

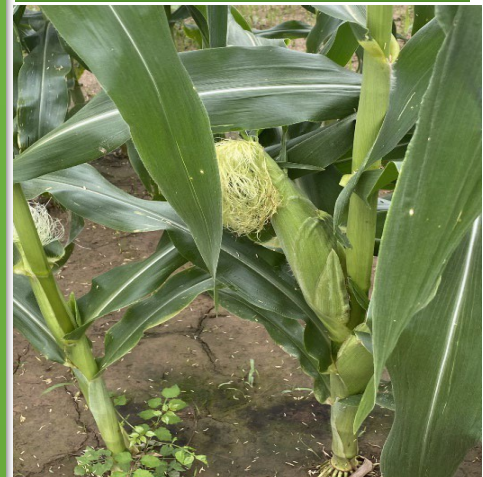
ADVANCER

July 2024



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The Hall Family The Legacy That Is Strong

Story Told by Michael Hall

TALK OF THE LAND

Thearders W. Hall was a Founding Board Member of Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALCDC). He was a farmer and the nephew of James “Papa Doc” Hall and first cousin to Papa Doc’s son James Hall.

One of the most consistent traits of the Hall family is how the values and morals were passed down from generation to generation.

James Hall “Papa Doc” was born in 1895 in an area called “The Bottom’s” on Fourche Creek near the Arkansas River in Little Rock. His wife Minnie Jones was born in 1899. Minnie’s parents Laury and Emma Jones were the original owners of the 200-acre tract. Like many other Black farmers, James and Minnie learned to work the fields at an early age-planting and growing produce for the family. The farming business came easy to them as their enslaved ancestors had passed down to them the techniques and business practices.

For decades, the 200-acre tract Heir Property was a sacred space for the Hall and Jones family to come together after a long day’s work and celebrate special occasions.

The family worked the farm diligently, earning a living, raising six children (Obie, James Jr., Knoxie, Rev. Jake Hall, Mable, and Ruby), hogs, cows, chickens, goats, cultivating produce with a mule being one of their greatest farming assets. In those years, they worked picking cotton, plowing mules, hunting, planting crops, raising livestock, anything that it took to keep the family going.



The” Bottom’s” as it was called was a poor community where everyone had to perform manual labor to eat and have a roof over their heads. The Hall’s lived in a small house with no running water, a wood fire stove for heating and cooking and an outdoor toilet.

During those times there was no refrigeration so the family would salt fresh meat and store it in the smokehouse. Their parents would often have a pile of watermelons (freshly picked from their own patch) in the front yard to sell. To the children the best times were picking one or more at a time and dropping it on its end and busting it wide open. Then you would reach in and pull out the heart which is the center and enjoy the sweetest part of the melon. Instead of using utensils, one would break the rind and dig-in with one’s teeth. The melons were so good they were eaten all the way to the rind. You can imagine the faces of the kids when they came up lifting from the rind and watermelon juice dipping all over their mouth. When they had finished eating the watermelon they would take the rinds and throw them to the hogs. The stories are endless.

The patriarch of the family Papa Doc lived 59 years of his life on the 200-acre tract that the Jones and Hall family owned. Eventually, over the years Papa Doc son Knoxie, bought majority of the land from family and continued to farm on it.

In 1949 Papa Doc bought sixty acres of land in a community on Highway 365 South between Sweet Home and Wrightsville. In fact, the girls Obie, Mable and Ruby and their families lived on the west side of the street which was the same side their parents lived on and the boys James, Knoxie and Jake lived on the east side of the street with their families. Possessing a sound work ethic, each of the boys was self-employed, running their own businesses that included farming and contracting.

James Hall Jr. would be picking up as many as one hundred or more cotton choppers from Wrightsville, Higgins, Sweet Home, College Station, and Little Rock. People (called Hands) would chop cotton all day for \$3.00 per day. In the fall he would haul cotton pickers to the same fields where they were paid two cents per pound to pick cotton. A good person could pick over two hundred pounds in a day if he worked hard. Eventually his business would expand into hay-hauling where he would not quit until the last bale of hay was in the barn. Today his son Michael farms on the twenty-five acre-tract.

