

# ARKANSAS LAND AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S THE ADVANCER

FARGO, ARKANSAS

WINTER 2017



## Save the Date

Thursday,  
Dec. 14, 2017

### Growers & Livestock Technical Meeting

Registration starts  
at 9:30  
at ALFDC Business and  
Conference Center in Fargo

Saturday,  
Dec. 16, 2017

### Community Economic Development Summit

Registration starts  
at 10 a.m.  
at Menifee Community Center  
68 Mustang St.,  
Menifee, Arkansas

Friday,  
Jan. 26, 2018

### Winter Farmers' Conference

Registration starts  
at 9:30 a.m.  
at ALFDC Business and  
Conference Center in Fargo

## ALCDC Sets Winter Meetings For Farming, Community Development, And Annual Winter Farmers' Conference

To assist in economic development, the

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) has set several meetings — a Growers and Livestock Technical Meeting at Fargo, a Community Economic Development Summit at Menifee and the Annual Winter Farmers' Conference at Fargo.

The Winter Farmers' Conference will be held on Friday, Jan. 26, 2018 at the ALFDC Business and Conference Center in Fargo. Farm Programs will include discus-

sions on new resource dollars for rural business development, housing, community facilities and economic development and water-sewer systems infrastructure.

Also there will be programs on food safety and security, farmers market, alternative crops, marketing, financial, and business opportunities for socially disadvantaged beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers.

The Growers and Livestock Technical Meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017 at the ALFDC Business and Conference Center in Fargo with registration starting at 9:30 a.m.

Van Banks, farmer advisor with ALCDC, encourages anyone that is interested in micro urban farming to attend the meeting.

Banks explained that the

meeting will focus on growing cash crops for local farmer's market and fresh locally grown markets. He noted that a growing number of people and restaurants are interested in buying fresh, locally grown produce.

The program will cover the production of tomatoes, purple hull peas, okra, an assortment of greens and other vegetables. Also there will be a segment on the benefits of a hoop house, which is an unheated green house, for year around vegetable production.

Then on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, the ALFDC and ALCDC will hold a Community Economic Development Summit in Menifee. Registration will start at 10 a.m.

For more information interested persons can contact Mary Harris at 870-734-3005.



*37th Annual  
Conference held ...*  
A number of people attended the ALFDC's 37th Annual Membership Conference held Oct. 26-27. More photos on pages 6-9.



## Board of Directors

Dr. Brian Cornelious  
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Linda Wilson  
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## Administrators

Dr. Calvin R. King Sr.  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer

Melissa Bailey  
Chief Financial  
and Operations Officer

# Letter from the president

Winter 2017

Dear Partners, Landowners, Farmers,  
Ranchers and Members:

We would like to share this message from the USDA about the upcoming 2017 Census of Agriculture and we would like to encourage everyone to make their voices heard.

Farmers and ranchers in Arkansas will soon have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities and industry by taking part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census, to be mailed at the end of this year, is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them.

"The Census remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation," said Eugene Young, NASS Delta Regional Director. "It's a critical tool that gives farmers a voice to influence decisions that will shape the future of their community, industry, and operation."

The Census highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income, expenditures, and other topics. This information is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses and trade associations. For example, legislators use the data when shaping farm policy and agribusinesses factor it into their planning efforts.

"Your answers to the Census impact farm programs and rural services that support your community," Young said. "So please be counted by completing your form, because there's strength in numbers that only the Census can reveal."

In 2012, Arkansas farmers reported a total of 45,071 farms, spanning 13,810,786 acres. This showed a 9 percent decrease in the number of Arkansas farms from the previous Census in 2007. Arkansas ranked number one in rice production in the United States. This telling information and thousands of additional farm and ranch statistics are only available every five years, as a direct result of responses to the Census.

For more information about the Census, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). The Census of Agriculture is Your Voice, Your Future, Your Opportunity.

Sincerely

*Dr. Calvin R. King Sr.*  
President and Chief Executive Officer

From the  
President  
Dr. Calvin R.  
King Sr.  
President and CEO



Farming  
Youth  
Housing



**Arkansas Land & Farm  
Development Corporation**

**FARMING**

**COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Calvin R. King,  
President

Dr. Brian Cornelious,  
Board Chairman

Hosted By:



For more information:

**ARKANSAS LAND &  
FARM DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

484 Floyd Brown Drive  
Brinkley, AR 72021

870-744-1140

# **JANUARY 26, 2018 WINTER FARMER'S CONFERENCE**

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) will host the Winter Farmers' Conference for Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at the ALFDC Business and Conference Center in Fargo, AR. The conference is open to the public. Additional information will be mailed out in the near future. We are anticipating your participation.

