

ARKANSAS LAND AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S

# THE ADVANCER

Fargo, Arkansas

Special Edition 2020

## *Arkansas Farm Bureau*

### **Diversity in Agriculture Conference**

*February 27-28, 2020*

*Location: Wyndham Riverfront in North Little Rock, AR*



**AR Governor**

*Asa Hutchinson*

Morning Speaker



**U.S. Senator**

*John Boozman*

Guest Speaker



**Secretary of Agriculture  
AR**

*Wes Ward*

Luncheon Speaker





Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation  
533 Floyd Brown Drive \* P.O. Box 907 \* Brinkley, AR 72021

## Diversity in Agriculture Conference

Dear ALCDC Members, Farmers, Landowners, Rural Resident, Partners and Supporters:

This letter is to request your participation in the upcoming **Diversity in Agriculture Conference February 27-28, 2020**. The conference has been planned as an exciting **first of a kind and very special Event** for the public. Arkansas Farm Bureau has worked closely with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation, the University of Arkansas, UA Cooperative Extension Service, UA-Pine Bluff and the National Center for Appropriate Technology in planning the event. It has been created and designed to bring together agriculture communities from across our state to network, gain knowledge of agriculture current and future practices, agricultural community economic development resources and provide higher education students an opportunity to explore the various fields in agriculture career opportunities. The conference will allow participants to explore opportunities through success stories and networking. It will also foster an expansion of public and private partnerships within agriculture, Arkansas' largest industry sector, accounting for more than \$20 billion annually.

All activities will be held at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in North Little Rock. The conference agenda summary consists of the following:

**Day One:** Thursday February 27th begins with registration at 3 p.m., the reception with speaker begins at 6:00 p.m.

**Day Two:** Friday February 28th the conference activities will continue at 8 a.m. with registration and breakfast. The agenda will feature an opening morning speaker and panel discussion followed by breakout sessions for land retention, family farm development, beginning

and experience farmers and students program services and career opportunities in agriculture.

Registration fee of \$10 is being charged for the event and will include the networking reception on Feb. 27 along with breakfast and lunch on Feb. 28. Students will be admitted free.

Visit <https://diversityinag.eventbrite.com> for registration, ticket purchasing, hotel information and more. To learn more about the conference, contact Smedley at 501-529-0076 or [jason.smedley@arfb.com](mailto:jason.smedley@arfb.com) Steve Eddington (501) 228-1383 [steve.eddington@arfb.com](mailto:steve.eddington@arfb.com).

We are all looking forward to seeing you at the conference.

*Calvin R. King, Sr.*  
Dr. Calvin R. King, Sr.



EMPOWERING TODAY'S FARMERS FOR THE FUTURE

**Save the Date: February 27-28, 2020**

**Location: Wyndham Riverfront  
North Little Rock, AR**



# Menifee Conference in Review

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) in conjunction with United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the City of Menifee convened its Community Economic Development Summit, February 13, 2020. The Summit was held at 68 North Mustang, Menifee, Arkansas 72017 lasting from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Summit brought together rural, urban and beginning farmers, landowners, veterans, rural residents, government agencies, elected officials, rural business, and faith and community-based organizations interested in achieving sustainable economic opportunity and recovery for our rural and urban agriculture underserved and unserved communities. USDA representatives along with public and private business enterprises engaged in providing solution-based information for financial resource opportunities.

Educational and Training workshops were offered in the following areas:

**Resource Opportunities for Heir Property:** This workshop discussed heir property resolutions for rural and urban residents and solutions to maximize the use of heir property as an asset.

**Conservation Resource Opportunities for Rural & Urban Agriculture:** This workshop addressed conservation program resource opportunities, including financial, technical and educational program services for rural and urban residents.

**Farm Financing, Micro-Urban Farming, Local Food Supply, and Opportunities for Beginning Farmers:** This session was led by a resource specialist who discussed micro-urban farm certification, direct marketing practices, alternative crop production, local food supply, cooperative development, farm financing, debt servicing for farm retention and Disaster Assistance Programs for socially disadvantaged, beginning, and limited resource farmers/ranchers.



Mayor of Menifee Gary L. Green (left)  
Dr. Calvin R. King Sr., ALCDC (Right)



Burthel Thomas, Retired NRCS, ALCDC  
Board Member



German Pirtle, Beginning Farmer (Left)  
Shane Foster, Beginning Farmer (Right)



Debbie Bolin, USDA, FSA, County Office  
Trainee (left)  
Carol Hoyt, USDA, FSA Farm Loan  
Manager(Right)



Alvin Peer, State Outreach Coordinator,  
USDA, NRCS



Attendees actively participates in  
Summit



DELTA CULTURAL CENTER

In association with  
Phillips College UA  
Alpha Kappa Alpha  
Helena West Helena Schools

*Presents...*

# THE BLACK RENAISSANCE

*A celebration of Black History*

FEB. 27TH | 10am SHOW |

6pm SHOW

PCCUA COMMUNITY ROOM  
FREE & OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC

1000 Campus RD, Helena 72342

Sponsored in part by a grant funded  
by the Walton Family Foundation



# Youth Program application process opens

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Youth Enterprise and Careers in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship program will begin the application process for youth interested in being a part of this program. This youth initiative is designed to assist youth ages 13 to 18 in establishing professional careers in agriculture and related fields including economics, bio-systems, agricultural engineering, communications, dietetics, family sciences, human nutrition, rural community development and entrepreneurship.

