

ARKANSAS LAND AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ALCDC)

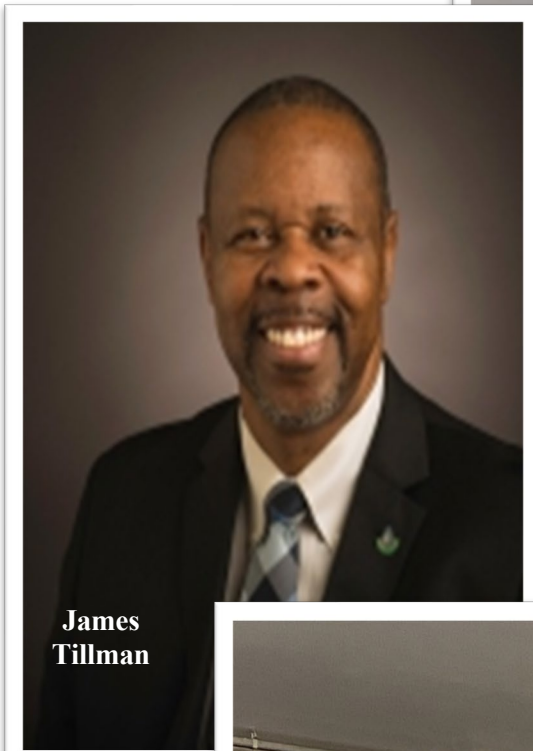
THE ADVANCER

Fall 2023

PROSPERITY

WITH

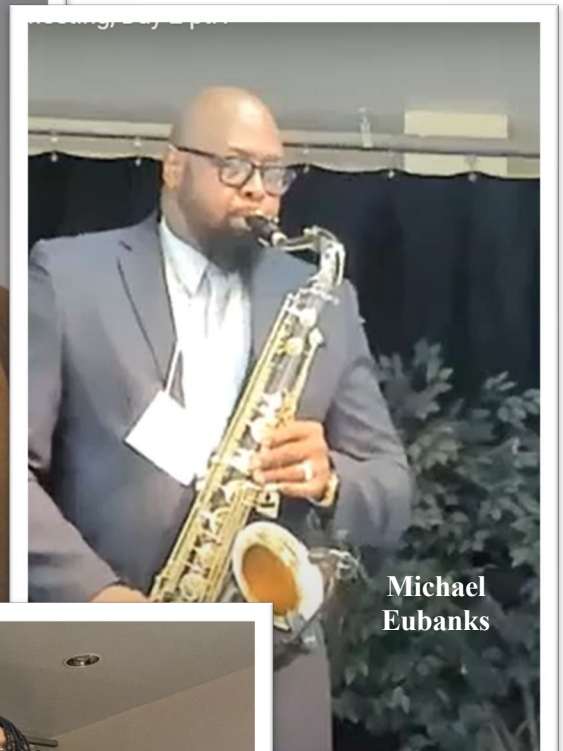
DISPARITY



James
Tillman



Marcus
Eubanks



Michael
Eubanks

Oratorical 1st
Place Winner
Timothy Cannon



Oratorical 2nd Place
Winner Sterling
Washington



Happy Holidays



From the Board and Staff of

*Arkansas Land
and Community
Development
Corporation*

On behalf of ALCDC, we want to take this opportunity to wish our readers, members, partners, and supporters a very happy holiday season. We are successful because of your continued support, encouragement around shared values and goals.

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ALCDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Brian Cornelious
Board Chairman



Corey Farmer
Vice Chairman



Evette Browning
Secretary



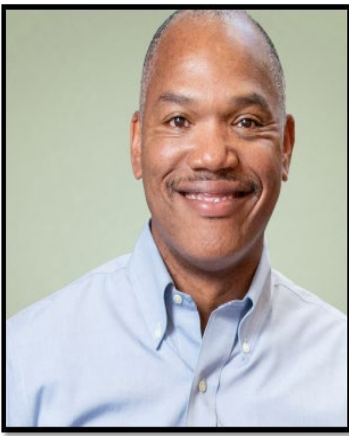
Harrison Locke
Treasurer



Burthel Thomas



Judge Berlin Jones



Harvey Williams Jr



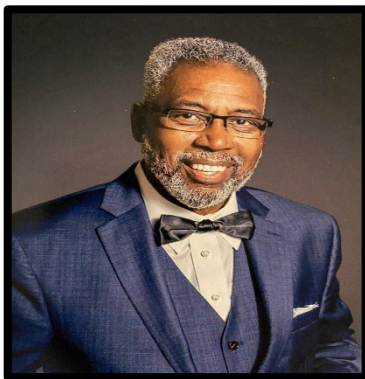
Darrin Davis



Julius Handcock



James C. Lowery



Dr. O'Dell Carr



Linda Wilson



Curtis Tate



Mary Bone



Roger Smith



Dr. Calvin King Sr.
President (CEO)

USDA Offers New Crop Insurance Program for Producers Using Controlled Environments

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2, 2023 – Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is announcing a new crop insurance program designed for agricultural producers who use controlled environments in their operations. The new Controlled Environment program from USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) is specifically for plants grown in fully enclosed controlled environments and provides coverage against plant diseases subject to destruction orders. Available beginning in the 2024 crop year, the Controlled Environment program provides a risk management resource for urban, specialty crop, and organic producers who often use controlled environments as a major part of their operations.

