

# THE ADVANCER

ARKANSAS LAND AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## 2023 Black History Month

“Learn from the Land and the people of the land...we are all connected.”



**SHIRLEY SHERROD**

New Communities



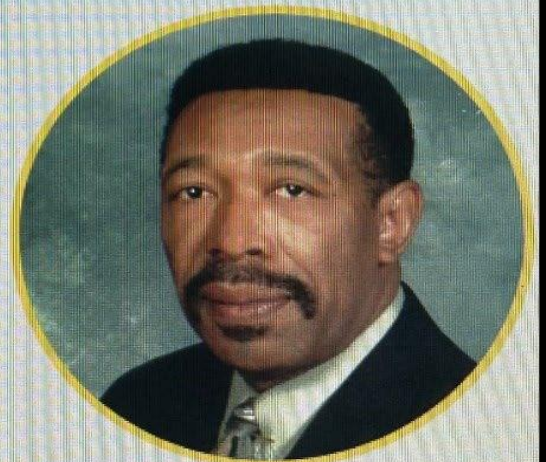
**DÃNIA DAVY**

Federation of Southern Cooperatives  
Land Assistance Fund



**SAVONALA "SAVI"  
HORNE**

Loss Prevention Project



**CALVIN R. KING SR.**

Arkansas Land and Farm  
Development Corporation (ALFDC)

# COVER PAGE: ASALAH TV/YouTube Channel Presents Black Landowners and Farmers “Reclaiming Land and Civil Rights

## ASALH HISTORY

During the dawning decades of the twentieth century, it was commonly presumed that black people had little history besides the subjugation of slavery. Today, it is clear that blacks have significantly impacted the development of the social, political, and economic structures of the United States and the world. Credit for the evolving awareness of the true place of blacks in history can, in large part, be bestowed on one man, Carter G. Woodson. Recognizing the dearth of information on the accomplishments of blacks in 1915, Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (**ASALH**). **To bring that history to life in one’s imagination is to walk with giants where ASALH** is continuing Woodson’s tradition of disseminating information about black life, history and culture to the global community.

To learn more about ASALH and ASALH TV (ASALH’s YouTube channel) contact the Executive Director, MS. Sylvia Cyrus at [Scyrus@asalh.org](mailto:Scyrus@asalh.org);

On the cover page are the panelists who came together based on research, experience, and activism to present their views on farmers and landowners reclaiming the land and civil rights. As most Black farmers reside in the South, the loss of land and farming played a significant role in perpetuating intergenerational poverty in many southern black communities, including the Elaine massacre which occurred September 30-Oct 1, 1919, in Elaine, Arkansas, in which an estimated 237 black people were killed. Since Black landowners gain economic, political, and psychological benefits from owning land, the threat of Black land loss has extensive implications for the Black community and American society as a whole. While diverse and complex, the causes of Black land loss are fundamentally rooted in racially biased policies and the disparate impact of the entire American legal system on the Black community, both historically and in the current day.



**Shirley Sherrod** was Georgia state director for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Obama administration but resigned nine years ago. She is also co-founder of New Communities Land Trust, which was created as a safe haven for African American farmers during the civil rights movement. These days the pioneering land trust is working to help rural black landowners profit from farming and serves as a model for solving the nation's affordable housing shortage. Its mission is to find ways for rural farmers to add value to their operations and find more lucrative markets.



**Dãnia Davy** serves as Director of Land Retention and Advocacy at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, the largest and oldest cooperatively owned organization whose membership includes black farmers, landowners and cooperatives, where she leads service delivery of the Regional Heirs Property & Mediation Center. After double concentrating in Community Health and Africana Studies at Brown University, she earned her J.D. at University of Virginia School of Law. Dãnia began her legal career as a Skadden Fellow at the NCABL Land Loss Prevention Project implementing a project she designed which provided community education and estate planning services to improve Black farmers' access to legal services in the rural South. Dãnia currently serves on the boards of the Socially Disadvantaged Farmer & Rancher Policy Center at Alcorn State University, Farmers Legal Action Group and Southern Rural Development Center.



**Savonala “Savi” Horne** is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss Prevention Project. Savi completed six years of service on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. She serves on the boards of the National Family Farm Coalition and the Rural Coalition. Savi is a member of the Coordinating Council of Black Land and Power Coalition and the Leadership Team of the National Black Food and Justice Alliance. She is a recipient of the 2020 American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (SEER) Award for

Excellence in Environmental, Energy, and Resources Stewardship. As a state, regional, and national non-governmental organization leader, she is instrumental in addressing the needs of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and limited resource farmers and ranchers.



