

THE ADVANCER

Website: arlcdc.org

SPECIAL EDITION

July 2023

FARM LOAN DISCRIMINATION

Has the USDA unfairly denied you access to loans, grants service, or even caused the loss of land through foreclosures?

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL COMPENSATION

Any Farmer, forest landowner or rancher who experienced discrimination by the USDA in its farm loan programs prior to January 1, 2021, and/or has assigned or assumed USDA farm loan debt “that was the subject of USDA discrimination” prior to that date are eligible for the 2.2 Billion settlement for farmers.

LIMITED TIME TO FILE

Financial Assistance Application Process Opens for USDA Farm Loan Borrowers Who Have Faced Discrimination

WASHINGTON, July 7, 2023 – Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the opening of the financial assistance application process for eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending programs prior to January 2021. Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) directs USDA to provide this assistance. Since the law’s passage, USDA has worked diligently to design the program in accordance with significant stakeholder input.

“The opening of the application process is an important step in delivering on our commitment of providing financial assistance to those who faced discrimination in USDA farm lending, as swiftly and efficiently as possible,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “USDA will continue to work with our national vendor partners and community-based organizations to make sure eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners have clear information about what is available to them, how to apply, and where to obtain assistance with their questions at each step of the way.”

The program website, 22007apply.gov, is now open. The website includes an English- and Spanish-language application that applicants can download or submit via an e-filing portal, information on how to obtain technical assistance in-person or virtually, and additional resources and details about the program.

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who experienced discrimination by USDA in its farm loan programs prior to January 1, 2021 and/or are currently debtors with assigned or assumed USDA farm loan debt that was the subject of USDA discrimination that occurred prior to January 1, 2021, are eligible for this program.

To apply, borrowers have the option to apply via the e-filing portal at 22007apply.gov or submit paper-based forms via mail or in-person delivery to the program’s local offices. The application process will be open from July 7 to October 31, 2023. Under the planned timeline, applications will be reviewed in November and December, with payments reaching recipients soon thereafter. Importantly, applicants should know that the application process is not on a first come, first served, basis. All applications received or postmarked before the October 31 deadline will be considered.

To support producers throughout the application process, USDA is ensuring that organizations with extensive experience conducting outreach to farm organizations are able to support individuals who may be eligible for the program. These groups include [AgrAbility](#), [Farmer Veteran Coalition](#), [Farmers’ Legal Action Group](#), [Federation of Southern Cooperatives](#), [Intertribal Agriculture Council](#), [Land Loss Prevention Project](#), [National Young Farmers Coalition](#), and [Rural Coalition](#).

Vendors operating four regional hubs are also providing technical assistance and working closely with these and other community-based organizations to conduct outreach using digital and grassroots strategies, to ensure potential applicants are informed about the program and have the opportunity to apply. These hubs are operating a network of brick-and-mortar program offices and will conduct extensive outreach about the program. Windsor Group serves farmers in the eastern regions of the U.S. and Analytic Acquisitions serves the western regions. A national administrator, Midtown Group, is responsible for program oversight and integrity, and will lead a national call-center, operate the application website -

[22007apply.gov](https://www.usda.gov/22007apply), which is now open – and review and process applications and payments. All vendors have experience in professional services, supporting government contracts, and complex program operations.

On March 1, 2023, USDA shared initial [details on how the Section 22007 program will work](#), including that the Inflation Reduction Act specifies the Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for providing this assistance through qualified nongovernmental entities, under standards set by USDA. USDA entered into agreements with vendors and cooperators in May.

In addition to the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) opening today, the Inflation Reduction Act also created several other programs that are helping USDA rebuild trust, address systemic issues and improve service to people who may have been underserved by USDA in the past. Information about USDA’s equity agenda and progress is available

at www.usda.gov/equity.

In standing up this program, USDA has become aware of some lawyers and groups spreading misleading information about the discrimination assistance process, pressuring people to sign retainer agreements, and asking people to fill out forms with private and sensitive information. As of today, the official application process has begun and filling out an application is **free**.