“We are always looking to improve and expand the crop insurance resources we offer to agricultural producers, and the new Controlled Environment program will greatly benefit urban, specialty crop, organic and other producers who grow in controlled environments,” said RMA Administrator Marcia Bunger. “Controlled environment agriculture is a quickly growing sector in the Nation’s food production, and this new option is part of USDA’s broader effort to support urban agriculture and new and better markets for American producers.” The Controlled Environment program is a dollar plan of insurance, which bases the insured’s guarantee on inventory values reported by the producer and provides coverage against plant diseases when the plants must be destroyed under a federal or state destruction order.

The Controlled Environment program adds to two other federal insurance products available to nursery and innovative agricultural producers by providing benefits that are not available under the other programs, such as:

- Offer coverage for all Controlled Environment plants, including cuttings, seedlings, and tissue culture.
- Offer crop insurance coverage through a streamlined application and policy renewal process.
- Offer new crop insurance coverage specific to the disease risk to plants in Controlled Environment operations.
- Offer insurance for producer-selected plant categories for Controlled Environment that are not in other nursery insurance programs.

Allow Controlled Environment operations to have single peril Controlled Environment insurance to be purchased as a standalone policy or in conjunction with other nursery insurance. The first sales closing date is Dec. 1, 2023.

The Controlled Environment program will be available in select counties in Alabama, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

More Information

RMA is holding virtual and in-person informational sessions this month. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#). Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma.usda.gov or by contacting your [RMA Regional Office](#). 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 usda.gov.

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation Annual Conference Highlights

Hosted by ALCDC October 27, 2023

Philanthropy in Fargo, Arkansas: ALFDC was overwhelmed with the hospitality, expertise, talent, pleasantness, sense of humor, cooperation, and all the other positive things that everyone exhibited during the Annual Conference Membership Meeting. This year's conference was a success! Dr. Calvin R King Sr. professional portfolio reflects a tenure of 50 years working with nonprofit organizations that improve the welfare of underserved, underrepresented farmers and ranchers and communities. It is the partners, sponsors and members that make our mission fulfillment work possible and authenticity is at the heart of it all.

The root of the conference goes back forty-three years of how prosperity with disparity affected the African American Black Culture and communities. The history gap serves as a crucial factor in understanding how economic recoveries can become uneven and unequal across demographics as fewer Black farmers have fewer resources available to temper the adverse economic impacts of prosperity with disparity. And how USDA continuing to move forward to address the existing equity and support for underserved and unrepresented communities existing in disparity and what programs are available for the African American communities.

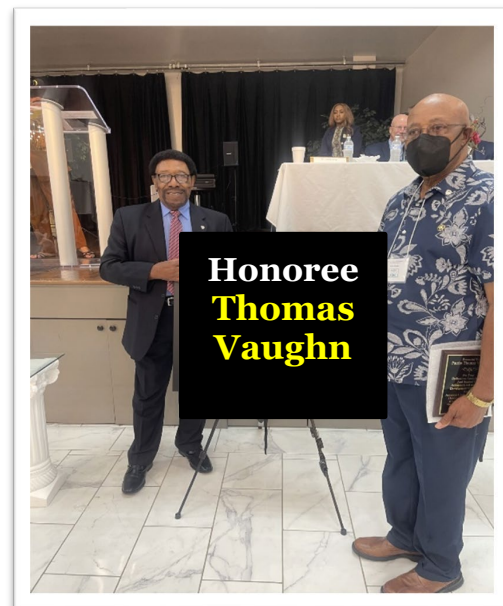
The afternoon celebrated this year's honorees Thomas Vaughn, Rev. W. C. Tims, Judge Olly Neal, Agnes Handcock, The Honorable Berlin Jones, Bob Nash, Freeman McKindra, and James Davis (JD).

We would like to thank USDA staff Mr. James Tillman, SE Regional Conservationist, Michael Sullivan, State Conservationist, NRCS Staff, FSA Staff and all our sponsors, members, and guests for attending this year's conference. As Booker T. Washington stated, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."