Knoxie Hall Sr., owned and ran several different businesses that included a car wash, landscape company, construction business and a farm. Later in 1975 he opened a produce market known as Hall's Produce on Wright Street in Little Rock. In 1984 David and Curtis Hall took over the business and now it is called K Hall & Sons Enterprises. The corporation was formed in 1994 Knoxie Hall Jr. and his son Rodney have a Construction and Machinery company in Little Rock.



Rev. Jake Hall childhood filled with demanding work, led his young adult years peddling vegetables around the Wrightsville, Sweet Home, College Station, and Little Rock area. He learned the trade of building in his early twenties, building his first house and selling it. He also developed the trade of stone masonry. In 1962 Rev. Jake Hall was called by God to a minister at the age of thirty-six.



Johnathan, David Jr., David Sr., Curtis

The legacy continues, as the Jones family continue to own a 30-acre tract, and the Hall's own 170-acre tract of the family 200-acre tract that has been in been in the family for generations.



Charles Hall

Although some of the family members have moved on to incredibly successful careers in very prominent fields, Charles Hall bought a 150-acre tract in Mississippi raising hay, soybeans, and other vegetable crops. Jerry Hall bought over a 20-acre tract in West Little Rock growing vegetables and Michael Hall has a 25-acre tract in Little Rock growing corn, watermelon, and other vegetables.



Papa and Minnie gave their children the compass to help guide them as well as the inheritance of notable examples. It is a journey that continues the family legacy that is strong.

Family is like branches on a tree. We all grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.
Unknown Quote

USDA Expands Funding Opportunities for Specialty Crop Growers to Help Offset On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for 2024 and 2025

WASHINGTON— The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expanding the Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) program to now include medium-sized businesses in addition to small businesses.

Eligible specialty crop growers can apply for assistance for expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety certification. The program has also been expanded to include assistance for 2024 and 2025 expenses.

Producers can apply for assistance on their calendar year 2024 expenses beginning July 1, 2024, through Jan. 31, 2025. For program year 2025, the application period will be Jan. 1, 2025, through Jan. 31, 2026.

“The Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops program helps producers cover costs of

Eligible FSCSC applicants must be a specialty crop operation, meet the definition of a small or medium-size business and have paid eligible expenses related to certification.

- A small business has an average annual monetary value of specialty crops sold by the applicant during the three-year period preceding the program year of no more than \$500,000.
- A medium-sized business has an average annual monetary value of specialty crops the applicant sold during the three-year period preceding the program year of at least \$500,001 but no more than \$1,000,000.

FSCSC payments are calculated separately for each eligible cost category. Details about payment rates and limitations are available at farmers.gov/food-safety.

Applying for Assistance - Interested applicants have until Jan. 31, 2025, to apply for assistance for 2024 eligible expenses. FSA will issue payments as applications are processed and approved. For program year 2025, the application period will be January 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026. FSA will issue 50% of the calculated payment for program year 2025 following application approval, with the remaining amount to be paid after the application deadline. If calculated payments exceed the amount of available funding, payments will be prorated. Specialty crop producers can apply by completing the FSA-888-1, Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program (FSCSC) for Program Years 2024 and 2025 application. The application, along with the [AD-2047](#), Customer Data Worksheet and [SF-3881](#), ACH Vendor/Miscellaneous Payment Enrollment Form, if not already on file with FSA, can be submitted to the FSA office at any USDA Service Center nationwide by mail, fax, hand delivery or via electronic means. Alternatively, producers with an eAuthentication account can apply for FSCSC [online](#). Producers interested in creating an eAuthentication account should visit farmers.gov/sign-in.

Specialty crop producers can also call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a FSA employee ready to assist. Visit farmers.gov/food-safety for additional program details, eligibility information and forms needed to apply. To learn more about FSA programs, producers can contact their local USDA Service Center.

on-farm food safety certification in order to meet regulatory requirements and access additional markets,” said Farm Service Agency (FSA) Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “We recognize the value in supporting specialty crop producers incurring these expenses, so we’re not only continuing the program but also improving access by expanding program reach to include medium-sized operations.”

Program Details

FSCSC assists specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety certification and expenses related to obtaining or renewing a food safety. FSCSC covers a percentage of the specialty crop operation’s cost of obtaining or renewing its certification, as well as a portion of related expenses.

Specialty crop operations can receive the following cost assistance:

- Developing a food safety plan for first-time food safety certification.
- Maintaining or updating an existing food safety plan.
- Food safety certification.
- Certification upload fees.
- Microbiological testing for products, soil amendments and water.
- Training.

