

ARKANSAS LAND AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ALCDC)

THE ADVANCER

SPECIAL EDITION



CONFERENCE 2026

REFLECTING ON THE PAST. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE.
CONFERENCE 2026 | OCT 29-30. SAVE THE DATE!



CELEBRATING MILESTONES
TOGETHER: 250 YEARS FOR
OUR NATION, AND 46 YEARS
OF DEDICATION FROM
ALFDC AND ALCDC.



PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON AND THE UNDER SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE
GEORGE W. BUSH ADMINISTRATION, CONFERENCE 2008



DR. KING GREETING GUESTS,
CONFERENCE 2015



YOUTH GATHERS FOR ANNUAL YOUTH DAY 2015



ANNUAL YOUTH DAY 2012

A Message of Thanks from the Board Chairman

**Dear Members, Friends,
Partners, and Supporters:**

Message from the Board Chairman

"Your support strengthens our mission to address the needs of rural and urban residents, families, farmers, landowners, and underserved communities across Arkansas and beyond."

Dr. Brian Cornelious, Board Chairman



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you for your continued membership, generous contributions, and steadfast support of Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation and Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation.

Your support strengthens our mission to address the needs of rural and urban residents, families, farmers, landowners, and underserved communities across Arkansas and beyond. Through your membership and contributions, you help our organizations expand access to resources, encourage community development, support land and farm opportunities, and promote pathways toward long-term prosperity.

As reflected in this year's 46th Annual Conference theme, "Sowing Seeds of Community Heritage—Rooted in Resource Opportunities for Prosperity," each contribution is deeply meaningful. Your gifts, partnerships, and acts of service help plant seeds of opportunity, preserve community heritage, and support greater economic strength and self-sufficiency for the communities we serve.

As in years past, your membership and contributions directly support the missions of Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation and Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation.

We are grateful for your trust, generosity, and shared belief in the value of serving communities where the need is great and the opportunities for growth are even greater. Thank you for standing with us, working alongside us, and helping us continue this important mission.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Cornelious.

Board Chairman

Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation &
Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**Dear Members, Friends,
Partners, and Supporters:**

Message from the President and CEO

"Please make plans now to join us during our 46th Annual Conference, not only as attendees, but as valued voices in a shared journey of hope, heritage, and progress."

Dr. Calvin R. King, President/CEO



On behalf of the Arkansas Land and Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC), I am pleased to invite you to join us for the 46th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting, hosted by the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation (ALCDC), October 29th and 30th, at the Brinkley Convention Center, 1501 Weatherby Dr., Brinkley, AR 72021.

This year's conference theme, "Sowing Seeds of Rural and Urban Community Heritage — Rooted in Resource Opportunities for Prosperity," calls us to walk alongside one another, to better understand the journeys of who have come before us, and our neighbors, and to recognize how far our families, farms, businesses, and communities have come through faith, perseverance, hard work, and shared opportunity.

Through informative workshops, engaging speakers, and meaningful discussions, the conference will provide beneficial information and practical tools for rural and urban residents, farmers, landowners, business owners, and community leaders. Participants will have opportunities to learn about resources that support prosperity, land stewardship, business development, housing, conservation, heirs' property, and community economic development.

We believe this gathering will serve as a powerful space for collaboration, education, and action. As we come together, we will honor the legacy of rural and urban communities, acknowledge the roads that have brought us to this moment, and sow new seeds of opportunity for families, farms, businesses, and neighborhoods across Arkansas and beyond.

Your presence and participation are more than welcome, they are needed. This conference is a call for us to come together with purpose, to walk with greater understanding of one another's journeys, to honor the heritage that has carried us forward, and to plant new seeds of opportunity that can grow into lasting prosperity for our families, farms, businesses, and communities.