Morning Speaker Marcus Eubanks the Emmy award-winning photographer and journalist who hosted the only film festival in Arkansas with African American lives as a focal point, the Jubilee Film Festival and Dr. Calvin King Sr. (left)

Thomas Vaughn nephew accepts award.



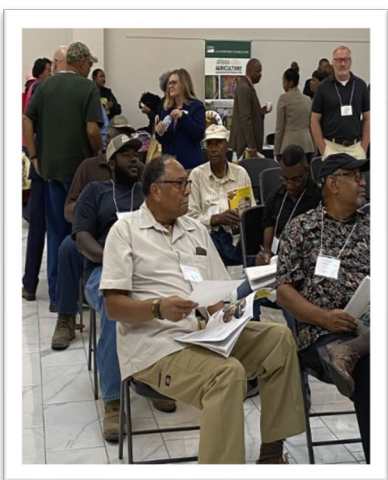


Evelyn Bryant, long time Board Member of ALFDC and Dr. Calvin R. King Sr.

James Tillma Sr. has served as the NRCS Regional Conservationist for the Southeast Region since January 2014 providing natural resources leadership and support and Dr. Brian Cornelious Director of Applied Science of ARICEN in Texas



More than 150 guests and colleagues, state representatives and sponsors gathered for the 43rd Annual Conference and Membership Meeting. The event celebrated the legacy of its Patriots and Matriarchs and the theme "Prosperity with Disparity"





Honoree
Rev.
W.C.
Tims

Dr. O'Dell Carr
author of
Resurrecting the
Black Mind and
Dr. Calvin R.
King Sr., award for
Rev. W. C. Tims

Judge Olly Neal
Jr, former
appellate court
judge was inducted
into the Black Hall
of Fame in 2014
with Dr. Calvin
King Sr.



Honoree
Judge
Olly
Neal



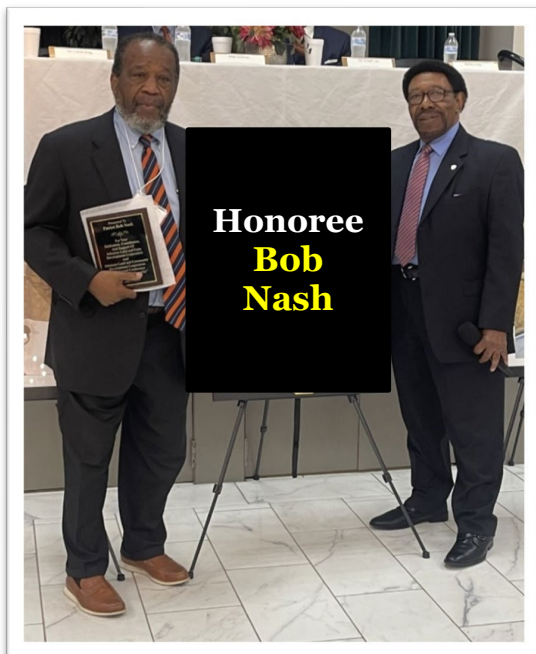
Honoree
Judge
Berlin
Jones

The Honorable Berlin
Jones Veteran of the
United States Air Force
was the Division 1 Judge
of the Eleventh Circuit
West of Arkansas and Dr.
Calvin R. King Sr.

Matriarch Agnes
Handcock 2nd Generation
Farmer of Handcock
Farms and Dr. Calvin
King Sr.



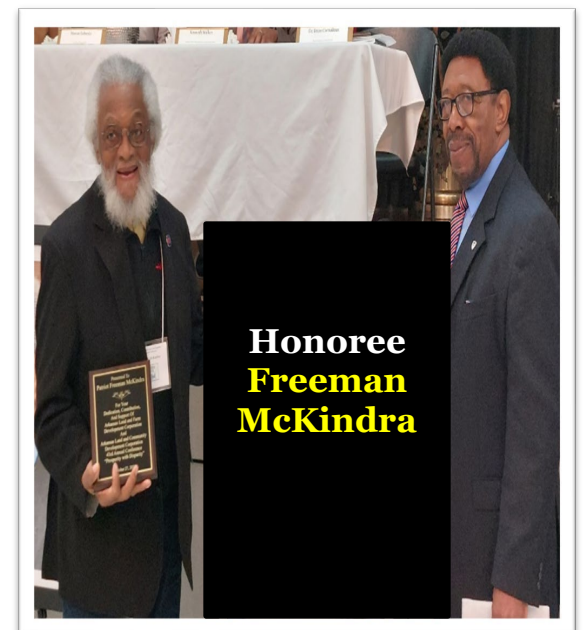
Matriarch
Agnes
Handcock




Honoree
Bob
Nash

Bob J. Nash is an
Arkansas based
Consultant working
with corporate, non-
profit, and political
clients under Bob J.
Nash & Associates
receiving award with
Dr. Calvin R. King Sr.

