

ARKANSAS LAND & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

THE ADVANCER

SPRING 2022 NEWS BULLETIN



Save The Date: ALFDC 42nd Annual
Conference and Membership Meeting Hosted
by ALCDC October 27th & 28th, 2022

ALCDC Convenes Rural Community Economic Development Events

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) conducted rural community economic development meeting in Lewisville, AR. and Green Leaf, TENN. All the events convened with in person and virtual public participation. All the events presented work sessions by resource agency officials, who provided information to participants on program participation opportunities for the socially disadvantage, and the underserved and unserved segments of our population. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services discussed its conservation program opportunities supporting local food supply, water quality, soil health and nutrient practices, and the delivery process for the agency's equity program opportunities. USDA Farm Service (FSA) discussed the availability of their farm financing program opportunities for beginning, experienced, and micro urban farmers and farm program payments. Other presenters discussed heir property, and drone technology in crop production agriculture and ranching.

As the changing tides of economic uncertainty continues, the urgency has become even greater for equity and equality service delivery opportunities for our underserved population. Understanding their challenges, ALCDC has continued to maintain its highest level of outreach as an added assurance for the availability of information for resource opportunities.

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**Please circle 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

**Select if you are you presently receiving any
service from**

**USDA FSA NRCS Rural Development
NRCS Forestry Other:**

**Do you have any conservation program
service contracts?** Yes No

Clearing Up Heir Property Ownership and Making Collective Decisions

If You Have Ownership Interest In Heir Property:

As an owner of heir property, it is in every one's best interest to work with each other as owners to look after your land. A unified heir property agreement should be made to pay property taxes on time. In addition, the agreement should also include how to divide the profits made off of the land equally among the property owners. If some of the heirs are not interested in the land, the agreement may also set forth how none interested owners will be bought out by the remaining interest holding heirs. A lawyer should be employed to help them "deed" their share to interested heirs. You may also want to work with the lawyer to make legal arrangements so that any heirs who live on the land can be the ones to make the decisions about it.

Resolving Property Disputes: If there are any family disagreements over the land, they should be worked out by the family members themselves before seeking outside help. If there are issues that cannot be resolved by the family members themselves, then a neutral mediator—someone trained in that profession—should be sought after. Third 3rd party mediation may be very meaningful and help to resolve existing family disputes over the land. Do not undervalue the importance of such a service.

Determining Owners Interest: Before you can pursue new and creative uses for your land, you must legally determine who else owns shares in your property. You will not be able to develop your land without the consent of the other landowners, so it is important that you identify who else shares ownership of the land and include them in the decision making process. Ask yourself questions like, "Are all of the co-owners family members?" "Has one relative ever sold a share to someone outside the family?" Once you have determined who the other owners are, you will be ready to start organizing yourselves to make decisions.

If you have an interest in learning more about heir property ownership, please mail the form below indicating your packet preference:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Heir Property Educational Manual ☐

Heir Property Training Packet ☐

Financing Heir Property ☐

All of the Above ☐

If you would like to discuss your heir property situation, please contact our office at (870) 734-3005.

USDA Names Appointees to the Arkansas Farm Service Agency State Committee

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced appointees who will serve on the Arkansas USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) state committee. Members of the FSA state committee are appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and are responsible for the oversight of farm programs and county committee operations, resolving program delivery appeals from the agriculture community, maintaining cooperative relations with industry stakeholders, keeping producers informed about FSA programs and operating in a manner consistent with USDA equal opportunity and civil rights policies.

Each FSA state committee is comprised of three to five members including a designated chairperson. The individuals appointed to serve on this committee for Arkansas are:

- Committee Chair William Eric Anderson, Jr. - Hindsville
- Jamie Darling - Tuckerman
- Juan Rivera - Hope
- Willard Ryland – Cotton Plant

“The FSA state committee members play an integral role in the continuity of operations, equitable and inclusive program administration and ensure the overall integrity of services to the nation’s agricultural producers,” said Marcus Graham, FSA Deputy Administrator for Field Operations. “These individuals have proven themselves to be leaders, early adopters and key influencers in the agriculture industry in their respective states – qualities that will serve them well in these key Biden-Harris Administration leadership positions.

The Farm Service Agency serves farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural partners through the effective, efficient, and equitable delivery of federal agricultural programs. The Agency offers producers a strong safety net through the administration of farm commodity and disaster programs. Additionally, through conservation programs, FSA continues to preserve and protect natural resources and provides credit to agricultural producers who are unable to receive private, commercial credit, including targeted loan funds for beginning, underserved, women and military veterans involved in production agriculture.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.



Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Assistance for Crop Producers

FSA is developing a two-phased process to provide assistance to diversified, row crop and specialty crop operations that were impacted by an eligible natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 or 2021.

This program will provide assistance to crop producers and will follow a two-phased process similar to that of the livestock assistance with implementation of the first phase in the coming weeks. Phase one of the crop assistance program delivery will leverage existing [Federal Crop Insurance](#) or [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program](#) data as the basis for calculating initial payments.

Making the initial payments using existing safety net and risk management data will both speed implementation and further encourage participation in these permanent programs, including the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Rainfall Index Crop Insurance Program, as Congress intended.

The second phase of the crop program will be intended to fill additional assistance gaps and cover eligible producers who did not participate in existing risk management programs.

Through proactive communication and outreach, USDA will keep producers and stakeholders informed as ERP implementation details are made available.

More Information

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producer impacted by [drought](#) and [wildfire](#) and the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#), and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#). For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#). For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their [crop insurance agent](#).

March 2022

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION | FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Emergency Livestock Relief Program

(ELRP)



Background

ELRP is part of FSA's implementation of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 117-43), which provides \$10 billion in much needed emergency assistance for agricultural producers, including \$750 million specifically targeted for livestock producers impacted by the severe drought or eligible wildfire.

Overview

To help agricultural producers offset the impacts of natural disasters, ranchers who faced increased supplemental feed costs resulting from forage losses due to severe drought or wildfire in 2021 can receive emergency assistance payments through the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) **Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP)**.

Eligibility

USDA will follow a two-phased process to administer relief through ELRP to eligible livestock producers:

- Phase 1 will leverage data from the 2021 **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** year to determine payments to assist with increased supplemental feed costs;
- Phase 2 will be focused on identifying and providing emergency assistance to producers impacted by drought and wildfire in calendar year 2021 who did not otherwise receive assistance under Phase 1 or other programs.

For impacted producers, USDA will leverage 2021 LFP data to deliver immediate relief.

LFP is an important tool that provides up to 60% of the estimated replacement feed cost when an eligible drought adversely impacts grazing lands or 50% of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland because of a qualifying wildfire. LFP provides additional assistance to producers for eligible livestock that were sold due to a qualifying drought.

Phase 1 Eligibility

ELRP Phase 1 only includes 2021 LFP participants. To be eligible for an ELRP payment under Phase 1, livestock producers must have suffered grazing losses in a county rated by the **U.S. Drought Monitor** as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks or a D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity during the 2021 calendar year normal grazing season; or whose permitted grazing on federally managed lands was disallowed due to wildfire are also eligible for ELRP payments.

How to Apply

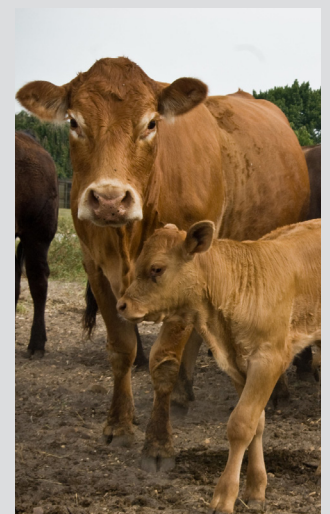
As part of FSA's efforts to streamline and simplify the delivery of ELRP Phase 1 benefits, eligible livestock producers are not required to submit an application for ELRP Phase 1; however, they must have the following forms on file as determined by FSA's Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs:

- CCC-853, Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application
- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet.
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity.

For More Info

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producers impacted by **drought** and **wildfire** and the **Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool**, **Disaster-at-a-Glance** fact sheet, and **Farm Loan Discovery Tool**.

For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, producers should contact their local **USDA Service Center**. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their **crop insurance agent**.



EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK RELIEF PROGRAM

- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable).
- Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs (if applicable).
- Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, if applicable for the 2021 program year.
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification) for the ELRP producer and applicable affiliates.

Eligible Livestock

Eligible livestock are the same as those that are eligible for LFP: grazing animals that satisfy the majority of net energy requirement of nutrition via grazing of eligible forage grasses or legumes and include such species as alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo/bison, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer or sheep.

