

# ADVANCER

NEWS BULLETIN

February 2024



USDA Farm Service  
County Executive Director  
Rod Woods



USDA Rural Development  
Derrick Andrews, Richard Maurer

ALCDC Convenes Central AR.  
Rural Economic Summit  
Hosted by  
Shorter College  
North Little Rock, AR.



USDA Farm Service  
Paul Casey



USDA Farm Service  
Jessica Willis



USDA NRCS  
Travis Caudle

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Black History Month**, also known as African American History

Month is a time to honor the struggles and triumphs of Black people in their fight for civil rights and equality. It's a moment to appreciate the invaluable contributions made by Black individuals to our society. "Innovators in Agricultural Industry"

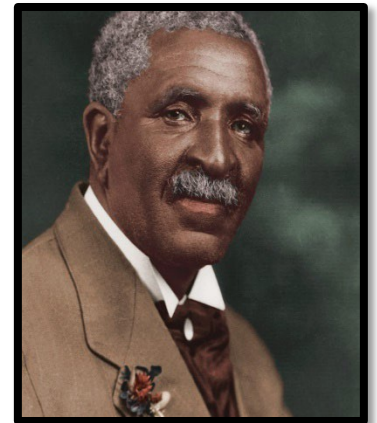


**Henry Blair** was the second African American in history to be issued a United States patent. Born in Maryland in 1807 as a free man, Blair was a successful farmer, but he saw a need for more efficiency and smarter labor.

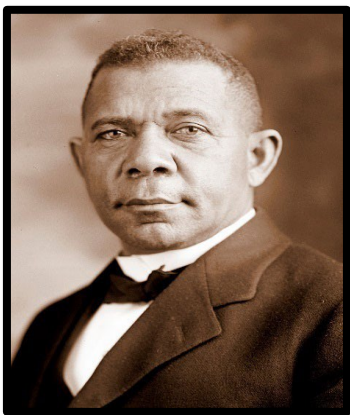
His first invention was patented in 1834 as a "Seed-Planter" designed specifically to make the process of planting corn faster and simpler. A compartment stored and dropped seeds into the ground while attached rakes followed along behind to cover the seeds with soil. Two years later he received his second patent for a "Cotton-Planter" that was pulled by two horses as it dropped cotton seeds into freshly plowed soil.

These inventions revolutionized the task of planting each individual seed by hand and made it easier for farmers to plant more in less time. Today, we see Blair's influence in the mechanized farming machinery we use to plant and harvest onions on thousands of acres each year.

**George Washington Carver** is one of the most notable agricultural scientists and inventors of the modern American era. Realizing that soil in many southern states had been stripped of essential nutrients like nitrogen from repetitive cotton planting processes, he developed a new method for crop rotation. By alternating cotton crops with other produce like peanuts and corn, nitrogen was reintroduced to the soil and increased its productivity.



Carver also promoted practices that seem commonplace today like composting soil with organic matter. His work helped scores of sharecroppers across the United States, and his ideas for focusing on renewable resources and sustainable agricultural practices have never been more relevant than they are today.



**Booker T. Washington** is a well-known figure in Black History. His work to promote Black education and equal opportunity paved the way for generations of Black scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs. His involvement with The Second Morrill Act of 1890 forbade racial discrimination in college admissions for schools that received federal funding, which opened the door for many Black people to study

agriculture at the university level. Education is essential for agriculture. As we learn and study, we can better understand how to keep our soil healthy and productive for the future.

# Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Outreach Meeting held at Shorter College February 1, 2024, in North Little Rock, AR.

For over forty-three (43) years, ALCDC program service delivery has provided education, training and technical outreach for minority farmers/landowners and rural and urban residents. Education and training workshops and summits are offered to the public on resource opportunities available through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD) and other public and private sector agencies.

Throughout this year, ALCDC will continue to convene its branded outreach round table meetings and events. The meetings are designed to encourage productive education, training, technical assistance and discussion to serve the interest of the underserved segments of our population.

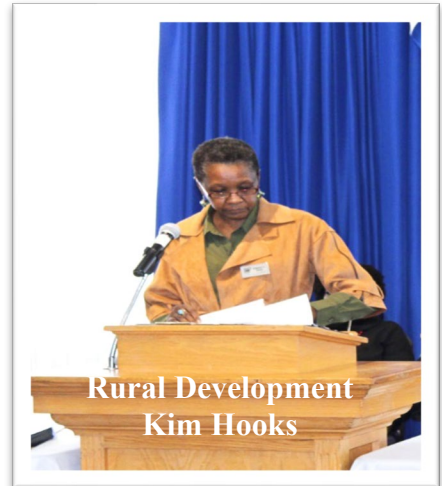
Central Arkansas Regional Summit Resource Speakers offered participants insights on available resource opportunities and programs inclusive of:

- Introducing the new and underserved populations to beginning farming as a career.
- Introducing new and existing farmers to NRCS conservation equity program resource opportunities.
- Access to farm financing for rural and urban farmers.
- Heir's property challenges and financing opportunities for housing.

