

# Farm



# Sense

December 2022

UAPB Small Farm Program

## Dates to Remember

**Jan. 11** - Taxes, Business Structure, Crop Insurance and CRP, UAPB

**Jan. 23** - Heir Property: Overview, Resolution and Prevention, UAPB

**Jan. 25-28** - Arkansas Grown Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas

**Feb. 8-9** - Vegetable Production and Food Safety Webinar, UAPB

**Feb. 13** - KIITF Outreach: Forestry, Conservation, Carbon and Mineral Rights, UAPB

**Feb. 14-15** - Southern Cover Crop Council Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Feb. 27** - Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Academy Class 1, UAPB

**Mar. 1** - Production, EQIP, Soil Health and Crop Insurance, UAPB

**Mar. 8-9** - Borrower's Training Class, UAPB

**Mar. 13** - KIITF Outreach: Environmental Justice, Asset Protection and Property Taxes, UAPB

**Mar. 16-17** - Wills Clinic, UAPB

**Mar. 22** - Trusts, Succession and Estate Planning, UAPB

**Mar. 27** - Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Academy Class 2, UAPB

## Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Class of 2022 Graduates

The Small Farm Program recently held its graduation for the 2022 Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Class. Twenty-one students and their family members were present to receive certificates of completion from Dr. Henry English, program director, and Stephan Walker, Extension associate.

The program classes were held once a month over seven months. Some of the topics covered included: farm business planning and business structures, alternative crops marketing, basic crop and livestock production, conservation practices and USDA programs. Presentations for the classes were made by the Small Farm Program staff, as well

as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, Rural Development, Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, mentor farmers and community-based organizations.

The Beginning Farmers Program is an ongoing program, but the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Class is held yearly. Anyone interested in participating in the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Class should contact the Small Farm Program by phone at (870) 575-7225 or send an email to [leek@uapb.edu](mailto:leek@uapb.edu). The next academy session will be from February 27 to August 28.



The UAPB Small Farm Program graduated 21 students from their 2022 Beginning Farmers and Ranchers class.



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## UAPB Provides Assistance to Farmers in Completing USDA Farm Loan Applications

Farmers and ranchers seeking help with USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan applications can obtain assistance from the UAPB Small Farm Program. Farmers or ranchers seeking assistance in developing farm business plans or farm financial plans can also get assistance from the program.

Farmers needing loan application assistance or farm planning assistance in Dallas, Desha, Cleveland, Dallas, Desha, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln, Lonoke and Pulaski Counties should contact Shelia Early at 870-575-7018.

Individuals in Arkansas, Crittenden, Cross, Faulkner, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, St. Francis and Woodruff Counties should contact Ross King at 501-351-4378. Individuals in Chicot, Ashley, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River and Sevier Counties should contact the Small Farm Program at 870-575-7225.

The Small Farm Program recommends that individuals interested in applying for FSA loans



The UAPB Small Farm Program provides assistance to farmers seeking assistance in developing farm business plans or farm financial plans.

should stop by their local FSA office and pick up a loan application packet. The packet will contain a checklist of all the information required to complete the application. Individuals should complete as much of the information as they can and bring it with them when visiting the staff. The Small Farm Program agents can provide expertise and insight before individuals submit the packet to FSA.

There is no charge for the services provided by UAPB.

Farmers and ranchers can also receive assistance in analyzing their records for the past year, a year-end analysis. In addition, the Small Farm Program provides credit counseling and assistance in rebuilding credit in regard to qualifying for a loan. For more information contact the Small Farm Program at 870-575-7246.

## Participants Needed for 2023 Beginning Farmers Class

The UAPB Small Farm Program will start its 2023 Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Class on February 27. A beginning farmer is defined as an individual who has been farming for 10 years or less. This class is designed to educate and expose participants to agencies, conservation practices, business planning strategies and other resources to increase their chances of being successful.

Individuals interested in attending the class should contact the UAPB Small Farm Program at

870-575-7225 and request an application. Applications can either be completed over the phone or mailed or emailed to individuals for completion.

The Beginning Farmers Class, as well as the UAPB Beginning Farmers Program, are funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program (BFRDP). There is no cost to attend the class.

The Beginning Farmers Class consists of seven workshops – one

workshop is held each month over a span of seven months. Some of the topics covered in the workshops include farm business planning and record keeping; the use of USDA and state programs; soils, including conservation, health, compaction and land values; pesticides (herbicides, insecticides and fungicides); crop and livestock production; high tunnels; and heirs' property.



## Borrower Training Class to be Offered for New Farm Service Agency Borrowers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loan officers often require new borrowers to complete training in financial management or production, and in many cases, both. The new loan borrower has two years from loan closing to complete the training. New borrowers needing to take the class to receive additional loans should contact the UAPB Small Farm Program, which is an FSA-approved vendor for conducting the borrower training class in

Arkansas.

The SFP will be offering the financial management and production training in a two-day class scheduled for March 8-9.

To pass the course and obtain the certificate of completion that allows the new borrower to obtain additional USDA loans, the borrower must:

- Describe the specific goals of their farming operations
- Maintain and use a financial management system

- Understand and use an income statement
- Understand and use a balance sheet
- Understand and use a cash flow budget
- Pass sectional quizzes with a 70% score.

Individuals needing to take the class or obtain additional information should contact the Small Farm Program at 870-575-7225 or 870-575-7246.

