



January 25-28, 2023

Little Rock, Arkansas

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Arkansas Grown program is partnering with Arkansas agriculture associations and organizations to host the first-ever Arkansas Grown Conference & Expo! The Arkansas Grown Conference & Expo is open to all parties interested in the Arkansas agriculture industry, the state's largest industry, and focuses on the farmers and producers who grow for our local food system.

The four-day conference and expo will be held in west Little Rock at the Embassy Suites. There will be workshops, speakers, off-site farm tours, a vendor trade show, delicious food, and even an Arkansas wine tasting.





January 25-28, 2022
Little Rock, Arkansas

Schedule

WEDNESDAY

January 25, 2023

	ROCK ISLAND BALLROOM
3:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Session Welcome from Secretary Wes Ward, Arkansas Department of Agriculture</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How the State Supports Our Local Food System Arkansas Department of Agriculture Division Directors Scott Bray, <i>Plant Industries</i> Patrick Fisk, <i>Livestock & Poultry Division</i> Chris Colclasure, <i>Natural Resources</i> Joe Fox, <i>Forestry</i> Russ Summers, <i>Laboratories</i> Billy Black, <i>Law Enforcement</i></p>
4:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Trade Show</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hospitality Suite hosted by Arkansas Agritourism Association</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Check in for Hotel Guests</p>
6:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome Dinner Ballroom</p>
8:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Trade Show</p>



THURSDAY MORNING

January 26, 2023

Breakfast for hotel guests is in the lobby starting at 6:30 a.m.

	ROCK ISLAND BALLROOM
8:00	Business Trends from a Market Manager's Perspective Roby Brock <i>Talk Business & Politics</i>

Workshops are 45 minutes with a 15-minute break between each session unless otherwise indicated.

Time	MURRAY	JUNCTION I	JUNCTION II	TWO RIVERS
Focus	Grape Growers	Produce Safety	Strawberry Growers	Business
9:00	Considerations in Establishing or Expanding Vineyards Gill Giese <i>Arkansas State University</i>	Produce Safety Basics to be Market Ready (morning session) Amanda Philyaw Perez <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i> & Iris Crosby <i>UA at Pine Bluff, Extension</i>	Strawberry Cultivar Trials and Research Updates (1 hour on zoom) Mark Hoffman <i>North Carolina State University</i>	Protect Yourself and Your Farm Rusty Rumley <i>National Ag Law Center</i>
10:00	Using Quality Grapevine Plants for Vineyards (1 hr) Dennis Rak, <i>Double A Vineyards</i>	Practical Tips for Proper Produce Washing and Agricultural Water Regulations Amanda Philyaw Perez & Gaby Sanders <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Grower Profile: Tim Odom, <i>Holland Bottom Farms</i> <hr/> Spring Fertility Management Amanda McWhirt <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Navigating the Workforce World Dan Bremmer <i>AgWorks</i>
11:00	Managing Vineyard Floors: Soils, Cover Crops, and Weeds (1 hr) Michael Cook <i>Texas A&M</i>	Managing Wildlife on the Farm Becky McPeake <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Disease Management from Tips to Pre-Dormancy (1 hr) Bill Cline <i>North Carolina State University</i>	Resources for Business Success Angela Gardner, <i>ASBTDC</i>



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Time	ROCK ISLAND V	ROCK ISLAND VI	ROCK ISLAND VII
Focus	Pecan Growers	Sustainable Ag	Livestock Producers
9:00	Tri-County Pecan Team Are Boots on the Ground in Arkansas Sherri Sanders, White Co. Extension, <i>UA Cooperative Extension Service</i>	Arkansas Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Sponsored Sustainable Agriculture Roundtable and Networking Lizzy Herrera <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	State Meat Inspection Program Dan Douglas <i>Arkansas Department of Agriculture</i>
	Sanitation Practices in Pecan Dr. Jennifer Acuff <i>UA Department of Food Science</i>		
10:00	Tips and Reminders for Disease Management in Commercial Pecan Production Dr. Rebecca Melanson, <i>Mississippi State University</i>	Arkansas Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Sponsored Sustainable Agriculture Roundtable and Networking Lizzy Herrera <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Supporting our Livestock & Poultry Producers Patrick Fisk <i>Arkansas Department of Agriculture</i>
	Pecans....to prune, not to prune, how much to prune? Dr. Jackie Lee, Director of Fruit Research Station, <i>University of Arkansas</i>		
11:00	Growers Roundtable John Bruhl, APGA Treasurer	Arkansas Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Sponsored Sustainable Agriculture Roundtable and Networking Lizzy Herrera <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Growing Fodder When You Can't Find Hay Ruth Peplar Grace Peplar <i>Dew Line Dairy</i>



THURSDAY AFTERNOON

January 26, 2023

Lunch will be served during this presentation.

	ROCK ISLAND BALLROOM
12:00	The Next California Project: Opportunities for Arkansas Growers Julia Kurnik <i>World Wildlife Foundation</i>

Workshops are 45 minutes with a 15-minute break between each session unless otherwise indicated.