No attorneys’ fees will be paid to applicants or their counsel by USDA or by any other agency or department of the United States. The amount of financial assistance will not be increased for those claimants who are represented by an attorney. Applicants are not required to retain an attorney. USDA, the national administrator, and the regional hub vendors will neither recommend that any applicant retain counsel or retain a specific attorney or law firm, nor discourage an applicant from obtaining counsel or using a specific attorney or law firm. For more information, read our [fact sheet about the program timeline and ways to protect against possible scams](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, promoting competition and fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, 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 www.usda.gov

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN
Section 22007 Discrimination Payments

**Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC)
Community Outreach Meeting**

**Financing Farmers who Experienced Discrimination
Inflation Reduction Act (IFA) 22007**

**IMPORTANT SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE
AUGUST 23, 2023, 10:00-2:00PM**

Eligibility

You are eligible to file an application if:

1. You experienced discrimination, prior to January 1, 2021, by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in its farm loan programs, which are administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA);

AND / OR

2. You are currently a debtor with assigned or assumed USDA farm loan debt that was the subject of USDA discrimination that occurred prior to January 1, 2021. (This applies, for example, if you inherited the debt that was the subject of USDA farm loan program discrimination.)

If you do not meet at least one of these requirements, you are not eligible to apply for this financial assistance.

Agenda

1. Updates on USDA Programs
2. Rural Housing and Infrastructure Grants and Loan Programs.
3. Heir Property
4. Debt Relief for Distressed Farmers

Intake for the Application Process for Financing Farmers who Experienced Discrimination - Inflation Reduction Act (IFA) 22007 and Section 22006

Please Pre Register (RSVP) for This Event - Seating Will be Limited

ALCDC Fargo Office: (870) 734-3005

Forrest City Office /Eastern Region: Jamie Williams: 870-589-1760

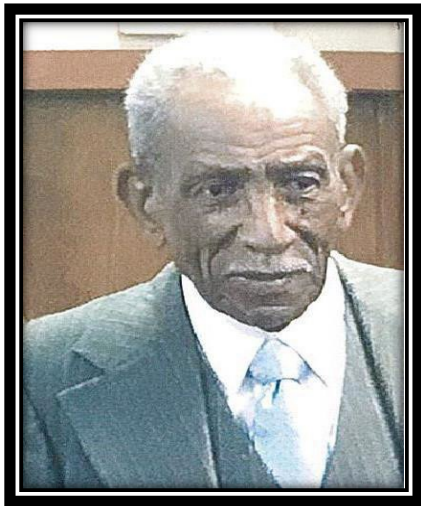
Little Rock /Central, Southeast and Southwest Regions: Dr. Talesha Dokes: 870-589-0699

Web Site Pre-Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpduyuqTwqG9CCY_oCrisdX_ZglAO3Z8Gq

Lunch will be Provided.

All educational program services conducted by Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation are provided to all persons regardless of race, national origin, religion, or disability



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
PATRIOT
CENTENARIAN

100-YEAR-OLD VETERAN
REV. W.C. TIMS of Magnolia AR

Rev W.C. Tims was born in 1924 in Homer, Louisiana and attended and graduated from the public schools there. After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946 during World War II, Rev. Tims worked plentiful jobs, including the New York Central Railroad in Cleveland, Ohio and in the Buffalo, N.Y. area.

Rev. Tims was called to preach in February 1949 and started college at Bishop College in Marshall, Texas in June of 1949. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion and history and minored in social science and psychology. Rev. Tims worked to receive his master's in education from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He attended evening classes at Southern State College and went to Fayetteville during the summer. His graduation from college in 1952 coincided with his wife's parental leave from teaching at Southside School in McNeil where Rev. Tims substituted for her before accepting a teaching job at Southside School. Tims was later promoted to principal of the schools in 1954, a position he held until 1969 when he was ended from refusing to fire the African American teachers before consolidation.

Rev. Tims served as pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church for 16 years. After serving countless congregations he later pastored the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Magnolia and the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Taylor for 42 and 43 years, respectively. He retired from pastoring in 2007.

During an interview in 2021, Tims said, "In order for African Americans to know where they are going, they must first know where they came from." "We need to know what's going on, how we got to this point and where we are going from here," he said. "One of the biggest setbacks for African Americans is they don't meet and discuss things like they used to." people do not talk to one another and have meetings about what is going in their communities.

"There has to be some research and people asking questions. It is time out for just holding programs, but plans are needed if we really want to push our Black history forward," he said. He always stressed the need for people working together and supporting one another.

Rev. W.C. Tims has achieve, fulfilled and preform in receiving outstanding awards during his life, including being named by President Bill Clinton as an "Unsung Hero.",

USDA Announces August 2023 Lending Rates for Agricultural Producers

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced loan interest rates for August 2023, which are effective Aug. 1, 2023. USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans provide important access to capital to help agricultural producers start or expand their farming operation, purchase equipment and storage structures or meet cash flow needs.

