



Arkansas Land & Community
Development Corporation

THE ADVANCER

New News Bulletin



No-Till Farming Conservation Practices



Grassed Waterway Conservation Practices



Alley Cropping Conservation Practices



Micro Irrigation Conservation Practices



Inside This Issue

- USDA's FSA is Currently Accepting New and Modified CFAP-2 Applications
- ALFDC Make Plans for its 41st Annual Conference
- American Rescue Plan Debt Payment
- Land, Policy, & Power

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News Bulletin

ATTENTION AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Has your operation been directly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic?

USDA is implementing updates to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for producers of agricultural commodities marketed in 2020 who faced market disruptions due to COVID-19. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced an expansion of CFAP on March 24, 2021. This is part of a larger effort to reach a greater share of farming operations and improve USDA pandemic assistance.

In 2020, did you own/produce any of the following?

American Rescue Plan Debt Payments

The American Rescue Plan includes provisions for USDA to pay up to 120% of loan balances, as of January 1, 2021, for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans and Farm Storage Facility Loans debt relief to any socially disadvantaged producer who has a qualifying loan with FSA. This includes producers who identify as one or more of the following: Black/African American, American Indian, Alaskan Native,

USDA's Farm Service Agency is currently accepting new and modified CFAP-2 applications

Livestock (cattle, pigs, sheep/wool, broilers/pullets, eggs and more)

Row or specialty crops (including aquaculture, nursery, and more)

If so, you may be eligible for financial assistance through CFAP 2. The CFAP 2 signup period has reopened as part of USDA's new Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. **Note:** Participation in CFAP-1 is NOT required for assistance through CFAP-2.

To learn more, visit farmers.gov/CFAP, contact our call center at 877-508-8364, or contact your local FSA office.

Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, or Pacific Islander. Since this debt payment will qualify as income, Congress determined the 20% additional payment is intended to help mitigate liabilities that occur when clearing a debt, which may include tax liabilities, among others.

No action on your part is needed right now to participate. FSA is currently compiling and analyzing balances for all types of loans and is determining the most efficient way to make payments. Once finalized, FSA will provide the payment process in writing to all

Farm Storage Facility Loans and Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans borrowers. In addition, details of the process and your debt payment amount will be reviewed with you prior to final processing.

Eligible Borrowers

Eligible borrowers include those who identify as one or more of the following: Black/African American, American Indian, Alaskan native, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, or Pacific Islander. The American Rescue Plan Act uses Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 as the definition of Socially Disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

If you're uncertain of your demographic designation on file at FSA, you can contact your local service center to verify your classification on record. If an update or correction is needed, you may either fill out USDA Form AD-2047 or work with your local service center to update your record, including race and ethnicity.

Housing and Health Care

COVID-19 has had a lasting impact on Rural America. Families have lost their homes, students have resorted to unconventional solutions to access schoolwork online, the need for food has been at an all-time high, and access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations have been limited. The American Rescue Plan implements funding that invests in the people of Rural America:

\$500 million in Community Facility Program funds to help rural hospitals and

Eligible Loans

Eligible loans are those:

Made directly by FSA, including Farm Storage Facility Loans, Direct Farm Ownership Loans, Farm Operating Loans, including Microloans and Youth Loans, Emergency Loans, Conservation Loans, and Soil and Water Loans; and Guaranteed by FSA and made by an approved lender, including Farm Ownership Loans, Farm Operating Loans, and Conservation Loans.

Both delinquent and current loans are eligible. Debts associated with these types of loans that have been referred for offset or collection are also eligible.

Certain USDA loans are not eligible, including Marketing Assistance Loans and Rural Development loans. Also, loans from commercial lenders such as banks, credit unions or Farm Credit institutions that do not include an FSA guarantee are not eligible.

local communities broaden access to COVID-19 vaccines & food assistance.

\$100 million through September 2022 in rental assistance for low-income and elderly borrowers.

\$39 million through September 2023 to help refinance direct loans under the Single-Family Housing Loan Program and the Single-Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants.

In addition to programs facilitated by USDA, the American Rescue Plan provides significant investments into rural communities by expanding internet connectivity and establishing a homeowner

assistance fund to assist struggling homeowners with mortgage payments,

property taxes, property insurance, utilities, and other housing related costs.

