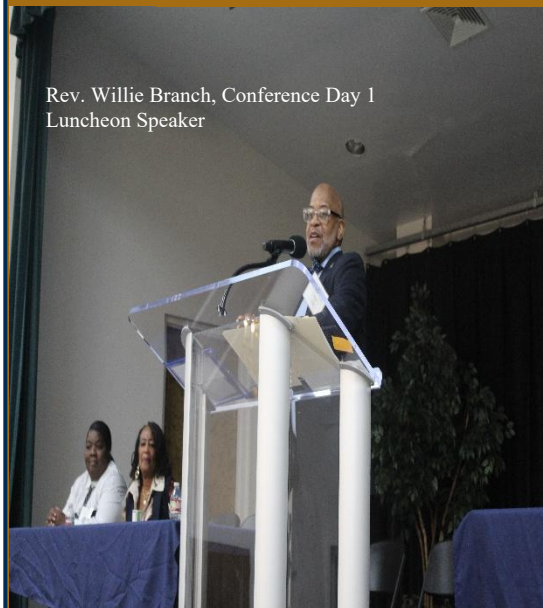


ADVANCER

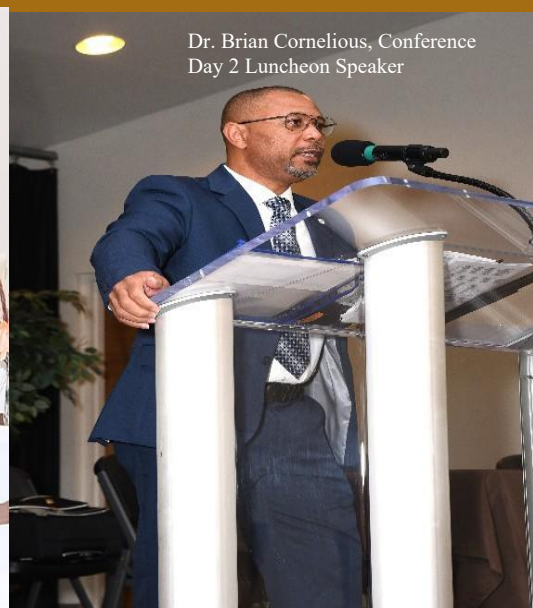
NEWSLETTER

45th Annual Conference Speakers

Rev. Willie Branch, Conference Day 1
Luncheon Speaker



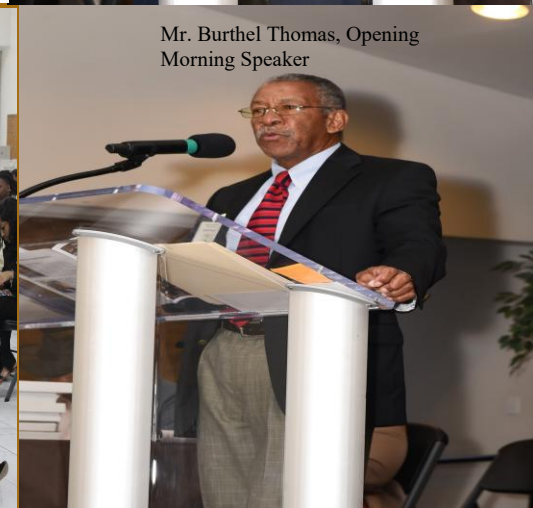
Dr. Brian Cornelious, Conference
Day 2 Luncheon Speaker



Mr. P.J. Haynie, Conference Day 2
Opening Morning Speaker



Mr. Burthel Thomas, Opening
Morning Speaker



Conference Theme:
Cultivating Pathways to
Prosperity

Inside This Edition:

- Letter From the President
- Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation 45th Annual Conference in Review
- Talk of the Land
- Understanding Heirs Property: What You Should Know
- Farmers' Benefits in the New Big Beautiful Tax Bill

Letter from the President

Dear Participants and Supporters,

On behalf of the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation and our host, the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each one of you who attended, supported, and contributed to the success of our 45th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting.

Your participation made this milestone event truly special. Through your engagement, ideas, and enthusiasm, we were able to foster meaningful discussions, share innovative solutions, and strengthen the bonds that unite our communities. Whether you joined us as a speaker, panelist, exhibitor, sponsor, volunteer, or attendee, your presence was essential in making this conference a memorable and impactful gathering.