Operating, Ownership and Emergency Loans

FSA offers farm ownership and operating loans with favorable interest rates and terms to help eligible agricultural producers, whether multi-generational, long-time, or new to the industry, obtain financing needed to start, expand or maintain a family agricultural operation. FSA also offers emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine. For many loan options, FSA sets aside funding for underserved producers, including, beginning, women, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Hispanic farmers and ranchers.

Interest rates for Operating and Ownership loans for August 2023 are as follows:

- [Farm Operating Loans](#)(Direct): 4.875%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#)(Direct): 5.000%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#)(Direct, Joint Financing): 3.000%
- [Farm Ownership Loans](#)(Down Payment): 1.500%
- [Emergency Loan](#)(Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750%

FSA also offers guaranteed loans through commercial lenders at rates set by those lenders.

To access an interactive online, step-by-step guide through the farm loan process, visit the [Loan Assistance Tool](#) on farmers.gov.

- Seven-year loan terms: 4.000%
- Ten-year loan terms: 3.875%
- Twelve-year loan terms: 3.875%
- [Sugar Storage Facility Loans](#)(15 years): 4.000%

Commodity and Storage Facility Loans

Additionally, FSA provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade on-farm storage facilities and purchase handling equipment and loans that provide interim financing to help producers meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are low. Funds for these loans are provided through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and are administered by FSA.

[Commodity Loans](#)(less than one year disbursed): 6.375%

Farm Storage Facility Loans:

- Three-year loan terms: 4.375%
- Five-year loan terms: 4.125%

Simplified Direct Loan Application

FSA developed a new, simplified direct loan application for producers seeking a direct farm loan. The new application, reduced from 29 to 13 pages, provides improved customer experience for producers applying for loans and enables them to complete a more streamlined application. Producers now also have the option to complete an electronic fillable form or a traditional paper application for submission to their local FSA service center.

Disaster Support

FSA also reminds rural communities, farmers and ranchers, families and small

businesses affected by the past year's winter storms, drought, hurricanes and other natural disasters, that USDA has programs that provide assistance. USDA staff in the regional, state and county offices are prepared to deliver a variety of program flexibilities and other assistance to agricultural producers and impacted communities. Many programs are available without an official disaster designation, including several risk management and disaster recovery options.

Inflation Reduction Act Assistance for Distressed Producers

On Aug. 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. It is a historic, once-in-a-generation investment and opportunity for the agricultural communities that USDA serves. Section 22006 of the IRA provided \$3.1 billion for USDA to provide relief for distressed borrowers with certain FSA direct and guaranteed loans and to expedite assistance for those whose agricultural operations are at financial risk. In October 2022, USDA provided approximately \$800 million in initial IRA assistance to more than 11,000 delinquent direct and guaranteed borrowers and approximately 2,100 borrowers who had their farms liquidated and still had remaining debt. On May 1, 2023, FSA announced that nearly \$130 million in additional, automatic financial assistance had been obligated for qualifying farm loan program borrowers facing financial risk. This assistance included:

- Assistance to direct loan borrowers who were past due on a qualifying direct loan as of Sept. 30, 2022, but by fewer than 60 days, and remained delinquent on that loan as of March 27, 2023.
- Assistance to borrowers who restructured a qualifying direct loan

after Feb. 28, 2020, through primary loan servicing available through FSA.

- Assistance to borrowers whose interest owed on their qualifying direct loan debt exceeded the principal owed (on a loan-by-loan basis).

Since payments began in October 2022, USDA has provided \$1.14 billion to 20,615 financially distressed direct and guaranteed FSA loan borrowers. In May 2023, FSA began accepting and reviewing individual requests for assistance if they took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their direct FSA loans, such as taking on or refinancing more debt, selling property, or cashing out retirement or college savings accounts. On May 19, USDA mailed a [letter](#) to all FSA direct loan borrowers detailing eligibility and how to request extraordinary measures assistance. Also in May, FSA started accepting and reviewing individual distressed borrower assistance requests from direct loan borrowers who missed a recent installment or are unable to make their next scheduled installment. All FSA borrowers should have received a [letter](#) detailing the process for seeking this type of assistance even before they become delinquent. As the letter details, borrowers who are within two months of their next installment may seek a cashflow analysis from FSA to determine their eligibility.

For more information producers can contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) or visit farmers.gov/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance.