Freeman McKindra also
honored by the Citizens
First Congress with the
2011 E.J. Miller
Lifetime Achievement
Award with Dr. Calvin
R. King Sr.



Honoree
Freeman
McKindra



*May this season
bring lots of joy
and love upon
the family.*

Stay Blessed



HAPPY
Holidays



From Arkansas Land and Farm Development

ALCDC Clips of Youth Day Conference



NRCS Alvin Peer Oratorical Judge



Luncheon Speaker Michael Eubanks



AR State Dept. of Agriculture
Amy Lyman



ASTONISHING

Friends and supporters gathered at the Brinkley Convention Center, Brinkley, AR, for the Annual Youth Conference celebrating the continued success of Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation YECAE/EXCEL Program. The event brought in schools from KIPP Delta Public School, Brinkley School District, Clarendon School District, Palestine School District and Little Rock (Robinson Middle School) District.

Guests enjoyed lunch, a brief program on “Mental Health” and Agriculture and live entertainment by Michael Eubanks.

College’s participating were University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Shorter College, East Arkansas Community College, and Phillips Community College. Oratorical winners were 1st Place- Timothy Cannon (KIPP Delta), 2nd Place- Sterling Washington (Palestine School), 3rd Place- Aden Nicholas (Clarendon School) and 4th Place- Kyle Haliburton (Brinkley School)



KIPP Public School District



Timothy Cannon

1st Place Winner of
the Leadership
Oratorical Speaking
Contest



Brinkley School District

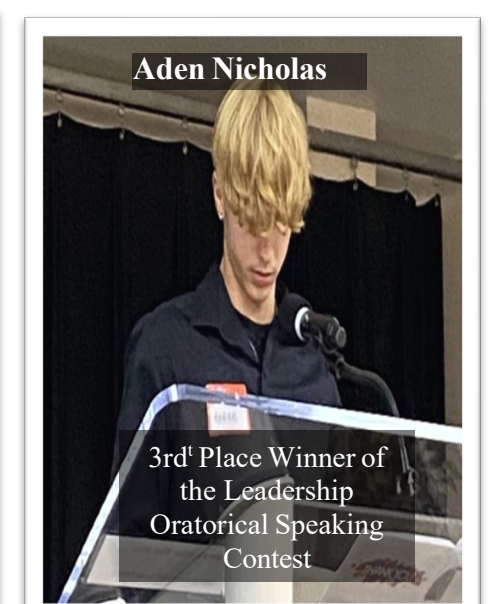


Kyle Haliburton

4th Place Winner of
the Leadership
Oratorical Speaking
Contest

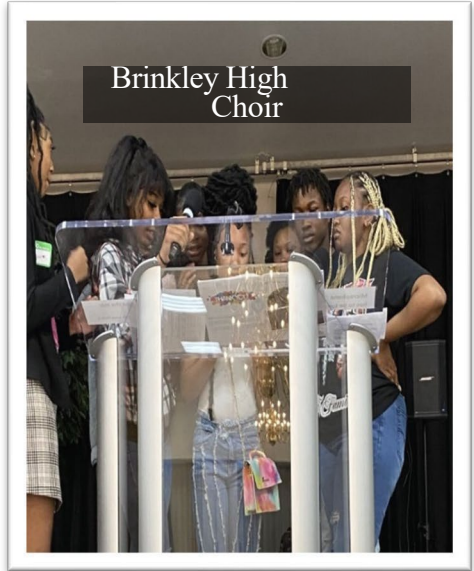
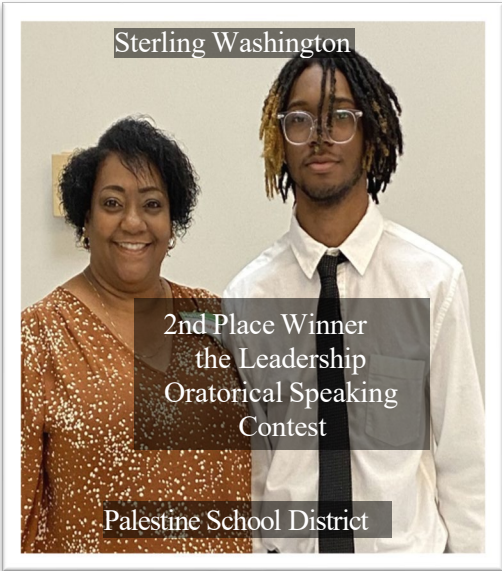