We especially appreciate the continued support from our partners, donors, and advocates. Your commitment to the mission of empowering Arkansas's landowners and farmers is invaluable, and it allows us to build on our legacy of service, education, and advocacy for rural development across the state.

As we celebrate 45 years of progress, we look forward to working together in the coming year to advance our shared goals and create new opportunities for growth and collaboration. Please stay connected with the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation and Arkansas Land and community Development Corporation, please let us know how we can continue to serve you and your community.

Thank you once again for your dedication and support. Together, we are making a lasting difference for Arkansas's land and farm families.

With appreciation,

Calvin R. King, Sr.

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation

Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation 45th Annual Conference in Review

A Gathering of Community, Innovation, and Recognition in Rural Development

The Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) marked its 45th annual conference this week, hosted in partnership with the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation. Bringing together stakeholders, members, and the public, the event highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen rural communities, support agricultural innovation, and celebrate local leadership.

The conference commenced with a dynamic panel discussion that set the tone for the day's events. Panelists included community leaders, agricultural experts, and policymakers; Mr. P.J. Haynie Fifth generation farmer and rice process manufacturer owner and Mr. Burthel Thomas, 40 years with USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, twenty-six (26) years in the military Army National Guard and a beginning farmer. The panelists explored pressing topics on sustainable land management, economic opportunities for small family farmers, and the importance of collaborative partnerships. Attendees were encouraged to participate in the dialogue,



fostering a sense of shared purpose and collective problem-solving.

A series of interactive workshops provided conference participants with practical tools and insights. Workshops covered a range of themes including innovative conservation financial assistance and farm programs and financing, rural entrepreneurship, housing and community economic development loan and grant program financing. Facilitators led firsthand sessions that encouraged active learning, and participants shared experiences and strategies for addressing challenges unique to Arkansas's rural communities and opportunities. The collaborative spirit of the workshops underscored the conference's commitment to capacity building and networking.

The luncheon featured an inspiring keynote address from Dr. Brian Cornelious, recognized for his distinguished work in agriculture and rural community development. His speech emphasized the ongoing need for investments to support family farmers, conservation and rural community economic development and inclusive community planning. Drawing on firsthand experiences and success stories, he motivated attendees to pursue innovative approaches while remaining grounded in the values that have long defined Arkansas's agricultural heritage.

Recognition awards honoring leadership, and achievement was a highlight of the conference. Presentations were made, giving recognition and awards to individuals who have made significant contributions to land and community development. Honorees included farmers, educators, and activists whose dedication has advanced sustainable conservation practices, supported local economies, and fostered resilient communities. Their achievements were celebrated as examples of leadership and commitment to positive change. The 45th Annual Conference honorees included: **Burthel Thomas, Elizabeth Bell Simpson, Harrison Locke, Mary and Ricky Bone, P.J Hanie and Sammie Ross.**

The conference concluded with a membership meeting, where participants received the board Chairs Report and the Presidents Annual Report. The report reviewed organizational milestones, discussed projects, and strategic priorities for

the coming year. Members reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the mission of ALFDC and ALCDC, emphasizing collaboration and continued advocacy for rural development. Other action items included the report from the board nominating committee and the election of boards members. Three (3) new members were added to the board. The election expanded local community representation for outreach programs, enhancing member engagement, and pursuing new partnerships with regional and national stakeholders.

The 45th ALFDC conference served as a testament to the resilience and ingenuity of Arkansas's rural communities. Through thoughtful dialogue, direct learning, and recognition of outstanding leadership, the event reinforced the importance of collective action in shaping a sustainable and prosperous future. As the organization looks ahead, members and stakeholders remain dedicated to fostering innovation and supporting the growth of land and farm development across the state.