**Dr. Calvin King** is known as one of the iconic Black farmers and professionals who long used their intellect, resources and networks to engage in protest efforts in support of Black farmers and landowners. Since 1978, King has worked on his own family’s farm near Marianna, Arkansas. He founded the nonprofit ALFDC in 1980 to reverse the conditions leading to the loss of black-owned farmland and the decline in the number of small farms in Arkansas. The corporation assists black farmers in gaining access to credit, provides technical and training assistance as well as marketing support, and aids in the development of alternative means of ownership.

In 1991, King helped

institute the Youth Enterprise in Agriculture Division of ALFDC as a career and leadership development program to introduce youth to farming and agriculture-related careers and to provide students with opportunities to do hands-on training.

**Dr. Gladys Gary Vaughn** A recognized expert in family and consumer science, where she has forged a 30-year career in helping people improve the quality of their lives. "I've always believed in social justice. It is a deeply held belief of mine," she states. To that end, she has spoken before Congress, served on the International Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity, published scholarly papers, appeared at international seminars, and been quoted in Time Magazine. More importantly, her expertise has guided policies and programs that have positively affected thousands throughout the world. She has been the recipient of many awards for professional accomplishments and community service, including the US Department’s Secretary’s Honor Award, the Department’s highest award..



Dr. Vaughn is a long-time ASALH volunteer and member of the Executive Council where she co-chairs the Festival Team with Dr. Sharita Jacobs Thompson. The Black History Month Festival was her brainchild (October 2020) in response to a challenge to keep ASALH’s. February Black History Month program tradition alive. She works with a close-knit group of volunteers/friends who lend their professional skills and love for Black history to ASALH’s festival. Dr. Vaughn also conceptualized and planned the program “Black Landowners and Farmers: Reclaiming Land and Civil Rights.”

# From Holly Grove to Hollywood

## American Idol Airing February 19, 2023



“American Idol” turns dreams into reality by transforming everyday singers into show-stopping performers especially for 28-year-old Holly Grove native Shawndria Beard better known as Lucy Love. It’s no surprise that she will be looking at performing in front of those judges again based on what the judges had to say and the reactions from **Luke Bryan**, **pop star Katy Perry** and **'All Night Long' singer Lionel Richie** all overflowing with praise after her audition and receiving her “Gold Ticket”.

Lucy Arkansas roots are deep and so is her passion for singing. Growing up in a small town like Holly Grove, everyone knows everyone. With so few people around, gossip pretty much travels at the speed of light. But it also has its perks; being raised in a tight-knit community which means feeling like your whole town is your family. And, you never have to set foot inside a big box store. When your town doesn’t have much in the way of entertainment, it’s important to learn how to have fun and find people who share your sense of humor. “Growing up in a small town taught me the importance of finding your people—likeminded friends who really believe in you and support your dreams. It may mean that everyone knows your business, but it also means they’ll be there to support you through your triumphs and struggles. Being poor is no joke growing up in a single mom family where one of my earliest memories is of standing in a long line, in the peak of summer heat, for hours just to get commodities. Canned mystery meat, powdered milk, where food stamps were enough to get you only through half the month with food. But I can say that my mom did the absolute best she could. She was a good mom; she sacrificed a lot for and kept us going under nearly impossible circumstances.

*From the first moment I stepped on American Idol stage all I wanted to do was come back and be in front of those judges again.*

*The second time it was so much fun to feel that energy from the judges when I sang Donnie Hathaway’s song “A Song for You” and to know that I finally got my Gold Ticket.*

### **Question: How did you get into the try-outs with American Idol?**

Lucy: My first steps were video calls so we had to go through these series of video calls and if you made it through the first you would continue to the second, third and fourth. After all of that you would then talk to one of the executive producers where they decide to fly you out to Las Vegas for the audition. The whole process took about 3 weeks in all.

### **Question: What song did you perform?**

Lucy: My first song was kind of shaky singing a Marvin Gaye song where I felt I kind of overperformed from being too excited and nervous all at the same time, I guess I was really overthinking the song, but my second song which was one of Donnie Hathaway’s songs “A Song for You” really connected to me because I felt more confident and stronger than before. It was so amazing that I had a standing ovation even from the audience that I got my “gold ticket” to go to Hollywood.

**Question: Do you write your own music?**

Lucy: Yes ma'am. I have been singing since I was four and have been writing since I was a young kid. I do everything on my own, aside from a few encouragements, I have a few friends who are in my corner, who from time to time give me tips, or just take me under their wings and just mentor me about a little things here and a little things there, but mostly I do everything myself when it comes to my music and singing. I even must go find my own band and even find my own segments.



**Question: What is your goal if American Idol does not work out?  
What do you expect out of this?**

Lucy: I want to make music that will resonate with people, but most of all that platform so I can put good stuff in people's heads and ears because I have a very strenuous journey ahead of me. My main goal is to give back all that encouragement that I was taught through dedication and hard work along with inspiration. When I get to the platform where I can encourage them, whatever messages my songs and vibrations give them I want it to help them through their season in life. In other words, I want them to do better, be better and achieve more.