# **SAVE THE DATE**





Mary Bone works in her hoop house located at Fargo. Mary and her husband, Ricky work year round to produce fresh, locally grown vegetables which they sell at a farmer's market and to several restaurants in the Little Rock area.

## ALCDC Assist Micro Urban Farm Projects

**T**he focus of Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation's (ALCDC) Micro Urban Farm Business Enterprise Project is to provide production agriculture opportunities in rural small town and city communities. The project offers horticultural farm opportunities to New and Beginning Farmers/Ranchers (NBFR) along with addressing the specific needs for this new limited resource beginning farmer population,

including qualifying immigrants.

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) will assist the historically underserved population in overcoming barriers that have traditionally been imposed and resulted in denied or lack of opportunity through various forms of discrimination by forces outside of their control, and by self-inflicted barriers caused by a lack of farming knowledge and business under-

standing. The overarching goal of this project is the driving force that leads to the creation of a group or population of new small rural town beginning farmers whose operations are sustainable in terms of soil and nutrient management, natural resource conservation, diversified marketing strategies for revenue from maximum sales and environmentally friendly operations.



In August 2010, the “Feeding America,” group listed Arkansas as the state with the highest level of healthy food “insecurity” in the country. According to a study done by Troy Blanchard and Thomas Lyson from Mississippi State University and Cornell University respectively, Arkansas is one of the southern states that have the highest percentage of non-metropolitan counties that are food deserts. The lack of healthy foods, retail outlets and merchandisers together with very inadequate transportation systems are additional characteristics of these rural communities.

The ultimate goal of ALCDC’s project is to recruit and establish a farming force model that will practice sustainable agriculture with alternate crops that can successfully produce food systems for local food supply of fresh produce to food desert areas – converting them into safe affordable, nutritional food havens. The ALCDC’s project will bring safe foods to local communities with the additional capability to provide local food distribution to local consumers and small retailers – benefiting communities, regions and the state.

To assist people interested in tapping into the fresh, locally grown market the ALCDC is holding a Growers and Livestock Technical Meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14, at the ALFDC Business and Conference Center in Fargo with registration starting at 8:30 a.m.



Cabbage growing in Mary Bone’s hoop house.

Van Banks, Farm Advisor with ALCDC, encourages anyone that is interested in micro urban farming to attend the meeting. Banks explained that the meeting will focus on growing cash crops for local farmer’s market and fresh locally grown markets. He noted that a growing number of people and restaurants are interested in buying fresh, locally grown produce.

The program will cover the production of tomatoes, purple hull peas, okra, an assortment of greens and other vegetables. Also, there will be a segment on the benefits of a hoop house, which is an unheated green house, for year round vegetable production. For more information interested persons can contact Mary Harris at 870-734-3005.





Barton High School



Brinkley High School



Clarendon High School



Lee Senior High School



Forrest City High School

## **Students Attend Youth Day At Fargo**

Several hundred students attended Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation's 37th Annual Youth Day Conference held Oct. 26 at Fargo.

Students and teachers from Barton High School, Brinkley High School, Clarendon High School, Forrest City High School, Lee Senior High School and Palestine Wheatley High School attended.

The Youth Oratorical Leadership Competition was held.

The guest speaker was J. Latrice Hill, director of the Farm Service Agency's Office of Program Education and Stakeholder Engagement.





A number of students attended Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation's 37th Annual Youth Day Conference held Oct. 26 at Fargo.



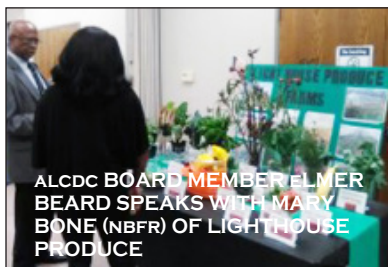
Palestine Wheatley High School



Youth Oratorical Leadership Competition



Dr. Calvin King, president of ALFDC, presented a special recognition award to the Brinkley School District for its partnership and support of YECAE/EXCEL Youth Programs. Accepting the award is Annette Floyd.



**Scenes from the  
37th Annual  
Membership  
Conference held  
Oct. 26-27, 2017**





Dr. Calvin King, president of ALFDC, presented a special recognition award to Lawrence Conyer who was named Jefferson County Farm Family of the Year.



