

THE ADVANCER

Spring 2023 NEWS BULLETIN

WHY BLACK FARMERS ARE LOSING THEIR LAND

An introduction to Heir's Property



1920 →

17% of farmers, over 925 in all, were Black. About 218,000 Black farmers owned their property adding up to just under 14 million acres

1930 →

By 1930, Black farmers owned just over 11 million acres, a decrease of almost 20% in just 10 years. Only 20.5% of Black farmers owned their land compared to over 60% of white farmers.

... and now?

According to the USDA's 2017 Census of Agriculture, Black farmers fully owned less than 2 million acres.

Overview of Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC)



Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) was established as a program operation spinoff of the founder, Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC), established in 1980 as a 501(c)3 non-profit historical land base organization with an extensive background in providing training and technical assistance to African American Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resources, and other underserved groups. Based in Fargo, Arkansas, ALCDC is active in forty-two counties where it works program delivery services for beginning farmers, limited resources and minority farmers, youth services, and

community and housing development.

ALCDC is committed to improving the quality of life for the residents of its service area. The Board of Directors plays a unique and key role in the life of ALCDC. The board helps develop strategic plans that include consensus on the mission, goals, aims, and strategies for implementation. The board regularly evaluates program services, effectively manages all financial resources, enhances the agency's public standing, and supports the recruitment of new board members. Our work is dedicated to helping people become more productive and self-sufficient.



ALCDC is working to reverse the conditions leading to the loss of Black-owned farmland and the decline in the number of small farms in Arkansas. ALCDC works diligently to aid Black farmers in gaining access to credit, supplies technical and training assistance as well as marketing support, and aids in the development of alternative means of ownership.

Socially disadvantaged farmers in the region have had limited exposure to advanced agricultural technology, innovative production systems, value-added processing structures, and cost-efficient marketing networks. As a result, they have been unable to expand their operations, slow to adopt new production practices, and have often been unable to increase their profitability. Cultural and demographic factors also affect Black Farmers' ability to take part in agricultural programs. Social and economic isolation have restricted their ability to structure cooperative organizations that would use individual strengths, harness rural resources, and improve the overall competitive position of local groups.

An Introduction to Heir's Property

From Emancipation through 1910, Black landowners amassed nineteen million acres of land. However, by 1992, they owned only 2.3 million acres of land, which stands for a 90% decline in Black landownership in less than a 100-year period. Based on Census of Agriculture data, from 1993 to 2003, approximately 94% of Black rural landowners lost part or all of their land. This disturbing decline was three times the rate of land loss for white rural landowners during the same period. In recent years, the land loss has had a unique impact on the Black community, as other communities of color have increased or at least maintained their rural landholdings.

Heir's Property is land jointly owned by descendants of someone who did not leave a legal will, thereby leaving them without a clear title. The land that is passed down is delegated to surviving family members by way of fractional ownership-meaning any heir can divide or sell the land. When an individual petitions a court to grant a partition of real property, every state's partition statute mandates "physical division of the property is the preferred remedy" instead of a partition sale. These statutes tend to appoint partition sales as a remedy only when it would be "inequitable" to grant a partition in kind.

This is the leading cause of involuntary land loss among Black landowners. Slavery, sharecropping discriminatory lending practices, and long history of racial discrimination has also deterred Black farmers from laying claim to the land. These obstacles have led to a lack of access to government aid resources and incentive programs, a lack of legal representation, and a distrust of the court system. All these factors have led to a significant drop in Black farmers and land ownership over the last century.

As recorded in the 2017 Agriculture Census, Black farmers own 4.7 million acres across the United States and incur \$1.4 billion in revenue. The highest amount of land owned by Black farmers, on average, is 10 to 49 acres. However, Black farmers have lost 3 percent of the demographic's collective land ownership data every five years. This decrease is due in part to many farmers struggling with the increased cost of operation not being met by how much the operation grosses in sales of commodities or goods. For many Black and brown agriculturalists, much of their land is uprooted from them due to a systemic lack of legal land titles.

