

Farm



Sense

September 2022

UAPB Small Farm Program

Dates to Remember

Oct. 7-8 - HMI Principles and Practices (Grazing), Hope, Arkansas

Oct. 11-13 - Arkansas Forestry Association Annual Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas

Oct. 17-19 - OSU 2022 Meat Goat Boot Camp

Oct. 18-19 - Brennan Washington, SARE 1890 Liaison, visit to UAPB

Oct. 21 - 2022 Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Academy Graduation

Oct. 24 - KIITF Landowner Empowerment Webinar

Oct. 26 - Small Farm Program: Fall Production & Crop Insurance Workshop

Nov. 2 - CEP Women in Agriculture Conference

Nov. 9 - Beef Cattle, EQIP and Winter Management

Nov. 15 - Pasture, Rangeland and Forage (PRF) Insurance Deadline

Nov. 13-15 - Tuskegee PAWC in Montgomery, Alabama

Nov. 16-17 - Borrower Training Workshop

Dec. 7 - Succession Planning and Taxes

Dec. 14-16 - NBGC Annual Conference, Memphis, Tennessee

Williams Wins First Place in AEA Poster Competition for KIITF Forestry Program

The UAPB Small Farm Program took honors at the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA) System-Wide Conference, which was held in Orlando, Florida, July 31 to August 4. Kandi Williams, Extension program aide, won first place in the poster competition for a poster about UAPB's "Keeping it in the Family" (KIITF) Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program.

Williams is outreach coordinator for the KIITF Program. At the conference, she competed against 45 other contestants from the nineteen 1890 land-grant universities in the agriculture and natural resources division of the competition.

The KIITF Program helps African American forest landowners maintain and improve their forestland through forestry management and heirs' property education. Technical assistance is provided with obtaining forest management plans, implementing land improvement practices, obtaining conservation funds and obtaining vendors to implement practices. Also, landowners with heirs' property are assisted in obtaining USDA Farm Numbers, which are required to use USDA programs.

The program is delivered through a project team that consists of two conservation consultants, two foresters, a legal consultant and an outreach coordinator. Thanks to the program, to date, \$819,533 in Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation funds have been obligated to assist historically underserved landowners, four KIITF landowners had their property



Kandi Williams won first place in the poster competition for a poster about UAPB's "Keeping it in the Family" Program at the Association of Extension Administrators System-Wide Conference.

recognized as Arkansas Century Farms, 144 landowners obtained forestry management plans, and 19 landowners received assistance to pay for land surveys.

For more information about the "Keeping it in the Family" Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program, contact Karen Lee at (870) 575-7225 or Kandi Williams at (870) 571-9428 or williamska@uapb.edu.



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Bunger, Risk Management Agency Administrator, Visits UAPB, Announces Grants for Underserved Producers

The USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) recently announced the award of \$2.2 million in risk management education grants for America's farmers, including historically underserved and small-scale producers, at a meeting at UAPB.

The UAPB Small Farm Program is a recipient of one of the grants. In the last year, UAPB has received \$100,000 to administer legal, financial and marketing training to socially disadvantaged producers in 21 counties in eastern Arkansas and seven counties in southwest Arkansas.

During the meeting, Marcia Bunger, RMA administrator, addressed Small Farm Program personnel and ensured the agency's commitment to serving underserved producers across the country.

Small Farm Program to Provide Crop Insurance Education

Thanks to the RMA grant, the UAPB Small Farm Program will be providing crop insurance, financial, marketing, and legal risk management education to socially disadvantaged producers. Training on Whole Farm Insurance, the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP), and the



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Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Plan will also be provided.

The training will be conducted in the following counties – in northeast and east-central Arkansas: St. Francis, Lee, Phillips, Monroe, Crittenden, Lonoke, Pulaski, and Cross; southeast Arkansas: Jefferson, Lincoln, Desha, Dallas, Grant, Drew, Chicot and Ashley; and southwest Arkansas: Howard, Hope, Little

River, Lafayette, Miller, and Sevier.

Producers in northeast and east central Arkansas should contact Van Banks or Alex Cole at (870) 690-2005, producers in southeast Arkansas should contact Stephen Walker or Shelia Early at (870) 575-7237. Individuals in southwest Arkansas should contact Kandi Williams at (870) 571-9438.

Producers: Find Out Land Value with NASS Data

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts an annual survey to collect data on crop acreage, land use, grain stocks, farms, rents and the value of land and sales. The 2008 Farm Bill mandated that NASS provide mean rental rates for all counties with 20,000 acres of cropland plus pasture.

Producers can use NASS information to determine how much land is worth and how much it rents for in Arkansas, Dr. Henry English, head of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Small Farm Program, said. State and county land value estimates can be found online at

<https://www.nass.usda.gov/ar>. The latest information is from the 2022 survey and was released in August.

In general, the land value of both irrigated and non-irrigated cropland increased only slightly in the last year, he said. The average land value per acre for:

- irrigated cropland in Arkansas is \$3,600.
- non-irrigated cropland is \$2,320.
- pastureland is \$2,850.

