



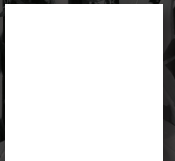
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
Arkansas State University

To register or for more information, visit
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Presented and Sponsored by:

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Presented in-person at Fowler Center and
Embassy Suites/Red Wolf Convention Center.
A livestream of the morning general session and
the luncheon presentation will be available online.
The luncheon and afternoon concurrent commodity
sessions will not be available online.

2024 AGRIBUSINESS CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 1080 - State University, AR 72467



GENERAL SESSION

- 7:30 Registration and Refreshments: Fowler Center, Lobby and Grand Hall**
- 8:30 General Session: Fowler Center, Riceland Hall**
Dr. Bert Greenwalt, professor of agricultural economics, director of the A-State Agribusiness Conference
- 8:35 News from the College of Agriculture**
Dr. Mickey LaTour, dean, College of Agriculture
- 8:45 30th A-State Agribusiness Conference: Back to the Future**
Mr. Harrison Pittman, director, National Agricultural Law Center
- 9:30 Observations on Farm and Agribusiness Trends**
Mr. Greg Cole, president and CEO, AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA
- 10:00 Break and Refreshments: Fowler Center, Grand Hall**
- 10:20 Sustainability Issues for Rice and Cotton**
Ms. Megan DeYoung, head of transformation & business development, RiceTec, Inc.
Mr. Jeff Johnson, vp and head of U.S. domestic sales, Allenberg Cotton Company
- 10:40 The Economics and Politics of the U.S. Farm Bill**
Dr. Keith Coble, vice president of Division of Agriculture, Forestry, & Vet. Medicine, Mississippi State University
- 11:00 Questions and Discussion**
Panel of General Session Speakers

Noon LUNCHEON

Embassy Suites Ballroom/Red Wolf Convention Center

Welcome

Dr. Bert Greenwalt, professor of agricultural economics
Dr. Mickey A. LaTour, dean, College of Agriculture
Dr. Todd Shields, chancellor, Arkansas State University

Luncheon Speaker

Ms. Dana Brooks, CEO, Pet Food Institute

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Embassy Suites/ Red Wolf Convention Center Meeting Rooms

- 1:30 Embassy Suites Meeting Room A**
Rice Industry Issues and Outlook
Mr. Grayson Daniels, Riceland Foods, Inc.
Dr. Hunter Biram, University of Arkansas
- 1:30 Embassy Suites Meeting Room B**
Animal Health Issues and the A-State College of Veterinary Medicine
Dr. Glen Hoffsis, Arkansas State University
Ms. Dana Brooks, Pet Food Institute
Dr. Donald Kennedy, Arkansas State University
- 1:30 Embassy Suites Meeting Room C**
Cotton Industry Issues and Outlook
Mr. Jeff Johnson, Allenberg Cotton Company
- 3:00 Concurrent Sessions Adjourn**

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

– available only to in-person attendees

Certified Public Accountants: As set forth in the Rules and Regulations of the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy, this conference meets the guidelines for continuing professional education in the following subject matter area: **Other – up to five hours.** CPAs will pick up CPE credit forms at the Fowler Center registration desk and submit the completed form at the end of the conference at the desk near the Embassy Suites meeting rooms.

Certified Crop Advisers and Arkansas Agricultural Consultants: This conference has been approved for up to **four Personal Development CEUs and one Sustainability Speciality CEU.** CCAs and AACs must sign in and out or scan the credit log form. Sign in for the morning general session at the Fowler Center registration desk. Sign out at the end of the conference at the desk near the Embassy Suites meeting rooms.

American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers: This conference has been approved for up to **five and one-half hours of continuing education credit** by the ASFMRA. As ASFMRA members self-report, there is no on-site registration form.

2024 Conference Speakers

Dana Brooks is CEO of the Pet Foods Institute (PFI). Based in Washington, D.C. PFI is the national trade association for the U.S. pet food industry. Dana became interested in politics and agricultural policy while a student in the A-State College of Agriculture. After beginning her career in grain merchandising and insurance, Dana moved to Washington D.C. to work as a legislative assistant to Arkansas Congressman Marion Berry during the 2002 farm bill debate. She later served on Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson's staff, then left Capitol Hill to work on government relations and public policy for American Farm Bureau, Florida Farm Bureau, National Milk Producers Federation, and Elanco Animal Health. Dana joined PFI in 2018. A native of Portland, Arkansas, Dana earned her M.S. in agribusiness from Kansas State University.