Landownership plays a significant role in keeping Black people rooted in their history. Landownership is important because it is a form of wealth, not just income. As such, it can provide a spur to economic development and broader investment, including the education of children. In the rural Black Belt of the South, where most African American farms are found, the land is also key to cultural and political power.

According to a **congressional briefing** on racial equity in U.S. farming, some farmers **lack a clear title to or documented legal ownership** of the land they farm. Voices are being heard with the help of Arkansas Land & Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) and Arkansas Land & Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) a non-profit organization that has been servicing Black farmers, cooperatives, and landowners for more than 34 years providing outreach, technical assistance, and related services to Black landowners throughout its 42 regions in Arkansas.

For more information on Heir's Property call (870) 734-3005 or visit our website at <https://alfdc.webs.com>



Darrell C. Anthony **King-Kennedy Awards** **Calvin King Economic Development Award** **Honoree**

Darrell C. Anthony is the co-founder and sole proprietor of DCA Realty, LLC, and co-founder of the award-winning Producing Outstanding People, Inc. Non-profit organization of Crittenden County, Arkansas. POP! Along with his wife Dr. Chasity Dean-Anthony.

POP! has been inspiring positivity all around the Arkansas Delta region and abroad since 2014. Under Mr. Anthony's leadership the POP! Family has grown over the past 6 years, with a host of amazing sponsors, donors, and volunteers. The organization has offered revolutionary community programming, incorporating best practices in youth and community development targeting the specific needs of the at-risk and helping bridge the inequity gaps and improve the quality of life for all. The POP! Community program offerings include the K-12 POP! Christian After-School Program, POP! Explore STEM Academy, and T.A.C.T. Teen Mentoring Through Music (housed at Old St. Paul MB Church), The Continuum Literacy for Life Initiative; programs include POP! Culture Character Building Academy (Crittenden and St. Francis Counties), E.L.I.T.E. Gems Teen Ladies and B.E.A.S.T. M.O.D.E. Male Community Mentoring Programs, Circle Time Pre-K Literacy Program, and Link Up, the G.I.R.L.S! Christian Ladies Sisterhood, which is a global and local live Chapter sisterhood that supports women in all walks of life through providing Godly Inspiration in Real Life Situations, the Coalition for a Quality Crittenden County (CQCC), and most recently served as program developers and directors for the Project Y.I.E.L.D./Delta Plus Youth Work program grant in partnership with Old St. Paul, FEDD Inc, Arkansas Human Development Corporation, and the Arkansas Division of Workforce.

The program was able to supply work opportunities for over seventy-five youths over the past 3 years. In addition to providing employment opportunities for local professionals through offering workforce and career readiness training for the program participants. Through the YIELD program, Mr. Anthony was integral in foraging collaboration and positive work relationships with local business owners by providing grant-funded employment to support their business operations during the difficult days of working through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Anthony is an experienced real estate agent with more than 15 years of experience in the real estate industry where he launched his own realty firm, DCA Realty LLC in 2020 and DCA Legacy Builders Construction Company in 2021. He has opened his doors to 7 local real estate agents who have become part of the DCA Realty team. Together they are working hard to educate the constituents of the region on the value of home ownership and generational wealth building and closing the 40% gap in African American home ownership.

In addition to his Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi real estate license, he also holds a bachelor's degree in business from Arkansas State University, a master's degree from Union University in Christian Studies, and a broker's license for the state of Arkansas. Mr. Anthony's expertise in the industry is evident through his rise in rank within the industry where Mr. Anthony is recognized as a leader in the industry.

FRESH FROM AMERICAN IDOL - PERFORMING LIVE LUCY LOVE

Arkansas Own American Idol Lucy Love will be performing Live Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Cannibal & Craft in downtown Little Rock, Arkansas.

American Idol Lucy Love has been pursuing her dream of becoming a successful musician since childhood. Lucy Love, a 28-year-old native of Holly Grove, Arkansas, recently made it through her first audition on American Idol. Love's performance on the premiere episode of the show's 21st season included renditions of "I Heard It Through the



Grapevine" and "A Song for You."

