching live video footage while the drone is in flight or downloading the material to watch later.



These clever flying bots can remotely detect land and crop damage from insects, weather conditions, wildfire, and construction; they can show which crops need nutrients, estimate yields, and even count cattle. Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation uses its drone to help watch its cattle, farm visits, and many other applications.

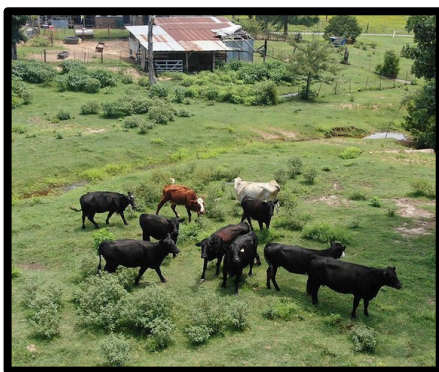
The advantage of a drone is that it gives aerial perspective and analysis, allowing a producer to diagnose problems that are not always clear at eye level.

The key components of ALCDC drone demonstration center consist of a PC and monitor used for drone data processing and as a flight simulator for training UAU/Drone Pilots, audio, visual equipment for training, meetings/briefings support, and airport maps, weather charts, logbooks, flight plans, charts etc.

Our Youth Enterprises and Career in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship (YECAE) and EXCEL students in our summer program also came to see the possible uses of smaller drones to show.



Recently we conducted a drone demonstration in Twin Grove at Shane Foster Farm, and in Holy Springs, Woodson Walker Farms, illustrating applications for drones in variegated disciplines, from architecture, engineering, and operations, to supply chain management and agriculture.



"It weighs under 55 pounds, can fly in a lot of different environments. Using drones can make agriculture safer and more efficient, where "agriculture is so important."



True Story by Agnes Lucas Handcock Matriarch of ALFDC

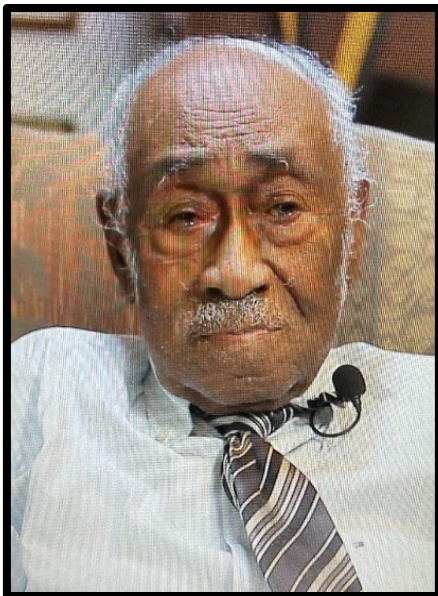
An Arkansas Black Farmer



I grew up on a 500-acre farm in St. Francis County, Arkansas. I had a good life with my father and mother. They were ranchers who raised cows and sold cream. For our family to survive, we also raised cotton, corn, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables. We also prepared food for cold chilly winter days. All be thankful your land is yours. It will love you back (Psalms 37:11).

In 1950, I became a farmer's wife. We grew cotton, corn, peas, soybeans, and rice. I helped with the farm work and prepared food for the family. We were blessed with eight children. We made sure that our children finished high school and went on to enter college, the military, or the workforce. In the early 1980s, I oversaw the 500-acre Lucas Family Farm and the courts tried to sell it. That is when the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) began its first case to help save Black farmers' land. I thank ALFDC for leading the charge to save the land of Black farmers in Arkansas.

Thomas Vaughn a True Patriot of ALFDC



Thomas Vaughn was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, where he was one of eighteen out of 400 veterans in his squadron selected to train as a Tuskegee Airman Aircraft Mechanic (1942-46).

Mr. Vaughns was an Instructor for Veterans, a Cooperative Extension Agent in Crittenden County, Arkansas and a Horticulture Specialist, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Mr. Vaughns used his ability to help small farmers who were in economic crisis to save their farms and maximize their profits. While at UAPB, Mr. Vaughns was appointed by then Governor Bill Clinton to the Arkansas Farm Advisory Board. In that role, Mr. Vaughns helped shape policy decisions that affected small farm families in the state.