Land, Policy, and Power

Land is the foundation of nourishment, resiliency, and sovereignty. It is critical to the health and well-being of our environment, economy, and marginalized communities. The success of our climate action and our ability to grow nutritious food depend on it. Land is also deeply tied to the accumulation of wealth and political power, and its ownership is vastly unequal. As a nation, we must take action to change our relationship to land. Farmers have the transformative power to use climate resilient practices, pay fair wages to their workers, and provide healthy food to their communities, but they must have secure land access in order to do so. For many young farmers, access to land is tenuous or entirely out of reach. Creating opportunity for these individuals will require an understanding of land not as a commodity fueling economic growth, but rather a vital resource on which our collective future rests. Public policy has defined—and continues to shape—how land is used, who owns it, and the way in which it changes hands. European concepts of private property were introduced to North America with colonization. At the time of the United States' founding, the right of land ownership was only extended to white men. Land ownership formed the basis of who could gain political power, and in turn craft the policies governing land access and use. These laws subsequently served to protect and expand white land ownership—

National Young Farmers Coalition Land Policy Report 7

\$132

billion

Contributed to the U.S. GDP

by farms in the U.S.

900 million acres of land in

the US are in agriculture

beginning with colonial statutes explicitly prohibiting non-white individuals from owning land, through the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and the Homestead Acts encouraging Westward expansion and settlement of lands stewarded by Indigenous people, to alien land laws aimed at shutting Japanese and Chinese immigrants out of land ownership, and redlining policies in the twentieth century discouraging lending for home ownership or business expansion in predominantly Black neighborhoods. Policy makers have specifically incentivized colonization of land for farming, acknowledging agriculture as critically important to continued food and national security. Policy has been used to sanction the enslavement of African people and theft of their labor; facilitate the dispossession of millions of acres from Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC); and enable ongoing consolidation of farmland into the hands of fewer and fewer owners. The legacy of using policy as a tool of dispossession continues today, shaping our food system and patterns of land ownership. White individuals account for 95 percent of

all farmers, own 98 percent of farmland and receive the vast majority of agriculture related financial assistance. Compounding these statistics is the fact that the inertia of ownership, once established, is incredibly strong. As much as 80 percent of wealth is inherited, and the forces of property transfer that have been underway for generations continue to consolidate resources in the hands of a relatively small percentage of the

National Young Farmers Coalition Land Policy Report

Land Crops Financing More buildings, tractors & land. More land ownership has a cumulative effect on farm viability, enabling farmers to leverage land to make capital improvements and to deploy as collateral for further land purchases. 95% of all farmers are white. White individuals own 98% of farmland and receive the vast majority of agriculture-related financial assistance of the population. In 2015, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimated that less than a quarter of the 91.5 million acres expected to change hands in the next four years would be made available to non-relatives. Policy has shaped the present reality and must be part of building a more equitable farming future. Access to land directly determines who has the opportunity to succeed in agriculture.

Land ownership has a cumulative effect on farm viability, enabling farmers to leverage land to make capital improvements that increase their income potential over time. Land can also be deployed as collateral for further land purchases, sold for retirement income, or subdivided for profit. Land ownership provides the security that is critical for many of the long-term investments that farmers must make in soil

health, infrastructure, and irrigation. Being able to plan on a timeframe over which farmers can realize a return from activities such as drilling a well, building soil organic matter, or pouring concrete in produce handling areas can significantly improve profitability, environmental impacts, and food safety. The stability that comes from land security can also have immense impacts on farmer mental health and resiliency in the face of the many challenges of farming. Farmland is a vital natural resource for food production, but it is being steadily lost. Each new publication from the USDA shows that farmers are aging, there are less acres in agriculture, more land is lost to development, and an increasing share of agricultural land is owned by non-farmers.

Strikingly, the USDA estimates 30 percent of farmland is now owned by non-farmers; 40 percent of farmland is leased; and nearly 45 percent of landlords have never farmed. As investor interest in farmland grows, the consequences are significant for farmers who cannot compete in terms of price or speed of purchase.

ALFDC Make Plans for its 41st Annual Conference

While we continue to work in times of uncertainty, we live with hope for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all looking forward to our everyday lives returning to a state of normalcy. With such hope, Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) is happy to announce its plans to convene its 41st Annual Conference and Membership Meeting, October 29th and 30th, 2021, hosted by Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation. More details will be forthcoming.



ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

October 2020- September 2021

_____ **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 it's 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.

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

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Brinkley, Arkansas 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 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 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.

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Amanda Rogers, Alcott Manor, Palestine, Resident Manager
Amanda Rogers, Stone Brook, Forrest City and Wynne, Resident Manager
Nelson Hubbert, Environmental Engineer

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.