Fans can watch new episodes of American Idol on ABC every Sunday at 8 pm ET.

The two-hour-long episodes can be streamed on the network's website and Hulu one day after the television premiere.

Who is Lucy Love?

Lucy Love had been turned down by the singing competition tv show three times before being given the opportunity to audition for the 21st season of the show. . Despite being rejected by American Idol several times, Lucy refused to give up on her dream.

Lucy struggled with focus as a teenager and dropped out of high school in the 10th grade. She then moved to Memphis and hung out with friends. Eventually, Lucy realized that she needed to do something meaningful with her life. She got her GED and enrolled in Arkansas Baptist College, where she earned her bachelor's degree in music.

Lucy is a single mother of two children, ages three and two, and talented musician, who has been composing songs since she was a child.

Lucy Love new single out is "Boulders" which can be seen on <https://youtu.be/oA1C0rj1gTU>

Now everyone can get a chance to see her perform in front of celebrity judges Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan.





Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society.

In commemoration of March as Women's History Month ALCDC/ALFDC wish to honor

FAYA ROSE SANDERS

Published by

“Women move the World, but the world does not know it.”

Faya Rose Sanders was the leading founder and moving force of the Twenty-First Century Youth Leadership Movement. When she stepped down as its president, it had chapters across the U.S. from New York to California and from New Orleans to Chicago. It also had chapters in Mali, West Africa, and South Africa. Its central mission was community-focused youth leadership. It became the biggest youth leadership organization of its kind. *Women move the world, but the world does not know it.*

Faya and her husband Hank moved to a small racially polarized city in Selma, where she really didn't want to go but very reluctantly was determined to go anyway.

Shortly after Faya moved to Selma, she was viciously knocked down by a white man for just standing in line at a Dairy-Queen-like business. She was newly pregnant at the time and the only Black person in the line. The man who knocked her down had no reason except racial hate. He got off with a \$20.00 fine, but Faya's husband, who came to her aid, was stabbed in his side/kidney, arrested, tried, convicted, sentenced, and jailed. Then, all the documents relating to her assailant's \$20 fine and actions, her husband's arrest, and other records disappeared. It was blatant injustice. Faya has been attacked many times in many ways since this incident. She has been repeatedly arrested without trials, assaulted, had more than 1,100 bar complaints filed against her to take her license to practice law (some of which lingered for years), falsely accused, threatened with death, sued, etc. Each time she picked herself up and continued the hunt. *Women move the world, but the world does not know it.*



Faya Rose Sanders speaking at the Alabama State Capitol and joined by other activists to demand Medicare Expansion in Alabama (the 2000s)

Hank and Faya Sanders

Despite the attacks, Faya was the key founder and moving force in building the National Voting Rights Museum and Institution. It became a nationally known institution for sharing the history of the struggle for the right to vote. It not only shared history; it also pushed people to forge additional voting rights history. It was the first of its kind. *Women move the world, but the world does not know it.*

Faya founded and led the Black Belt Arts and Culture Center (BBACC), making it a nationally known children's cultural group that performed all over the country including at the World's Fair and the 1996 World Olympics. The abundant threads of creativity shown in BBACC manifested themselves in all her subsequent organizing. *Women move the world, but the world does not know it.*

McRae Gaines Learning Center

Faya founded the McRae Learning Center which became the McRae-Gaines Learning Center in Selma, Alabama. The school was subsequently guided to excellence by her mother, Ora Lee Gaines. It was known far and wide for its excellence, creativity, and productivity. *Women move the world, but the world does not know it.*

Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee 2023



Then there is the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. Its annual gathering just concluded this very week with U. S President Joe Biden speaking on Sunday, March 5th. The Bridge Crossing Jubilee is the largest annual gathering for the commemoration and education and celebration of voting and civil and human rights. Tens of thousands come each year. And it stimulates tens of thousands more to come throughout the year in solo or small group Pilgrimages. Among the tens of thousands, have been three sitting presidents (President Bill Clinton, President Barack Obama, and President Joe Biden); two former presidents (Bill Clinton and George W. Bush); two sitting vice presidents (Joe

