



Arkansas Land and Community
Development Corporation

The Advancer

Fargo, Arkansas

Fall Edition 2020

ALCDC Annual Winter Farmers Conference February 25 & 26, 2021

Mary Bones Receives Recognition for Completion of ALCDC Beginning Farmers Incubation Program



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2021 Annual Farmers Conference 8

CORONAVIRUS SAFETY

Follow these easy steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Disinfect surfaces around
your home and work.



Wash your hands for at
least 20 seconds.



Sneeze or cough?
Cover your mouth.

Pictured from left to right, Mike Beatty, USDA OPPE Wahington DC, Dr. Calvin King Sr., ALCDC, Mary Bones, LightHouse Produce, Jacqueline Davis-Slay, USDA OPPE Washington DC & Belinda Bell, UAPB, USDA Liasion



President's Letter

Dear Constituents:

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Board of Directors convened virtually the organization's Annual membership meeting October 30, 2020. Members, board members and staff participated in the meeting. With a call to order, the Board Chairman Dr. Brian Cornelious provided a report on the organizations strategic directions doing the fiscal year 2020, along with the board plans to convene in January of 2021 to update the organizations five year strategic plan for operation and program service delivery. As President and CEO, I provided the organization's annual report followed by the annual year end financial report by Ms. LaShica Miller, Vic-President and Chief Financial Officer.

As the sun set for the year end 2020 draws nearer, we continue to be vigilant with our day to day operation. The staff and board members are looking forward to convening the rescheduled Annual Conference, February 25th and 26th 2021. Given the continued state of COVID-19, it is anticipated that this Annual Conference will not be held in what has been the norm for the past forty (40) years. With the status of the pandemic and its impact on our lives, we felt it would be fitting to use one of our previous conference themes, **Accepting the Challenge, and Implementing the Plan.** With all of today's society many challenges, particularly for our underserved population, we felt that this past theme was most appropriate for the many challenges we are facing today in our rural and urban underserved communities. We are working to provide assurance that this year's event and theme will bring to the table agencies with resource opportunities and implementation plans that will be beneficial to all conference participants. The Annual Conference will be held **virtually**. On site participation will be limited to a maximum of forty (40) participants including staff, board members and program agenda speakers who will receive invites for in person attendance. Those who will be participating virtually are required to pre-register. To pre-register or for any questions or concerns, please contact Mary Harris or Tameecia Smith at (870) 734-3005 or **email:** alcdc1934@yahoo.com. After registration, a meeting link along with the agenda will be provided for your participation.

As we enter this year's holiday season, the Board and Staff want to extend our sincere appreciation for your continued support and participation as members, contributors, and partners. On behalf of the board and staff, it is a pleasure and an opportunity to extend to you and your family wishes for a blessed, joyful, and healthy holiday season filled with happiness. Let us live in hope and abide in faith.

Sincerely

Calvin R. King, Sr.

Dr. Calvin R. King, Sr.

Mary Bones Receives Recognition for Completion of ALCDC Beginning Farmers Incubation Program

Mary a native of Lakeview Arkansas, grew up in this small rural town on a small farm. She was raised by her grandfather, who taught her all of the skills involved in vegetable production. Coming from a loving family and supporting community, as a youth she grew up being encouraged to get an education and seek a good occupational career that would offer her a future. Like most black youth living in the Delta of Eastern Arkansas, the lack of job opportunities meant education and out migration. This was the case with Mary; however, she always kept her dream of wanting to become a vegetable farmer, operating her own farm business. She entered Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation Beginning Farmers Program, attending training workshops, conferences and work experience operating a micro-urban farm from the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) farm incubation site. Doing this work experience and training process, she mastered farm financial and production management, risk management, marketing and conservation soil and water best management practices. Upon completion of the program, Mary has fulfilled her lifelong dream, a certified farmer and owner of her own vegetable farming operation. On October 27th, Mary Bones received her certificate of completion of the ALCDC Beginning Farmers Program and recognition for having become a farm owner and operator. Her Certification Certificate was presented by Dr. Calvin R. King, Sr. along with Mike Beatty and Jackie Slay Davis with the USDA National Office of Partnership and Public Engagement Washington D.C. She received overwhelming support with participation in the event from her hometown of Lakeview.



Mary Bone along with Mike Beatty, USDA pictured with participating Lakeview residents who intended the ceremony



Mary Bone talks with Mrs. Jacqueline Davis-Slay National USDA, Deputy Director, OPPE

The Lakeview Resettlement Project

The Lakeview Resettlement Project opened on January 1, 1938 in Phillips County, Arkansas. It was the first and largest of three new Arkansas communities established exclusively for African Americans. As a “New Deal” farm community, Lakeview represented a significant venture into improving the social and economic conditions for ninety-one, highly scrutinized farm families who were struggling to survive during the “Great Depression.”