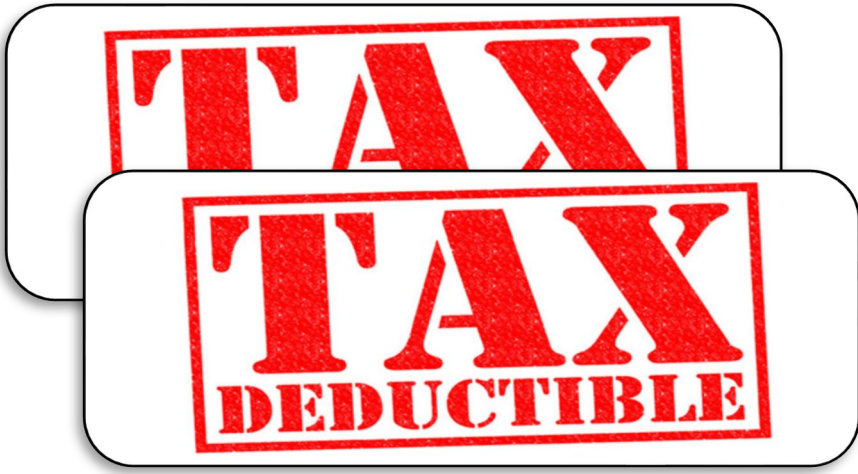
Clarendon School District



Aden Nicholas

3rd Place Winner of
the Leadership
Oratorical Speaking
Contest





End of Year Tax Deductible Contribution

Giving back feels good-especially when it's 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Donate to ALCDC for a tax deduction?

A charitable gift will qualify for a tax deduction only if it goes to a tax-exempt organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation is a nonprofit organization that is tax-exempt.

When you donate to Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation, you are joining the fight to address the needs of our underserved rural and urban communities. If you wish to support our work, make your yearend tax dollars work together around shared values and goals.

You can donate by:

Mail:
ALCDC
PO Box 907
Brinkley, AR 72021

Or by Credit Card

Visit: <https://www.arlcdc.org/tax-deductible-donation> or click on the or scan the QR code.



All contributions will go toward our work to address the needs of our underserved rural and urban communities.



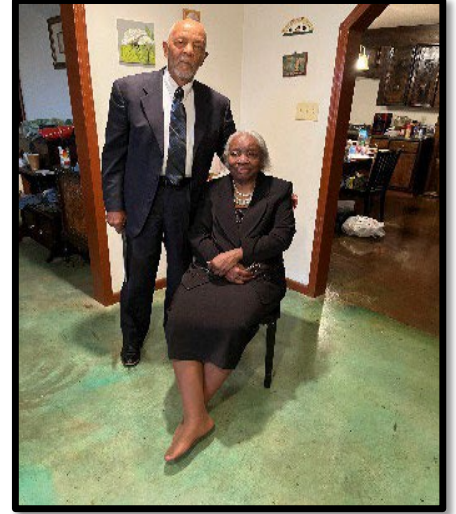
START YOUR JOURNEY with shared values and goals with **ALFCDC**.

We look forward to working with you soon!

A Multi-Generation Family Legacy

The Lucas Story-Sustainability Fosters Survivability

John Ruffin Lucas lived in North Carolina. On October 15, 1892, Luther Lucas, his son, was born in the vicinity of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. At some point Luther Lucas came to live in the vicinity of Caldwell, Arkansas. Luther Lucas was the father of thirteen children. The story narrated herein was told by Verlee Lucas, a grandson of Luther. Verlee is shown with his wife in the adjacent picture. Went to Missouri in 1930 to be a sharecropper for a cotton farmer. Luther had amassed quite an accumulation of mules, horses, wagons, cattle, goats, etc. to which he hauled off to the cotton fields of Missouri. He and his wife were great cotton pickers – a bale per day between the two of them. With the children thrown in, this was a great labor force. But sharecropping usually ended up with the farm owner getting all the crop revenue and the tenant sharecropper getting a residual debt going into the next year. However, as fate may have had it, the farm owner was incarcerated for some reason and was not able to collect crop revenue. Luther was therein able to return to Arkansas in 1936 with a tidy nest egg with which he invested wisely in farmland and related businesses to include orchards, livestock, blacksmiths, and other business necessary to allow him incredible autonomy – he was very independent.



John Lucas's lot now included thirteen children, many heads of livestock, poultry, wagons, farm implements, etc. In addition to these possessions, together with the land he began buying, Mr. Lucas was blessed with a wife that had incredible business/financial skills. She took care of the books, and he took care of the production – an ideal combination for success.

Additionally, two aspects of their approach were key to their success; They never farmed with borrowed money, they provided their own financing; they in conjunction with other relatives, developed a vocational skill sets aligned with the vocational beliefs of Booker T. Washington – blacksmiths, carpenters, brick and mortar, as well as foods – chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, hogs, cows, orchids, etc., essentially a closed needs set. As a side bar to the Lucas's success, they maintained a good and respectful relationship with their White neighbors as evidence when the KKK attempted to establish a base of operation in adjoining lands. The KKK were sent packing by the Lucas's White neighbors to never as of now return. The Lucas men did nothing but enjoy/appreciate the unsolicited help.

