

## 2019 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

**Gary Adams** is president and CEO of the National Cotton Council of America (NCC). Headquartered in Cordova, Tennessee, the NCC represents the seven segments of the U.S. Cotton industry (producers, ginner, warehouse, merchants, cottonseed, cooperatives, and manufacturers) with the mission of helping all segments compete effectively and profitably in global markets. Gary assumed the position of president in 2015 and previously served the NCC for 13 years as the Council's vice president of economic and policy analysis. Gary currently represents the U.S. cotton industry as a member of the USDA's Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee. He earned his B.S. and M.A. in applied mathematics from the University of Alabama and his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Missouri.

**Hunter Biram** is a graduate student and research assistant in the Mississippi State University department of agricultural economics. He previously completed internships with Glaub Farm Management, LLC, Senator John Boozman's Jonesboro office, Congressman Rick Crawford's Washington, D.C. office, and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. A native of Floral, Arkansas, Hunter earned his B.S.A. in agricultural business at Arkansas State University.

**Michelle Bufkin** is the Membership Director of the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association (ACA). Headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas, the ACA is devoted to improving the Arkansas cattle industry through producer education and representation on legislative and regulatory issues.

**Timothy Burcham** was appointed dean of the A-State College of Agriculture in 2013. He also serves as director of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture research unit at A-State. Tim previously served in several administrative, teaching, research, and extension positions at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Mississippi State University, and the University of Tennessee. A registered professional engineer, Tim earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural engineering from Mississippi State University and his Ph.D. in agricultural engineering from Clemson University.

**Cody Burkham** is executive vice president of the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association. He previously served as a legislative assistant to Congressman Bruce Westerman in Washington, D.C. A native of Hope, Arkansas, where he grew up on his family's commercial cow-calf farm. Cody earned his bachelor's degree in political science and history from Southern Arkansas University.

**Marvin Childers** is president and chief lobbyist for The Poultry Federation (TPF). Based in Little Rock, Arkansas, TPF is a trade organization representing the poultry and egg industry in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Prior to joining TPF in 2007, Marvin served as an Arkansas state representative from 2001 to 2006 and has practiced law with the Friday, Eldredge & Clark firm since 2000. In 2016 Marvin was elected president of the Association of State Poultry Executives. Reared on his family's cotton and soybean farm near Cooter, Missouri, Marvin earned a Bachelor of Accountancy degree from the University of Mississippi and a J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

**Keith Coble** is the W.L. Giles Distinguished Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University where for more than 20 years his work has focused on agricultural policy, insurance, and risk management. He currently serves as president-elect of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. 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, Keith served as a team leader at the USDA-Economic Research Service in Washington D.C. A native of Mountain Grove, 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.

**Amanda Countryman** is an associate professor of agricultural economics at Colorado State University (CSU) where her research focuses on agricultural trade policy. She serves as the CSU Collegiate Farm Bureau advisor and received the 2018 CSU College of Agriculture faculty teaching award. Prior to joining CSU in 2012, Amanda was a research economist with the USDA-Economic Research Service in Washington, D.C. Amanda earned bachelor's degrees in agricultural economics and Spanish at the University of Arizona, a M.S. in agricultural economics at Texas A&M University, and her Ph.D. at Purdue University.

**Kelly Dampousse** was appointed chancellor of Arkansas State University in 2017. He earned a B.S. in criminal justice at Sam Houston State and his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in sociology at Texas A&M University. Previous positions include dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Oklahoma and faculty positions at Sam Houston State and the University of Alabama. A native of Canada, Kelly's grandfather farmed and his wife Beth's family currently farms in Oklahoma.

**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. He currently serves as president of the Mid-South Grain Association and serves on the board of the Arkansas Waterways Association. Reared on his family's rice and soybean farm near Paragould, Arkansas, Grayson earned his B.S.A. in agricultural business from Arkansas State University and his M.S. in agricultural economics from Purdue University. In 2013 Grayson was recognized as an Outstanding Young Alumnus of the Arkansas State University College of Agriculture.

**Ted Glaub** is the founder of Glaub Farm Management, LLC. Established in 1993, Glaub Farm Management now provides services in agricultural asset management, consulting, real estate brokerage, and farm appraisal. Ted previously held farm management positions with Lee Wilson & Company and Nortrust Farm Management. A native of Rector, Arkansas, Ted grew up working on his family's farm and in their feed, seed, and icehouse business. After earning his B.S. in animal science at the University of Arkansas, Ted joined the U.S. Airforce, and flew global missions in the C-141 Starlifter transport aircraft. He later earned his M.S. in agricultural economics at the University of Arkansas.