USDA Announces Tool to Assist Small Businesses and Individuals in Identifying Procurement Opportunities

WASHINGTON, June 9, 2023 – Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces the deployment of a tool to assist industry and small disadvantaged entities in identifying potential opportunities for selling their products and services to USDA.

USDA's Procurement Forecast lists the types of anticipated solicitations that small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned businesses, HUBZone businesses, service-disabled veterans, and other businesses may be able to participate in contracts with USDA, or through subcontracting opportunities. USDA's Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) and Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) collaborated in the development of the tool.

“USDA values the contributions of small business entities and continues to champion initiatives to make contracting opportunities more accessible to eligible firms, as well as remove barriers faced by underserved individuals and communities,” said OCP Director Donald Baker. “The release of this procurement tool will enhance competition in contracting for those interested in supplying goods and services to the Department.”

USDA has eleven organizations that issue solicitations for anticipated purchases tied to the procurement forecast. The solicitations listed within the forecast are all over the simplified acquisition threshold. Using the tool, interested parties can search USDA's procurement forecasts, filter the results, manipulate the display (sort, hide, move, and freeze columns), and download the results in Excel or CSV. Currently, forecast data for FY 2023 to 2025 is available. This collaborative effort complies with Public Law 100-656, the Business Opportunity Development Reform Act of 1988, which amended the Small Business Act to place new emphasis on acquisition planning. The law requires agencies to compile and make available small business contracting opportunities.

“We are increasing our efforts to provide useful information, tools, resources, and the opportunity to engage with small, disadvantaged businesses across the country. We are meeting small businesses where they are, with our road shows, thereby providing maximum opportunity for them to participate in the USDA procurement process,” said OSDBU Director George A. Sears.

Until now, businesses were limited to accessing procurement opportunities through the federal-wide System for Award Management (SAM). “Not only does this new tool maximize opportunities to participate in USDA’s contracting process, but it also provides greater transparency, increases accuracy, adds additional data fields, and allows for more frequent updates to the data,” said Sears.

To learn more about the Forecast of Business Opportunities and search for anticipated procurements, please visit usda.gov/procurement-forecast.

Biden-Harris Administration Partners with Agricultural Producers to Strengthen Markets and Create Jobs for Producers in 19 States

Investments are Part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda



Manchester, NH, June 15, 2023 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that USDA is making investments that will create new and better markets for agricultural producers and food businesses in 19 states across rural America.

“The Biden-Harris Administration and USDA are standing up for America’s farmers and ranchers by expanding processing capacity, creating fairer markets, more revenue streams and market opportunities which help bring down food costs for families at the grocery store,” Secretary Vilsack said. “We are partnering with entrepreneurs in rural areas to build brighter futures, connect business owners to new markets and create good jobs for generations to come. These investments reflect the goals of President Biden’s Investing in America agenda to rebuild our economy from the bottom up and middle out and make our communities more resilient.”

USDA is making investments worth \$320 million to strengthen food supply chains and create more opportunities for producers and entrepreneurs in 19 states: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Iowa, Idaho, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia. For example:

- In the Midwest, family-owned businesses, like a meat market and a bison processing facility, will expand their production capabilities, maintain the highest quality control possible and save jobs.
- In the Northeast, a local, innovative greenhouse facility will be able to grow salad greens year-round in a hydroponic environment.
- In the South, food supply chain businesses, like a berry processor, will purchase equipment to expand production capacity for their businesses.
- And in the West, a plant-based yogurt manufacturer and a cold storage facility will support resilience in the supply chain and expand sustainable options for consumers.

Background

USDA and the Biden-Harris Administration are making these investments through four programs designed to create economic opportunities for people and businesses in rural areas. These programs are the Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan program, Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program, Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program and the Rural and Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.

The Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan program supports new investments in infrastructure for food aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling and distribution to increase capacity and create a more resilient, diverse and secure U.S. food supply chain. This program is authorized under Section 1001 of the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program (MPILP) provides grant funding to intermediary lenders who finance – or plan to finance – the start-up, expansion or operation of slaughter, or other processing of meat and poultry. The objective of MPILP is to strengthen the financing capacity of independent meat processors and create a more resilient, diverse and secure U.S. food supply chain. This program was authorized by Section 751 of Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program helps improve rural economic health by increasing access to business capital, allowing commercial lenders, like banks and credit unions, to offer affordable financing to el

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, lend to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. This program is authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. **igible rural businesses.** This program was authorized by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act



Jubilee Film Festival Award Ceremony

Celebrates African American History

The Jubilee Film Festival is a festival celebrating Black excellence and Black struggle was held at the Ron Robinson Theatre in Little Rock on June 16, 2023. All the entries have a narrative of Black life whether through struggle or the continuous push toward excellence.

