



[News](#)

[Events](#)



Arkansas Department of Agriculture Accepting Proposals for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the 2023 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). These grants are funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enhance the competitiveness of the Arkansas specialty crop industry. Specialty crops are defined by USDA as fruits, vegetables, horticulture, floriculture, and tree nuts.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture uses a two-phase application process for administering the grant funds. Project concept proposals outlining the project's goals, tasks, and budget requirements must be submitted by **March 1**.

After all concept proposals are reviewed by an advisory committee, selected projects will be invited to submit detailed project proposals.

Applicants are encouraged to develop projects pertaining to the following issues affecting the specialty crop industry:

- Increasing sales and marketability and driving demand for specialty crops;
- Increasing consumption of specialty crops in Arkansas’s schools by expanding child knowledge and/or improving access to the nutritional benefits of specialty crops;
- Increasing access to local healthy foods;
- Research projects focused on helping specialty crop growers reduce financial costs, improve pest and disease management, and/or value-added products; and
- Enhancing specialty crop food safety.

The 2023 SCBGP application can be found [here](#).

Information about the 2023 SCBGP is available in the Request for Applications (RFA) [here](#). For additional information, contact Amy Lyman, amy.lyman@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Announces Grant Opportunity for Farmers Markets

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) is pleased to partner with the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas for the eighth annual Arkansas Farmers Market Promotion Program. This program, which is administered by the Department and funded by the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas, helps build awareness for farmers markets and their vendors. This program provides funding assistance for the state’s farmers markets to serve their communities as consumer interest in locally grown and made products continues to increase.



The Farmers Market Promotion Program may fund the following promotional items to build community and regional awareness for a specific farmers market: signage listing names, seasons, times of operation, and location details; local traditional advertising; and social media campaigns. In 2022, the Department provided over \$9,000 in grants to 23 Arkansas farmers markets through the partnership with the Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas.

Applications are due April 28, 2023, or until funds are no longer available. Applications and additional information can be found [here](#).

Arkansas Grown Grant Pilot Program Announces Second Round of Funding



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) announces a second round of funding for the Arkansas Grown Grant pilot program for farmers residing and farming in Benton, Washington, Madison, and Carroll counties in Northwest Arkansas. This pilot program is created with support from the Walton Family Foundation and offers grant funding to eligible farmers who are committed to increasing capacity for wholesale fruit and vegetable production, resulting in more local food. The application can be found [here](#).

Grants up to a maximum of \$15,000 will be awarded for eligible expenses to farmers in the four-county pilot program area. Free assistance in completing the application is offered through the Arkansas Small Business & Technology Development Center in Fayetteville. Find more information [here](#).

“The Walton Family Foundation’s generosity is well known throughout Arkansas and the nation,” said Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward. “The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is honored to assist in the administration of the second round of this grant program and looks forward to seeing the positive impacts it will have on farmers, consumers, and local food production in Northwest Arkansas.”

Funds will be awarded to approved applicants on an equitable basis until funds are no longer available. A committee will review applications based on the following criteria: (1) dedication to growing local food for sale to wholesale and commercial buyers; (2) demonstrated interest in increasing capacity to sell to wholesale buyers and distributors; (3) the ability to provide performance metrics on reports; (4) demonstrated need; and (5) sustainability.

In September 2022, the Department announced the recipients of the first round of funding. Grants were awarded for eligible expenses to 25 farming operations in the four-county pilot program area. Find a list of recipients from the first round of funding [here](#). Photos from a reception held at the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food in Fayetteville for the 2022 recipients can be found [here](#).

Find more information about the pilot program [here](#) or by contacting Karen Reynolds at karen.reynolds@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

The Growing Season: Looking Forward

The Growing Season, an Arkansas PBS podcast that followed the stories of six Arkansas farmers throughout 2022, has come to an end. In the final episode, Arkansas PBS Producer Corey Womack sat down with Secretary Ward to discuss the mission of the series and consider lessons learned in 2022. Watch the interview [here](#).