The Land

The Lucas land amounted to approximately five hundred acres with about half of it being cropland. Except for forty-two acres, owned by Agnes Lucas Hancock, an honoree of the recent Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) 2023 43rd Annual Conference and Membership Meeting. The Lucas's still own the remainder of the five hundred acres. Verlee Lucas still farms about two hundred acres with soybeans being the major crop. Consistent with the Lucas legacy, Verlee provides his own financing. The notion of operating loans is still foreign to the Lucas model.



Small Community/ Big Heart

The Pine Community Church, an affiliate of the Church of God in Christ is an essential element that keeps the Lucas Clan and adjoining communities together. Aside from nominal church services, this small church gives \$50 to local college students per visit to assist and encourage them to get an education. Cash awards are given to secondary students for good grades, all in the spirit of motivating responsible growth and development.

The church also sponsors an annual bus trip (usually three days) to an out-of-state place of interest free to citizens 65 years old. Monthly feasts are also provided locally by the church. These together with other charitable activities serve as the glue that helps this community to not just survive, but to inspire and to thrive along with residents. The adjoining picture captures a monthly festive event.

Verlee Lucas performs all pastoral duties pro bono.

Staying Sociable

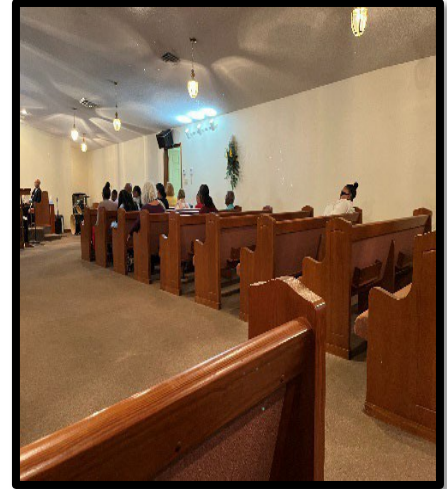
The Club serves as the local spot for watching sports, video games and local chit chat. The club is managed and operated by Lee Lucas. Picture of Club.

Early Education

At an earlier time, a childcare center was owned and operated by Odell Lucas (Now deceased). Odell also operated a cardboard disposal and/or recycling business.

Ranching Operations

Lacey Lucas and Lee Lucas took advantage of an opportunity sponsored by ALFDC together with Heifer Project International whereby each receives five (5) bred Black Angus Heifers to start/supplement their ranching operations. See pictures of Lacey's herd.



Independent Business

Lucas Electrical/HVAC, trucking, ranching, cardboard recycling, et al



For our family and others, it is not just about the taking of the land, it is about the taking of our ability with the land to build wealth and independence," said Agnes Hancock, 89, the daughter Luther Lucas and eleventh child of thirteen brothers and sisters. She is the widow of the late A.J. Handcock.



**Agnes
Handcock**

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Summit Twin Groves, AR.

The Honorable Mayor Theodore Brown Jr., of Twin Grove, Arkansas welcomed Attendees (Virtual & In- Person), to the Arkansas Land & Community Development Corporation's (ALCDC) Hybrid One USDA Urban and Rural Community Economic Development Summit on September 28, 2023, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Community Center located at 10 Twin Grove Ln, Twin Grove, AR 72039.

Janie Williams, Farm Advisor Specialist addressed Presenters and Attendees with the Roundtable format of the Summit, along with Farm Division Director Dr. Talesha Dokes, Larry Lofton, Barbara Erby, Albert Jones and Michael Tucker and the Mayor of Twin Grove Theodore Brown Jr.

Ms. Williams outlined the subject matters and their relevancies to becoming an economic catalyst in Urban and Rural Economic Development in Twin Grove that included Conservationist Kennard Williams of National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Steven Mosher (Rural Development (RD)), and Deborah Bolin of Farm Service Agency along with community partners and stakeholders to discuss challenges shared best practices, and innovative solutions for Equity and Equality Program Resource Opportunities.

Discussion area included:

- Micro- Urban Farming and Conservation Program Opportunities with Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS Resource Opportunities for New Beginning Farmers & Ranchers and Underserved Farmers and Landowners
- Heir's Property – Equity Holding
- Farm Financing and USDA – Direct Farm Operating Plans, Micro Loan Program, and Loan Guarantees for purchasing land.
- USDA Rural Development and Program Resource Opportunities in Housing, Business, Community Facilities, Water- Sewer Systems, internet access and other grant opportunities.
- Discussion on Section 22007 application for discrimination financial assistance update.

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 Twin Grove and all those who attended the in-person/hybrid summit in Faulkner County. We are looking forward to a continued partnership and collaborating with you as a catalyst in Urban and Rural Community Economic Development.