As with LFP, livestock eligible for ELRP must:

- Have been owned, leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase, or held by a contract grower during the 60 days prior to the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire condition;
- Have been sold or otherwise disposed of due to a qualifying drought condition during the current production year or one or both of the two production years immediately preceding the current production year;
- Have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible drought or fire condition;
- Not have been produced and maintained for reasons other than commercial use as part of a farming operation (such excluded uses include, but are not limited to, wild free-roaming animals or animals used for recreational purposes such as pleasure, hunting, pets, roping or for show); and
- Not have been livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot on the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire as part of the normal business operation of the livestock owner or contract grower.



Eligible Producers

Producer eligibility for ELRP aligns with LFP policies.

To be eligible for ELRP, persons or legal entities must be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership of U.S. citizens, a legal entity organized under State law, or an Indian tribe or tribal organization defined in the Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act that:

- Own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of covered livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire;
- Provide pastureland or grazing land for covered livestock, including cash-rented pastureland or grazing land as of the date of the qualifying drought or fire that is either:
- Physically located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county; or
- Rangeland managed by a federal agency for which the otherwise eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normally permitted livestock because of a qualifying fire.
- Certify that they have suffered a grazing loss because of a qualifying drought or fire; and
- Timely file an acreage report for all grazing land for which a grazing loss is being claimed.



ELRP Phase 1 Payment Calculation

To further expedite payments to eligible livestock producers, determine eligibility, and calculate an ELRP Phase 1 payment, FSA will utilize livestock inventories and drought-affected forage acreage or restricted animal units and grazing days due to wildfire already reported by the producer when they submitted a 2021 CCC-853, Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application form.

Phase 1 ELRP payments will be equal to the eligible livestock producer's gross 2021 LFP calculated payment multiplied by an ELRP payment percentage.

The ELRP payment percentage will be 90% for historically underserved producers, and 75% for all other producers.

To qualify for the higher payment percentage, eligible producers must have a CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, form on file with FSA for the 2021 program year.

ELRP - Phase 2

FSA continues to evaluate and identify impacts of 2021 drought and wildfire on livestock producers to ensure equitable and inclusive distribution of much-needed emergency relief program benefits.

All ELRP information and resources will be updated as Phase 2 policies and provisions are available.

Payment Limitation and Adjusted Gross Income

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations do not apply to ELRP; however, the payment limitation for ELRP is determined by the person's or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income (income derived from farming, ranching, and forestry operations). Specifically, a person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, cannot receive, directly or indirectly, more than \$125,000 in payments under ELRP if their average adjusted gross farm income is less than 75 percent of their average AGI for tax years 2017, 2018, and 2019.

If at least 75 percent of the person or legal entity's average AGI is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry related activities and the participant provides the required certification and documentation, as discussed below, the person or legal entity, other than a joint venture or general partnership, is eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, up to \$250,000 in ELRP payments. To request the increased payment limitation, participants must file form FSA-510 complete with participant's certification their average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI and a certification from a Licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Attorney that the participant meets the requirements.

Attribution of payments apply to ELRP and payments to a legal entity are tracked through four levels of ownership, attributed, and limited to persons or legal entities that hold an ownership interest in the legal entity. To learn more, visit the [Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitations](#) fact sheet.

NEW FARMERS

From farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is here to support you and your operation.

GET STARTED

Contact Your Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coordinator

Each State has a coordinator that can help you with questions on working with USDA.

Find yours at farmers.gov/manage/newfarmers/coordinators.

Contact Your Local USDA Service Center

Service Centers are USDA offices where Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff can meet with you one-on-one to discuss your vision, goals, and ways USDA can help. Steps to the process are on the next page.

USDA SERVICE CENTER AGENCIES

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

FSA provides disaster assistance, safety net, farm loan, and conservation programs and is the go-to agency for many USDA records. If you're new to working with USDA, your FSA team member will help you register your farm with a farm number. Depending on what you raise or grow, filing an acreage report each season can ensure you're eligible for many programs and allows you to vote in county FSA elections.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS provides financial and technical assistance and easement programs for conservation on working lands. Your NRCS team member will ask about your goals for your land and can help you develop a conservation plan and file an application for the wide range of NRCS programs.



ADDITIONAL USDA RESOURCES

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

RMA administers federal crop insurance through Approved Insurance Providers to help farmers prepare for the future. Special provisions are available to beginning farmers.