Time	MURRAY	JUNCTION I	JUNCTION II	TWO RIVERS
Focus	Grape Growers	Produce Safety	Strawberry	Business
1:00	Mechanization Options for Small to Medium Vineyards (1 hour) Justin Scheiner, <i>Texas A&M</i>	Introduction to Composting and Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin (BSAAO) Eric Simon <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Fungicide Spring Bloom Spray Schedule Reminders and Research Updates Aaron Cato <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Infrastructure Needs for Improved Operations Liz Young, Elizabeth Young <i>Consulting</i>
2:00	Grape Cultivars and Winemaking (1 hr) Renee Threlfall <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Produce Safety Basics to be Market Ready (afternoon) Amanda Philyaw Perez <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i> Iris Crosby <i>UA at Pine Bluff, Extension</i>	Strawberry Promotion Project and Marketing Materials Lizzy Herrera <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Advertising and Promotion to Increase Business Natalie Ackerley <i>Barn2Door</i>
3:00	Avoiding Faults in Wine Quality (1 hr) Alicen Rouse, <i>Scott Laboratories</i>	Food Safety for Home and Commercial Food Entrepreneurs Amanda Philyaw Perez & David Hill <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	Insights on the Strawberry Industry and Discussion (45 mins on zoom) Barclay Poling <i>North Carolina State University</i>	How to Write Grants Debbie Bousquet <i>Arkansas Dept of Finance & Administration</i>

4:00	Networking in Trade Show
6:00	Board Buses in front of hotel for Expo and Arkansas Quality Wine Tasting <i>Sunset Lodge at Rusty Tractor Vineyard</i>



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Time	ROCK ISLAND V	ROCK ISLAND VI	ROCK ISLAND VII
Focus	Health	Food Security	Business Support
1:00	Managing Your Mental Health Brittany Schrick <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>	DHS Programs: Purchasing Local Food from Arkansas Farmers Jim Ponzini <i>Arkansas Department of Human Services</i>	Balance Sheets, Credit Worthiness, and Other Financial Topics Emily Russell <i>Farm Credit Associations of Arkansas</i>
2:00	Growing Hope: Combating Stress in Agriculture Levi Agee Director of Production Corey Womack Producer of The Growing Season Jennifer Gibson Producer of Growing Hope: Combating Stress in Agriculture <i>AR PBS</i>	Addressing Food Access in Arkansas: A Report & Recommendations from the 2022 Arkansas Governor's Food Deserts Working Group Kathy Webb <i>Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance</i>	Small Farm Efficiencies Sean Pessarar <i>The Mindful Farmer</i>
3:00	TBD	Food System Networks Andrew Carberry Aryn Blumenberg <i>The Wallace Center</i>	Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future for Arkansas Billy Van Pelt II <i>American Farmland Trust</i>

4:00	Networking in Trade Show
6:00	Board Buses in front of hotel Equipment Expo and Arkansas Quality Wine Tasting Dinner <i>Sunset Lodge at Rusty Tractor Vineyard</i>



FRIDAY MORNING

January 27, 2023

Breakfast for hotel guests is in the lobby starting at 6:30 a.m.

ROCK ISLAND BALLROOM	
8:00	<p>Federal Support from the USDA: Panel Discussion Dr. Dewayne Goldman, Senior Advisor for Racial Equality, <i>USDA</i> Doris Washington, State Executive Director, <i>USDA Farm Service Agency</i> Michael Sullivan, <i>State Conservationist, USDA NRCS</i> Jill Floyd, State Director, <i>USDA Rural Development</i></p>

Workshops are 45 minutes with a 15-minute break between each session unless otherwise indicated.

Time	MURRAY	JUNCTION I	JUNCTION II	TWO RIVERS
Focus	Farmers Markets	Agritourism	Selling	Vegetables
9:00	<p>Food Freedom Act Jeff Jackson <i>Arkansas Dept of Health</i></p>	<p>“Why the Heck Would I Want People on My Farm?” Agritourism Opportunities Panel Discussion with Ruthie Peplar, <i>Dogwood Hills Guest Farm</i></p>	<p>Connecting with Community–Selling Direct to Consumer Logan Duvall, <i>Me & McGee Market</i></p>	<p>Sustainable Vegetable Production in Arkansas Henry English Shaun Francis <i>UA Pine Bluff</i></p>
	<p>Business Resources for Your Market Angela Gardner, <i>ASBTDC</i></p>			<p>Disease Management in Cucurbits Rebecca Melanson <i>Mississippi State University</i></p>
10:00	<p>Andrew Schwerin, <i>Sycamore Bend Farm</i></p>	<p>Culinary Lens of Agritourism Panel Discussion with Margie Raimondo <i>Urbana Farmstead</i></p>	<p>Selling to Distributors Brad May, <i>Ben E Keith</i> Dan Spatz <i>Healthy Flavors, AR</i></p>	<p>Insect Management Cucurbits Aaron Cato <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>
	<p>Shelly Smith <i>Rogers Local Food Market</i></p>			<p>Disease Management in Tomatoes Rebecca Melanson <i>Mississippi State University</i></p>
11:00	<p>Arkansas Farmers Market Assn Annual Meeting</p>	<p>The Nuts and Bolts of Building an Agritourism Business Panel Discussion</p>	<p>Selling to Restaurants Jack Sundell <i>The Root Café</i> Brandon Gordon: <i>Five Acre Farm</i></p>	<p>Managing Insects in Tomatoes Aaron Cato <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>
	<p>Double Up Food Bucks</p>			<p>Perspectives on Growing Vegetables in Southern Arkansas James Meeks, <i>Triple M Farm</i></p>