A Little-Known Facts on the Unique Challenges Black Farmers Face



Black Farmers Face operate at 70% of US peer-level farm revenue with a 14% operating margin gap versus their peers, before government payments.



While the role of the agriculture economy has grown, the share of Black farmers in the United States has declined over the last century.

Today, just 1.4% of farmers identify as Black or mixed race compared with about 14% 100 years ago. Representing less than 0.5 percent of total US farm sales.





Summit Meeting in Walls, Mississippi (Desoto County), October 12, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Keidron Henderson of Walls, Mississippi welcomed Attendees (Virtual & In- Person), to the Arkansas Land & Community Development Corporation's (ALCDC) Hybrid One USDA Urban and Rural Community Economic Development Summit on October 12, 2023, at Royal Beauty & Barber Salon located at 6555 Hwy 61, Walls, Mississippi 38680.

Janie Williams, Farm Advisor Specialist addressed Presenters and Attendees with the Roundtable format of the Summit, where she was followed by Dr. Calvin R. King Sr., President of ALCDC and staff.

Ms. Williams outlined the subject matters and their relevancies to becoming an economic catalyst in Urban and Rural Economic Development in Walls that included Conservationist Christy Robinson, Chantel Davis, Ryan Witt, of National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) Meredith Rhodes, David Durham, Darryl Waller, Ashley Kellvin, and Jessica Howard of Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Topics for discussion were as follows:

- Micro- Urban Farming and Conservation Program Opportunities with Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS Resource Opportunities for New Beginning Farmers & Ranchers and Underserved Farmers and Landowners
- Heir's Property – Equity Holding
- Farm Financing and USDA – Direct Farm Operating Plans, Micro Loan Program, and Loan Guarantees for purchasing land.
- USDA Rural Development and Program Resource Opportunities in Housing, Business, Community Facilities, Water- Sewer Systems, internet access and other grant opportunities.
- Discussion on Section 22007 application for discrimination financial assistance update.



Christy Robinson, Conservationist for NRCS, began the Roundtable discussion with the opportunities available where she outlined the core steps and process of doing business with NRCS then expounded on the processes that are necessary to do business with USDA. Farm Service Agency (FSA), Farm Loan Manager explained the opportunities of financing in the new federal legislation of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP).

ALCDC acknowledges and thanks the Mayor of Walls and the owners of Royal Experience Beauty & Barber Salon to present Summit information to the communities in Desoto County, Mississippi.

USDA Announces October 2023 Lending Rates for Agricultural Producers

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced loan interest rates for October 2023, which are effective Oct. 2, 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 October 2023 are as follows:

- Farm Operating Loans(Direct): 5.250%
- Farm Ownership Loans(Direct): 5.250%
- Farm Ownership Loans(Direct, Joint Financing): 3.250%
- 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.

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 the FSA.

- [Commodity Loans](#)(less than one year disbursed): 6.375%
- [Farm Storage Facility Loans](#):
 - Three-year loan terms: 4.625%
 - Five-year loan terms: 4.375%
 - Seven-year loan terms: 4.375%
 - Ten-year loan terms: 4.125%
 - Twelve-year loan terms: 4.125%
- [Sugar Storage Facility Loans](#)(15 years): 4.5%

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

The 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 aid. 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

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), a historic, once-in-a-generation investment and opportunity for the agricultural communities, 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. Since October 2022, USDA has provided approximately \$1.5 billion in immediate assistance to more than 24,000 financially distressed direct and guaranteed FSA loan borrowers.

FSA recently announced additional automatic assistance to guaranteed borrowers in August 2023.

FSA is also accepting and reviewing individual requests for assistance from borrowers who took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their direct FSA loans or those who missed a recent installment or who are unable to make their next scheduled installment.

For more information, or to submit a request for assistance, producers can contact their local USDA Service Center or visit farmers.gov/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance.

More Information To learn more about FSA programs, producers can contact their local USDA Service Center. Producers can also prepare maps for acreage reporting as well as manage farm loans and view other farm records data and customer information by logging in their farmers.gov account. If you do not have an account, sign up today.

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 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 <https://www.usda.gov>.

Correction: This Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) rates were updated on Oct. 4, 2023.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

USDA Extends Application Deadline for Discrimination Financial Assistance Program to January 13

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 can 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 thirty local offices across twenty-six states. Regional administrators have held well over six hundred 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 is delivered in 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.