**Question: What do you plan to do with yourself from this point on?**

Lucy: For a living now, I just take care of my babies. I have two little babies, a boy and girl aged two and three where they are stair steps one right behind the other. Believe me God is good and I love them so much. They are awesome and they are an inspiration, they are so funny where they are the gas in my vehicle. I did work in DeWitt at the boot factory, but you know this process of American Idol I had to quit, and they don't have a policy for people who want to leave and come right back. So, now at this point I can feel I can rest because I had to fight so hard to do something, like I'm not going to be a quitter but I'm going to breathe now that my dreams are about to manifest.

Question: So, did you make the final cut?

Lucy: Well, honestly, I can't say, but if I'm lucky enough to move on, hopefully I can just keep raising the bar even more. I feel like I came out really swinging with 'Sounds Like Something I Do'.

*Fans can vote for Lucy Love by visiting the website directly, texting or using the official app.*



## ARKANSAS YOUNG MAN MAKING HISTORY

*18- Year-Old Jaylen Smith Elected as Youngest Black Mayor in Earle, Arkansas to Make History in United States*

Jaylen Smith is the First African American Mayor at 18 years old. He grew up in Earle, Arkansas and lives at home with his mother Sonya Perkins and brother Jayden Smith. The elected Mayor graduated from Earle High School last spring in 2022.

In high school Mayor Smith served as the Student Government Association President and President of five other organizations in his school. He also volunteered in his community by helping to feed the senior citizens and in other ways of volunteering to help make a difference within the community. Earle, whose population is largely Black, sits about 28 miles from Memphis amid sprawling fields where cotton and beans are grown. There are churches, a few used car dealerships and little restaurants.

In an interview with Mayor Smith, I learned that he is Dedicated, Passionate, and Committed to serving people within the Community of Earle and around the county. Mayor Smith is also an advocate for students and people with a Learning disability because he believes that they deserve the same fairness that regular students and people receive.

“There’s this Bible verse that I always use,” Mr. Smith said, paraphrasing a line from the Book of Habakkuk that had propelled his campaign and drove him now as he mapped out a future for himself and his city: “Write a vision, make it plain.” Where he believes God put on is heart to make a difference in Earle.

Mayor Smith tends to work hard with the city council and people on Public Safety because it’s a big issue with Earle Police Department where they are not a 24/7 police department, and they have to rely on the county. The reason why I picked access to food is because years ago we had a grocery store in our city and we want to bring that back because it's hard for our elderly and our people to travel to and from Earle to West Memphis Arkansas just to shop.

For now, though, Mr. Smith’s attention is on Earle and the often-tedious work of running a city. A few days in, his calendar is filled with meetings, and he has already dispatched crews to work on storm drains. He also has college to think about, as he balances the job with online classes at Arkansas State University Mid-South.



# NRCS Advanced Climate-Smart Agriculture, Broadened Reach of Conservation in Past Two Years

During the past two years, NRCS provided targeted funding for climate-smart agriculture and forestry conservation practices through its conservation programs and made improvements in nutrient management that will be bolstered by funding provided by the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), all while prioritizing assistance for underserved producers and urban and innovative production. Key highlights include:

With the help of funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, NRCS invested \$803 million into watershed programs for more than 250 projects. This includes the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program, Watershed Rehabilitation (REHAB) Program, and Emergency



Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, which helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design lives and/or no longer meet federal or state standards. This historic legislation allows NRCS to address a broader portfolio of priority watershed needs across the nation and U.S. territories. NRCS prioritized underserved communities for funding.

NRCS took new steps to improve opportunities for nutrient management through targeted funding, increased program flexibilities, a new outreach campaign to promote nutrient management's economic benefits and expanded partnerships to develop nutrient management plans.

This was part of USDA's broader effort to address future fertilizer availability and cost challenges for U.S. producers. Looking ahead to 2023, NRCS will continue to prioritize climate-smart agriculture and forestry conservation practices bolstered by funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as improved access and outreach to underserved and urban producers.

NRCS requested public comments for ideas on how to maximize IRA funding to benefit climate mitigation, measure climate results, and improve program delivery to producers, especially underserved producers. NRCS will soon be announcing climate-smart IRA opportunities for fiscal year 2023 and will continue to implement innovative program improvements in future years. Visit the [NRCS Priorities webpage](#) to learn more.



February marks Black History Month and this is a time to celebrate, to reflect, and look forward to Strong Roots and Amazing Achievements in Arkansas.