Please make plans now to join us during our 46th Annual Conference, not only as attendees, but as valued voices in a shared journey of hope, heritage, and progress. Complete your registration, invite a neighbor, encourage a young person, bring a fellow farmer, landowner, business owner, or community leader, and help us make this gathering a true reflection of the people and places we serve. For pre-registration, call Mary Harris at (870) 734-3005 or Janie Williams at 501-454-6206. You may also register online at <https://www.arlcadc.org/>

Together, let us remember how far we have come, honor those who helped bring us to this point, and sow new seeds of opportunity that will grow into prosperity for generations to come. When we sow together, we grow together and the harvest of our shared commitment will strengthen communities for generations to come. Sincerely,

Dr. Calvin R. King, Sr.
President/CEO, ALFDC/ALCDC

CONSERVATION OPENS NEW PATHS FOR CAMDEN COMMUNITY LANDOWNERS AND PRODUCERS

CAMDEN, AR



BY: ALCDC STAFF



AUGUST 20, 2026



Workshop connects farmers, landowners and community partners with USDA resources, rural development programs and heirs' property support.

Farmers, landowners, small producers and community partners gathered in Camden on August 20, 2026, for a Community Economic Development Workshop hosted by the Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation and focused on USDA conservation resources, small and urban agriculture initiatives, and sustainable rural opportunity. The workshop, titled Conservation Resources Empowering Growers and Producers: Small and Urban Agriculture Initiatives, was designed to help participants better understand how federal, state and community-based programs can

Meeting Attendees.



support farm operations, land stewardship, housing, business development, community facilities, water and sewer systems, broadband access and heirs' property solutions. Located in south-central Arkansas along the Ouachita River, Camden has deep ties to agriculture, forestry, river commerce and manufacturing. Like many small rural communities in Arkansas, Camden and the surrounding Ouachita County area depend on practical partnerships that help

residents protect land, grow businesses, keep families connected to property, and create opportunities for the next generation. USDA conservation and rural development programs can play an important role in that work. USDA-NRCS Arkansas helps producers conserve natural resources while keeping working lands productive, offering technical and financial assistance through programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program.



Workshop Presenters.

Camden's Outreach Meeting Continued

These programs help producers improve soil health, manage water, reduce erosion, support wildlife habitat and adopt practices that make farms more resilient.

For rural communities, conservation can also serve as an economic development strategy. When producers receive assistance to install conservation practices, upgrade operations or bring land into stronger long-term management, those investments can support local contractors, suppliers, equipment needs and farm income.

Conservation programs also promote cleaner water, healthier soils and stronger wildlife habitat, reinforcing the natural resource base rural families and communities rely on. According to the agenda, the Camden workshop included planned presentations on FSA direct loans, microloans, farm programs and loan guarantees; NRCS

opportunities including EQIP, CSP and CRP; USDA Rural Development resources for housing, businesses, community facilities, water and sewer systems, internet access and grants; Arkansas Department of Agriculture technical assistance; agricultural drone technology; and ALCDC's work helping families address heirs' property challenges. Workshop leaders listed on the agenda included Janie Williams, ALCDC vice president, as opening moderator and question-and-answer facilitator; Dr. O'Dell Carr, ALCDC board member, providing the welcome; and Dr. Calvin R. King, president of ALCDC, presenting the workshop overview and technical assistance for heirs' property. Representatives from USDA and state agencies were listed to discuss program resources and follow-up opportunities. ALCDC staff members were listed to conduct client case intake during the meeting so participants could receive follow-up support after the workshop.

The agenda emphasized both information sharing and practical next steps to help strengthen farms, address landownership barriers, and expand access to public resources. For Camden and similar rural communities, conservation programs are more than environmental tools. They can help local producers, landowners and families build stability, protect working lands and pursue sustainable economic opportunities close to home.