Participants' progress through four program phases:

- 1. Character Development-** Participants are taught leadership skills, interpersonal skills including written and oral communication, presentation skills, social skills and youth volunteer placement support for community service with youth summer feeding programs. Entrepreneurial including niche markets, financial risks, business planning structure and organization development and performance of enterprise budgets. This group is also taught the basics of agriculture with emphasis on conservation and sustainable farming.
- 2. The Business of Farming-** Participants engage in the hands-on aspects of farming. Projects include actual production of fresh produce, working in farmers' markets/food hubs and working with row crop farmers. The role of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its impact on agricultural and related activities in our area are learned directly from producers, how agriculture works and how USDA services, particularly NRCS Youth Program application process opens

foster sustainable farming and conserve our natural resources while also increasing sustainable profitability. During this phase of the program participants learn the overall impact of agriculture in our economy and daily lives.

- 3. Professional Work Experience-** Participants are afforded the opportunity of actually serving as interns in NRCS and other USDA Agency offices. Program participants gain knowledge and experience of how the government USDA serves agriculture and our society. Of serious importance, participants get exposure to a professional work environment and real life experience with what careers in agriculture can mean.
- 4. Career Planning Development/Leadership Training-** Monthly leadership training workshops and career planning seminars are conducted. Participants execute assignments and participate in exercises designed to prepare them for leadership roles in school, in the community, and for life.

Participants' interest and future occupational opportunities are analyzed and discussed with the projected output a five year career plan for each participant. Each plan will consist of a list of goals and action steps for the participant's achievement of their chosen occupation. Technical goals, social goals, interpersonal skills, oral/written communication skills and financial, will all be listed in time intervals over five years.

ALCDC will host their annual youth rally on March 28, 2020. The annual youth rally is designed to provide interested youth with more information about the program and help them with the application process. Games, door prizes, food, drinks, and lots of fun will take place at the rally.

Those interested applying for the program should call (870)-734-3005 to request an application. Interested persons may also email their request to [gerelisaswanigan@yahoo.com](mailto:gerelisaswanigan@yahoo.com), [mary\\_harris15@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_harris15@yahoo.com) or [lashicamiller@yahoo.com](mailto:lashicamiller@yahoo.com). All intake and full application information must be received in our office by May 15, 2020. All intake forms or applications should be faxed to (870) 734-4197 or mailed to Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation, P.O. Box 907, Brinkley, AR 72021. Persons may also call LaShica Miller, Gerelisa Swanigan or Mary Harris at (870) 734-3005 for any other questions or concerns.





# YOUTH RALLY

When: **March 28, 2020**

Where: **ALFDC Business Center**  
*484 Floyd Brown Dr.*  
*Brinkley, AR 72021*



Accepting applications ages **16-18** YECAE 6 week work experience  
**13-15** EXCEL 2 week summer camp



***Door Prizes***



***Food & Drinks***



***Games***

For more information contact LaShica Miller or Gerelisa Swanigan at (870) 734-3005

# Hemp and Farm Bill Programs

Hemp producers growing in accordance with usda guidelines are eligible for certain USDA programs in 2020. USDA's Farm Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Risk Management Agency (RMA) are updating guidelines on several programs to support growers of hemp, which was reclassified by the 2018 Farm Bill.

Once production plans are approved and licenses are issued, hemp producers may be eligible for many USDA programs for the 2020 crop year.

## What could hemp producers be eligible for?

### Whole-Farm Revenue Protection

The Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) will be available for hemp grown for fiber, flower, or seeds. WFRP allows coverage of all revenue for commodities produced on a farm up to a total insured revenue of \$8.5 million.

Producers can purchase WFRP coverage if they have a contract for the purchase of the insured industrial hemp and meet all applicable state, tribal, and federal regulations.

Hemp that has tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) above the 0.3 compliance level will not be covered by crop insurance. Additionally, hemp will not qualify for replant payments under WFRP.

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) will be



available for eligible hemp producers to provide insurance-type coverage due to adverse weather conditions.

### NRCS Conservation Programs

Multiple USDA conservation programs will be offered for eligible producers, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

### Farm Loans

Hemp producers may be eligible for FSA farm loans, such as operating, ownership, beginning farmer, and farm storage facility loans.

## How do hemp producers report acres to USDA?

### Acreage Reports

Hemp producers are required to file an acreage report with FSA. This is a requirement for growing under USDA-approved hemp plans as well as prerequisite for many USDA programs.

To file an acreage report, producers should:

Obtain a hemp production license or authorization number issued by USDA, state, or tribe.