Biden and Kamala Harris); two key leaders on their way to becoming U.S. presidents (Senator Barack Obama and former Vice President Joe Biden); one key leader on her way to becoming U.S. Vice President (Kamala Harris). The Jubilee comprises 40-50 events with attendees cutting across the human spectrum: Blacks, Whites, Asians, Native Americans, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; old, young, and in between; Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Buddhists, Atheists, etc. Progressive and Conservatives. There is no gathering like it. *Women move the world, but the world does not know it.*

While building these and other organizations, Faya was a moving force in two of the biggest civil rights cases in the history of the United States: *The Black Farmers cases*. One case resulted in a billion dollars for its class members. The other resulted in one and a quarter billion dollars for its class members. *Women move the world, but the world does not know it.*

Faya has helped found; the hundreds of songs and poems she has written; the dozens of plays she has written and directed; the many booklets and newspapers she has produced; the many children she has helped raise; the many people she has helped; her helping build one of the biggest Black law firms in America; her powerful role of advocate and activist. *Women move the world, but the world does not know it.*



Advancer 2023 Black History Month AR Black Mayors

We apologize for not placing a notice in the last Advancer that the recognition of elected Black Mayors in Arkansas would be a continuation in our future publications. In addition, we would like to receive stories from your local community for publication in the Advancer.

Once again, we apologize for this oversight, and we sincerely appreciate those of you who called and sent notes to bring this to our attention. We hope you understand and thank you for your patience.

Listed below are some additional names of 2023 elected Black Mayors in Arkansas. If your name and city are not listed, please look for them in our future Advancer Publication.

We will need to get the pictures of the Mayors. You can contact Barbara Erby at (870) 752-0700 or our main office and ask for Breanna James at (870) 734-3005. We should do the same number of pages with pictures as we did in the last Advancer.



Daryell Howell
Mayor of Strong



George McGill
Mayor of Fort Smith



Shawn Randall
Mayor of Carthage



Shirley Washington
Mayor of Pine Bluff



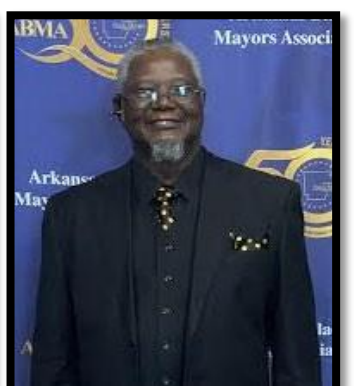
Walter Jordan Sr
Mayor of Dermott



James Henderson Jr
Mayor of Jenette



Joe Harris Jr.
Mayor of Osceola



Rev. Leroy Wright
Mayor of Anthonyville

Note: that we do not have the names of all Black Mayors in Arkansas. If there is a Black Mayor's name not listed, please feel free to contact us and let us know.

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Summit



ALCDC conducted a Rural and Urban Community Economic Development Summit One USDA in Little Rock, AR., at Philander Smith College, on March 9, 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 Cory Cornelius, Alvin Peer, Sherri Degraphenreed, and FSA representative Jessica Willis, 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.





What are the Benefits of Micro Farming?

Micro farming is not a new concept, but it has recently seen a resurgence as more people are adopting healthier and greener lifestyles in bigger cities. You don't have to be an agroecologist to be part of micro-farming; you just need a little bit of space and a passion for a greener, more sustainable lifestyle.

1. Interaction with nature

Micro-farming means getting your hands dirty. It means connecting with nature on a foundational

level. There is nothing more natural than using the soil, the sun, and a little water to grow food organically. Managing a micro-farm gives you an opportunity to get outside daily, to spend time with Mother Nature and appreciate both the simplicity and majesty that comes with interacting with the Earth.

Do not worry about the size. Start small. Do not fight the weather or your grow zone, and the most important thing is your soil health!

2. Reduced labor

Compared to farms that span acres and acres, a micro-farm requires a smaller investment in labor. You do not need to invest in heavy machinery or workers to help support the crops. The beauty of a micro-farm is that it becomes what you make it. You decide how what space, time, and effort you want to invest. It stays manageable because of its size and allows you more growth in just a little bit of space.