The Growing Season is funded through a Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Grant provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. More information and past episodes can be found [here](#).



Celebrating Black History Month

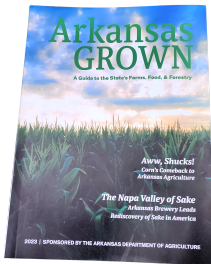


During Black History Month we want to take time to highlight the many minority-owned family farms in the state that have been passed down through generations, earning the Arkansas Century Farm designation. These farm families, like the Tucker family, have worked through decades of hardships and helped make Arkansas agriculture the booming industry it is today.

Since 1905, the Tucker family has farmed over 230 acres in Desha County. John Tucker and his wife, Pauline, moved to Arkansas from Mississippi and started with just a few acres of land, working their way up to becoming the largest Black landowners in the area for a period of time. Though John Tucker passed away in 1965 at the age of 91, the Tucker family continues to harvest corn, rice, and cotton on the same land their great-great grandfather farmed.

If your family has owned and farmed the same land for at least 100 years, learn how you can apply for the Arkansas Century Farm Program [here](#).

2023 Arkansas Grown Magazine



The latest edition of the *Arkansas Grown* magazine is here! With more than 25 features about Arkansas agriculture, there's something for everyone. You can view the magazine online [here](#), or find a physical copy at various locations around the state very soon!

Photo Features



With recent ice storms leaving significant damage in some areas of the state, Forestry Division crews have been assisting with clean up. Pictured are Forestry Division staff assisting with clean up efforts at Cane Creek State Park (left) and in Lafayette County (right).



Fourth Graders Addie Gerbert and Sasha Kotyankar at ANH Montessori Rogers (pictured left) won the 2022 Arkansas Farm to School Month Cook-Off with their Arkansas Black Apple Pie. The competition gave students across Arkansas an opportunity to showcase their interests, creativity, and skills by submitting a recipe to be featured in the Arkansas Farm to School Kid's Cookbook. Students at the John Tyson Elementary Learning Garden (pictured right) received thank you gifts from the Department's Farm to School program for their participation in the cook off. Learn more about the competition and winners in KATV's coverage of the event [here](#).

New Resources, Trainings, & Opportunities

New Resources from the National Agricultural Law Center

Introducing *The Feed*:

The body of laws, policies, and regulations affecting agriculture is vast and fast-changing, but the National Agricultural Law Center has introduced *The Feed*, a biweekly newsletter aimed at keeping industry professionals up to date.



Content is written by research attorneys but is designed for non-attorneys as well. Find recent issues of *The Feed* [here](#).

Upcoming Webinars:

- [March 15- What's Up with WOTUS: An Overview of "Waters of the United States" and Why it Matters to Agriculture](#)

Recent Blog Posts:

- [State Proposals on Restricting Foreign Ownership of Farmland: Part One](#)
- [WOTUS Update: EPA Releases Highly Anticipated Final Rule to Redefine "Waters of the United States"](#)
- [State Proposals on Restricting Foreign Ownership of Farmland: Part Two](#)

- [EPA Releases New Environmental Justice Guidance Document](#)
- [Displaying the Data: Online AFIDA Database to be Established](#)

Upcoming Events:

- [May 4-5, 2023- The Inaugural Western Agricultural and Environmental Law Conference in Reno, Nevada](#)

AgDiscovery Applications Open



Applications are now open for the AgDiscovery program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). This two-week summer outreach program aims to help students learn about careers in animal science, veterinary medicine, agribusiness, regulatory science, and plant pathology.

Participants, ages 14-17, live on UAPB's campus and learn about agricultural science from university professors, practicing veterinarians and professionals working for the U.S. government.

Students chosen for AgDiscovery participate in hands-on labs, workshops, field trips, and other activities. The program is sponsored by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Find more information and application instructions [here](#). Read about the 2022 AgDiscovery program in this year's edition of *Arkansas Grown* [here](#).