Rural and Community Economic Development Outreach Meeting Morrilton, Arkansas

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) convened a Central Arkansas Rural Community Economic Development Summit in Morrilton, Arkansas on May 23, 2024, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce located at 115 E. Broadway Street.



Dr. Calvin R. King Sr.



Allen Lipsmeyer-Mayor of Morrilton

ALCDC, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), USDA Farm Service Agency, and the Mayor of Morrilton partnered to supply individuals, small businesses,

including agriculture enterprises (farmers and ranchers), and communities, useful information, tools, resources, and an opportunity to engage in dynamic discussions outlining relevancies to Urban and Rural Economic Development.

Our Tri-State Regional Summit Resource Speakers offered participants insights on available resource opportunities and programs inclusive of:

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



Shawna Harrold, Deborah Bolin, Travis Caudle

We want to thank the City of Morrilton and all those who attended the in- person/hybrid summit in Morrilton, AR. We are looking forward to a continued partnership and collaborating with you as a catalyst in Urban and Rural Economic Development.





USDA Opens Application Period for Composting and Food Waste Reduction Cooperative Agreements

USDA is accepting applications for Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) pilot projects for the fiscal year 2024. Selected projects will develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans and are part of USDA's broader efforts to support

WASHINGTON— The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications for Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) pilot projects for fiscal year 2024. The cooperative agreements, using remaining funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, are jointly administered by USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Selected projects will develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans and are part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) – led by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) –

Cooperative agreements support projects led by local and tribal governments, schools or other eligible entities that:

- Generate compost.
- Increase access to compost for agricultural producers.
- Reduce reliance on and limit the use of fertilizer.
- Improve soil quality.
- Encourage waste management and permaculture business development.
- Increase rainwater absorption.
- Reduce municipal food waste.
- Divert food waste from landfills.

OUAIP will prioritize projects that anticipate or demonstrate economic benefits; incorporate plans to make compost easily accessible to farmers, including community gardeners; integrate other food waste strategies, including food recovery efforts, and collaborate with multiple partners. Additional details are available in the [Grants.gov notice](#). This is the fifth year that OUAIP has offered this funding opportunity. Examples of past investments include Geneva Compost and Food Waste Diversion, from the Town of Geneva, New York, which diverted food waste and other

will accept applications on Grants.gov until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Sept. 4, 2024. Projects must be two years in duration with an estimated start date of June 1, 2025.

“Uneaten food makes up approximately 4% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions,” said Terry Cosby, Chief of NRCS, which houses the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production. “Turning food waste into valuable compost is an important climate solution and benefits both farmers and communities. Local strategies and tools like the cooperative agreements are important climate solutions and also contribute to food security at the community level, and we encourage communities to apply.”

biodegradables from the waste stream to generate nutrient-rich compost, improving soil quality, reducing reliance on fertilizers, and engaging in food recovery efforts that take “extra” food and get it to community members in need. Another example of a past recipient is the Composting and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Project by Tucson Unified School District in Tucson, Arizona. The project-built infrastructure to provide compost to school and community gardens, improve soil quality, reduce food waste, and demonstrate the economic benefits of including food reclamation education as an integral part of a

school garden and nutrition programs for students, their families and the community.

Webinar

A pre-recorded webinar will provide an overview of the cooperative agreements' purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting applications. The webinar will be posted at usda.gov/urban.

More Information

Earlier today, USDA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Food and Drug

Administration, and the White House announced the [National Strategy for Reducing Food Loss and Waste and Recycling Organics](#) as part of President Biden's whole-of-government approach to tackle climate change, feed people, address environmental justice, and promote a circular economy.

OUAIP was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by NRCS and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture and innovative production. Other efforts include:

- Administering the [People's Garden Initiative](#), which celebrates collaborative gardens across the country and worldwide that benefit their communities by growing fresh, healthy food and supporting resilient, local food systems using sustainable practices and providing greenspace.
- Creating and managing a [Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#) to advise the Secretary on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban agriculture.
- Investing \$9.1 million for [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#) competitive grants in fiscal year 2023.
- Investing \$40 million, made possible by President Biden's American Rescue Plan, into partnerships with community-based organizations that will conduct outreach, education and technical assistance to support urban producers.
Investing in [risk management education](#) to broaden the reach of crop insurance among urban producers.
- Organizing 27 FSA urban and suburban county committees to make important decisions about how FSA farm programs are administered locally. Urban farmers who participate in USDA programs in the areas selected are encouraged to participate by nominating and voting for county committee members.
- Establishing 17 new [Urban Service Centers](#) staffed by FSA and NRCS employees where urban producers can access farm loan, conservation, disaster assistance and risk management programs.