3. Access to high-quality food

One of the most significant benefits of a micro-farm is knowing that your food is free of toxins and pesticides. If eating organically is important to you, growing your own food is one of the best ways to ensure that everything you eat is free of harmful chemicals. Even if your farm only harvests one or two specialty crops, you are still giving yourself the gift of food that is free of poisons and packed with nutrients.

4. Saves money (and trips to the grocery store)

Depending on the size of the land you are working with and the animals and/or crops you plan to keep on your farm, the cost of starting your own micro-farm will vary. However, when you consider the money, you save from buying organic fruits and vegetables at the store, plus factor in the time (and carbon emissions) it requires to get to and from the store, a micro-farm offers a cost- and time-effective way to get the healthy foods your family needs.

5. Good for your mind, body, and soul

It's scientifically proven that getting out in nature, growing things, and interacting with animals is beneficial for your mind, body, and spirit. Managing a micro-farm offers a sense of purpose for urban farmers and is proven to supply mental clarity and stress relief.



Message from Arkansas Natural Resource

Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Mike Sullivan



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) aids farmers and ranchers and foresters with conservation practices on their operations.

conservationist or conservation planning technician for a science-based evaluation of your problems and opportunities on your land.

The NRCS staff member then analyzes the findings and recommends the best strategies to address our problems and achieve valuable conservation opportunities and goals.

Important Dates to Remember

Now that the new year has begun, this could be a suitable time to review your farm's conservation plan.

This year, NRCS will prioritize ACEP-ALE for grasslands in areas of highest risk for conversion to non-grassland uses to prevent the release of soil carbon stores.

A conservation plan shows your conservation aims and assesses and analyzes the natural resources. issues on your land. The conservation plan includes tools and resources customized specifically for you, like a land use map, soil information, photos, inventory of resources, economic costs and benefits, schedule of recommended practices, maintenance schedules, and engineering notes all based on your goals and the resource needs.

Meanwhile, NRCS will prioritize ACEP-WRE for eligible lands that have soil high in organic carbon.

This technical help from NRCS is free, and it can help you reduce soil loss from erosion, solve issues with soil, air, and water quality, reduce potential damage from excess water and drought, enhance the quality of wildlife habitat, address waste management concerns, and improve the long-term sustainability.

NRCS plans to roll out the next **RCPP** funding opportunity in early spring, which will include IRA funds from the fiscal year 2023.

NRCS Phone: 501-301-3100
NRCS Fax: 855-681-7044

Please contact your local Service Center for questions/answers specific to your operation or county. To find contact information for your local office go to www.fsa.usda.gov/ar.

How does conservation planning work? You will meet with your local NRCS district

State Committee Meeting: 2nd Wednesday and Thursday of each Quarter



Roger Smith Farms a Young Producer

Roger Smith an ALCDC youth alumna was previously featured in the Advancer in 2019. The news story discussed him as a

beginning next-generation Black farmer, producing corn and soybeans in East Arkansas Delta. Today, Smith is one of the best in his generation having chosen production agriculture as a professional career and lifestyle.

Smith states that starting a family farm is a serious decision to make. It is the beginning of a rewarding business career in the agricultural industry.

Unfortunately, the upfront challenge of cost and understanding financial production cost is overwhelming, to say the least. Understanding this at an early age, Smith began preparing himself in Junior High School after deciding he wanted to become a farmer as his occupational career. He took part in Arkansas Land & Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Youth Enterprise and Careers in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship (YECAE) program along with taking vocational career class study and Future Farmers of America. After high school, he continued his education at East Arkansas Community College. Throughout the years of his educational preparation journey, he always gives back by mentoring today's youth who participate in the ALCDCYECAE program giving them first hand experience of what it takes to be a farmer.

When Smith first started farming, he was able to get forty acres of land that his great-great-grandmother Idella Cantrell and her husband bought.

He states that before he farmed, his uncle Larry Terry farmed the land, and before him, his dad Nelson Terry where they have kept it in the family.