Most of the settlers-from eleven Delta Counties- knew a few other early residents, some even had family members who moved to Lakeview. Others, however, were completely unfamiliar with their new neighbors, as well as the Phillips County area. Still, all were excited about the opportunity to live in a very special community located in the heart of the Arkansas Delta.

The United States Resettlement Administration planned and developed the community, but the Farm Security Administration was responsible for its operation. Lakeview became an incorporated town in 1972. For many, however, it will always be referred to as “The Project.”

Dedication

This document is dedicated to the memory of the proud men and women who resettled at the Lakeview Project-those once referred to as “Worthy Negroes” able to “Pass the Test.” Those who worked to change Lakeview from a mere Federal Government farm project into a community-in the truest sense of the word. Their descendants fondly remember them and remain grateful.

Prepared by: History Committee of the Lakeview Association of Alumni and Friends, Inc.



Pictures of Downtown Lakeview

ALCDC Convene Special Meeting with Washington D.C National USDA Staff Official

Arkansas land and Community Development Corporation convened a special virtual and in person meeting with national USDA officials from Washington D.C, October 27, 2020. The meeting focused on USDA partnerships for program service delivery and prosperity opportunities for economic development and recovery for rural communities. The National Office of Partnership and Public Engagement staff out of Washington DC. Mr. Mike Beatty, Director of the Office of Partnership and Public Engagement and Ms. Jackie Slay Davis, Deputy Director of the Office of Partnership and Public Engagement were the special guest for this eventful meeting, focusing on resource opportunities for rural resident, family farmers, micro-urban farmers and local underserved communities.

Those participating in the meeting consisted of ALCDC members, partners, farmers, landowners, rural small business, rural resident, and community leaders. The meeting agenda focused on the following topics for discussions.

1. USDA and COVID-19 relief resources
2. Prosperity for Community economic development
3. Micro-urban farming for beginning farmers
4. Conservation resource program benefits

The meeting received outstanding virtual participation from throughout ALCDC forty two (42) county service area, along with out of state participation.

Ceremony participants practicing social distancing



**‘JUSTICE’ BILL WOULD TRANSFER UP TO 32 MILLION ACRES TO BLACK FARMERS
THE 32 MILLION ACRES IS NEARLY SEVEN TIMES THE 4.7 MILLION ACRES NOW IN
BLACK FARMS.**

By Chuck Abbott

11/20/2020

Black-owned farmland could expand sevenfold under a bill filed by three Democratic senators on Thursday to reverse decades of discriminatory practices by the Agriculture Department, sometimes called “the last plantation.” The Justice for Black Farmers Act would enable Black farmers to acquire up to 160 acres apiece at no charge through a USDA system of land grants.

Under the bill, an Equity Commission would study the legacy of discrimination at the USDA and suggest reforms that could reach the farmer-elected county committees that help guide operations at local USDA offices. An independent board would hear appeals of civil rights complaints decided by USDA officials.

At their peak, in 1920, there were 925,708 Black farmers, accounting for 17%, or about one-sixth, of U.S. farmers. A century later, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, there were 35,470 farms with Black producers — just 1.7% of the U.S. total. The government agreed in the so-called Pigford settlements of 1999 and 2010 to compensate Black farmers who were harmed by discriminatory practices, such as the denial of USDA loans and slow handling of civil rights complaints.

“When it comes to farming and agriculture, we know that there is a direct connection between discriminatory practices within the USDA and the enormous land loss we have seen among Black farmers in the past century,” said Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, the lead sponsor of the bill. He said the bill “would enact reforms within the USDA to finally end discrimination within that agency, protect the remaining Black farmers from losing their land, and provide land grants to create a new generation of Black farmers and begin to restore the land base that has been lost by Black farmers due to outrageous discrimination over past decades.”

Also sponsoring the bill were Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York. The current session of Congress is scheduled to end in mid- to late December, so the bill’s immediate prospects are limited.

Under the bill, up to 32 million acres would move to Black ownership over a decade — nearly seven times the 4.7 million acres now in Black farms. A new USDA agency, the Equitable Land Access Service, would administer the program. The USDA would buy land from willing sellers at fair market value for use in the program. Up to 20,000 grants of 160 acres would be made annually through 2030. Recipients would be new or experienced Black farmers. Beginning farmers would be required to complete a training program.