Partnering with the [Vermont Law and Graduate School Center for Agriculture and Food Systems](#) to develop resources that help growers understand and work through local policies.

Learn more about Composting and Food Waste Cooperative Agreements

at usda.gov/urban and view a [complete list of 2023 cooperative agreement recipients and project summaries](#). In 2023, USDA awarded \$11.5 million in 38 cooperative agreements. For additional resources available to producers, download the [Urban Agriculture at a Glance brochure](#) or visit farmers.gov/urban.

NIFA is building a better future by nurturing innovation in the food and agricultural sciences and cultivating equitable change in communities across the nation. Through investment in science as a solution to our greatest challenges, USDA NIFA collaborates with partners to drive research, education and Extension — improving lives,

supporting livelihoods and sustaining the planet. In FY 2023, NIFA's total investment was \$2.5 billion. 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 throughout 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.

ALCDC Conference Sponsorship & Vendor Opportunities

Help us make the 44th Annual Conference Great!

We are thrilled to extend a sponsorship invitation to your organization in view of the 44th Annual Conference. Activities will take place on October 24-25th, 2024, at the Brinkley Convention Center, Brinkley, AR 72021. Please take advantage of the sponsorship packages below.

PLATINUM LEVEL

- Recognition as ALCDC Affiliate Fellow
- Verbal recognition during conference opening and closing ceremonies
- Full Corporate page displayed in conference booklet
- Opportunity for Company speakers to take part in conference panels (as available)
- Opportunity to set-up Company information booth in conference entrance area.
- Prominent Company name and logo on conference website
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees.
- Receive a full-page display in our quarterly Newsletter for one year.

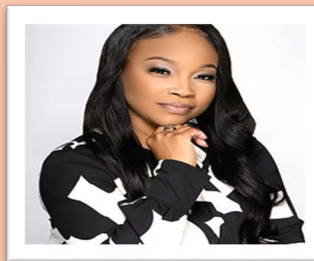
\$20,000.00



GOLD LEVEL

- Recognition as ALCDC Affiliate
- Opportunity for Company speakers to take part in conference panels (as available)
- Half-page Corporate display in conference booklet
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees.
- Receive a full-page display in our quarterly Newsletter for one year.

\$10,000.00



SILVER LEVEL

- Display of Company name and logo in some marketing and day-of-event materials
- Quarterly page Corporate display in conference booklet
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees.
- Receive a quarter page in our quarterly newsletter for one year.

\$5,000.00



BRONZE LEVEL

- Display of Company name and logo in some marketing and day-of-event materials
- Quarterly page Corporate display in conference booklet
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to attendees.

\$2,500.00



All Contributions are Tax Deductible

Sponsorship Option Two Funding Levels and Benefits

FUNCTION	SUPPORTING CONTRIBUTIONS
Educational Panel	\$1,000.00
Youth Oratorical Competition	\$4,000.00
Annual Youth Day Luncheon	\$4,000.00
BENEFITS	
<i>Recognition as an ALCDC Affiliate Fellow in the program booklet</i>	
<i>Verbal recognition during the function sponsored</i>	
<i>Company Logo displayed on sign at the speaker podium</i>	
<i>Receive a quarter page display in our quarterly newsletter for one year</i>	
<i>DAY TWO “FARMING and RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY</i>	
FUNCTION	SUPPORTING CONTRIBUTIONS
Morning Session	\$1,000.00
Workshops	\$4,000.00
Annual Luncheon	\$4,500.00
BENEFITS	
<i>Recognition as an ALCDC Affiliate Fellow in the program booklet</i>	
<i>Verbal recognition during the function sponsored</i>	
<i>Company Logo displayed on sign at the speaker podium</i>	
<i>Receive a quarter page display in our quarterly newsletter for one year</i>	

October 24-25th, 2024
Brinkley Convention Center, Brinkley, AR 72021
Reserve Today!