Marcus Eubanks Emmy award-winning photographer and journalist hosted the first Jubilee Film Festival the only African American film festival in Arkansas. Marcus Eubanks is a versatile professional in the Broadcast Media, Production, and Photography fields. He performed as a Reporter and Videographer for multiple local news outlets. After mastering the job requirements for those positions, he switched gears within the field and started to make an impact with his eye for photography As of September 2018, Marcus reached the pinnacle of his field as an Emmy Award Winning videographer for a documentary style story on the Elaine Massacre of the Summer of 1919 also caked the Red Summer.

There was a VIP hour where saxophonist and vocalist Michael Eubanks performed live. Eubanks is a native of Arkansas and a product of the Little Rock Public Schools, college, and university. When he takes center stage, he'll take your breath away with his smooth sax and soulful, sultry vocal style.



Food was provided by Catering Brought Right by Zachery (CBR'Z). Zachery Nellums has over 25 years of experience in the restaurant industry which has afforded him opportunities to gain the extensive knowledge to stand out as a culinary expert and sought-after caterer.

Signature drinks were provided by Delta Dirt Distillery from Helena, Arkansas. Delta Dirt Distillery is a family-owned, craft distillery located in the richest farmland in the country - the Arkansas Delta. They grow their own produce and grains in the same community where these authentic spirits are distilled, which makes them unique in the American distilling industry. The Williams family have deep roots in Arkansas and have farmed their land in Phillips County for four generations.





Ms. Pinky was the Red-Carpet Host for the event.

This year Inaugural 2023 Jubilee Film Festival “Juggernaut” Lifetime Achievement Award went to Dr. Calvin R. King Sr. Mr. King founded the nonprofit ALFDC in 1980 to reverse the conditions leading to the loss of black-owned farmland and the decline in the number of small farms in Arkansas.

The corporation assists black farmers in gaining access to credit, provides technical and training assistance as well as marketing support, and aids in the development of alternative means of ownership. In 1991, King helped institute the Youth Enterprise in Agriculture Division of ALFDC as a career and leadership development program to introduce youth to farming and agriculture-related careers and to provide students with opportunities to do hands-on training.





USDA Announces Corrections to Emergency Relief Program Policy to More Accurately Reflect 2020 and 2021 Natural Disaster Impacts on Crops Intended for On-Farm Use

Duplicative payment provisions for two key conservation programs also clarified.

WASHINGTON, June 14, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is updating the **Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two** to provide a method for valuing losses and accessing program benefits to eligible producers of certain crops, including grapes grown and used by the same producer for wine production or forage that is grown, stored and fed to livestock, that do not generate revenue directly from the sale of the crop. These updates ensure that ERP benefits are more reflective of these producers' actual crop losses resulting from 2020 and 2021 natural disaster events. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin accepting ERP Phase Two applications from eligible wine grape and forage producers once this technical correction to ERP is published in the Federal Register and becomes effective, which it anticipates will be on Friday, June 16, 2023. The deadline to submit applications for ERP Phase Two is July 14.

“When designing and implementing new programs for a sector as diverse and complex as agriculture, it's almost inevitable that we encounter situations, that we had not previously considered. The updates to the Emergency Relief Program that we are announcing today address the unique needs of producers of crops that are used on-farm and may, not generate sales revenue,” said Zach Ducheneaux, Farm Service Agency Administrator. “I am grateful for our frequent conversations with producers, along with commodity and stakeholder groups, that helped us address existing gaps in this crucial disaster assistance program. FSA will continue to be nimble from a policy standpoint to try to provide assistance to all who need the help.”

Background

In January 2023, FSA announced ERP Phase Two, designed to wrap-up and fill remaining gaps in

previous natural disaster assistance for 2020 and 2021.

To be eligible for ERP Phase Two, producers must have suffered a decrease in allowable gross revenue in 2020 or 2021 due to necessary expenses related to losses of eligible crops from a qualifying natural disaster event. Assistance is primarily for producers of crops that were not covered by Federal Crop Insurance or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program since crops covered by Federal Crop Insurance and NAP were included in the assistance under ERP Phase One administered in 2022.