CONFERENCE ATTENDEES



WORKSHOP FACILITATOR VAN BANKS,  
AGRONOMIST, ALCDC



# New And Beginning Farmers And Ranchers Program Offered

The New and Beginning Farmers and ranchers Program is an initiative developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides funding to organizations such as academic institutions, farmer cooperatives, and community based organizations to provide technical assistance, educational services and outreach to new and beginning farmers and ranchers. This program helps to ensure that those who decide to enter the agriculture field have all the necessary tools needed for a successful introduction and hopefully long and productive career in farming.

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) is a community based organization with roots enthralled in the well-being for the underserved family farmer and rural communities. ALCDC program service delivery has been in the business of providing training, technical assistance and advocacy support for limited resource and minority farmers for over 37 years. Besides serving as



Roger Smith, NBFR traditional rowcrop farmer, checks over his equipment. He grows soybeans, rice, wheat and milo.

advocates for underserved farmers and ranchers, ALCDC also serves as an outreach link between the farmer and the USDA. ALCDC provides technical assistance to its farming clients with one-on-one counseling for program service delivery to qualified beginning farmer participants.

ALCDC services are provided at no cost to the participant. Training is also provided on USDA program policies and requirements; USDA programs that would prove most beneficial to an individual operation, and farm business plan development, forecasting potential yields, operating costs and





New and Beginning Farmer Ricky Prowell with his tractor.

income capability. ALCDC also provides direct technical assistance to individual farm clients for farm business plan application preparation assistance for farm operating loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA). USDA FSA loans are used for farm operating expenses which may include seeds, fuel, livestock feed etc... and capital purchases expense for farm equipment, livestock,

farm structures or land purchase. ALCDC also conducts local regional community outreach training workshops with participation from the USDA and other public and private sector organizations. These services are conducted within its 42-county coverage area including central, eastern, north-east, and southeast Arkansas.

These training and education workshops are designed to

address the needs of farmers, land owners and the overall local rural community about programs and services that are readily available to address their specific needs, from farming, conservation program services, heir property, small business, housing and other program services designed to support rural community economic development.



Dr. Calvin King Sr., president of ALCDC, speaks about heir property problems.

# ALCDC Tackles Problems Associated With Heir Property

An heir property issue creates a cluster of problems when undivided interest in land is passed to multiple heirs. Problems range from land partition sales to reduced crop yields as a result of underutilization and inaccessibility to government programs

and services. The array of problems caused by heir property contributes to unsuccessful business models which results in land loss and the deterioration of rural communities. A parallel issue, heir housing and forestry lands also presents a signif-

icant concern and is a substantial threat to the wellbeing of rural African American communities.

The USDA has identified three characteristics that put heir property owners at a disadvantage and therefore contribute to land loss:



partition sales, barriers to government programs and private lenders, and reduced incentives to improve the land.

— Partition sales are a court ordered sale of land that results in the highest bidder becoming the property owner. Their property partition sales commonly occur because one or more heirs want to liquidate their interests in the property. Sometimes another heir is able to buy out their interests, but it is not uncommon for the land to be sold to someone outside the family.

— Ownership validation is important for federal farm loans and program enrollment. In certain situations, because heir property owners are not able to produce a clear title to land or a home, they have difficulty obtaining certain types of federal assistance available to other farmers. Government lenders and private lenders are constrained when applicants cannot use property as collateral.

— Property ownership gives individuals an incentive to reinvest in their asset and increases their capacity to build wealth over time by leveraging other existing resources to improve/appreciate their land as an asset. Heir property owners have less incentive to invest in their property because it is not soundly theirs with clear title ownership. As a result, utilization and productivity are undermined. Marketability of property is also reduced. Land value is depressed because property cannot be easily marketed without clear title. Potential buyers are likely to be deterred by the complications of heir property. Lease value is depressed for similar reasons. These lower values further reduce the ability of the heir property owner to improve the



Judge Olly Neal Jr. spoke about the importance of addressing heir property as a barrier for limited resource, minority farmers and landowners.

productivity of the land.

To address these issues, ALCDC has worked collaboratively with NRCS and other group participants sharing a vision to develop and implement a project model to further address heir property as a barrier for limited resource and minority farmers and landowners in rural Arkansas.