At Arkansas Land Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) and Arkansas Land Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) we are championing and celebrating and contributing to our community and in Black history. “

To help celebrate Black History Month in our communities, **here are some of the leaders who have worked to advance Black issues over the generations.**



**Dr. Mae Coates King** is an American political scientist. She was a professor of political science at Howard University, and a professor emerita as of 2017. She conducted early studies on the politics and international relations of African states, particularly the international relations of Nigeria, as well as research on the history of the

Congressional Black Caucus and the status of African American women in American politics. King was the first African American and the first woman to be a member of the professional staff of the American Political Science Association, which is the main

professional body of

political scientists in North America. There she led the Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession and the Committee on the Status of Women. In 1970, King worked with other African American political scientists including Jewel Prestige to found the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, partly because of the perception that the American Political Science Association had neglected the work of engaging black political scientists. She was also a founder or an early leader of the National Council of Negro Women and the African Studies Association, a Director of the African Heritage Studies Association, and a Vice President of the International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs.



**Daisy Bates:** Bates became the president of Arkansas chapter of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1952. As the head of the NAACP's Arkansas branch, Bates played a crucial role in the fight against segregation. In 1954, the United States Supreme Court declared that school segregation was unconstitutional in the landmark case known as *Brown v. Board of Education*. Even after that ruling, African American students who tried to enroll in white schools were turned away in Arkansas. Bates and her husband

chronicled this battle in their newspaper. In 1957, she helped nine African American students to become the first to attend the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, who became known as the **Little Rock Nine**. The group first tried to go to the school on September 4. A group of angry white people jeered at them as they arrived. The governor, Orval Faubus, opposed school integration and sent members of the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the students from entering the school. Despite the enormous amount of animosity, they faced from white residents of the were undeterred from their mission to attend the school.





**Dr. Floyd Brown:** Floyd Brown attended Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama and Tennessee State College. In 1915, he came to Arkansas selling books to raise funds to finish school. Floyd Brown started the Fargo Agricultural School in 1919, which operated until 1949. It is said that Brown built the school with \$2.85. The school provided a quality high school education to thousands of black students for 30 years. The school was an African American owned and operated boarding school for African American boys and girls with a flexible curriculum.



**Olly Neal:** Mr. Neal served as prosecuting attorney for the First Judicial District. Three years later, he was elected as a circuit court judge for the First Judicial District. Governor Tucker then appointed Neal to the Arkansas Court of Appeals in 1996, where he remained until his retirement in 2007. Neal accepted an interim position as a circuit court judge for the First Judicial District in 2010. In 2003, Neal was awarded the Community Service Award by the Arkansas Judicial Council. He was also named an Outstanding Trial Judge by the Arkansas Trial Lawyers

Association in 2010 and was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2014. Neal served as a member of the board of directors for the Arkansas Judicial Council. He was also active with the Lee County School District, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the National Demonstration Water Project, and the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Cooperation.



**Charles Robinson:** Is the First Black Chancellor picked for the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Mr. Robinson served as the university for 23 years, as provost and executive vice chancellor for academic and student affairs. As vice provost for diversity, Robinson established several programs focused on making the U of A more accessible for Arkansas students. These include the College Access Initiative, a college readiness outreach program serving underrepresented students and under-resourced schools statewide, as well as the ACT Academy, designed to help students prepare for

college entrance exams and academic success. As vice chancellor for Student Affairs, Robinson pioneered a major restructuring of the Division of Student Affairs, better positioning the unit to focus on student success. Robinson led the main capital campaign initiative for Advance Arkansas – a \$10 million scholarship effort for first-generation, low-income Arkansans. Robinson's research and teaching focus on Southern history and race relations, African American studies, sexuality in history and Civil Rights, among other topics. He has earned many awards for his teaching, including the Fulbright College Master Teacher Award, Arkansas Student Alumni Board Teacher of the Year, and an induction into the university's Teaching Academy. Robinson holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Houston, a master's degree in history from Rice University, and a doctorate in history from the University of Houston. He has authored numerous books and peer reviewed articles.

# CONSERVATION COLLABORATION

## PROJECT (TRI-STATE)

The Honorable Mayor Espy of Clarksdale, 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 last December (2022) at The Pinnacle, on the Campus of the Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, MS.

Albert Jones, Farm Director ALCDC, addressed Presenters and Attendees with the Roundtable format of the Summit, where he was followed by the Facilitator, Dr. Calvin R. King, President of ALCDC.

Dr. King outlined the subject matters and their relevancies to becoming an economic catalyst in Urban and Rural Economic Development in Clarksdale which included the following:

- 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, WaterSewer Systems, internet access and other grant opportunities

Mr. Taharga Hart, Conservationist for Area 4 of NRCS eustatically began the Roundtable discussion with the opportunities available where he outlined the core steps and process of doing business with

NRCS that have hindered the Historically Underserved in the past. He assured the Audience that his Agency was available to become an economic catalyst in Urban and Economic



Development. He then expounded on the processes that are necessary in order to do business with USDA. Mr. Hart was followed by David Durham, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Farm Loan Manager, who explained the opportunities of financing in the new federal legislation of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP).