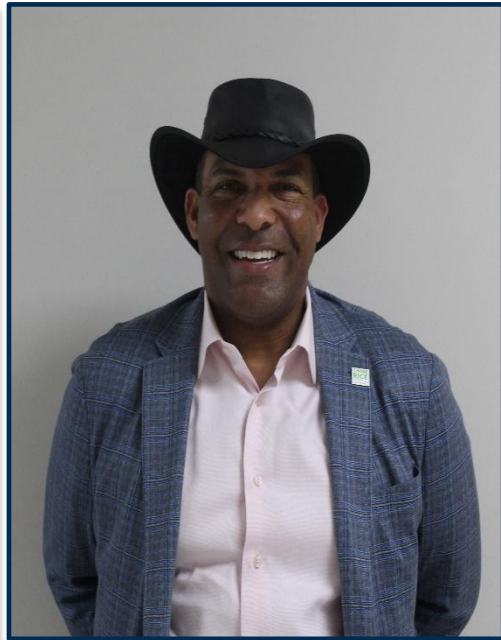


AWARD HONOREES



Pictured above from left to right: Mr. Rickey and Mrs. Mary Bones (Lighthouse Produce Farms), Mr. Burthel Thomas and Mr. Harrison Locke.

Below: Pictured from left to right: Mr. Sammie Ross, Mrs. Elizabeth Bell Simpson (WSBZ Farms) and Mr. P.J. Haynie (Haynie Farms LLC.)



Conference Day 2: Workshops and Membership Meeting

USDA Farm Service Agency Resources Janie Williams- Lecturer



USDA Conservation Program Resources + Heir Property Dr. Calvin King- Lecturer



Housing Program Resources Ashley Crockett-Lecturer



Small Business Development + SBA Lashica Miller- Lecturer



Conference Day 1: Youth Day

Colleges & universities offering continued education opportunities for the youth:



Representatives: Mrs. Teki Hunt, Dr. Sujan Bhattarai, and Mr. Willie Columbus



-Representative: Mrs. Keena Williams



Representative: Mr. Jeff Andrews



Representative: Mr. Jerry Stegall



Youth Day Oratorical Speakers



Talk of the Land

Micro - Urban Agriculture Revolution for Local Food Supply

Reimagining Agriculture in the Heart of Cities offers opportunities for beginning farmers. When most people picture a farmer, they envision vast open fields and rural landscapes. However, a transformative agricultural movement is taking root right in the middle of our bustling urban centers and small rural towns. Urban micro-agriculture is rapidly emerging as a critical solution to modern sustainability challenges, reshaping how we think about food production, community engagement, and conservation environmental responsibility.

Climate change has become a driving force behind innovative agricultural practices. Traditional food systems, with their extensive shipping and transportation networks, contribute significantly to global carbon emissions. Urban agriculture offers a promising alternative, bringing food production closer to consumers and dramatically reducing the carbon footprint associated with long-distance food transportation.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture pioneering support for urban farming has become a critical supporter of urban agricultural initiatives. With the 2018 Farm Bill, the USDA significantly expanded its commitment to urban farming by establishing several groundbreaking programs. These include creating an Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production, forming an Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee, providing conservation financial assistance to support emerging urban agricultural practices and micro farm operating loans.

By recognizing urban agriculture as a legitimate and essential form of food production, the USDA has provided crucial institutional support. This recognition helps legitimize urban farming as more than just a trend, but as a strategic approach to addressing food security, sustainability, and community development.

Urban agriculture diverse approaches encompass a wide range of practices beyond traditional farming. From rooftop gardens and vertical farming to community plots and hydroponic systems. These innovative approaches transform unused urban spaces into productive agricultural landscapes. Practitioners might include organic enthusiasts, local food advocates, and community organizations focused on improving food access.

The motivations behind urban agriculture are equally diverse. Some practitioners are driven by environmental concerns, seeking to reduce food miles and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Others focus on food security, providing fresh, nutritious produce in areas traditionally considered food deserts. Additionally, urban agriculture can generate income, create community connections, and promote sustainable living practices.

To address the challenges and opportunities in urban farming, entry as a beginning micro-urban farmer should start with a USDA partnership, the Office of Urban Agriculture and Natural Resource Conservation Service. Conservation plans are vital for addressing issues like soil contamination in urban areas, particularly from heavy metals like lead, which requires careful management and remediation. Beginning micro-urban farmers should implement rigorous testing and advice from USDA soil conservationists for potentially use of alternative growing methods like raised beds or hydroponics to ensure food safety.

However, the opportunities far outweigh the challenges. Urban agriculture contributes to climate change mitigation, improves local food systems, and creates stronger, more resilient communities. As cities continue to grow and environmental concerns intensify, urban agriculture represents a hopeful, innovative approach to sustainable food production.