Smith oversees about 4,500 acres with a partner. His operation, in which a percentage of lease land contains, 500 acres of corn, soybeans on 38-inch rows, and wheat. He tends rice and plants milo at times. The farm has 5 to 7% of irrigated water flowing through polyethylene pipe tubing. Water for the rice comes from Big Creek. Smith secured a fixed-rate, low-interest farm loan from the Farm Service Agency. The Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentive Program further helped with technical and financial aid to install underground piping, drop pipes, land leveling, cover crops, and nutrient management.

Early career decision-making and preparation have paid off, putting Roger in a history-making position as a new-beginning African-American farmer and landowner. An area where the history of our country has witnessed a major decline both in the career field and land ownership.



WACC FAMILY FARMS

WACC is a family-owned farm in Ward, Arkansas. The Chappell family are proudly raising and selling locally bred and grown pigs for meat production and quail when they have the eggs.

Cory Chappell states that our hogs share 4,000 square feet of land where this is heaven for them. They wander up and down the hill, digging and creating their own mud holes and coating themselves to cool off and keep from getting sunburned. Contrary to what you may think, pigs are clean. They only roll around in the mud to cool off in the summer time because they do not have sweat glands. Pigs are intelligent animals, often thought capable of learning quicker than dogs. The movement of a pig's tail is an



indicator of its mood. A curly tail means the pig is happy, but a tail

tucked between its legs means the pig may be sad or stressed.



QUAILS: These compact little birds accept much less room than other types of poultry, enabling even the

smallest homestead. The quail is a shy, quiet little bird. They enjoy feeding time like any other animal but otherwise will keep to themselves,



preferring to shelter in a safe place rather than spending their days cooking up escape plans. Quail eggs are tiny, and you will need about three quail eggs to give

you the same quantity as one chicken egg. However, what they lack in size, they make up for in substance! These tiny eggs not only pack in more protein than chicken eggs, but they are also lower in fat and cholesterol. Each quail egg has just fourteen calories. Quail eggs also have important levels of antioxidants, vitamin B12, selenium,



riboflavin, and choline which is why it is so hard to keep quail eggs because they go so fast.

We believe it is important that people know where their food comes from. In this light, we prefer that people come to visit our farm and buy directly from our farm. You are also welcome to look around and see for yourself how we work located at 541 Covington Rd, Ward, Arkansas 72176, or by calling 307-214-3403. You can also check us out on Facebook at WACC Family Farms.

From Editor of Central Delta Argus Sun to the Long and Short Farmer



Katie Tigger

The Central Delta Argus Sun in Brinkley

Argus, the premiere newspaper covering Monroe County, now called the Monroe County Argus, is a prime source of practical information for families. As the flagship of Monroe County Media, Katie Tigger has a rich history spanning from journalism from 1996 to 2016 to producer farming.

Katie started “The Long & Short Farm” in 2021 built on a basic theme: making jams from locally grown fruits and vegetables. Her handcrafted jams and sauces are made in small batches with a network of local farmers.

All local, all the time, from the beginning. It was a concept ahead of the curve but now it is right on target as her business continues to build. Katie started with Muscadine Jam and has developed over 20 flavors. The Long & Short Farm makes more than 3,000 jars annually and purchases more than 1000 pounds of local produce per year.

Today, The Long & Short Farm products are found in the farmer’s markets in Little Rock and North Little Rock.

Local Farmers: The Long & Short Farm purchases produce from a variety of local farms in Forrest City and surrounding areas. Farm owners like Gracie Williams, Mr. Sunny, and Mr. Steve who has a peach orchard.

Katie has always enjoyed the warmth and friendship over the years with Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) and the lasting connection that she has with Board member Mary Bone who inspired her to farm.

Katie is known for small batch production: where she hands-stirs and hand-pours every jar. High-quality and locally sourced fruit create. Intensely flavored products.



You can contact Katie at The Long & Short Farm, 3636 Idlewild Ave, North Little Rock 72116; email: tiggerkate@icloud.com or by phone at (870) 638-9025.



Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of Inflation Reduction Act Funding for Climate- Smart Agriculture

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 14, 2023 –Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making funding available for agricultural producers and forest landowners nationwide to take part in voluntary conservation programs and adopt climate-smart practices. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provided an additional \$19.5 billion over five years for climate-smart agriculture through several of the conservation programs that USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implements. NRCS is making available \$850 million in the fiscal year 2023 for its oversubscribed conservation programs: the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

“The Inflation Reduction Act provided a once-in-a-generation investment in conservation on working lands, and we want to work with agricultural and forest landowners to invest in climate-smart practices that create value and economic opportunity for producers,” said Vilsack, who spoke at the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting in New Orleans. “We know that agriculture plays a critical role in the nation’s effort to address climate change, and we are using this funding to bolster our existing programs, maximize climate benefits, and foster other environmental benefits across the landscape.”

The IRA funding includes an added \$8.45 billion for EQIP, \$4.95 billion for RCPP, \$3.25 billion for CSP, and \$1.4 billion for ACEP. The increased funding levels begin in the fiscal year 2023 and rapidly build over four years. These other investments can be estimated to help hundreds of thousands of farmers and ranchers apply conservation to millions of acres of land. Additionally, the IRA supplies \$300 million to quantify carbon sequestration and greenhouse gases (GHG) through the collection and use of field-based data to assess conservation outcomes. The information gained through this effort is used to improve practices and technical aid to customers. Further guidance on this important work will update as the implementation of this part of the IRA continues.

“These funds will provide direct climate mitigation benefits,” said Mike Sullivan, NRCS state conservationist in Arkansas. “They will also expand access to financial and technical assistance for producers to advance conservation on their farm, ranch, or forest land through practices like cover cropping, conservation tillage, wetland restoration, prescribed grazing, nutrient management, tree planting, and more.”

To ensure we can quantify the benefits of these IRA investments, NRCS is working to support Department-wide work on Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MMRV). The IRA supplied targeted funding to support this effort. In administering the Inflation Reduction Act climate investments, USDA will also support other environmental co-benefits, including – among other things – water conservation, wildlife habitat improvements, and reducing runoff.

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.



USDA Department of Agriculture

Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers

Pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), notice is hereby given that a public meeting of the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers (ACMF) will be convened. During this public meeting, the ACMF will consider USDA programs, services, and policies, and how they impact minority farmers. USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack is committed to actions that enhance minority farmers' ability to produce and thrive as businesses through USDA's customer service enhancements, expanded outreach, technical assistance, and capacity building. The ACMF seeks to recommend action-oriented strategies that maximize the participation of minority farmers in USDA programs and services.

DATES:

The ACMF public meeting is scheduled for March 28-30, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mountain Time (MT)—each day.

Meeting Pre-Registration:

The public is asked to pre-register for the meeting by March 27, 2023, at <https://ems8.intellor.com/?do=register&t=1&p=847170>.

Your pre-registration should include: your name; organization or interest represented; if you plan to give oral comments; and if you require special accommodations. USDA will also accept day-of registrations throughout the meeting. Time will be allotted at the end of each morning and afternoon for comments from those attending in person or

virtually. USDA will allow as many individual and organizational comments as time permits.

Oral Comments: Persons or organizations may register for one speaking slot per day. All persons wanting to make oral comments *during* the in-person meeting may check in each day at the registration table beginning at 8:30 a.m. MT. If the number of registrants requesting to speak is greater than what can be reasonably accommodated during the session timeframe, OPPE may conduct a lottery to determine the speakers for the scheduled public comment session.

Written Comments: Written comments for consideration during the public meeting are requested by or before 3:00 p.m. MT, March 30, 2023. The ACMF prefers that all written comments be submitted electronically via the pre-registration link or emailed to the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section (below). However, written comments may also be submitted (*i.e.*, postmarked) via first-class mail to the address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section (below) prior to the deadline. Written comments will be accepted up to 15 days after the public meeting.