Webinar: Get to Know the European Market

The Southern U.S. Trade Association (SUSTA) is a non-profit organization that facilitates trade between small to medium-sized southern U.S. companies and overseas importers. Since 1973, SUSTA has worked with the Departments of Agriculture to increase the export of southern U.S. food and agricultural products and enhance the economic well-being of the region.



SUSTA and Phaff Export Marketing are hosting a webinar for those interested in learning about exporting U.S. agricultural products to Europe. The webinar will be held March 1, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Central Time. Content will include a market overview, a market entry panel discussion, and a questions and answer session.

Find registration and more information [here](#).

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture 2023 Winter Row Crop Production Meetings



Winter production meetings began in January. Dates and locations for specific meetings may be subject to change. For specific production meetings, contact your county extension office.

February Meetings

- **Feb. 28, Crittenden:** West Memphis First United Methodist Church, West Memphis, from 8:30 a.m. to lunch (Rice, Soybean)

March Meetings

- **Mar. 1, Clark:** Huneycutt Farms/Benchmark Ag, Arkadelphia, from 8:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. (Rice, Soybean, Corn, Cotton)
- **Mar. 2, River Valley:** Yesterday's Restaurant, Morrilton, from 10 a.m. to lunch (Rice)
- **Mar. 7, St. Francis:** Woodruff Electric, Forrest City, from 9:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Peanuts)

Visit [here](#) to learn more about the meetings and see the full calendar.

Internship Opportunities



Additionally, the Arkansas Department of Transformation and Shared Services is now accepting applications for the Summer 2023 MyARInternship. This internship offers a wide

variety of career fields to experience such as finance, social work, technology, public health, engineering, business, public safety, communications, education, research, cybersecurity, compliance, legal, marketing, environment, administration, real estate services, tourism, and emergency management. Find eligibility requirements and more information [here](#).

Applications are now being accepted for a summer internship opportunity with Senator Boozman's Minority Staff on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. The application deadline is Friday, March 17, no later than 5:00 p.m. CT. Click [here](#) to apply or for more information.



UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON
**AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
& FORESTRY**

Janet B. Carson Scholarship: Applications Open

Applications are now open for the Janet B. Carson County 76 Master Gardeners' Scholarship. This is a \$1,000 scholarship to assist Arkansas high school seniors in the pursuit of a post-secondary degree in a plant science related field. Eligible areas of study include but are not limited to horticulture, botany, agronomy, forestry, plant science, landscape architecture, and turf management.



Applications are due March 10. Find application instructions and more information [here](#).

Defend the Flock: Bird Health Awareness Week



February 26-March 3 is Bird Health Awareness Week! This week is dedicated to helping all poultry growers learn about the importance of biosecurity and ways to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Click [here](#) to learn more about Defend the Flock.

Outstanding Teacher of the Year Applications Open

Do you know of a teacher doing a great job with Ag in the Classroom? You can nominate them for Arkansas Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher of the Year! Nominations are open until April 1. For more information or to download an application click [here](#).



The Poultry Federation Food Safety Conference



The Poultry Federation's 11th Annual Food Safety Conference is scheduled to take place on March 7-9, 2023, at the Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Food safety professionals, industry representatives, and members of the academic community from across the country are encouraged to attend the conference where they will receive information on food safety, quality, and compliance challenges. Visit [here](#) to learn more and register.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Annual Report

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report provides information about the Department and how it served Arkansas agriculture, our state's largest industry, from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Click [here](#) to view the 2022 Annual Report.



USDA Updates

1890 National Scholars Program Now Accepting Applications

The 1890 National Scholars Program is currently open to high school seniors entering their freshman year of college, and rising college sophomores and juniors until March 15, 2023. The 1890 National Scholars Program is a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture and 1890 Land-Grant Universities which provides full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, books, and room and board each year for up to 4 years to select students. To view the applicant guidebook click [here](#). To apply using the new 2023 E-application, click [here](#).