ALCDC Housing Department



The Section 502 Direct loan program is authorized by the Housing Act of 1949 and provides affordable housing loans to eligible low- and very-low-income applicants who wish to obtain modest housing in rural areas.

502 loans typically provide 100% financing without private mortgage insurance or a down payment. A down payment is only required if the cash value of the applicant's non-retirement assets is greater than \$15,000 for nonelderly households or \$20,000 for elderly households. Assets aside, the Agency will limit the financing to 90% of the home's value if the construction quality of a new home cannot be adequately documented. The standard 502 direct loan term is 33 years. However, loans up to 38 years are allowed when the household's adjusted income doesn't exceed 60% of the area median and a longer term is needed for repayment. Manufactured homes have a maximum 30-year term.

Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

Who may apply for this program?

To qualify, you must:

- Be the homeowner and occupy the house.
- Be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere.
- Have a household income that does not exceed the very low limit by county
- For grants, be age 62 or older.

How may funds be used?

- Loans may be used to repair, improve or modernize homes or remove health and safety hazards.
- Grants must be used to remove health and safety hazards.

How much money can I get?

- Maximum loan is \$40,000.
- Maximum grant is \$10,000.
- Loans and grants can be combined for up to \$50,000 in assistance.

What are the terms of the loan or grant?

- Loans are termed for 20 years.
- Loan interest rate is fixed at 1%.
- Full title service is required if the total outstanding balance on Section 504 loans is greater than \$25,000.
- Grants have a lifetime limit of \$10,000.
- Grants must be repaid if the property is sold in less than 3 years.

For more information contact our office at (870) 734-3005 or Ashley Crockett at (870) 589-1682

ALCDC EXCEL/YECAE

ALCDC's EXCEL Youth Program, is an acronym for (Education Excellence for our Children through Enrichment Leadership Development and Work Experience). The EXCEL Youth Program was established in 1996 to provide basic entrepreneurial training for youth ages 13-15. The YECAE Program acronym is (Youth Enterprise and Careers in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship). The YECAE Program introduces youth, ages 16-18, to farming and agriculture related careers through firsthand training in education and leadership development.

In the two-year program, students are offered paid internships and apprenticeships, for a six-week period where the YECAE participants will intern at the USDA/NRCS Offices. During the school year, YECAE (Youth Enterprise and Careers in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship) students participate in educational leadership seminars and workshops developing people skills training and field trips.

ALCDC's Prevention Services, programming through EXCEL/YECAE will continue its present scope of work by providing youth in Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis, and Woodruff counties with continuing education, training, and exposure.

The Programs are designed to assist youth in establishing professional careers in agriculture and related fields including economics, bio-systems, agricultural engineering, communications, dietetics, family sciences, human nutrition, rural community development, and entrepreneurship. Participants progress through four program phases:



EXCEL STUDENTS

YECAE STUDENTS

The EXCEL and YECAE Programs supplies drug free recreational activities that promote healthy lifestyles and engage young people as mentors to develop leadership skills, as alternatives to negative activities, attitudes, and behaviors. The Program supplies cultural awareness through dramatization to boost participants' self- esteem.



Character Development – Participants are taught leadership skills, people skills including written and oral communication, presentation skills, social skills, and youth volunteer placement support for community service with youth summer feeding programs. Entrepreneurial including niche markets, financial risks, business planning structure and organization development and performance of enterprise budgets. This group is also taught the basics of agriculture with emphasis on conservation and sustainable farming.



Students were introduced to the world of plant growth. Igniting their curiosity and enthusiasm for the growing process and creating an artistic flowerpot. With their newfound knowledge and green thumbs, our students are ready to continue nurturing their plants until harvest time



**ALCDC
STEM ART**



The Business of Farming – Participants engage in firsthand aspects of farming. Projects include actual production of fresh produce, working in farmers’ markets/food hubs and working with row crop farmers. The role of the USDA and its impact on agricultural and related activities in our area are learned benefits of this phase. In addition to classroom sessions, participants learn directly from producers how agriculture works and how USDA services, particularly NRCS foster sustainable farming, conserve our natural resources while also increasing sustainable profitability.





Professional Work Experience – Participants are afforded the opportunity of serving as interns in NRCS and other USDA Agencies’ offices. Knowledge and experience of how the government serves agriculture is obtained. Of vital importance, participants get exposure to a professional work environment and real-life experience of what careers in agriculture can really mean.