Hunter Biram is an assistant professor with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture where his extension work focuses on agricultural policy, crop insurance, and risk management. A native of Floral, Arkansas, Hunter was reared on his family's farm which produces cattle, broilers, nursery crops, and peaches. He earned his B.S.A. in agricultural business from Arkansas State University, his M.S. in agricultural economics at Mississippi State University, and his Ph.D. in agricultural economics at Kansas State University. While an A-State student, Hunter completed internships with Glaub Farm Management, Senator John Boozman's Jonesboro office, Peco Foods, Congressman Rick Crawford's Washington, D.C. office, and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Keith Coble is vice president of the Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine. He is also the W.L. Giles Distinguished Professor in the MSU Department of Agricultural Economics where his research focused on agricultural policy and risk management. During the 2014 farm bill debate, Keith served as chief economist for former U.S. Senator Thad Cochran and the minority leadership of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Prior to joining MSU, he served as a team leader at the USDA-Economic Research Service in Washington D.C. A native of Mountain Grove in southern Missouri, Keith earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural education at the University of Missouri and his Ph.D. in agricultural economics at Texas A&M University.

Greg Cole is president and CEO of AgHeritage Farm Credit Services, ACA – a cooperative with managed assets in excess of \$3.4 billion which serves the credit and financial needs of members in 24 Central Arkansas counties. Greg has 40 years of experience in the Farm Credit System and began as a student intern with the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis. He currently serves on the Farm Credit System Presidents Planning Committee and the A-State College of Agriculture Advisory Board. Greg earned his B.S.A. in Agricultural Business & Economics from the A-State and is a graduate of the LSU Graduate School of Banking. He is a native of Harrisburg, Arkansas.

Grayson Daniels is vice president for grain sales and procurement at Riceland Foods, Inc., a farmer owned cooperative headquartered in Stuttgart, Arkansas. Prior to joining Riceland in 2002, Grayson was an agricultural policy analyst at Sparks Companies, Inc. in Washington, D.C. Grayson is past president of the Midsouth Grain Association and currently serves on the board of directors of the National Oilseed Producers Association. Reared on his family's farm near Paragould, Arkansas, Grayson earned his B.S.A. in agricultural business from A-State and his M.S. in agricultural economics from Purdue University.

Megan DeYoung is head of transformation and business development with RiceTec, Inc. Prior to joining RiceTec in February 2023, Megan was vice president of business development at AeroFarms, a vertical farming company. She has advised several Fortune 1000 companies on how to develop and implement strategies that marry environmental and social action with business value. Megan earned a B.A. in sociology from Emory University and graduated from the University of Michigan with an M.B.A. from the Ross School of Business and a M.S. from the School for Environment and Sustainability.

Bert Greenwalt is a professor of agricultural economics and director of the A-State Agribusiness Conference. He also farms with his family at Hazen, Arkansas. During 1999-2004, Bert was elected to two terms as a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, and later served eight years on the St. Louis Fed Agribusiness Council. He currently serves as a director of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas. Bert earned a B.S.A. in agricultural business & economics from A-State, an M.S. from the University of Arkansas, and his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University.

Glen Hoffsis is founding dean of A-State's upcoming College of Veterinary Medicine. An experienced veterinary administrator, Glen served as dean of the Ohio State University and University of Florida veterinary colleges. He recently guided the creation of the Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine in Harrogate, TN. Glen earned his bachelor's in animal science and DVM from Ohio State University and served a large animal medicine internship at Colorado State University.

Jeff Johnson is vice president and head of U.S. domestic sales at Allenberg Cotton Company in Memphis, Tennessee where he has over 32 years of experience in originating and merchandising U.S. cotton for the Louis Dreyfus Group. Jeff has previously served as president of the Southern Cotton Shippers Association, the Memphis Cotton Exchange, and as chairman of the American Cotton Shippers Association. He currently serves as a director and executive committee member of the National Cotton Council and is chairman of the NCC Quality Task Force. Jeff earned his B.S. in marketing and M.S.A. in agriculture from A-State.

Donald "Bud" Kennedy is associate dean of the A-State College of Agriculture and a professor of animal science. A native of Alvin, Texas, Bud earned his B.S. and M.Ed. in agricultural education from Sam Houston State University and his Ph.D. in animal science from Louisiana State University. He joined the A-State faculty in 1993. In 2016, the Delta Tau Alpha agriculture honor society recognized Bud with its National Outstanding Teacher and Advisor award. He currently serves on the A-State College of Veterinary Medicine planning committee.

Micky LaTour was appointed dean of the A-State College of Agriculture in August 2020. Previous positions include dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Southern Illinois University and associate dean at Purdue University. A native of Louisiana, Mickey earned his B.S. in animal science at Southeastern Louisiana State University and his M.S. and Ph.D. at Mississippi State University.

Harrison Pittman is director of the National Agricultural Law Center, which is a unit of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. The Center serves as the nation's leading source of agricultural and food law research and information. Harrison began his work with the Center as a graduate assistant in 2001. His research areas include the farm bill, water and environmental law, pesticide regulation, and agritourism. A native of Clarendon, Arkansas, Harrison received his J.D. and L.L.M. in agricultural law from the University of Arkansas.

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Registration by Friday, Jan. 26 for the luncheon is requested. Unregistered guests are welcome to attend the sessions. Thanks to generous support from the conference sponsors, there is no registration fee.

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