We want to thank the Shorter College and all those who attended the in- person/ hybrid summit. We are looking forward to a continued partnership with showing and implementing sustainable pathways to ensure long-term prosperity building for Urban and Rural Community Economic Development in our underserved communities.



Dr. Calvin R. King Sr.



Rural Development  
Kim Hooks



## UPCOMING POS-SUMMIT WORKSHOPS In-Person/Hybrid Summit One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development

<p>Date: <b>February 29, 2024</b>                  Forrest City Civic Center                  1335 N. Washington                  Forrest City, AR 72335                  11:00 am – 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Date: <b>March 13, 2024</b>                  De Vall Bluff City Hall                  977 E. Cypress St.                  De Valls Bluff, AR 72041                  11:00 am – 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Date: <b>March 27, 2024</b>                  Crenshaw, MS-Panola County                  TBA                  11:00 am – 1:00 pm</p>
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building for Urban and Rural Community Economic Development in our underserved communities.

## Maintaining Good Credit History

Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans require applicants to have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, see if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.

Information on your credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.

Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.

There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score:

Make sure to pay bills on time.

Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates.

Pay down existing debt.

Keep your credit card balances low.

Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts.

FSA's farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, contact your St. Francis County USDA Service Center at 870-633-3055 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

## Breaking New Ground

Agricultural producers are reminded to consult with **FSA and NRCS** before breaking out new ground for production purposes as doing so without prior authorization may put a producer's federal farm program benefits in jeopardy. This is especially true for land that must meet Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions.

Producers with HEL determined soils are required to apply tillage, crop residue and rotational requirements as specified in their conservation plan.

Producers should notify FSA as a first point of contact prior to conducting land clearing or drainage type projects to ensure the proposed actions meet compliance criteria such as clearing any trees to create new cropland, then these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure such work will not risk your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners and operators complete the form AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to identify the proposed action and allow FSA to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for further review is necessary.

Youth Enterprise and Careers in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship (YECAE) and Educational Excellence for Our Children through Enrichment, Leadership Development and Work Experience (EXCEL)

# YOUTH

# SUMMIT

Date: March 30, 2024

Registration: 9:30 am

Location: 484 Floyd Brown Drive

Fargo, AR 72021



Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation will host the 44<sup>th</sup> annual conference for Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation and Membership Meeting on October 24- 25, 2024, at the Brinkley Convention Center, in Brinkley, AR 72021. For more information Contact Mary Harris (870) 734-3005.

## A MESSAGE

### From Publication Relations Marketing Administrative Services

We apologize to our members, partners and supporters for the error made in our last edition of the Advancer. Due to an unrecognized malfunction in our publication printing equipment, you may have had several blank pages. We value your membership and support. Your feedback on this error or other ways we may better deliver our service would be greatly appreciated.

We would also like to correct the names on page 4. The location was in Osceola, AR., at the City Hall. The names published are not the people sitting in the seats. Those names were embedded for city council members and the mayor. Sitting in the Mayor seat was Erik Deatherage and sitting in the council seat was Dr. Calvin R. King Sr.

Again, we are sorry for the errors. We will be looking forward to hearing from you. You can contact our Public Relations Marketing Department by calling 870-734-3005 or by email at [aledc1934@yahoo.com](mailto:aledc1934@yahoo.com)

ARKANSAS LAND AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ALCDC)

# THE ADVANCER

Winter 2024

East Arkansas Delta Farmer  
Delta's Dirt Distillery in Helena



From left: Thomas, Harvey Jr., Donna, and Donovan Williams.

POST -SUMMIT WORKSHOP	POST -SUMMIT WORKSHOP
In-Person/Hybrid Summit	In-Person/Hybrid Summit
Date: <b>April 11, 2024</b>	Date: <b>April 25, 2024</b>
Greenville, Mississippi-Washington County – <b>TBA</b>	Memphis, TN- Shelby County – <b>TBA</b>
One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
In-Person/Hybrid Summit	In-Person/Hybrid Summit
Date: <b>May 8, 2024</b>	Date: <b>May 30, 2024</b>
Tollette, AR- Howard County – <b>TBA</b>	Somerville, TN- Fayette County – <b>TBA</b>
One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	11:00 am – 1:00 pm



# 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 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, 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 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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ORGANIZATION

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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 [alc1934@yahoo.com](mailto:alc1934@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  
Barbara Erby – Director of PR Mktg Admin Service and Membership  
Larry Lofton – Director of Ag. Farm Program Division  
Janie Williams – Farm Advisor Specialist  
Albert Jones – Farm Advisor Specialist  
Michael Tucker – Farm Advisor  
Dr. Talesha Dokes – Director of Ag. Technology and Youth  
Ashley Crockett – Housing Director, Farm Advisor  
Tatiana Payne – Accts. Receivable, Youth Field Coordinator  
Mary Harris – Office Manager, Farm Admin Asst.  
Diamond Smith – Accts Payable, Farm Financial Analyst  
Tomyra Privett – Admin Assistant  
Endia Rapier – Housing 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  
Jenifer 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](http://www.arlcdc.org)

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