Farmers' Benefits in the New Big Beautiful Tax Bill

Farm Programs and Farm Bill Funding

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed into law on July 4, 2025, is an 870-page legislative package that combines farm program funding, tax reforms, border security investments, and more into one robust bill.

While it lacks the comprehensive reach of a traditional five-year farm bill, the 'Big Beautiful Bill' injects \$65.6 billion in new spending for farm programs and extends key tax provisions like the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and the 45Z biofuels credit.

This legislation represents the largest investment in farm programs since 2002. For producers, understanding what it includes and what it leaves behind—is essential in seizing the opportunities that come with it.

To help producers make the most of the funding and policy shifts in this bill, Ag. America's team analyzed the bill's text with an emphasis on Title I, which addresses agriculture, nutrition, and forestry. From this analysis, there will be a three-part series to break down what the 'Big Beautiful Bill' means for commodity farm programs, tax season, and your operation's future.

Part One: Farm Programs and Farm Bill Funding (you are here)

Part Two: Tax Policy Updates for Landowners

Part Three: Protecting American Farmland and Forests

Farm Programs Impacted by the Big Beautiful Bill

At its core, the 'Big Beautiful Bill' offers expanded commodity program payments, enhanced crop insurance support, and new investments in agricultural trade and research.

FY2025-34 Farm Bill Funding changes, with \$59,040M for the farm safety net and smaller amounts for other farm programs; total increase is \$65.6B.

However, to implement this historic investment in some areas, funding fell short in others. Here is what's known so far based on the legislative text.

Commodity Support Farm Programs

Based on acres, a longstanding concern among producers got long-awaited attention in this bill. Up to 30 million additional acres are now eligible for enrollment in the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) programs.

Additionally, reference prices for both ARC and PLC farm programs will increase when payments roll out in 2026. The bill contains language indicating that the USDA will automatically apply the

higher of the updated payment rate for that first year, then farmers will be required to select a program in the following years.

The impact of these changes varies depending on the commodity. For example, major row crops like corn, wheat, and oats will see smaller per-acre gains than cotton, peanuts, and rice, which benefit more from the revised reference prices.

Reference Price Updates for Agricultural Commodities

Commodity	Old Price	New Price	Change
Wheat	\$5.50 /bu.	\$6.35 /bu.	+\$0.85
Corn	\$3.70 /bu.	\$4.10 /bu.	+\$0.40
Grain Sorghum	\$3.95 /bu.	\$4.40 /bu.	+\$0.45
Barley	\$4.95 /bu	\$ 5.45 /bu	+\$0.50
Oats	\$2.40 /bu.	\$2.65 /bu.	+\$0.25
Long Grain			
Rice	\$14.00 /cwt	\$16.90 /cwt	+\$2.90
Medium			
Grain Rice	\$14.00 /cwt.	\$16.90 /cwt	+\$2.90
Soybeans	\$8.40 /bu.	\$10.00 /bu.	+\$1.60
Other			
Oilseeds	\$20.15 /cwt	\$23.75 /cwt	+\$3.60
Peanuts	\$535.00 /ton	\$630.00 /ton	+\$95.00
Dry Peas	\$11.00 /cwt	\$13.10 /cwt	+\$2.10
Lentils	\$19.97 /cwt	\$23.75 /cwt	+\$3.78
Small	\$19.04 /cwt	\$22.65 /cwt	+\$3.61
Chickpeas			
Large	\$21.54 /cwt	\$25.65 /cwt	+\$4.11
Chickpeas			
Seed Cotton	N/A (no statutory price) \$0.42 /lb. Newly included.		

For dairy operations, the bill modernizes the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program with the following updates:

- Increases coverage of up to six million pounds of milk for both Tier I and Tier II producers.
- Sets production history based on the highest milk marketings from 2021 to 2023.
- Offers a 25 percent discount for one-time premium elections covering 2026–2031.
- Other key updates to commodity support farm programs include:

Payment limits increased from \$125,000 to \$155,000 per individual and \$310,000 per couple, with future adjustments tied to inflation.

Elimination of income caps for producers deriving at least 75 percent of their income from agriculture or forestry.