USDA'S Deputy State Director, Rural Development (RD), Nicole M. Barnes clearly outlined the processes of doing Business with RD. Susan Lawrence, Program Specialist, MS Department of Agriculture shared the unique opportunities from the State of MS. The Attendees appreciated the interactive discussion presented by ALCDC'S Round-table Format.

ALCDC expresses their gratitude to Mr. Dorsey Faculty Manager, The Pinnacle, Coahoma College, for assisting in the audio & video setup of the Summit. ALCDC acknowledges and gives a special. Thank You," to Pastor Givens of Pleasant Valley Church for allowing ALCDC to present Summit information to his Congregation.

## **HOLLY GROVE**

### **A HIDDEN GEM AND DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH**

Imagine a place where everybody knows everybody and everybody is family either by blood, by marriage or by attending school together. There is very little crime and no rush hour traffic. When COVID-19 hit, it was one of the last places to have any active cases and there were very few deaths because of the virus. Imagine a place where you don't need a sprinkler system because it rains a couple times a week on average and everything is always green. The drive is just 30 miles to Brinkley near I-40 and from there you can drive an hour west to Little Rock or an hour east to Memphis for big city conveniences.



There are plenty of places to fish and hunt. Also, Holly Grove has two fine restaurants in town. Country Kitchen which has won awards from the local newspaper for its fried whole catfish and catfish steaks. They also serve pork chops, shrimp, burgers and more. Soul Café is the newest and offers steaks, ribs, neckbones, chicken, greens, mac & cheese, sweet potatoes, great northern beans, burgers and more.



Holly Grove has a large extended family of “citizens” who love to come home each year around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July for the Homecoming Parade and Dance. There is also a large gathering on Memorial Day Sunday for the Holly Grove Day Car Show. Holly Grove mayor Lula Tyler retired after serving 27 years on

December 31, 2022. The new Mayor elected of Holly Grove is Willie B. Stokes and she was sworn in to serve for the next four years. Mayor Stokes’ motto is “Let’s Keep the Progress Going”.

Many projects have been accomplished under Ms. Tyler leadership. She has served during the 2001 flood, the ice storm, integration, and consolidation. Not to mention that one of five housing projects were completed during her leadership including Holly Grove Housing. With three projects underway, Holly Grove is scheduled to have a cell phone tower built this year by Verizon Wireless. The application has been submitted to Arkansas Rural Connect (ARC) for a grant to install fiber optic internet to homes. This would allow people in Holly Grove to work from home to anywhere.

A grant for water tower repair has also been submitted to make repairs to the tower itself where there is wear and tear and to the steps of the tower. The third is a water line replacement grant where the city is expanding and replacing old water lines. Our next project in line with Mayor Stokes is to partner with a developer to build new housing for people, mainly for homes that are dilapidated and for those who are retiring and want a quiet place to come home to. It’s hard to leave a city you love.

# ALCDC/ALFDC

## Attend The Arkansas Grown Conference and Expo Jan 25-28, 2023



Arkansas Land & Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) and Arkansas Land & Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) Board and Staff attended the Arkansas Grown Conference and Expo held at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture includes the Forestry Division, Livestock and Poultry Division, Natural Resources Division, and Plant Industries Division where they are dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for Arkansans and the nation.

The Arkansas Grown Expo was administered through the Arkansas Department of Agriculture here they partnered with several Arkansas agricultural associations and organizations to host the first Arkansas Grown Conference and Expo in Little Rock.

The conference was open to all parties interested in Arkansas's agriculture industry and focused on farmers and producers who grow for the local food

system. The four-day event consisted of general sessions with keynote speakers, workshops, off-site farm tours, networking opportunities, and a vendor trade show with representatives from over seventy businesses and organizations.



Evening events at the Sunset Lodge at Rusty Tractor Vineyard and the University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute highlighted Arkansas Grown food, wine, and beer. Over four hundred individuals attended the conference.

The event served as an excellent opportunity for farmers to connect with each other and with organizations that supply resources and opportunities.

From small homestead farms exploring opportunities to turn their operation into profit and micro-urban farmers looking to expand their market, ALCDC wants to help start, grow, and expand their business. For more information contact our office at (870) 734-3005.

A  
L  
C  
D  
C



**Finding the right partners helps keep Arkansas Land Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) and our farmer focus, where we are a good partner as well to best serve our farmers.”**





## **Farm Financing available for Beginning, Limited Resource and the Underserved Farming Population**

If you have not already made all your financing arrangements for the 2023 farming season, you should have. The information provided below is for those who may have been delayed, or in need of additional financing for operating, land purchase or emergency loan assistance for their farming business enterprise.

### **USDA FSA Farm Loan Program Overview**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers direct and guaranteed loans to farmers and ranchers to promote, build, and sustain family farms for a thriving agricultural economy. Farm ownership, operating, and emergency loans are available under the Direct Loan Program. Farm ownership, operating, and conservation loans are available under the Guaranteed Loan Program. FSA offers two types of guarantees under the Land Contract Guarantee Program. The goal of FSA's farm loan programs is to help farmers and ranchers obtain commercial credit. Once you can obtain credit from a commercial lender, our mission of providing temporary, supervised credit is complete.