The majority of the people most negatively affected by heir property issues continue to be hesitant to do estate planning and possess little or no knowledge of estate planning. People continue to not prepare wills, and to lose property as a consequence, much of which could be alleviated by effective training.

We have continued to find, the issue of clear title or the clearing of title is further impeded by the unwillingness of heirs to cooperate and the difficulty of locating them in many cases. The difficult and

bureaucratic task of searching and analyzing records and data further aggravate matters.

Other negative by products of heir property is idle land layouts; the continued declining of soil fertility among parcels of heir property, therein decreasing the land's worth and yield potential.

We have found that, the heir property issue can be helped by community based organizations with experience in working with African American farmers and rural residents. Clients have stated that they feel more comfortable working with community base organization having knowledge of heir property than approaching an attorney. We have also found that working with USDA and private banking institutions can affect the creation of a model to both remediate current heir property and prevent the creation of additional heir property situations

# ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

**October 2017 - September 2018**

**\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$40 \_\_\_\_ Organization Membership \$200M**

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

**Leadership Opportunities** — ALCDC/ALFDC offers leadership opportunities with the organization for our youth, farmers and rural residents. Members are encouraged to sit on advisory boards on the federal, state and local levels.

**Marketing Opportunities** — ALCDC/ALFDC offers cooperative marketing opportunities for farmers, rural businesses, federal agencies, colleges and universities interested in enhancing the lives of rural Americans. We also offer the opportunity to present or set up an exhibit during our Annual Conference and Membership meeting. Moreover we offer facility rentals at 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 can communicate with ALCDC representative via phone or website concerning their farming, housing or youth service's needs. Also, members receive ALCDC updates and news through our quarterly newsletters and ALCDC website.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your application and tax-deductible contribution to:**  
**ALCDC/ALFDC Membership Program**

**P.O. Box 743**

**Brinkley, AR 72021**

**ALCDC/ALFDC services and programs are available without regard  
to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or familial status.**



May you  
be filled  
with joy

&

peace this  
holiday  
season.



*Many thanks & Christmas  
wishes from our family to yours.*

*The Staff  
of Arkansas Land  
Community  
Development  
Corporation*

We Will Be Closed  
Dec. 25 through  
Dec. 29  
We Will Reopen on  
Tuesday, Jan. 2

ARKANSAS LAND AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION



Community Economic  
Development Summit

December 16, 2017

Menifee Community Center  
68 Mustang St.  
Menifee, AR 72107

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
MARY HARRIS OR MYKELA SPARKMAN  
870-734-3005

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ALFDC/ALCDC



Growers & Livestock  
Technical Meeting

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) and Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) will host a Growers and Livestock Technical Meeting on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at the ALFDC Business and Conference Center in Fargo, AR. The meeting is open to the public. Additional information will be mailed out in the near future. We are anticipating your participation.

For more information contact Van Banks or Albert Jones at (870) 734-1140.

December 14, 2017





P.O. Box 907  
Brinkley AR 72021

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## ABOUT THE ADVANCER

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

The Advancer reflects the nature off 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 [mary\\_harris15@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_harris15@yahoo.com) or you can reach us at our website, [www.alcdc.webs.com](http://www.alcdc.webs.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  
Mary Harris, Farm Administrative Assistant, Office Administrator  
Melissa Bailey, Chief Financial and Operations Officer (CFO)  
Lashica Miller, Accounts Receivable  
Mykela Sparkman, Youth Coordinator and Administrator Assistant  
Tameecia Patterson, Housing Manager  
Marquill Daniels, Accounts Payable  
Albert Jones, Farm Director  
Mike Tucker, Farm Advisor  
Van Banks, Farm Advisor  
Nelson Hubbert, Environmental Engineer  
Tony Jordan, Environmental Engineer  
Melvin Davis, Environmental Engineer

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

Joyce Pannell, McNeil Apartments, Phase I Site Manager, Crawfordsville  
Shannon Barnes, Chapel Ridge, Phase I and II, Forrest City, Resident Manager  
Keisha Caffey, Meadowbrook, Marianna, Helena-West Helena, Resident Manager  
Yolanda Bailey, Alcott Manor, Palestine, Resident Manager  
Yolanda Bailey, Stone Brook, Forrest City and Wynne, Resident Manager  
Tameecia Patterson, McNeil Apartments, Phase II Site Manager  
Lashica Miller, Pinewood Apartments Site 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 pro-  
grams are available without  
regard to age, race, religion,  
gender or physical handicap.*