## There are Many Benefits of a Certified Tree Farm - Information is Available

“Tree farm” is a word that we commonly use. But what really is a tree farm? A tree farm is a term used for land that is actively growing trees to obtain a goal. But did you know there is a certification for tree farms? A “Certified Tree Farm” is a property that is sustainably managed based on a management plan. The tree farm owner has taken the required steps to have their property certified.

Apart from the fees, all the standards are set by the national program, which adheres to the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The criteria for a property to become a Certified Tree Farm in Arkansas include, but are not limited to:

- land size of 10 to 10,000 acres.
- specific standards that are geared toward promoting forest health through the preservation of soil and water and maintaining a healthy forest through various management activities.

- periodic inspection by a forester to verify the standards are being followed.
- maintaining an updated management plan.
- agreeing to a third-party audit of the plan and property to prove observance of PEFC standards.
- Arkansas fees of \$75 a year for the first tree farm and \$20 a year for each additional tree farm.

So, what are the benefits? Benefits include membership in a national organization that advocates for private landowners; access to additional markets; networking with and learning from other likeminded landowners; recognition of both the landowners and the property by proudly displaying the iconic “Certified Tree Farm” sign; and certification that meets national standards. Another benefit includes education in many forms, including newsletters, in-person and virtual workshops and even information directly from

the tree farm inspector.

Information on the Arkansas program can be found at: <https://www.arkforests.org/page/treefarm>.



When a property is designated a "Certified Tree Farm," it means it is managed according to a management plan. The tree farm owner has taken the required steps to have the property certified.

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff  
Small Farm Outreach  
1200 North University Drive  
Mail Slot 4906  
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

## Spring 2023 May be Warmer, Wetter than Average in Arkansas

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently released its climate forecast for Spring 2023. Arkansas' drought will not end this winter, but we can expect a warmer winter with average precipitation. Spring 2023 may be warmer and wetter.

Predictive maps show a fair chance of warmer weather across the state for almost all of next year. Wetter weather is anticipated across much of the state from February through May except in western Arkansas, which should see normal levels of precipitation.

Plan ahead now to take advantage of the changing weather pattern. If you have not already sown cool season annuals for early spring grazing, you might want to do so by the end of January. Pastures should still be dry enough to work before wetter weather arrives in February/March. The milder temperatures and precipitation should give your annuals a good start for late spring grazing. That could be important as hay supplies dwindle this winter.

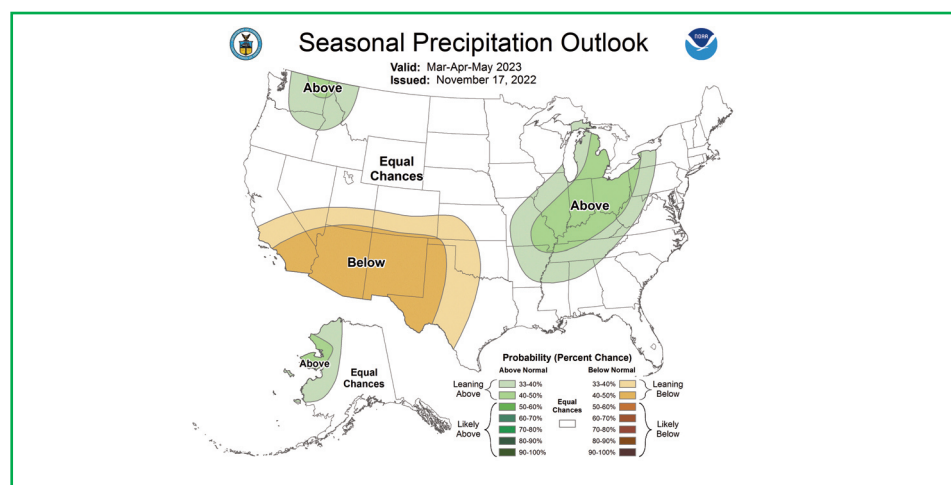
Wet weather means mud, especially in heavy use areas like feeders, waterers and gates. The USDA's Environmental Quality Incentive Program offers guid-

ance and financial assistance to those who want to install Heavy Use Area Protection facilities.

Keep your water clean. Be wary of water subject to runoff from manure covered areas. Most disease organisms and parasites are transmitted in manure. Wet weather favors pasture pests. True army worms appear in the spring and attack

cool season forages. Scout your pastures after dark, or get down into the thatch under the grass to find them. Fall army worms make their first appearance in July. Warmer spring temperatures can advance their first appearance to June.

For more information about NOAA's predictions for the coming year you can go to: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>.



The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a warmer spring for Arkansas in 2023.

### UAPB SMALL FARM PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. Henry English, Program Director, [englishh@uapb.edu](mailto:englishh@uapb.edu)  
Karen Lee, Program Aide, [leek@uapb.edu](mailto:leek@uapb.edu)  
or (870) 575-7225  
Shelia Early, Extension Associate, [earlys@uapb.edu](mailto:earlys@uapb.edu)  
Stephan Walker, Extension Associate, [walkers@uapb.edu](mailto:walkers@uapb.edu)  
Van Banks, Extension Associate, [banksv@uapb.edu](mailto:banksv@uapb.edu)  
Dr. Kellye Lockett, Extension Assistant Specialist, [luckettk@uapb.edu](mailto:luckettk@uapb.edu)  
Kandi Williams, KITF Coordinator, [williamska@uapb.edu](mailto:williamska@uapb.edu)  
Alex Cole, Program Aide, [colea@uapb.edu](mailto:colea@uapb.edu)  
Travis Collins, Program Aide, [collinst@uapb.edu](mailto:collinst@uapb.edu)



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