There's still time to respond to the Census of Agriculture, a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables, or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, and their opportunity. Watch Secretary Wes Ward's message on the ag census [here](#).

Although the deadline has passed, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will continue to accept completed census questionnaires through the spring. For more information, click [here](#).

Find the latest ag census information [here](#).

USDA Cash Rents and Leases Survey

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct the Cash Rents and Leases survey starting February 6. The survey provides the basis for estimates of the current year's cash rents paid for irrigated cropland, non-irrigated cropland, and permanent

pasture. Over 241,000 survey recipients across the United States have been selected to complete the survey, which can be completed online at agcounts.usda.gov, by mail, or phone.

Data collected ensures accurate cash rental rates. The survey will also give landowners a useful tool in negotiating rental agreements and making other business decisions for their operation, according to Delta Regional Director Eugene Young. Learn more [here](#).

Nationwide Farmer, Rancher, and Forest Manager Prospective Customer Survey

The Nationwide Farmer, Rancher, and Forest Manager Prospective Customer Survey is now open. This survey reviews your general views and interactions with the following U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies: Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Risk Management Agency (RMA). The survey is voluntary, anonymous, and takes around ten minutes to complete. Find the survey and more information [here](#).

Reminders

Weekly Market Summary

Each Friday, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture publishes a comprehensive Weekly Market Summary, which includes the Arkansas Weekly Livestock Auction Summary and Related Individual Market Sale Summaries, National Weekly Rice Summary, Memphis Weekly Feed Report, Weekly Rice, Grain, Cotton, and Feed Futures Trends, Weekly Livestock and Milk Futures Trends, Bid Prices to Farmers, Arkansas Daily Grain Report, Heading Links for Historical Data, and news.

The summary is available on the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's [Market Reports webpage](#), as well as each Division's webpage and Facebook page, and you may sign-up to receive the summary by email at [Subscribe To Notifications And Publications](#).