EVENT SNAPSHOT

The Community Economic Development Camden Workshop was held on August 20, 2026, in Camden, Arkansas. USDA-FSA and USDA-NRCS contacts are available through the Camden Service Center at 151 South Adams Avenue, Camden, AR 71701, phone (870) 836-2089. USDA-RD contacts listed in the agenda include the Monticello Service Center at 419 W. Gaines St., Monticello, AR 71655, phone (870) 367-8400, and the Pine Bluff Service Center at 100 E. 8th Ave., Room 2603, Pine Bluff, AR 71601. For ALCDC follow-up, contact Dr. Calvin King Sr. at (870) 734-3005, (870) 594-7000, email calvinrkingsr@yahoo.com, or Janie Williams at jwill0566@sbcglobal.net.



46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Theme: Sowing Seeds of Rural and Urban Community Heritage — Rooted in Resource Opportunities for Prosperity

**OCTOBER 29-30,
2026
AT 8:30 A.M. BOTH
DAYS**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026 AGENDA AT A GLANCE

8:30 a.m. Registration
8:45 a.m. Opening Session
9:00 a.m. College and University Symposium
10:00 a.m. Oratorical Competition
11:30 a.m. Youth Luncheon

Invited Luncheon Speaker:

**Angelee Word, Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA and a former ALFDC YECAE Participant**

12:30 p.m. College Networking Opportunities

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026 AGENDA AT A GLANCE

8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Morning Session
10:30 a.m. Concurrent Work Sessions
Workshop Sessions cover key topics like Heirs' Property, housing, community economic development grant programs, and conservation and financial resource opportunities for rural and urban farmers, ranchers, foresters, small business owners, and underserved population and communities.
12:00 Noon Annual Luncheon

**Invited Luncheon Speaker: Representative from the
Office of the Secretary, USDA**

Immediately Following Luncheon:

Annual Membership Meeting
Annual Board of Directors Meeting



**YOUTH DAY
Day 1**



**ADULT DAY
Day 2**

CONFERENCE LOCATION:

**BRINKLEY CONVENTION
CENTER, 1501 WEATHERBY
DRIVE BRINKLEY,
ARKANSAS**

CONTACT:

***JANIE WILLIAMS AT 501-454-6206**

***MARY HARRIS AT 870-734-1140 *WEBSITE: WWW.ARLCDC.ORG**

Past Conferences: Celebrating Hope & Heritage



46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**CONFERENCE THEME:
“SOWING SEEDS OF RURAL AND URBAN
COMMUNITY HERITAGE—ROOTED IN RESOURCE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROSPERITY”**



BECOME A SPONSOR

PARTNER WITH US FOR OUR 46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING AS WE HONOR 46 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO RURAL AND URBAN RESIDENTS, FAMILIES, FARMERS, LANDOWNERS, AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ACROSS ARKANSAS AND BEYOND. YOUR SPONSORSHIP DIRECTLY IMPACTS THIS EVENT. TO JOIN US AS A PARTNER, PLEASE REVIEW OUR AVAILABLE PACKAGES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE AND SUBMIT YOUR SELECTION BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026.

SPONSORSHIP

Levels and Benefits



Platinum Package

- Recognition as ALCDC Affiliate Fellow.
- Verbal recognition during conference opening and closing ceremonies.
- Full Corporate Page in Conference Booklet.
- Opportunity to set up Company information booth in conference area.
- Prominent Company name and logo on conference website.
- Opportunities for promotional materials to be handed out to conference attendees.
- Receive a full-page display in our quarterly Newsletter for one-year.

\$20,000



Gold Package

- Recognition as ALCDC Affiliate Fellow.
- Opportunity for Company speakers to take part in conference panels (As available).
- Half-page corporate display in Conference Booklet.
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to conference attendees.
- Receive a full-page display in our quarterly Newsletter for one-year.

\$10,000



Silver Package

- Display of Company Name and Logo in some marketing and day-of-event materials.
- Quarterly page corporate display in Conference Booklet.
- Opportunity to send promotional materials to be handed out to conference attendees.
- Receive a quarter-page display in our quarterly Newsletter for one year.

\$5,000



Bronze Package

- Display of Company Name and Logo in some marketing and day-of-event materials.
- Quarterly page corporate display in Conference Booklet.
- Opportunities to send promotional materials to be handed out to conference attendees.