File an acreage report with FSA, identifying each field or subfield on which hemp is planted, including the license or authorization number. The field or subfield could be referred to as a "lot" and does include greenhouses.

Identify the intended use of the hemp being reported:

**Fiber** - used for cloth, pressed plastics, ropes, animal bedding, paper, biofuel, packaging, concrete additives, spill cleanup.

**Processing** - grown for extraction of plant resin, which includes cannabidiol (CBD) and other phytocannabinoids to be extracted from the flower. Resin is used in oils, lotions, cleansers, bath or other pharmaceutical or topical products.

**Grain** - used for hemp hearts, crushed seed oil (not CBD), protein supplements (human or animal consumption).

**Seed** - used for propagation stock, hybrids (non-human consumption).

### Next Steps

USDA is working to make available program options for hemp producers. As information is available, USDA will post on [farmers.gov/hemp](https://farmers.gov/hemp). If you have additional questions, contact your local USDA service center, which you can find at [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.





## JOB FAIR

Februaury 26, 2020 from 9:00am - 1:00pm

Pine Bluff Convention Center  
1 Convention Center Plaza  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

### USDA's Farm Production and Conservation Agencies

Farm Service Agency  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Risk Management Agency  
Farm Production and Conservation Business Center

These agencies will be conducting recruitment and hiring for the following positions:

- Accountants
- Economists
- Engineers
- Farm Loan Office Trainees
- Farm Loan Program Technicians
- Management Analysts
- Risk Management Specialists
- Soil Conservationist Technicians
- Soil Conservationists
- Soil Scientists
- Statisticians
- And more!

For more information, contact:

Rhonda O'Guinn  
rhonda.oguinn@usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.





## University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Partners with USDA to Provide Job Opportunities in 2020

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is looking for bright individuals with a passion for helping others to apply for a variety of open positions. On February 26, 2020, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) is hosting a job fair with USDA to fill vacancies in its agencies that deliver farm programs. These agencies have nearly three thousand offices nationwide that are offering job opportunities across the country.

One of USDA's goals is to be a welcoming and diverse workplace, where employees take pride in their positions. As a USDA employee, you'll have a full career supporting agriculture and america's farmers. USDA staff works one-on-one with farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to help them recover from natural disasters, manage risk, conserve natural resources, and get access to many resources. At the same time, you'll enjoy the benefits of federal employment, including numerous health and life insurance options, retirement savings, and generous annual and sick leave.

A few of the job openings include Accountants, Economists, Farm Loan Assistants, Farm Loan Program Technicians, Management Analysts, Rangeland Management Specialists, Risk Management Specialists, Soil Conservationist Technicians, Soil Conservationists, Soil Scientists, and Statisticians.

For mor information, be sure to visit the job fair at the Pine Bluff Convention Center, 1 Convention Center Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas on February 26, 2020 from 9:00am - 1:00pm. See you there!

### Questions?

Please contact your local FSA Office.





**Arkansas Land and Community  
Development Corporation**

533 Floyd Brown Dr.  
Fargo, Arkansas 72021



**Phone:**  
870-734-3005



**Website:**  
[www.alfdc.webs.com](http://www.alfdc.webs.com)



**Email:**  
[alcdc1934@yahoo.com](mailto:alcdc1934@yahoo.com)

### **Summary Agenda**

- Urban/Micro Farming
- Conservation Programs
- Farm Financing
- Heir's Property
- Housing
- Forestry

## **Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC)**

### **Community Economic Development Symposium**

in conjunction with USDA's Farm Service Agency  
& Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Date: March 5, 2020**

**Place: Dermott City Hall Building**

**211 East Iowa Street  
Dermott, AR 71638**

**Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm**

**Registration begins at 5:30pm.**

**This Symposium is FREE and  
opened to the public. For more  
information, please call ALCDC  
at 870-734-3005 or you may also  
visit our website at [http://www.  
alfdc.webs.com/](http://www.alfdc.webs.com/).**



# ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

October 2019 - September 2020

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$25      \_\_\_\_\_ Partner Membership \$40  
\_\_\_\_\_ Organization Membership \$200

## Membership 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 and rural businesses interested in collective marketing. 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 for affordable housing, home ownership education, business development, assistance with accessing farm financing, training on conservation program practices, youth leadership development, education enrichment and workforce readiness.

**Information and Communication** - ALCDC/ALFDC members are able to communicate with 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, 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.



P.O. Box 907  
Brinkley AR  
72021

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ORGANIZATION  
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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 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 inquires regarding this publication by phone to (870) 734-3005 or e-mail to [mary\\_harris15@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_harris15@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  
J.D. Davis, Vice President for Program and Policy  
Mary Harris, Farm Administrative Assistant, Office Administrator  
LaShica Miller, Vice President Chief Financial Operations Officer  
Gerelisa Swanigan, Accounts Payable  
Jasmine Burnett, Accounts Receivable  
Tameecia Smith, Housing Manager, Vice President Special Assistant  
Albert Jones, Farm Director  
Mike Tucker, Farm Advisor  
Peyton Craig, Office Administrative Assistant

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

Tameecia Smith, 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 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.