His agricultural service and leadership led to the establishment of the Arkansas Vegetable Growers and Market Association Cooperative and later, the Farmers' Market in Pine Bluff and in Little Rock



USDA Launches Program to Support Agricultural Employers and Farmworkers, Aiming to Increase Economic and Supply Chain Resilience as Part of President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 22, 2023 – The Biden-Harris Administration today announced that agricultural employers can begin to apply for a pilot program designed to improve the resiliency of the food and agricultural supply chain by addressing workforce challenges farmers and ranchers face. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in coordination with other federal agencies, is announcing up to \$65 million in grants available for the Farm Labor Stabilization and Protection Pilot Program (FLSP Program).

The program will help address workforce needs in agriculture, promote a safe and healthy work environment for farmworkers, and aims to support expansion of lawful migration pathways for workers, including for workers from Northern Central America, through the Department of Labor’s seasonal H-2A visa program. The program makes good on a commitment made and announced as part of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection and is funded by President Biden’s American Rescue Plan.

"Our country is facing growing agriculture workforce challenges that jeopardize our farmers’ ability to be competitive, threaten the resiliency, abundance and safety of our food system, and has repercussions on our overall economy. At the same time, record numbers of people are interested in living and working in the United States, including from Northern Central America," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This pilot program has been designed with significant input from immigration, labor, and agricultural stakeholders in an effort to help address these immediate challenges. The program will provide incentives designed to simultaneously benefit workers and employers, with the potential to inform the H-2A program, raise labor standards for farmworkers, and help alleviate our agricultural workforce challenges over the long term. In addition to helping agricultural producers recruit and retain workers, at the end of the program we will have tested new ways to promote accountability and improve working conditions for domestic and H-2A workers alike – demonstrating how employers’ benefit by doing right by workers. The effort will also facilitate safe, orderly, and humane migration. This pilot should be a win for everyone along the agricultural supply chain, from the field to the dinner table."

The FLSP Program seeks to advance the following Administration priorities:

Address current workforce needs in agriculture: Based on stakeholder input, USDA identified that agricultural employers have experienced increased challenges finding an adequate supply of workers, which threatens our domestic capacity to produce a safe and robust food supply. This pilot program will help address these challenges by expanding the potential pool of workers, and enhancing employers’ competitiveness by improving the quality of the jobs they offer.

Reduce irregular migration, including from Northern Central America through the expansion of regular pathways: While U.S. agricultural operations seek additional workers, the Biden-Harris Administration has committed to promote the expansion of regular migration pathways, as part of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection. The FLSP offers an opportunity to support this commitment, with economic benefits for foreign workers and their families, and professional and economic development opportunities for communities that send their workers to participate in the H-2A program.

Improve working conditions for farm workers: A stable and resilient food and agricultural sector relies on attracting and retaining skilled agricultural workers, and strong working conditions are critical to achieve that goal. Through this pilot program, USDA will support efforts to improve working conditions for agricultural workers, both U.S. and H-2A workers. The pilot will help ensure that workers know their rights and the resources available for them, and will promote fair and transparent recruitment practices.

Additional Information

Eligibility for this competitive grant program is limited to domestic agricultural employers who 1) anticipate meeting all Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulatory requirements for the H-2A program, including demonstrated effort to effectively recruit U.S.-based workers and hire all willing, able, and qualified U.S. workers; and 2) commit to, and indicate capacity to fulfill all Baseline Requirements, as well as any selected (supplemental) commitments that entail additive worker benefits and protections. Eligible employers include fixed-site employers, joint-employers, agricultural associations, and H-2A labor contractors.

The maximum award amount is \$2,000,000 and the minimum amount is \$25,000 per grant agreement (including any sub-awardees). Award amounts will be determined based on the projected number of full-time equivalent (FTE) agricultural employees, desired award level, as well as the competitive nature of the application. Consistent with the H-2A requirements, applicants must demonstrate insufficient availability of a U.S.-based workforce. The grant window for each recipient is 24 months, allowing producers to use the grant over the course of two agricultural production seasons.