Rural Development (RD)

RD provides loans, grants, loan guarantees, and technical assistance, along with support for affordable housing, infrastructure modernization, businesses, cooperatives, and other essential community services.

Cooperative Extension

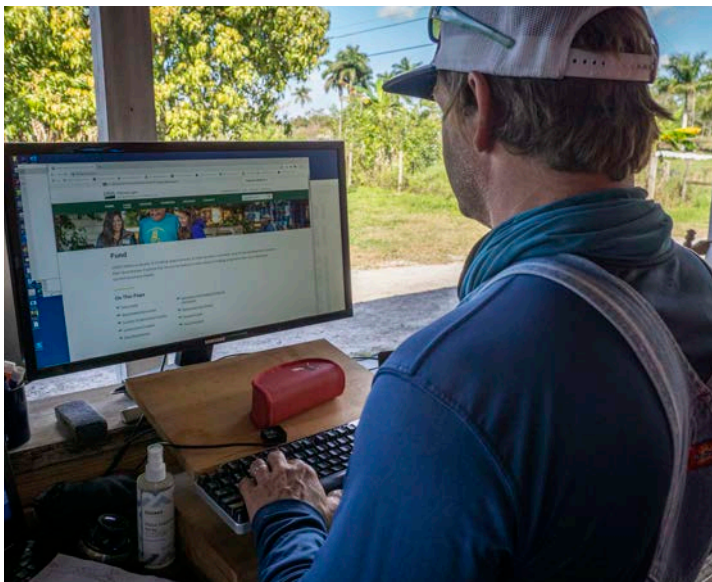
USDA and agricultural colleges around the country work together to support an extensive network of State, regional, and county Cooperative Extension offices, which can help answer questions you may have about your operation and address common issues faced by agricultural producers.

GET STARTED WITH YOUR LOCAL USDA SERVICE CENTER

Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator, which has staff who can meet with you one-on-one to discuss your vision for your land and how we can help. Free, real-time translation service is also available at the Service Center for non-English speakers. Learn more at farmers.gov/interpret.

BEFORE YOUR MEETING

- 1. Make an appointment.** This will ensure quick service. Our offices can get busy, especially at times around program sign-up and reporting deadlines.
- 2. Prepare.** Ask what documents are needed to help to make the most of your appointment. Examples could include lease agreements, bank account information, inventory or production records, legal paperwork, or personal identification numbers.
- 3. Think about your vision.** What is your vision for your land and farm? What are your challenges?



MORE INFORMATION

Learn more at farmers.gov/newfarmers.

DURING YOUR MEETING

- 1. Register for a farm number.** This is required to participate in USDA programs. Have available an official tax identification (Social Security number or employer ID) and a property deed. If you do not own the land, be sure to have your lease agreement. If your operation is incorporated or an entity, we may need proof of your signature authority and legal ability to sign contracts with USDA.
- 2. Discuss your business and conservation goals.** Your local FSA or NRCS team members need to understand your vision to recommend programs for your operation. For example, are you looking for access to capital, to rebuild after a natural disaster, or to improve your farm's soil health, improve irrigation, or attract more wildlife?
- 3. Make a plan to meet conservation compliance provisions.** You'll need to file form AD-1026 to ensure wetland areas and highly erodible lands are not farmed, unless following an NRCS conservation plan. This is required for all USDA program eligibility, including disaster assistance.
- 4. Verify eligibility.** For most USDA programs, producers must file a CCC-941 to verify they do not exceed an adjusted gross income of \$900,000.
- 5. File your program application.** We can help you complete the forms.
- 6. Sign up for email or text updates.** This will help you stay informed about program signups or deadlines.

AFTER YOUR MEETING

- 1. File your acreage reports throughout the year.**
- 2. Keep in touch with your local office.** Let us know if your business changes or you experience a disaster or hardship.
- 3. Learn about self-service options.** Create a farmers.gov account to manage some of your USDA business online.



ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

October 1, 2021- September 30, 2022

_____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, home ownership 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 needs. Members receive ALCDC updates and news through our newsletters, news bulletin 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/A/ LFDC program and services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status.



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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 42 county 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
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Albert Jones, Farm Program Director
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Diamond Smith, Accounts Payables, Farm Financial Analyst
Tomyra Privett, Administrative Assistant
Mykela Sparkman, Administrative Assistant
Alexis Allin, Youth Director

Multi-Family Housing (off-site)

Barbara Erby, McNeil Apartments, Phase I: 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