Virtual Participation: Public participants may also view the committee proceedings and presentations via Zoom at <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/847168>. Meeting ID and passcode are not required. The call-in numbers and code for listen-only access are:

US Toll-Free: 888-251-2949
US Toll: 215-861-0694
Access Code: 7534 676#

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. R. Jeanese Cabrera, Designated Federal Officer, Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 0601, Room 524-A, Washington, DC 20250; Phone: (202) 720-6350; Email: acmf@usda.gov. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the FCC Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) at 7-1-1 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.



ARKANSAS LAND & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
YECAE & EXCEL

YOUTH SUMMIT

AGES 13-18 YRS OLD

April 29, 2023
10:00am - 1:00pm

Registration 9:30 am

ALFDC BUSINESS CENTER

484 FLOYD BROWN DR. FARGO, AR. 72021

Contact: Tatiana Payne 870-734-3005

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ALCDC

In-Person/Hybrid Summit One USDA
NRCS/FSA/Rural Development
Jonestown Municipal Community Center
Jonestown, Mississippi
April 18, 2023, from 2 pm- 4:00 pm

ALCDC In-Person One USDA Summit
NRCS/FSA/Rural Development
Tri-State Economic Development Summit
Fayette County, Tennessee
May 18, 2023, from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Program and Resource Opportunities

1. New Beginning and Micro- Urban Farming Conservation Program Opportunities with NRCS
2. USDA NRCS Resource Opportunities and Drone Technology for Beginning and underserved Farmers, Ranchers, and Landowners
3. Heir's Property -Equity Holding
4. Access to Land Capital and New Market Opportunities – USDA Farm Financing Direct, Regular, Micro Loan Program, and Loan Guarantees
5. USDA Resource Opportunities, Housing, Business, Community Facilities, Water and Sewer Systems, Internet Access, and other grant programs.

Link to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/registerZEKcuihqDoiHNYaVqk9xauUPT8qOhiCK4F>

We want to hear from you!

Share your experiences, influence policy, and to develop a strong network by supplying opportunities to those in underrepresented communities.



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 it's members, farmers, youth, and rural residents.

Member Opportunities -ALCDC/ALFDC offers leadership opportunities within the organization for our youth, farmers, and rural residents. Members are also recommended for advisory boards 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, assistance 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 are able to 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.





P.O. Box 907
Brinkley, AR
72021

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About The Advancer

The Advancer is a publication of the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation. It is printed and circulated as a public service and communication resource for our membership and constituents. This publication is also circulated to a broad range of organizations and residents throughout the Delta and the United States.

The Advancer reflects the nature of our work - providing self-help opportunities and support services to our farmers and others of limited resources in our 42county service area. Our work is dedicated to helping people become more productive and self-sufficient. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Direct all comments and inquiries regarding this publication by phone to (870) 734-3005 or e-mail to alcdc1934@yahoo.com

You may correct your mailing address on 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
LaShica Miller, Vice-President, Chief Financial Operation Officer
J.D. Davis, Vice President for Program and Policy
Albert Jones, Housing Director, Farm Advisor
Barbara Erby, Director of Public Relations Marketing Administrative Services
Mary Harris, Farm Administrative Assistant, Office Administrator
Ashley Crockett, Farm Advisor
Michael Tucker, Farm Director
Breanna James, Accounts Receivables
Diamond Smith, Accounts Payables, Farm Financial Analyst
Tomyra Privett, Administrative Assistant
Tatiana Payne, Youth Director
Albert Jones, Site Manager

Multi-Family Housing (off-site)

Albert Jones McNeil Apartments, Phase II: Crawfordsville; Earle & Pinewood Apt.
Dev: Brinkley
Shannon Barnes, Chapel Ridge, Phase I and II: Forrest City, Resident Manager Keisha Caffey, Meadowbrook: Marianna, Helena-West Helena, Resident Manager Amanda Rogers, Stone Brook: Forrest City and Wynne, Resident Manager

ALCDC Mission Statement

The mission of ALCDC is to provide advocacy outreach, technical assistance and training to limited resource 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: <https://alfdc.webs.com>
Email: alcdc1934@yahoo.com