#### **Direct Farm Operating Loans**

Farm Operating Loans can be used for normal operating expenses, machinery and equipment, minor real estate repairs or improvements, and refinancing debt. The direct loans are available up to a maximum of \$400,000. Microloans are also available.

#### **Farm Ownership Loans**

Farm Ownership Loans may be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures, pay closing costs, and promote soil and water conservation and protection. The direct loans are available up to a maximum of \$600,000.

Microloans are also available.

#### **Emergency Loans**

Emergency loans help farmers and ranchers who have suffered a loss caused by natural disasters that damaged their farming or ranching operation.

Emergency loan funds may be used to restore or replace essentials.

property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation, and refinance certain debts. The county or counties where the farm is located must be declared a disaster area by the President or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. For production loss loans, applicants must demonstrate a 30 percent loss in a single farming enterprise. Applicants may receive loans up to 100 percent of production or physical losses.





## Guaranteed Loans

FSA guaranteed loans allow lenders to provide agricultural credit to farmers who do not meet the lenders normal.

underwriting criteria. Farmers and ranchers apply for a guaranteed loan through a lender, and the lender arranges for the guarantee. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. Guaranteed loans can be used for both farm ownership and operating purposes. Guaranteed farm ownership loans can be used to purchase farmland, construct, or repair buildings, develop farmland to promote soil and water conservation or to refinance debt.

Guaranteed operating loans can be used to purchase livestock, farm equipment, feed, seed, fuel, farm chemicals, insurance, and other operating expenses.

FSA can guarantee farm ownership and operating loans up to \$2,037,000. Repayment terms vary depending on the type of loan, collateral, and the producer's ability to repay the loan.

Operating loans are normally repaid within even years and farm ownership loans do not exceed 40 years.

For more information on FSA loan programs, contact **Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation** office at (870) 734 -3005 or your local **USDA Service Center** or <https://fsa.usda.gov>



# Arkansas Department of Agriculture Accepting Proposals for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Proposals for inclusion in the  
Department's application to USDA-AMS.



**LITTLE ROCK, AR** – The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the 2023 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

(SCBGP). It is the intent of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) to develop and submit a state proposal to the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) in response to the 2023 SCBGP Request for Applications (RFA) from the United States Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA/AMS). The Department's proposal will consist of selected projects that will significantly and positively impact the competitiveness of Arkansas's specialty crops. Specialty crops are fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture).

The purpose of the SCBGP is to supply funding for projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in Arkansas. The project proposal must focus on research, education, or marketing and benefit the specialty crop industry. The department's proposal will consist of selected projects that will significantly and positively impact the competitiveness of Arkansas's specialty crops. This RFA provides all interested parties an opportunity to submit Project Concept.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant is funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enhance the competitiveness of the Arkansas specialty crop industry. The Department will accept project proposals that request a minimum of \$20,000.

Note: Awarding of this grant is contingent upon funding from the USDA. All projects granted funding can start no earlier than October 1, 2023, and must end no later than September 20, 2025. In addition, under some circumstances, the Department of Agriculture reserves the right to allow a no-cost extension to subrecipients. Requests for a no-cost extension must be sent in writing.

The Specialty Block Grant Project Concept Proposal can be found at <https://www.cognitofrms.com/ArkansasAgriculture1/SpecialtyCropBlockGrant2023ProjectConceptProposal>.

The Deadline for Project Concept Proposal is March 1, 2023, by 11:59 p.m. CST.





ALCDC

Hybrid Summit One USDA

NRCS/FSA/Rural Development

Philander Smith College Myer L. Titus Academic

Center Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

March 9, 2023, from 2 pm- 4:00 pm

Opening

ALCDC

Welcome

ALCDC

One USDA Urban and Rural

Dr. Calvin R. King, Sr. CEO. ALCDC

### **Program and Resource Opportunities**

1. Micro- Urban Farming and Conservation Program Opportunities With NRCS
2. USDA NRCS Resource Opportunities for Beginning and Underserved Farmers and Landowners
3. Heir Property -Equity Holding
4. Farm Financing and USDA -Direct regular and Micro Loan program, and Loan Guarantee
5. USDA Resource Opportunities, Housing, Business, Community Facilities, Water and Sewer Systems, internet access and other grant programs.