The legislation would increase funding to \$50 million a year for a USDA relending program to resolve the “heirs property” issue of land passed from one generation of a family to another without a clear title.

“The Justice for Black Farmers Act is the most ambitious legislative proposal ever developed to address historic and ongoing discrimination against Black farmers,” said John Boyd, president of the National Black Farmers Association, and Scott Faber of the Environmental Working Group, two of the six dozen local and national groups that endorsed the bill. “Black farmers have been systemically denied access to land, subsidies, loans, and other critical tools through government and private discrimination, and the institutional racism that has driven Black land loss is being reinforced through the USDA’s broken policies.”

Black-owned farms are, on average, less than one-third the size of the average U.S. farm, and their net cash farm income is one-twelfth the national average, according to the latest Census of Agriculture. Whites make up 97% of all producers.

In a report about the Pigford settlements, the Congressional Research Service said Black farmers had complained for many years “that they were not receiving fair treatment when they applied to local county committees (which make the decisions) for farm loans or assistance.”

These farmers, the CRS report said, “alleged they were being denied USDA farm loans or forced to wait longer for loan approval than were nonminority farmers. Many Black farmers contended that they were facing foreclosure and financial ruin because the USDA denied them timely loans and debt restructuring.” Nor was the USDA responsive to complaints of discrimination. “A huge agency backlog of unresolved complaints began to build after the USDA’s Civil Rights Office was closed in 1983,” said the report.

A number of other USDA reforms are included in the proposed legislation. Among them are a provision to ban packer ownership of cattle and pigs; a requirement that meat packers buy half of their cattle and hogs on the cash market; the prohibition of so-called tournament systems to decide payments by processors to poultry producers; a requirement for transparency in compensation of contract poultry growers; and language saying farmers do not have to prove industry-wide harm when they file a complaint of unfair treatment by a processor.

The Freedman's Bureau was created in 1865 to assist freed slaves and poor whites after the Civil War. The Bureau, however, was never given the directive from Congress to offer 40 acres to those in the Black community but rather small portions of from 10 to 15 acres. Unlike whites that were given free land in the west, thanks to the 1862 Homestead Act, Blacks needed to “purchase” their land. In fact, with the Homestead Act, American whites received some of the most massive welfare subsidies of any people in the world in the nineteenth century. Nevertheless, by the early 1900's the Black community had managed to purchase some 15 million acres of land. It was an amazing feat. Yet by 1910, the loss of black-owned land began with the advent, for one, of Jim Crow laws in the South. Today the acreage farmed by Black farmers is a little over 4.5 million acres. (November 22, 2020)

Justice Initiative)

ALCDC /ALCDC Annual Conference

February 25 and 26

ALCDC/ALFDC will convene virtually, its Annual Winter Farmers and Community Economic Development Conference, February 25th and 26th 2021. The Conference Theme: **Accepting the Challenge and Implementing the Plan.** This Conference event will bring to the table agencies with resource opportunities and implementation plans that will be beneficial to all conference participants.

February 25, 2021 -----Youth Conference Day

- **Opening Session**
- **Youth Leadership Speaking Competition**

February 26, 2021 ----- Conference Adults Day

- **Opening Session Speaker**
- **Panel Workshops**
- **Speaker**

For registration email alcldc1934@yahoo.com Conference Registration. You will be sent the necessary link for participation.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ALCDC/ALFDC office will be closed December 23, 2020 through January 3, 2021 for annual vacation during the holidays.

For assistance during this time period you may contact (870) 589-3699 or (870) 589-0701



2021 Annual Conference Registration Form

(Please Print)					
Date:			Office Use:		
Participant/Agency information					
Last name:	First:	Middle:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	
Agency:					Email:
Street address:			Fax:		Home Phone:
			()		()
P.O. Box:	City:		State:		ZIP Code:
					()
Please Make Check Payable to ALFDC and mail to P.O. Box 743, Brinkley, AR 72021					
Adult \$ _____					
Youth \$ _____					
Senior Citizens \$ _____					
Amount Enclosed \$ _____					

Please include email address on registration form. After registration you will be sent an email for the virtual conference.

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

ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

October 2020 - September 2021

_____ 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 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 _____
Email _____

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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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.

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
Tomyra Privett, Accounts Payables
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Tameecia Smith, Housing Manager, Vice President Special Assistant
Albert Jones, Farm Director
Mike Tucker, Farm Advisor
JaSean Brent, Administrative Assistant
Nelson Hubbert, Environmental Engineer

Multi-Family Housing (onsite)

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
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 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.