| TABLE OF CONTENTS | Click Titles to Travel | Volume 2021, Issue 25, 10/7/2021 |
|---|------------------------|---|
| Market Overview | | Additional Reports |
| Arkansas Weekly Livestock Auction Summary and Related Individual Market Sale Summaries, Pages 3-7 | | Soybeans Information, Pages 135-140 |
| Weekly Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market Highlights, Pages 8-9 | | Soybean Quarterly System 5 & D, Page 150 |
| National Weekly Rice Summary, Pages 13-14 | | WASDE Soybean Summary, Page 151 |
| Visualizing Markets, Pages 15-40 | | Fats and Oils, Pages 152-153 |
| Commodity Costs and Returns, Page 41 | | Corn and Sorghum Information, Pages 154-170 |
| Cost of Production Forecasts, Page 42 | | Soybean Quarterly Corn 5 & D, Page 171 |
| Stocks: USDA Sept Quarterly Stocks, Page 43 | | WASDE Corn Grain Summary, Pages 172-173 |
| Stocks: USDA WASDE Snapshot and Estimates, Page 44 | | Wheat Information, Pages 174-196 |
| Livestock, Poultry, and Dairy | | Stocks: Wheat 5 & D, Page 197 |
| Livestock, Poultry, and Swine Information, Pages 45-53 | | WASDE Wheat Summary, Pages 198 |
| Livestock Supply and Demand Summary, Page 54 | | Arkansas Small Grains Summary, Page 199 |
| Arkansas Features and Events, Page 55 | | Cotton Information, Pages 200-208 |
| USDA Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook, Pages 56-67 | | Cotton System, Page 209 |
| The U.S. Self-Supply Chain: Issues and Challenges, Pages 68-82 | | WASDE Cotton Summary, Page 209 |
| USDA Cattle on Feed Summary, Pages 82-84 | | Cotton System, Page 210 |
| USDA Hogs & Pig Quarterly Report, Pages 85-96 | | Sugar Information, Pages 211-212 |
| USDA Daily Pork Price Calendar, Page 97 | | Fruit Movement and Price, Page 214 |
| Dairy Products, Pages 98-99 | | Vegetable Movement and Price, Page 215 |
| Milk Cost of Production Estimates, Page 100 | | Food Price Outlook, Pages 216-221 |
| Arkansas Chicken and Eggs, Page 101 | | Ethanol Fundamentals, Pages 218-221 |
| Arkansas Broiler Industry, Pages 102-103 | | Stocks: Plastics Price Risk Volatility, Page 222 |
| USDA AMS National Retail Report on Chickens, Page 103 | | Export Inspectors Report, Pages 223-231 |
| Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Monthly Outlook, Pages 104-105 | | Export Sales Reports, Page 234-234 |
| Weekly Livestock-Futures Trends, Page 105 | | Weather |
| Weekly Grain Futures Trends, Page 106 | | National Forecast Map Links, Page 256 |
| Memphis Weekly Feed Report, Page 106 | | Roughage Information, Pages 257-260 |
| 2020 Arkansas Cropland Data Layer, Page 107 | | National Forecasts Summary, Pages 261-262 |
| USDA Crop Progress and Conditions, Page 108-110 | | International Weather and Crop Outlook, Pages 263-267 |
| Soil Moisture Report, Pages 110-122 | | U.S. Annual Precipitation, Page 268 |
| Rough Rice Information, Pages 123-127 | | Stocks: Demand Monitor, Page 160 |
| WASDE Rice Summary, Pages 128 | | Featured |
| Peanut Information, Pages 129-130 | | CITC Reports, Pages 270-283 |
| Peanut Prices, Page 131 | | Weekly Price Seasonal Report, Pages 284-291 |
| Peanut Stocks and Processing, Pages 132-134 | | Cobank: Recent Articles, Page 292 |
| | | From Underdogs to Leaders, Page 293 |
| | | Cobank: The Quarterly, Pages 294-315 |
| | | Energy Brief, Pages 316-317 |
| | | U.S. Bioenergy Statistics, Page 318 |

Follow us on social media!

For the latest in Arkansas agriculture, be sure to follow us on social media! Links to our social media pages can be found [here](#).

Arkansas Ag Facts: FFA Week

- FFA Week is a yearly tradition dating back to 1948 and is always the week of George Washington's birthday (February 22nd).
- During the week, FFA chapters across the nation celebrate program success, recognize invaluable supporters, and connect with their communities.

- In addition to the celebration days, FFA week also includes a National Days of Service campaign where students across the nation give back to their communities.
- During the week, FFA also partners with Tractor Supply Company to raise Grants for Growing funds so that FFA chapters can apply for up to \$5,000 for growing their classroom, chapter, or ag awareness.
- Give FFA Day is February 23, 2023. Those wishing to support Arkansas FFA can donate by visiting giveffaday.ffa.org and selecting their state.
- Check with your local FFA chapter to see other ways you can participate, donate, volunteer, or support.

Upcoming Agriculture Events

- [Arkansas Red River Commission Meeting, February 22](#)
- [Mid-South Farm & Gin Show, February 24-25](#)
- [Arkansas Farm Bureau Farmers Day at the Capitol, March 1](#)
- [Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame Luncheon, March 3](#)
- [Arkansas Board of Registration for Foresters Meeting, March 3](#)
- [Arkansas State Plant Board Meeting, March 9](#)
- [Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Meeting, March 15](#)
- [Arkansas Women in Agriculture Conference, April 3-4](#)
- [Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission Meeting, April 13](#)
- [Arkansas Forestry Commission Meeting, April 14](#)

Opt-in to receive email notifications (board meeting notices, newsletters, etc.) from the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

Sign Up for Notifications



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