Career Planning

Development/Leadership Training – Monthly leadership training workshops and career planning seminars are conducted. Participants execute assignments and participate in exercises designed to prepare them for leadership roles in school, in the community, and for life. Participant’s interests and future occupational opportunities are analyzed and discussed with the eventual output being a 5-year career plan for each participant.



The plans list goals and action plans for achieving the goals for the participant’s chosen occupation, technical goals, social goals, people skills, oral/written communication skills and financial, all listed in time intervals over the five (5) years.

Drone Technology In Agriculture



ALCDC is committed to sharing innovative technologies with clients, farmers and historically underserved communities. Drones are increasing their presence in agriculture and are enhancing efficiency, reducing costs and increasing productivity in farming. Drones and the benefits of drone technology in farming is an important agenda item on ALCDC'S Arkansas and Tri-State Rural and Economic Development Summit meetings held bimonthly in person and virtually throughout the service area.

Drones equipped with multispectral or thermal sensors can help monitor crops, by detecting changes in plant health, insect infestations, diseases and other types of environmental stressors. Certain types of agriculture drones can deliver precise treatments like pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides therefore reducing waste and increasing efficiency. They can cover large areas and reduce labor costs and exposure of harsh chemicals to farm workers. Thermal imaging equipped drones can help to identify crops with water stress or leaks in irrigation systems. This technology is beneficial in helping to support uniform water distribution throughout irrigated production areas. Demonstrations were conducted at Beans Produce Farm in Forrest City, AR in the purple hull pea fields and at Davis Farm (Forrest City, AR) during a hoop house construction.

Drones have been used to monitor livestock and their movement at Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation farm in Fargo, AR. The technology is useful in gaining information quickly on pastures, fencing and the condition of livestock. This data enables farm managers to take immediate action when necessary. It is also an efficient tool to assess damage or loss caused by extreme weather conditions such as storms, tornadoes, floods or drought, which can aid in development of loss claims.



Micro Urban Farming at Greenleaf in Memphis, TN



Green Leaf Farms in Memphis, TN on June 27, 2024, kicked off the day with a fun exploration on the farm, discovering what's growing and learning all about organic farming. Youth were engaging in firsthand in the fundamentals of Micro-Urban Farming.

Throughout ALCDC programs, many young people have become strong advocates for agriculture and its diversity and have a broad understanding and mind-set for becoming successful agri-business people and entrepreneurs. These youth represent the next generation of rural leaders and agriculture professionals.

The Life and Legacy

Aloha Geraldine Purcell Davidson

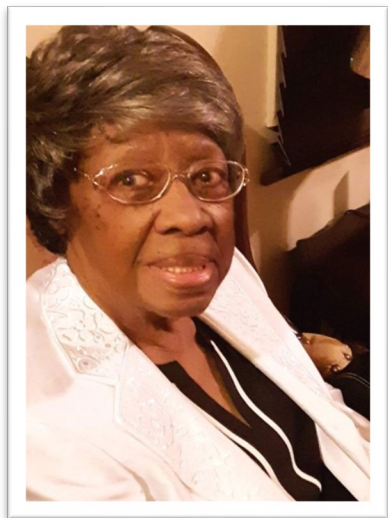
Born and raised in Zent, Arkansas, Geraldine Davidson attended the Fargo Agricultural School found in Fargo, Arkansas. Founded in 1919 by Dr. Floyd Brown a graduate of Tuskegee University.

Arkansas Land and Farm Development (ALFDC) and Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) celebrate the longest tenure as Director of the Fargo Agricultural School Museum under the administration of Dr. Calvin King Sr., in 1992, and her contribution as a civic leader has brought sunshine and hope to those whose paths crossed hers.

Her high academic standards, commitment to protect the patrons of the museum and ALFDC and generous faith have been hallmarks of her 97 years of service. She was instrumental in the naming of Dr. Floyd Brown Drive, which leads from highway 49 to the Fargo Agricultural Museum.

She was the eighth child of eleven siblings born in a little settlement called Zent, Arkansas which is about seven miles north of Brinkley, in Monroe County, Arkansas. Her parents were Edwin and Luvenia and Hardy Purcell. Eighth grade was the highest grade in the public school for Negroes in Monroe County. If you wanted to go beyond eighth grade you had to go to one of the public schools in the Delta or go to Little Rock to Dunbar High School, which her family could not afford. Like others in the area, they were cotton farmers.