### **Interactive Response Period with Resource Agency Representative**

Natural Resource and Conservation Services (NRCS) Equity and Equality

Opportunities: Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and The American Rescue Plan (ARP)

- EQIP Manager – Cory Cornelious
- CSP Program Manager – Sherri Degraphenreed
- State Outreach Specialist – Alvin Peer

Farm Service Agency (FSA) IRA and the ARP Resource Opportunities USDA FSA ➤  
Representative Farm Service Agency

Questions and Answers

Closing Remarks and Announcements

### **Link to register:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvf--rqiMtHNVQeuTnJQV-n5tNxiuj\\_Ek-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvf--rqiMtHNVQeuTnJQV-n5tNxiuj_Ek-)

# 2023 Black Mayors Elected Small Towns and Cities



**Harry Brown  
Stephens**



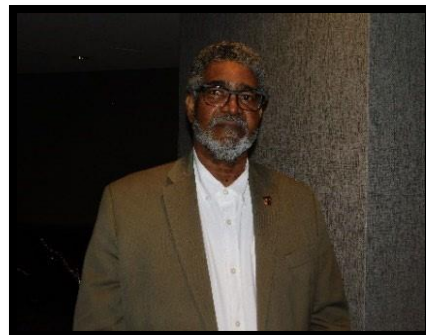
**Tomeka Butler  
Eudora**



**Brenda Porter  
City Tollette**



**Zola Hudson  
Altheimer**



**Larry Bryant  
Forrest City**



**Toni Perry  
Wilmar**



**Ulrica Trotter  
City of Fountain Hill**



**Ora Barnes Stevens  
Marianna**



**Jaylan Smith  
Earle**



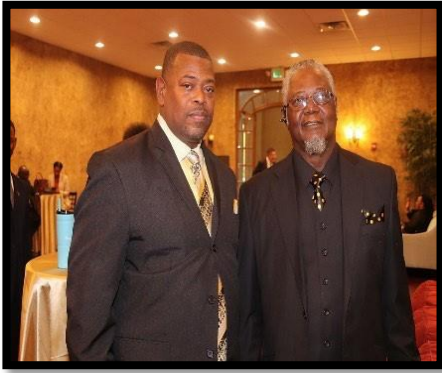
**Ethan Dunbar  
Lewisville**



**Lincoln Barnett  
Hughes**



**Marco McClendon West  
Memphis**



**Leroy Wright  
Anthonyville**



**Derrick Young  
Fargo**



**Frank Scott Jr.  
City of Little Rock**



**Roy Winfrey  
Madison**



**Lisa Hicks Gilbert  
Elaine**



**Melissa Logan  
Blytheville**



**George McGill  
Fort Smith**



**Clara Harston Brown  
Cotton Plant**



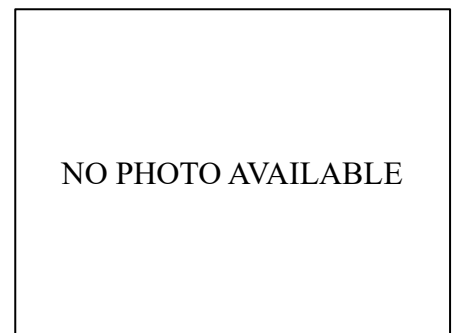
**Derrick Rainey  
Wrightsville**



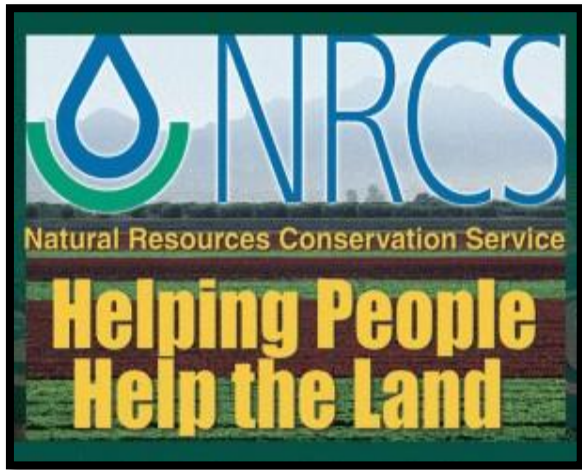
**Diane Cunningham  
Clarendon**



**Ossie Thomas Sr.  
Haynes**



**Walter Jordon Sr.  
Dermott**



## Farmers Help America Keep Soil Healthy

Our lives are dependent on healthy soil. Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife and beautiful landscapes. It's the reason why USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service experts are in your community and across the nation.

Soil is composed of air, water, organic matter and minerals. A community of organisms – functioning as a soil food web – lives all or parts of their lives in soil. More individual organisms are in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth. Increasing soil organic matter typically improves soil health, since organic matter improves several critical functions of soil.

To improve the health of their soil, more and more farmers and ranchers are keeping soil covered, reducing disturbance activities such as tilling, keeping plants growing throughout the year, and diversifying the crops their planting in a rotation. Taking these steps allows farmers and ranchers to help reduce erosion while

increasing the soil's ability to provide nutrients and water to the plant at critical times during the growing season.