One notable change in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that's making a bit of a stir is the amended payment limit provisions for farm entities. Under Section 10306, the "qualified pass-through entity" was added to include partnerships, S corporations, LLCs not electing corporate status, and joint ventures. Critics of this change call it an "expanded loophole" that would concentrate the use of federal money by allowing larger farm operations to avoid the federal fund limit and incentivize further farm industry consolidation. There is also concern this change could drive up cash rent and land values, creating financial hardship for tenant farmers.

Agricultural Disaster Assistance

It remains unclear if commodity support farm program updates will eliminate the need for ad hoc disaster payments in the future. For now, there are several noteworthy updates to agricultural disaster assistance that U.S. producers should be aware of in the 'Big Beautiful Bill.' Protections under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) have been enhanced to include:

Full indemnities for livestock lost to predation and 75 percent compensation for weather- or disease-related losses.

Added support for unborn livestock and aquaculture losses from bird strikes.

Enhanced protections under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP).

Higher caps and eased access for orchard, nursery, and vineyard losses.

Clearer eligibility rules for honeybee and tree damage compensation.

Conservation Programs

In addition to updates on payment limits and disaster assistance, the Big Beautiful Bill introduces notable enhancements to USDA conservation program benefits. Expanded funding for programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) aims to support producers in implementing sustainable agricultural practices. Eligibility criteria have been broadened to allow more farmers and ranchers to participate, and payment rates for conservation activities have been increased to better reflect actual costs. These improvements are designed to encourage wider adoption of conservation measures, promote soil health, and contribute to long-term environmental resilience.

The bill also streamlines the claims process for disaster assistance, aiming to reduce administrative burdens and accelerate payment delivery for affected producers. Expanded eligibility now encompasses a broader range of specialty crops, helping more farmers recover from unforeseen events. These changes reflect a growing recognition of the diverse risks faced by modern agriculture and a commitment to providing timely support where it is most needed.

Understanding Heirs Property What You Should Know

The Critical Role of Estate Planning: Preventing Heir Property Crisis and Safeguarding Family Prosperity

How Proactive Measures Can Protect Generational Wealth and Family Legacy's

The Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Program has a longstanding history of offering educational training, technical assistance, and referrals to help individuals and families address heir property challenges. Throughout its years of service, ALCDC has witnessed how heir property issues have significantly contributed to land loss, particularly within underserved populations and communities. By equipping families with knowledge and resources, ALCDC program service delivery has worked to combat this persistent threat to generational wealth and community stability. An heir property issue can evolve and expand from one generation to another, becoming more complex with extending family branches.

Estate planning is often regarded as a concern for the wealthy or elderly, but its significance reaches far beyond these boundaries. For families of all backgrounds, estate planning serves as an initiative-taking safeguard against the heir property crisis, a situation that can threaten generational wealth, family unity, and the prosperity of future generations. In this article, we explore why taking early and intentional steps to plan your estate is essential for protecting your family's assets and legacy.

Understanding the Heir Property Crisis

Heir property typically refers to land or real estate that passes down to descendants without a clear will or legal documentation. When an owner dies intestate (without a will), property is distributed among surviving heirs under state laws. While this may seem fair, it often results in "fractional ownership," where many family members own undivided shares of a property. The lack of clear title and centralized management can lead to disputes, forced sales, and the loss of family assets.

The Risk of Prosperity Loss

Without estate planning, families face an elevated risk of losing prosperity accrued over generations. Heir property is especially vulnerable to legal challenges, tax defaults, and predatory buyers seeking to exploit unclear ownership. Furthermore, the inability to secure loans or make improvements due to ambiguous titles can stagnate property value, erode wealth, and diminish opportunities for future generations.

Estate Planning as a Proactive Solution

Proactive estate planning is the most effective way to prevent the heir property crisis. By creating a will, establishing trust, and clearly designating an administrator, beneficiaries, property owners ensure their wishes are honored and their assets are protected. An estate plan provides clarity,

reduces the risk of legal disputes, and allows families to manage assets more efficiently. It empowers generational prosperity, ensuring that wealth can be leveraged for education, investment, and other opportunities that strengthen the family's future.