\$2,500

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

To learn more about sponsorship or make a contribution, contact Mary Harris at (870) 734-3005.

ALFDC 46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

CONFERENCE & EXHIBIT REGISTRATION FORM

Arkansas Land and
Farm Development
Corporation

Conference Location:
Brinkley Convention Ctr.
1501 Weatherby Drive
Brinkley, Arkansas

Please Check:

- ☐ I plan to attend Day I, Oct. 29, 2026 (Youth Day)
- ☐ I plan to attend Day II, Oct. 30, 2026 (Farming, Housing, Rural Dev. and Annual Membership Meeting)
- ☐ I plan to attend Both Days, Oct. 29-30, 2026

Date: MM, DD, YY

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Name: _____

Company's Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

ALCDC/ALFDC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Conference Registration Fee (Check One):

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Adult \$15 | ☐ Displays (Organizations) \$250 |
| ☐ Senior Citizens \$0 | ☐ Displays (Individual) \$50 |
| ☐ Members \$0 | |

For Vendors and Exhibitors:

Number of Tables Needed: _____

Is Electrical Accommodation
Needed?

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

ALCDC/ALFDC CONTACT INFORMATION

-  870-734-1140
-  www.arlcdc.org
-  484 Floyd Brown Dr, P.O. 907, Brinkley, AR 72021



ALFDC/ALCDC Partnership Membership Renewal Form

October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027

_____ Individual Membership \$25.00 _____ Partnership Membership \$40.00
_____ Organization Membership \$200.00

Check one of the following:

_____ Renewal Membership _____ New Membership _____ Contribution to Organization \$ _____

Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

Member 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 and urban residents.

Member Opportunities -ALCDC/ALFDC offers leadership opportunities within the organization for our youth, farmers, and rural and urban residents. As a member you will have the opportunity to serve on advisory committees and serve as volunteer and form local volunteer working groups in support of the organization's service delivery program.

Marketing Opportunities -ALCDC/ALFDC offers cooperative marketing opportunities for rural and urban farmers, and businesses. As a member, we also offer the opportunity to present and set up an exhibition during our Regional Meetings and Annual Conferences, along with facility rental discounts.

Access to Housing, Farming, and Youth Services -ALCDC/ALFDC offers rural and urban residents technical support and training for access to affordable housing, homeownership education, business development, technical assistance and support in accessing farm financial resources for conservation practices, operating expense, youth leadership development, education enrichment, and workforce readiness.

Information and Communication -ALCDC/ALFDC members can communicate with an ALCDC representative via phone or website concerning their farming, housing, business and youth service's needs. Members receive ALCDC updates and news through our quarterly newsletters and weekly e-letters and website.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

Please complete, detach, and return your application and tax-deductible contribution to: ALCDC/ALFDC Membership 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. On your compatible Android phone, Smart phone, or tablet-open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your Android phone, Smart phone, or tablet to join or renew membership.





P.O. Box 907
Brinkley, AR72021

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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 alcde1934@yahoo.com.

To update your mailing address, contact Mary Harris at (870) 734-3005.

Regional Community Economic Development Workshops 2026

Date	Event	Time	Location/County
Oct 01	Outreach Meeting	11-1:00 p.m.	Lake View Municipal Fire Dept, 14264, Hwy. 44 Helena, AR 72342
Oct 29	46th Annual Conf	8:30-2p.m.	Brinkley Convention Center 1501 Weatherby Drive Brinkley, AR 72021
Oct 30	46th Annual Conf	8:30-2p.m.	Brinkley Convention Center 1501 Weatherby Drive Brinkley, AR 72021
Nov 5	Outreach Meeting	11-1:00p.m.	Lonoke Convention Center 1355 Front St SW Lonoke, AR 72086
Dec 3	Estate Planning	10-12:00 (Noon)	ALCDC 831 N. Washington St Forrest City, AR 72335

SAVE DATES

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.arlcde.org