When producers focus on improving soil health, they often have larger harvests, lower input costs, optimized nutrient use, and improved crop resilience during drought years like last year. In heavy rainfall years, healthy soil holds more water, reducing runoff that helps avert flooding downstream.

And because healthy soil allows for greater water infiltration and less erosion, nutrients and pesticides stay on the farm where they benefit crops and are far less likely to be carried off the farm into streams and lakes where they can cause harm.

NRCS Arkansas is committed to "***Helping People Help the Land***" by assisting producers in conserving our valuable natural resources. They provide services to all private landowners who are interested in restoring and enhancing our sprawling landscape through a unique partnership with landowners, conservation districts, state and local governments, and rural and urban citizens health – all of which can lead to productive, profitable and sustainable farming and ranching operations for generations to come..

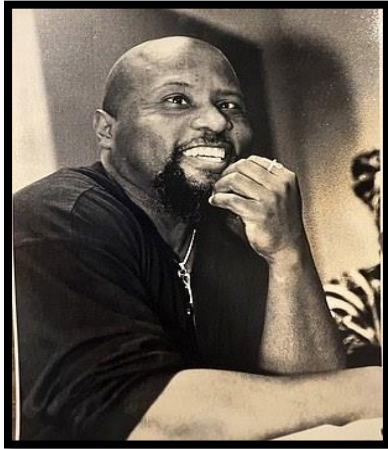
Arkansas is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and a proud agricultural history and heritage. NRCS Arkansas is led by state conservationist Mike Sullivan.

*Remember*



Longtime Supporters  
and Patriots ALFDC  
and ALCDC

## Honorable Victor Lamont Hill



Victor was a supporting advocate and legal advisor for ALFDC since its inception. He grew up in the Wrightsville community. Judge Hill graduated from Wilbur D. Mills High School and completed his undergraduate studies, majoring in philosophy and minoring in religion, at the University of Arkansas Little Rock. Victor received a Master of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; and earned his Juris Doctor from the William H. Bowen School of Law. After law school, he worked at the East Arkansas Legal Services where he did substantial work advancing voting rights in Crittenden County. He became a supervising attorney before running for judicial office. From 2000-2016, Judge Hill served as the Division 6 judge for the 2nd Judicial Circuit Court of Arkansas, which includes Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Greene,

Mississippi, and Poinsett Counties. While on the bench, Judge Hill started

and presided over Mental Health Court and Veterans Court—programs designed to reduce recidivism rates and provide treatment and rehabilitation rather than incarceration. He was a longtime supporter of ALFDC in Fargo, AR.

## Pastor Joe Nathan Bryant Jr.

Pastor Bryant was a long standing organization member and board member with ALFDC. He attended elementary school at Allport and graduated from

Holman High in Stuttgart, Arkansas in 1963. He graduated from AM&N College in Pine Bluff, Arkansas in 1968. He taught school in Dumas, and Humnoke, Arkansas and later was hired out by the Cotton Belt Railroad where he worked for 15 years. After that he went into full-time farming and was there for 35 years and then retired. He was an ALFDC mentor farmer and was also among the influential people that sparked the

Black Farmers Lawsuit. He was the Mayor of Allport, AR in 1994, he also served as city councilman and a member of the Humnoke School Board. Joe had many accomplishments, but what he enjoyed the most was his call to the ministry, he became the Pastor of The Church at Allport and was there until his death. He never met anyone and left them without asking them this question, “Do you know my big brother, Jesus”.





# ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

## October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ Partnership Membership \$40

\_\_\_\_\_ Organizational Membership \$200

### Member Benefits

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

**Member Opportunities** -ALCDC/ALFDC offers leadership opportunities within the organization for our youth, farmers, and rural residents. 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.



# ALFDC/ALCDC Information Survey for Service

We are requesting that you complete the following survey and provide the requested information. This will give us added options for providing you 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 the following that apply:**

Landowner: Yes \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ Heir Prosperity Interest Holder: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_  
Row Crop Farmer: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ Gardner: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ Small Farmer: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_  
Vegetable Farmer: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ Rancher (Livestock Operation): Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_  
Small Business Owner: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ Veteran: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ New/Beginning Farmer: Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_

**Are you presently receiving any service from USDA?** Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_ FSA: \_\_\_ NRCS: \_\_\_

USDA Rural Development: \_\_\_ Forestry \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Are you aware of the new government program opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 Stimulus package?** Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_

**Are you aware of the COVID-19 Stimulus Grant and other governments program benefits that will be made available?** Yes: \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_

Please mail the information provided in the survey to:

Mary Harris

P O Box 743

Brinkley, Arkansas 72021



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

P.O. Box 907  
Brinkley, AR  
72021

## About The Advancer

The Advancer is a publication of the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation. 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](mailto: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  
Wylene Whittenton, Site Manager

### Multi-Family Housing (off-site)

Wylene Whittenton, 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](mailto:alcdc1934@yahoo.com)