Benefits Beyond Asset Protection

- **Preserving Family Unity:** Estate plans minimize conflict by providing transparent instructions, reducing misunderstandings among heirs.
- **Reducing Legal Costs:** A properly executed plan helps families avoid costly probate proceedings and legal battles.
- **Enabling Economic Mobility:** Clear ownership opens doors to financing, development, and economic growth, benefiting not just families but communities.
- **Protecting Vulnerable Heirs:** Estate planning can designate guardians and establish trust for minors or dependents, ensuring their security.

How to Start Estate Planning

Estate planning may seem daunting, but the process can begin with a few straightforward steps:

1. Consult with an estate planning attorney or financial advisor.
2. Draft a will and update it regularly.
3. Consider establishing trust for complex assets or family arrangements.
4. Clearly communicate your wishes to family members.
5. Review beneficiary designations on financial accounts and insurance policies.

The heir property crisis is a preventable threat to family prosperity. By embracing estate planning as a proactive approach, families not only avoid legal complications and asset loss but also build a foundation for continued growth and unity. Whether your estate is large or modest, acting today can ensure your legacy endures and your loved ones thrive for generations to come.

For additional information or to schedule individual or family planning and training sessions, call ALCDC Fargo Office at (870) 734-3005 or the Forrest City Office at (870) 594-7000.

**Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation
Farm Program Division**

Sample Estate Planning Information Guide

Please complete the following form to help guide your estate planning process.

Personal Information

Full Name	_____
Date of Birth	_____
Address	_____
Phone Number	_____
Email	_____

Family Information

Spouse/Partner Name	_____
Children (names & ages)	_____
Other Dependents	_____

Assets & Accounts

Real Estate (address, value)	_____
Bank Accounts (institution, type)	_____
Retirement Accounts	_____
Life Insurance Policies	_____
Other Significant Assets	_____

Estate Planning Preferences

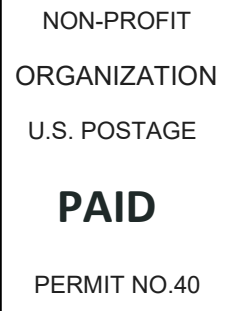
Preferred Executor/Personal Representative	_____
Guardians for Minor Children	_____
Specific Bequests or Wishes	_____
Trusts to Establish	_____

Additional Notes or Questions

Please email or bring this completed form to our office for consultation with Larry Lofton our estate planning program staff or take it to your own attorney or financial advisor. For more information or to schedule a session, contact the **ALCDC Forrest City Office at (870) 594-7000.**



P.O. Box 907
Brinkley, AR72021



ABOUT THE ADVANCER

The Advancer is a publication of the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) printed quarterly and circulated as a public service and communication Resources for our membership and constituents. The Advancer publication reaches a broad range of organizations and residents throughout the Delta and the United States

The Advancer reflects the nature of our work-supplying self-help opportunities and support services to our farmers and others of limited Resources in our forty-two (42) county service area. ALCDC is committed to helping people become more productive and self-sufficient. We appreciate your comments and suggestions. Direct all comments and inquiries about this publication by phone to (870) 734-3005 or e-mail us at alcdc1934@yahoo.com.

If your mailing address is not correct, contact Mary Harris at (870) 734-3005.

ALCDC STAFF

Dr. Calvin R. King Sr. – President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
LaShica Miller – Vice-President and Chief Financial Operation Officer (CFO)
Janie Williams – Vice-President of Programs and Policy
Larry Lofton – Vice President of ALFDC, Ag. Farm Division Director
Barbara Erby – Director of Public Relations Marketing Administrative Service
Michael Tucker – Farm Finance Advisor
Ashley Crockett – Housing Director, Farm Advisor Specialist
Mary Harris – Office Manager, Farm Admin Asst.
Diamond Smith – Accounts Payable
Mykailyn Smith – Administrative Assistant, Youth Coordinator
Endia Rapiere – Accounts Receivable, Administrative Assistant

Multi-Family Housing (Off-Site)

Ashley Crockett-McNeil Apartments Phase I and II, Crawfordsville, AR, Earle Duplex's, Pinewood Apartment Development, Brinkley, AR
Keisha Caffey (Resident Manager)-Meadowbrook, Marianna, West Helena/
Helena Jenifer Jones (Resident Manager) Forrest City and Wynne

ALCDC MISSION



The mission of ALCDC is to supply advocacy outreach, technical aid, and training to limited Resources 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

Visit Our Website

www.arlcdc.org