Applications for the FLSP program must be received on or before 11:59 pm Eastern Time on November 28, 2023. More information about the application process can be found here: www.ams.usda.gov/flsp.

This announcement is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda to grow the American economy from the middle out and bottom up by rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, creating good-paying jobs, and building a clean energy economy to tackle the climate crisis and make our communities more resilient.





ALCDC conducted a Rural and Urban Community Economic Development Summit One USDA in Lakeview, AR, found at 14264 Hwy 44, Lakeview, Arkansas on September 7, 2023, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

ALCDC, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) partnered to provide individuals, landowners, rural and urban farmers, ranchers, small businesses, agriculture enterprises, and community residents, resourceful information tools, and an opportunity to engage with interactive discussions to achieve Urban and Rural Agricultural Economic Development.

The event engaged participants in round table discussions that included Dr. Calvin King Sr. and staff, Mayor Darin Davis, council, and city members, NRCS Staff Tresel Benjamin and staff, FSA representative Theodore Eldridge Jr., and Nitosha Berry, along with community partners and stakeholders. Discussions focused on challenges, shared best practices, and innovative solutions for Equity and Equality Program Resource Opportunities.



Discussion areas included:

- Prosperity Community Resources for Business Community Development Housing and Small Towns
- Conservation Resource Opportunities for Micro-Urban Agriculture
- Drones in 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.
- Discussion on the Section 22007 Application for Discrimination Financial Assistance update.

The event included financial resource opportunities in the new federal legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in addition to NRCS and FSA Resource Opportunities.

Agriculture production plays a key role in our rural and urban economies. As we build back better, we must create new and better markets for all producers' communities and consumers. As always, ALCDC program service delivery is supporting historically underserved and underrepresented farmers who are seeking participation in this essential part of our economy. We want to thank the City of Lakeview and all those who attended the in-person/hybrid summit. We are looking forward to a continued partnership and collaborating with you as a catalyst in Urban and Rural Community Economic Development.





USDA Announces Additional Program Payment for Rice Producers in Arkansas

Second production payment for rice farmers impacted by record high input costs in 2022.

LITTLE ROCK, AR, Sept. 22, 2023— The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that rice producers will receive an additional payment through the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) [Rice Production Program](#), which provides up to \$250 million in assistance to rice farmers based on 2022 rice acres.

“While increased input costs have impacted many agricultural producers, record high increases in 2022 had a disproportionate economic impact on rice producers,” said Doris Washington, State Executive Director for FSA in Arkansas. “I am pleased that Congress authorized the funding needed to not only provide one payment to State’s rice producers, but also sufficient funding to now provide an additional payment. This financial assistance provides a much-needed capital inject for rice production.”

On Dec. 29, 2022, President Biden signed into law H.R. 2617, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, which provided the authority and funding for USDA to make payments to rice producers based on data already on file with USDA, including planted acres and acres prevented from being planted.

Payments

As part of FSA’s efforts to streamline and simplify the delivery of additional Rice Production Program benefits, producers are not required to submit a new application for the additional Rice Production Program payment. Rice producers having a previously approved Rice Production Program application and who received an initial program payment, will receive an additional payment of .28 cent per pound based on previously reported data. FSA made an initial payment to eligible producers at a reduced payment rate of one cent per pound, making the total overall payment rate \$1.28 cent per pound.

Payment Limitation

The payment limitation for the program is set by statute and is higher if the farmer’s average adjusted gross farm income (income from activities related to farming, ranching or forestry) is more than 75% of their average adjusted gross income (AGI). Specifically, a person or legal entity with an average AGI of less than 75% of their average AGI cannot receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 in payments. Farmers who derive 75% or more of their average AGI from farming qualify for a \$250,000 payment limit. AGI is based on the three taxable years preceding the most immediately preceding complete tax year.