Dr. Floyd Brown, the founder of the Fargo Agricultural School, gave her parents the opportunity in 1943 to let her attend school by working her way through. School didn't start until the last of October because you had to harvest the crops, and you would go up until May the next year. When you were finished putting in the crops you could leave two months out of the summer months you went for two months and that made up the school term. You had a split school term. There were about two hundred students attending the school providing a quality high school education where they had a boy's dormitory and a girl's dormitory. To pay her tuition she would work the laundry. With the "Work Will Win", Geraldine learned the traditional subjects like history her favorite subject, math, science along with industrial and home economic courses.



After graduating she moved to Chicago and married and had a son named Vance C. Scott who preceded her in death. She remarried in 1965 to William Davidson from West Point, Mississippi. They had a six-room house on forty-acre tract in Zent that belonged to the Purcell estate. William passed in 2011 where she was the only living heir to of eleven brother and sisters. In December of 2017 she sold the forty-acre tract and divided the proceeds with the family. Geraldine retired from the Fargo Agricultural Museum in 2010.

Thank you, Aloha Geraldine Purcell Davidson for putting Fargo Agricultural School Museum in front of the lens and telling the stories that need to be told.

Dr. Calvin R. King Sr.



ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

October 1, 2023- September 30, 2024

_____ Individual Membership \$25 _____ Partnership Membership \$40
_____ Organizational Membership \$200

Member Benefits

Advocacy and Public Relations -ALCDC/ALFDC participates in federal and state hearing sessions that focus on policy development for its members, farmers, youth, and rural residents.

Member Opportunities -ALCDC/ALFDC offers leadership opportunities within the organization for our youth, farmers, and rural residents. As a member you can select to serve on an advisory board at the federal, state, and local levels.

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

Access to housing, farming, and youth services -ALCDC/ALFDC offers rural residents the opportunity to affordable housing, homeownership education business development, help in accessing farm financing and federal resources, and training on conservation practices, youth leadership development, education enrichment, and workforce readiness.

Information and Communication -ALCDC/ALFDC members can communicate with an ALCDC representative via phone or website concerning their farming, housing, or youth service's needs. Members receive ALCDC updates and news through our quarterly newsletters and weekly e-letters.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

ALCDC/ALFDC programs and services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status. On your compatible Android phone, Smart phone, or tablet-open the built in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your Android phone, Smart phone, or tablet to join or renew membership.



ALFDC/ALCDC Information Survey for Service

We are asking that you complete the following survey and provide the requested information. This will give us added options for providing you with valuable service during these challenging times.

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
County: _____

Mobile Phone Number: _____ Home Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Is your phone a landline or a mobile? Landline Mobile _____

Do you have access to the internet? Yes _____ No _____

Please check yes or no to all the following that apply:

Landowner: Yes _____ No: _____ Heir Property Interest Holder: Yes: _____ No: _____

Row Crop Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____ Gardner: Yes: _____ No: _____ Small Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____

Vegetable Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____ Rancher (Livestock Operation): Yes: _____ No: _____

Small Business Owner: Yes: _____ No: _____ Veteran: Yes: _____ No: _____ New/Beginning Farmer: Yes: _____ No: _____

Are you presently receiving any service from USDA? Yes: _____ No: _____

If so, which ones apply? _____ National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

_____ Farm Service Agency (FSA) _____ Rural Development (RD) _____ Forestry _____ Other: _____

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

If you are an heir or a joint interest holder of land (farm, ranch, or woodland), has this property received any USDA program service? Yes: _____ No: _____

Does your property of interest have a Farm # assigned by USDA Farm Service Agency? Yes: _____ No: _____

Would you desire ALCDC to help you with attaining a farm # from USDA to qualify you for additional USDA assistance? Yes: _____ No: _____

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



P.O. Box 907
Brinkley, AR 72021

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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 mail back to us or call Mary Harris at (870) 734-3005.

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ALCDC MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of ALCDC is to supply advocacy outreach, technical aid, and training to limited resources small farmers and all rural residents to alleviate poverty, enhance sustainable farming and strengthen communities' economic sustainability and workforce readiness.

ALCDC services and programs are available without regard to age, race, religion, gender, or physical handicap.

for Additional Information Phone:
(870) 734-3005
Visit Our Website

www.arlcfdc.org

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

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