Determining Crop Value

Producers of certain crops now have a method for including crop value in their allowable gross revenue for the purpose of determining ERP Phase 2 benefits.

The value of the eligible crop intended for on-farm use will be based on the producer's actual production of the crop and a price for the crop as determined by FSA's Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs based on the best available data for each crop such as published crop price data or the average price obtained by other producers in the area. Acceptable, published sources include but are not limited to Federal Crop Insurance Corporation established prices, FSA established National Crop Table prices and National Agricultural Statistic Service prices.

Additional Technical Corrections – Conservation Programs

In addition to emergency relief policy updates, FSA has also established policy corrections for the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). The policy correction clarifies that federal payments received for the same practice will be considered duplicative assistance for producers who receive ECP and EFRP program payments. The revised program provisions are related to program updates FSA announced in January that give more farmers, ranchers, and tribes the opportunity to apply for and access programs that support recovery following natural disasters ([see January 10, 2023 news release](#) for more information).

ECP and EFRP provide financial and technical assistance to restore conservation practices like fencing, damaged farmland or forests following natural disasters.

Biden-Harris Administration Invests in Watershed Infrastructure to Help Communities Recover from, Prepare for Natural Disasters as Part of Investing in America Agenda

Release & Contact Info

Press Release

Release No. 0116.23

Contact: USDA Press

Email: press@usda.gov

WASHINGTON, May 22, 2023 - The Biden-Harris Administration today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making investments, including from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, in watershed infrastructure to help communities recover from and prepare for natural disasters.

USDA is investing \$265 million through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 28 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) infrastructure projects in 16 states impacted by extreme weather events. These projects include streambank stabilization, flood prevention and watershed restoration projects, and they are part of the \$925 million investment through the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

NRCS is also announcing the availability of up to \$135 million in financial assistance through EWP buyouts for property within Limited Resource Areas that have been impacted by constant flooding. These buyouts are part of the broader Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investment in watershed infrastructure and will assist communities with climate resiliency.

Today's announcement reflects the goals of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, which is growing the American economy from the bottom up and middle-out –

from rebuilding our nation's infrastructure to driving over \$470 billion in private sector manufacturing and clean energy investments in the United States, to creating good paying jobs and building a clean-energy economy that will combat climate change and make our communities more resilient.

“The Biden-Harris Administration is focused on ensuring that flood prone communities have every tool possible to prepare and to recover from the next extreme weather emergency,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “Programs like Emergency Watershed Protection can help communities with recovery efforts and this historic investment, in tandem with the floodplain buyouts opportunity through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investments, provides relief to communities impacted by natural disasters.”



ALCDC Youth Programs Kicks Off

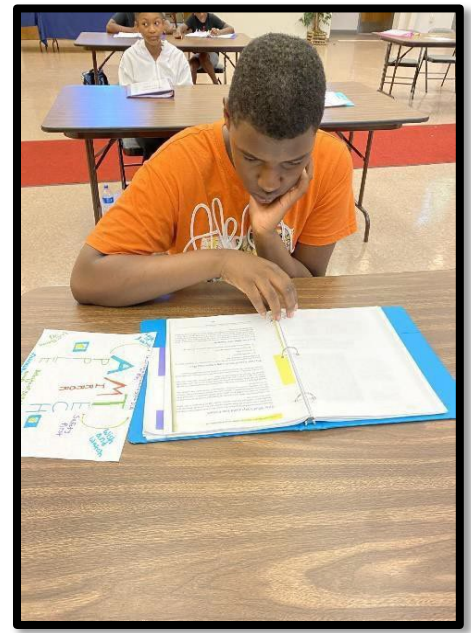
Brinkley student Sterling Washington has returned to inspire other youths. He has joined the NRCS Forrest City as an intern. Sterling participated in the ALCDC EXCEL program three years ago and is now entering our Youth Enterprises and Career in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship (YECAE) program. Youth Enterprises and Career in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship (YECAE) introduces youth, ages 16-19, to farming and agriculture related careers through hands-on training in education and leadership development. The apprenticeships are with Arkansas' family farmers that provide the youth with training, work experience and exposure to agriculture as a lifestyle and a business.





Our EXCEL Program, an acronym for "Education Excellence for our Children through Enrichment Leadership Development, and Work Experience" was set up in 1996 to provide basic entrepreneurial training for youth ages 13-15. ALCDC Prevention Services programming through EXCEL for youth in Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis, and Woodruff counties with continuing education, training, exposure, and awareness on drug- abuse, alcohol, tobacco, crime violence, and gang activity. The program provides drug free recreational activities that promote healthy lifestyles and engages

young people as mentors to develop leadership skills as alternatives to negatives activities, attitudes, and behaviors. The program supplies cultural awareness through dramatization to boost participants' self-esteem.





Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) theme this year is, “Wave of Freedom,” an affirmation of every person's right to equity and dignity.

Celebration of Freedom

On June 19, 1865, about two months after the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Va., Gordon Granger, a Union general, arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African Americans of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended. General Granger’s announcement put into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued more than two and a half years earlier on Jan. 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln. The holiday received its name by combining June and 19. The day is also sometimes called “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Freedom Day” or “Emancipation Day.”

On June 19, 1865, about two months after the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Va., Gordon Granger, a Union general, arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African Americans of their freedom and that the Civil War had ended. General Granger’s announcement put into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued more than two and a half years earlier on Jan. 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln. The holiday received its name by combining June and 19. The day is also sometimes called “Juneteenth Independence Day,” “Freedom Day” or “Emancipation Day.”



The Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, 501 W. Ninth St., Little Rock, hosted the 14th Juneteenth celebration, "Juneteenth in Da Rock," starting with the Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony, with the accompaniment of the so-called Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."



Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Summit



ALCDC conducted a Rural and Urban Community Economic Development Summit One USDA in Earle, AR, at Earle City Hall Annex Building on June 29, 2023, 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 Christopher Harvey Senior Advisor for the City of Little Rock. NRCS Staff Clyde Williams, Tresel Benjamin, Little Rock staff Cory Cornelius, Alvin Peer, and FSA representative Mary Wheeler, 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 working with you as a catalyst in Urban and Rural Community Economic Development.



**ARKANSAS LAND and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(ALCDC)
And
ARKANSAS LAND and FARM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ALFDC)**

Present

ALFDC/ALCDC 43rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 26 -27, 2023

Located at the Brinkley Convention Center 1501 Weatherby Drive

Brinkley, Arkansas 72021

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM



**Prosperity with Disparity in Arkansas:
How It Impacts Our Cultural and
Communities**

Leisure and hospitality employment in Arkansas has decreased since the beginning of the pandemic, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). “Compared to April 2020 when COVID-related job losses peaked, the number of unemployed in Arkansas has declined 77,978. Employment is up 68,488 and the unemployment rate is down significantly from the peak of 10% last April,”

Historically, unemployment rates for Black and Hispanic people are significantly higher than that of their white counterparts. Dr. Calvin R. King Sr., dives into the root causes of these economic disparities in Arkansas. There are a lot of changes being made and they’ve really affected us”. Food costs are up, labor costs are up, and everything is not OK – everything has changed.”

GROW YOUR NETWORK

Take full advantage of the countless networking opportunities and foster relationships with attendees participating, hailing from all backgrounds and sectors!

FORM NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Meet partners with a wide range of services and solutions to achieve your goals!

STAY IN THE KNOW

Register today!!!

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

DOCUMENTARY FILM



Our History

The Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation and Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation will be working on a documentary production that *will share and highlights the rich forty-three (43) year history* of our

organizations program service delivery, from its early beginning to the present. The full documentary

The focus areas for the documentary preview will be the following:

1. The Organization Program Service Delivery History
 2. Land and Black Family Farm Retention
 3. Farm Technical Assistance, education, and training to Minority Farmers
 4. Advocacy for Policy Changes to Support Minority Land and Family Farm Retention
 5. Challenges to Address Minority Land Loss and Family Farm Retention
- on our history will be forthcoming in 2024.

SNEAK PEEK



Biden-Harris Administration Helps Expand Access to Rural Health Care Through Investing in America Agenda

Grants Will Benefit More Than 5 Million People in Rural America

Release & Contact Info

Press Release

Release No. 0158.23

Contact: USDA Press

Email: press@usda.gov

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., July 25,

2023 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small today announced that [USDA is expanding access to health care for more than 5 million people](#) living in 39 states and Puerto Rico as part of President Biden’s *Investing in America* agenda.

“During one of the most critical times in our nation’s history, the Biden-Harris Administration responded to deliver immediate economic relief and ensure rural people have access to quality health care,” Deputy Secretary Torres Small said. “USDA’s Emergency Rural Health Care Grants are helping strengthen rural America’s health care infrastructure to build for the future.”

USDA is awarding \$129 million in [Emergency Rural Health Care Grants](#) to improve health care facilities in rural towns across the nation. These grants will help 172 rural health care organizations expand critical services.