In advance of the initial payment, rice farmers were to visit their local county office to submit the appropriate form and certification (FSA-510, *Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs*) by Sept. 8, 2023, if they were requesting the higher payment limit.

More Information

For more information, view the [Rice Production Program fact sheet](#) or [contact your local USDA service center](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America and committing to equity across the department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



SECTION 22007 DISCRIMINATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE ON FSA RECORDS

Eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners wishing to request their records from FSA to support their applications can continue to submit requests, and the agency will work to expedite records searches as quickly as possible. The prior deadline for these requests (September 6) has been extended to September 29.

The DFAP application process was designed so that FSA records are not required, though relevant records may be attached to an application as additional evidence if they are available. Where possible, FSA has already provided digital records to the program administrators to assist them as they conduct the program. If you still wish to request records from the FSA, the agency will search for records and provide copies of any relevant documents located in the search.

Due to the amount of time that may have passed, USDA recognizes that some records may no longer be in FSA's possession. FSA follows government record retention schedules that indicate which farm records should be kept after a designated period. Even if no FSA records are available, you can provide other evidence to show you were a farmer or intended to farm and experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending.

Records requests must be submitted in writing. This can be done by emailing info@22007apply.gov no later than Friday, September 29, 2023. If you do not have an email address, you can go to your local FSA office or call 800-721-0970 to receive information about where and how you can submit a request in writing. Details on information that should accompany your request are available at the link below.

<https://22007apply.gov/resources.html#application-faq>

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Summit Somerville, TN.

ALCDC conducted a Rural and Urban Community Economic Development Summit One USDA in Somerville, TN, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.



ALCDC, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) partnered to provide individuals, landowners, rural and urban farmers, ranchers, small businesses, agriculture enterprises, and community residents, resourceful information tools, and an opportunity to engage with interactive discussions to achieve Urban and Rural Agricultural Economic Development.

The event engaged participants in round table discussions with ALCDC staff, NRCS Staff

Steven Morris, Brandon Orr, and FSA representative Joyce Murphy, along with community partners and stakeholders. Discussions focused on challenges, shared best practices, and innovative solutions for Equity and Equality Program Resource Opportunities.



Discussion areas included:

- 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.

The event included financial resource opportunities in the new federal legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in addition to NRCS and FSA Resource Opportunities.



Agriculture production plays a key role in our rural and urban economies. As we build back better, we must create new and better markets for all producers' communities and consumers. As always, ALCDC program service delivery is supporting historically underserved and underrepresented farmers who are seeking participation in this essential part of our economy. We want to thank Philander Smith College and all those who attended the in-person/hybrid summit in Little Rock. We are looking forward to a continued partnership and collaborating with you as a catalyst in Urban and Rural Community Economic Development.

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation
(ALCDC) upcoming events.

For Additional Information Contact Mary Harris
(870) 734-3005



September 28, 2023

ALCDC Economic Development Meeting Twin Grove, AR

10 Twin Grove Lane

Twin Grove, AR 72039

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Link to Register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtc-upqD8pHdxploXaAGJEjpJLlyGPdnJA>

October 12, 2023

Tri-State Economic Development Meeting Walls, Mississippi

Location to be Announced.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Link to Register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvcumprz8pHdEhUuQlwRM155eXfH0QODcd>

October 26, 2023

ALFDC/ALCDC 43rd Annual Conference Youth Day

Brinkley Convention Center 1501 Weatherby Drive Brinkley, AR

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Link to Register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkce6qqz8iH9YWK0j_FBZ5csLttceQT8Tv

October 27, 2023

ALFDC/ALCDC 43rd Annual Conference

Prosperity with Disparity

Brinkley Convention Center

1501 Weatherby Drive Brinkley, AR

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Link to Register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkce6qqz8iH9YWK0j_FBZ5csLttceQT8Tv

Uniform Heir Property Act Summarization



Arkansas Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act of 2016

The Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act utilizes a court appointed disinterested real estate appraiser to assess the fair market value of the property, unless all the cotenants agree on the value of the property, or the court determines that the cost of the appraisal will outweigh its evidentiary value.