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Time	ROCK ISLAND V	ROCK ISLAND VI	ROCK ISLAND VII
Focus	FLORAL	BLUEBERRY	PROCUREMENT/WHOLESALE
9:00	<p>Everlasting Floral Design and Direct to Consumer Sales Jill Forrester <i>Whitton Farms</i></p>	<p>Blueberries Past, Present and Future (1 hour) Les Dozier and Clyde Fenton <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>	<p>The Local Food Act--Selling to Institutions Erica Benoit <i>Arkansas Department of Agriculture</i> Ally Mrachek <i>UAMS</i> Melanie Berman, <i>PTAC</i></p>
10:00	<p>What Flowers Will Work for Your Farm? Jill Forrester <i>Whitton Farms</i></p>	<p>Fertility Management Patrick Byers <i>University of Missouri</i></p> <hr/> <p>Irrigating Blueberries Ryan Neal <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>	<p>Selling to Schools Erica Benoit Lindsey Cartwright <i>Arkansas Department of Agriculture</i> <i>Farm to School Team</i></p>
11:00	<p>Jumpstart and Extending the Season with Flowers (Forcing Bulbs) Jill Forrester <i>Whitton Farms</i></p>	<p>Insects and Disease Management of Blueberries Bill Cline <i>North Carolina State University</i></p> <hr/> <p>Economics of Blueberry Production: On Farm Experience from NWA Ryan Neal <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>	<p>NWA Local Food System Initiative--Programs and Vision Dr. Emily English <i>Walton Family Foundation</i> <i>NWA Food Systems Initiative</i></p>



FRIDAY AFTERNOON

January 27, 2023

12:00	ROCK ISLAND BALLROOM
Lunch Session	Arkansas Food Freedom Act Jeff Jackson Public Health Section Chief II- Standardization Quality Assurance Officer-Retail Food Program <i>Arkansas Department of Health</i>
	Arkansas Rural Broadband– Where Are We Now? Where Are We Going? Glen Howie State Director, Arkansas Rural Connect <i>Arkansas Economic Development Commission</i>
1:30	Board Buses for Farm Tours and Dinner
	Barnhill Orchards <i>Lonoke, Arkansas</i>
	The Nurserie <i>Little Rock, Arkansas</i>
ETA 7:00	Dinner <i>University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech Culinary Institute and Hospitality Management Institute</i>
9:00	Board buses for hotel



SATURDAY MORNING

January 28, 2023

Breakfast for hotel guests is in the lobby starting at 7:00 a.m.

Time	MURRAY	TWO RIVERS
Focus	Tree Fruits	Blackberry
9:00	Perspectives on Growing Peaches in Arkansas Mark Morgan <i>Peach Pickin' Paradise</i>	Intro to the Basics of Blackberry Production Amanda McWhirt <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>
	Perspectives on Growing Apples in Arkansas Dennis McGarrah Jr. <i>Rivercrest Orchard</i>	Blackberry Pruning Reminders and Tips Erika Henderson & Jesus Arredondo-Lopez <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>
10:00	Orchard Floor Weed Management Hannah Smith	Blackberry Disease Management and Research on Fusarium Bill Cline <i>North Carolina State University</i>
11:00	Considerations in Establishing a High Density Apple Orchard Patrick Byers <i>University of Missouri, Extension</i>	Blackberry Fertility Trials: Results from Year One Amanda Lay & Amanda McWhirt <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>
		UA Breeding Program Updates Margaret Worthington <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i>
12:00	LUNCH	



SATURDAY AFTERNOON

January 28, 2023

12:00	LUNCH
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Time	MURRAY	TWO RIVERS
Focus	Tree Fruits	Blackberry
1:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Protecting Pollinators in Fruit and Vegetable Production Jon Zawislak <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AR Blackberry Growers Association Meeting Matt Wilson Dan Smith <i>Arkansas Blackberry Growers Association</i></p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Broad Mite and SWD: How to manage these pests and research updates from AR Aaron Cato <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>
2:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Have You Considered Chestnuts or Elderberries? Patrick Byers <i>University of Missouri, Extension</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Blackberry Value Added Product Activities Amanda Perez and Renee Threlfall <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Blackberry Promotion Project Lizzy Herrera <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Rotating Cross Arm Trellising: Resources and Videos Amanda McWhirt <i>UA System Division of Agriculture, Extension</i></p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">Experience using Tunnels for Blackberry Production Matt Wilson <i>Ritter Farms</i></p>



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