Video Tutorial for Online Application Now Available

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=ounOItBUVuw&ab_channel=DiscriminationFinancialAssistanceProgram

Statement from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on the Economic Research Service’s 2022 Household Food Security in the U.S. Report

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25, 2023 – Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)’s Economic Research Service released the [Household Food Security in the United States in 2022](#) report, which examined American households’ ability to access sufficient food last year. The report found that the vast majority – 87.2 percent – of U.S. households were food secure throughout 2022, meaning they had consistent, dependable access to enough food for active, healthy living. However, seventeen million households were food insecure at some point during the year, including 6.8 million households that reported very- low food security. The study also found statistically significant increases across categories from 2021.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack made the following statement regarding the report’s findings:

“The 2022 *Household Food Security in the United States* report is a sobering reminder that, while many Americans can affordably feed themselves and their families, too many of our neighbor’s struggle to put healthy food on the table. These numbers are more than statistics. They paint a picture of just how many Americans faced the heartbreaking challenge last year of struggling to meet a basic need for themselves and their children, and the survey responses should be a wake-up call to those wanting to further roll back our anti-poverty and anti-hunger programs.

“These findings are unacceptable, yet the report is the latest piece of evidence that as the pandemic began to wane in 2022, another public health concern—food insecurity—increased. The experience of the pandemic showed us that when government invests in meaningful support for families, we can make a positive impact on food security, even during challenging economic times. Just over half of food insecure families reported gaining assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the National School Lunch Program or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), all of which are currently at risk of reduced funding or restricted access. The uptick in food insecurity also occurred at a time when significant safety net enhancements that helped people through the worst of the pandemic began to end, including the expanded Child Tax Credit, universally free school meals, and, in a few states, higher SNAP benefits.

“No child should go hungry in America. The report is a stark reminder of the consequences of shrinking our proven safety net, and it underscores the need to deliver on the Biden-Harris Administration National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. That starts with the urgent need for Congress to fully fund WIC and continue the 25-year track record of bipartisan consensus to make sure every eligible low-income mom, infant, and child can get the vital, developmentally appropriate nutrition they need to thrive. We also need a Farm Bill that protects SNAP benefits—because they work to help lift people out of poverty—and for all states to embrace the summer EBT program to help kids access healthy food during the summer months, when school is out, and child food insecurity is highest.

With this evidence before us, there is no excuse to look the other way while our country’s children and families contend with this unfair yet preventable hardship.”

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Upcoming Events & Webinars

Prepost Summit Workshops

ALCDC	ALCDC	ALCDC
In-Person/Hybrid Summit	In-Person/Hybrid Summit	In-Person/Hybrid Summit
One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development One	One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	One USDA NRCS/FSA/RD
Blytheville, AR 72315	Forrest City, St. Francis County	Tollette, Howard County, AR
Ritz Civic Center	ALCDC Hub Office	TBA
Wednesday, December 13, 2023	Thursday, February 29, 2024	May 8, 2024
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	11:00 am – 1:00 pm	
		ALCDC
	ALCDC	In-Person/Hybrid Summit
ALCDC	In-Person/Hybrid Summit	One USDA NRCS/FSA/RD
In-Person/Hybrid Summit	One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	Carthage, Dallas County, AR
One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	Devall Bluff, Prairie County	TBA
Growers Market	TBA	May 30, 2024
484 Floyd Brown Drive	Wednesday, March 13, 2024.	
Thursday, January 18, 2024		
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	ALCDC Tri-State	ALCDC Tri-State
	In-Person/Hybrid Summit	In-Person/Hybrid Summit
ALCDC	One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	One USDA NRCS/FSA/RD
In-Person/Hybrid Summit	Panola County, Crenshaw, Mississippi	Somerville, TN
One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	TBA	TBA
Shorter College	Wednesday, March 27, 204	June 13, 2024
Little Rock, AR		
Wednesday, January 24, 2024	ALCDC Tri-State	
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	In-Person/Hybrid Summit	
	One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	
ALCDC	Greenville, Washington County, MS	
In-Person/Hybrid Summit	TBA	
One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	Thursday, April 11, 2024	
Stuttgart, Ashley County		
TBA	ALCDC Tri-State	
Thursday, February 1, 2024.	In-Person/Hybrid Summit	
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development	
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee	
	TBA	
ALCDC	Thursday, April 25, 2024	
In-Person/Hybrid Summit		
One USDA NRCS/FSA/Rural Development		
Warren, Bradley County		
TBA		
Thursday, February 15, 2024		



*Love brought Jesus to the earth,
and love brings us to this
Holiday Season. Today as we
share good tidings of great joy,
may we also share with one
another a joyful heart and a
warm smile.*

*Arkansas Land and Community
Development Corporation will be
closed for the Holiday from December
22, 2023, thru January 2, 2024*

December 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	01	02				

Happy New Year



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.





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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 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

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Barbara Erby – Director of Public Relations Marketing Administrative Services and Membership
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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

Visit our website!
arlcdc.org

Website for ALFDC:
<http://alfdc.webs.com>
Email: alcdc1934@yahoo.com