Today’s investments will help regional partnerships, public bodies, nonprofits and Tribes solve regional rural health care challenges. These solutions will build a stronger, more sustainable rural

health care system for the nation’s small towns and communities.

For example, in the Midwest, Southern Illinois Hospital Services is partnering with local health care organizations to build an in-patient psychiatric unit to address a regional need to expand access to mental health care services for people living in Southern Illinois.

The investments will help people in the West benefit from state-of-the-art medical equipment that will enhance their access to quality health care.

- Gunnison County in Colorado is purchasing medical equipment for a new facility that will serve more than 5,000 people. In California, Tule River Indian Health Center Inc. is purchasing a generator, freezers and refrigerators that will protect medical equipment during emergencies to continue providing health care services for people living on the Tule River Reservation.

The investments will improve health outcomes for people in rural communities by improving access to healthy foods in the Northeast.

- In Delaware, Milton Community Food Pantry Inc. is purchasing a storage and distribution facility to provide fresh foods to families, senior citizens, veterans and people with disabilities.
- In Massachusetts, Community Action Pioneer Valley Inc. is purchasing equipment for its food pantry to provide free food and nutritious meals to senior citizens and people with disabilities.

In the South, people in rural areas will benefit from new, state-of-the-art medical facilities. For instance, Pancare of Florida Inc. is building a primary care clinic as part of its regional health care center. The clinic will help people living in rural and underserved communities in Northwest Florida access quality health care services.

The funding will also help the group expand regional networks for resource sharing, training, education and communications. This group will also develop a blueprint for addressing pandemic emergency chronic illnesses and enhancing the long-term sustainability of rural health care.

The investments USDA is announcing will also expand health care services in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Puerto Rico.

Background: Emergency Rural Health Care Grants

Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act in March 2021 to deliver immediate economic relief to people impacted by the pandemic. Within months after the Act's passage, USDA responded quickly by making this funding available to ensure the long-term availability of rural health care services.

In August 2021, USDA made the [Emergency Rural Health Care Grants](#) available through the American Rescue Plan Act to help rural health care facilities, tribes and

communities expand access to health care services and nutrition assistance.

The assistance is helping provide immediate relief to support rural hospitals, health care clinics and local communities. USDA is administering the funds through Rural Development's [Community Facilities Program](#).

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit the [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under 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 safe, 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 www.usda.gov.



PREPOINT LOCATIONS of MEETINGS

ALCDC SUMMIT

**In-Person/Hybrid Summit One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development
14582 Hwy 44, Lakeview School
Lake View, Phillips County, Arkansas 72333
September 7, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

ALCDC SUMMIT

**In-Person/Hybrid Summit One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development
300 S. West Avenue
Mahony Family Library Auditorium
Southeast College Eldorado
Eldorado, Union County, Arkansas 71730
September 21, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

ALCDC SUMMIT

**In-Person/Hybrid Summit One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development
Twin Grove Community
Faulkner County
September 28, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location TBA**

ALCDC SUMMIT

**In-Person/Hybrid Summit One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development
Walls Town, Desoto County, Mississippi
October 12, 2023
Location TBA**

Program and Resource Opportunities

- **Prosperity Community Resources for Business and Community Development, Housing, and Small Towns draft**
- **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.**

Link to register at website:

arlcde.org or by calling our Janie Williams at (870) 752-0701 or Dr. Talesha Dokes (870) 589-0699, Albert Jones (870) 752-8222



ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023

_____ **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.





NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 40
BRINKLEY, AR
72021

P.O. Box 907
Brinkley, AR 72021

ABOUT THE ADVANCER

The Advancer is a publication of the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) 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 (CFO)
J. D. Davis – Vice-President of Programs and Policy
Ashley Crockett – Executive Admin Assistant to President, Housing
Barbara Erby – Director of Public Relations Marketing Administrative Services
Dr. Talesha Dokes- Division Director of Farm Services
Janie Williams – Farm Advisor Specialist
Albert Jones – Farm Advisor Specialist
Michael Tucker – Farm Advisor
Tatiana Payne – Youth Program, Accounts Receivable
Mary Harris – Office Manager and Farm Administrative Assistant
Diamond Smith – Accounts Payable
Tomyra Privett – Administrative Assistant/Housing
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
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 provide advocacy outreach, technical assistance, 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
Website: arlcde.org
Email: alcdc1934@yahoo.com