The average cash rent per acre for:

- irrigated cropland is \$145.
- non-irrigated cropland is \$46.
- pastureland is \$20.50.

Producers should remember these

are average values only. Information from local real estate agencies may be more accurate, Dr. English said.



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When Growing Fall Greens, Choose the Right Herbicides to Combat Problematic Weeds

This time of year, Arkansas producers are busy planting fall crops including greens, Van Banks, UAPB Extension associate, said. Unfortunately, as seeds germinate in the soil, problematic weeds germinate along with them. When it comes to the production of greens, various grasses can be especially problematic.

Van Banks offers some tips on how to control grasses and broadleaf weeds while growing greens:

- Using pre-plant grass control is the first step one can take at dealing with grass problems in a greens crop. Use of Treflan 4 EC at 0.6 to 1 pt/A applied anytime from six weeks prior to planting to the day of planting provides good to excellent control of grass species including barnyard grass, crabgrass, foxtail, goosegrass and seedling Johnsongrass. Treflan 4 EC must be thoroughly incorporated into the top 1 to 1.5 inches of soil.
- Dual Magnum 7.62 EC is another good choice for pre-emergence weed

control in greens. Use rates range from 0.67 to 1 pt/A. This herbicide will control annual grassed and small-seeded broadleaf weeds; however, it will not kill emerged weeds. Be sure not to use more than 1 pt/A. Only make one application per year. Dual Magnum 7.62 EC carries a 30-day pre-harvest interval between application and harvest.

- For post-emergence grass control, there are two options: Poast 1.5 EC and Select 2 EC or Select Max. Poast 1.5 EC controls annual and perennial grasses with postemergence applications of 1 to 1.5 pt/A. All applications must be made 30 days or more before harvest. Do not apply more than 1.5 pt/A at any one time. Do not use more than 3 pt/A per year.
- Select 2 EC also controls annual grasses at rates of 8 to 16 oz./A with crop oil at 1 gallon of crop oil per 100 gallons of water. For control of bermudagrass and Johnsongrass, use the 8 oz. rate. Always make applications to actively growing grass, not drought-stressed



When growing fall greens, producers should know which herbicides to use to combat various grasses.

grass. Do not harvest sooner than 14 days. Do not harvest turnips grown for roots until at least 30 days after the application.

The above-mentioned applications are mainly for grass control. Prefar 4E provides some broadleaf weed control and is the only option for controlling broadleaf weeds.

Conservation Planning Assistance Available Through East Arkansas Delta RCPP

Conservation planning and financial assistance is available to farmers and landowners through the East Arkansas Delta Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Dr. Henry English, head of the Small Farm Program, said. Agriculture producers can work with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the East Arkansas Enterprise Community (EAEC) to develop a conservation plan.

“These are free conservation plans that identify potential natural resource problems, evaluate alternatives and recommend solutions that could make use of the land more effective and sustainable,” he said. “Applications for the program have already been accepted for 2022. We are trying to get the word out to producers so they can be ready to

apply for conservation financial assistance that will be available in 2023.”

Dr. English said the anticipated financial assistance will help eligible participants offset 90% of the cost of installing conservation practices. Producers who have their conservation plans and address identified resource concerns are very likely to be funded.

“The East Arkansas Delta RCPP will implement effective solutions for the primary resource concerns related to land improvement, management and restoration of row crop and alternative crop operations in Lee, St. Francis, Monroe and Phillips counties. Do not miss this great opportunity to improve your land,” he said.



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Hiring Drone Technology Can Help Increase Efficiency

Dr. Henry English, head of the UAPB Bluff Small Farm Program, is trying to spread the word among small and limited-resource producers about ways they may be able to take advantage of drone technology in the production of row crops.

He recently invited Mike Hamilton, an irrigation instructor with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, to speak about the use of drones in agriculture at the National Black Growers Council field day.

Hamilton collaborates with farmers in Arkansas to help them increase their efficiency in all aspects of irrigation. His presentation was about ways drone technology can be incorporated in the production of row crops, especially rice.

“The way drones have been used in agricultural irrigation has changed drastically in a short period of time,” Hamilton said. “Ten years ago, most

growers and consultants used drones primarily for surveillance or visual observation of what was going on in their fields. For example, they might have flown down a ditch or stream looking for obstructions that were keeping it from draining.”

In recent years, however, the use of drones in agriculture has moved past simple visual surveillance to include topographical mapping, measuring and thermal imaging, he said. Drones can be fitted with a range of sensors or cameras that serve a variety of purposes. For example, a drone fitted with a thermal sensor can provide assessments on plant health, while a drone equipped with a real-time kinematic base station can be used for elevation data.

Farmers who want to take advantage of the benefits of drones in agriculture don’t necessarily need to go buy a drone and obtain a license to pilot it. Hamilton recommends farm-



Drones such as this Phantom 4 RTK can be used to give farmers high accuracy data about the elevation change across an entire field or simply where their irrigation tubing is set

ers contact professional drone pilots and speak to them about their ideas and goals for using these technologies in their farm operations.

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