- Upon determination of the value of the property, the Act provides all the cotenants who did not request partition by sale, with a right to buy all of the interests of those who have done so, at a price equal to the court-determined value of the property, multiplied by the fractional interest of the cotenant that is bought out.
- The applicability of the law applies when an action to partition real property, the court shall determine whether the property is heirs' property. Upon determination by the court that said property is heirs' property, the property must be partitioned under this subchapter (partition in kind) unless the court finds "partition in kind" will result in great prejudice to the cotenants as a group.

The new Act provides important additions to the existing state law with protections against unexpected and often devastating predatory speculation. The determination of the courts whether the property is heirs' is a mitigating factor waiting for an answer.



2023 Annual Conference Registration Form

Pre-Register Now

533 Floyd Brown Drive *P.O. Box 907 * Brinkley, AR 72021
Phone: (870) 734-3005 Fax: (870) 734-4197
Website: arlcde.org Email: alcdc1934@yahoo.com

Registration Information

Conference Registration

Please complete this form and make a copy for your records.

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Website/email: _____

Registration Fee (Check

- Adults..... \$15.00
- Senior Citizens \$8.00
- Displays for Organizations...\$250.00
- Displays for Individuals.....\$50.00
- Members..... FREE
-

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 register.



Please send the completed registration form to Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation Attn: Mary Harris-Annual Conference at P.O. Box 907, Brinkley, AR 72021, or fax (870) 734-4197. Once we receive your registration form, we will send you confirmation via email or fax. If you do not receive confirmation, please contact us at once.



ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

October 1, 2023- September 30, 2024

_____ **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 can select to serve on an advisory board at the federal, state, and local levels.

Marketing Opportunities -ALCDC/ALFDC offers cooperative marketing opportunities for farmers, rural businesses interested in enhancing the lives of rural Americans. We also offer the opportunity to present or set up an exhibit during our Annual Conference. We offer facility rentals at a discounted fee to all ALCDC members.

Access to housing, farming, and youth services -ALCDC/ALFDC offers rural residents the opportunity to affordable housing, homeownership education business development, help in accessing farm financing and federal resources, and training on 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, or youth service's needs. Members receive ALCDC updates and news through our quarterly newsletters and weekly e-letters.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

**Please return your application and tax-deductible contribution to:
ALCDC/ALFDC Membership Program • P.O. Box 743 • Brinkley, AR 72021**

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 valuable service during these challenging times.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____ Home Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Do you have a landline? Yes No Landline No. _____

Do you have access to the internet? Yes No

Please check yes or no to the followin2 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: FSA:

NRCS: USDA Rural Development: Forestry Other: _____

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

Please mail the information provided in the survey to: Mary Harris
PO Box 743
Brinkley, Arkansas 72021



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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P.O. Box 907
Brinkley, AR 72021

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 forty-two (42) 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, you can correct the label above and fax back to (870) 734-4197 or call 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
Dr. Talesha Dokes- Division Director of Farm Services
Barbara Erby – Director of Public Relations Marketing Administrative Services/
Housing Director
Janie Williams – Farm Advisor Specialist
Albert Jones – Farm Advisor Specialist
Larry Lofton – Farm Advisor
Michael Tucker – Farm Advisor
Ashley Crockett – Executive Administrator Assistant to President
Tatiana Payne – Youth Program, Accounts Receivable
Mary Harris – Office Manager and Farm Administrative Assistant
Diamond Smith – Accounts Payable
Tomyra Privett – Administrative Assistant
Endia Rapier – Site Manager
Nelson Hubbert – Environmental Engineer

Multi-Family Housing (Off-Site)

Barbara Erby- McNeil Apartments Phase II, Crawfordsville, AR., Earle Duplex's, Pinewood Apartment Development, Brinkley, AR
Shannon Barnes (Resident Manager)- Chapel Ridge, Phase I and II, Forrest City
Keisha Caffey (Resident Manager)- Meadowbrook, Marianna, Helena-West Helena
Amanda Rogers (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.arlcddc.org

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

Email: alcdc1934@yahoo.com