**Bert Greenwalt** is a professor of agricultural economics at Arkansas State University, director of the A-State Agribusiness Conference, and farms with his family at Hazen, Arkansas. During 1999-2004 he 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. Bert currently serves as a director of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas. He earned a B.S.A. in agricultural business & economics from Arkansas State University, an M.S. from the University of Arkansas, and his Ph.D. from Mississippi State University. Bert was recognized in 2016 as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Arkansas Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

**R. Seth Hampton** is an attorney with Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC where his practice focuses on real estate, agricultural and commercial transactions, and compliance issues with agricultural and environmental regulations. He previously served as a staff attorney to U.S. District Judge Billy Roy Wilson and as a district representative for Arkansas 1<sup>st</sup> District Congressman Marion Berry. Reared on his family's farm in Monroe County, Arkansas, Seth earned his B.S.A. in agricultural business at Arkansas State University and his J.D., with honors, from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law.

**Terry Harris** is senior vice president in charge of operations at Riceland Foods, Inc., a farmer owned cooperative headquartered in Stuttgart, Arkansas. Terry has 43 years of experience in the rice industry and has held positions at Riceland Foods involving quality control, purchasing, and rice sales. He currently serves on the boards of the USA Rice Millers Association, the USA Rice Federation, and the USA Rice Council.

**Jeff Johnson** is vice president and head of U.S. Domestic Sales at Allenberg Cotton Company in Memphis, Tennessee where he has 28 years of experience in originating and merchandising U.S. cotton for the Louis Dreyfus Group. Jeff is past president of the Southern Cotton Shippers Association, past president of the Memphis Cotton Exchange, and is currently president of the American Cotton Shippers Association. Jeff was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to the Advisory Committee of the Universal Cotton Standards Conference. He currently serves as a merchant delegate and director of the National Cotton Council. Jeff earned his B.S. in marketing management and M.S.A. in agriculture from Arkansas State University.

**Charlott Jones** is a CPA and tax manager with Jones & Company, Ltd. Located in Jonesboro, Jones & Company is the largest accounting firm in northeast Arkansas. Prior to returning to the firm in 1992, Charlott worked six years in Chicago as a compliance supervisor for the National Futures Association. Early in her career she was an auditor for Arthur Andersen and later taught accounting at the University of Maryland's international campuses. Charlott earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from St. Louis University and an MBA in finance from Vanderbilt. In 2015 she served as the chair of the Arkansas Society of CPAs and in 2017 was president of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries.

**Mark Jordan** is an instructor of agribusiness at Arkansas State University. Prior to joining A-State in 2016, Mark was director of poultry and eggs at Informa Economics where he led research on the broiler, turkey, and egg industries. Before joining Informa, Mark was a statistician in the Pennsylvania office of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service. He was reared on a cow-calf and broiler operation near Star City, Arkansas, and maintains an ownership interest in the family farm. Mark earned his B.S.A. in agribusiness from Arkansas State University and his M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas.

**Tyne Morgan** is the host of the *U.S. Farm Report* (USFR). Owned by Farm Journal media, USFR is a weekly syndicated television news program which focuses on agriculture and agribusiness. Tyne previously served as a national reporter for USFR and AgDay, and was an intern at Brownfield Ag News. A native of Lexington, MO, Tyne was active in high school FFA and at 16 years of age began her farm broadcasting career at KMZU radio. She earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural journalism at the University of Missouri and as the 2006 Missouri State Fair Queen served as an ambassador for Missouri agriculture.

**James Pierce** is a senior vice president with Arvest Bank where he specializes in commercial and agricultural lending. James grew up on his family's rice and soybean farm near Cash, Arkansas and earned his B.S.A. in agricultural business and economics from Arkansas State University. James is a regular speaker in the A-State agricultural finance course.

**Holly Rogers** is the director of marketing and business development for The Poultry Federation (TPF) where she leads TPF's marketing/communications and media relations for Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Her background is in marketing, advertising, social media, and sales administration. Holly earned her B.S. in marketing management from Arkansas State University.

**Scott Stiles** is an extension economist with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. Based on the A-State campus in Jonesboro, Scott's work focuses on farm management, commodity marketing, and agricultural policy. He is a writer and analyst for the agricultural media and a frequent speaker at meetings throughout the Midsouth. Scott was previously a lender at Midsouth Farm Credit and Farm Credit of Southwest Florida. Reared on his family's cotton and soybean farm near Marianna, Arkansas, Scott earned a B.S.A. in agricultural business & economics at Arkansas State University and his M.S. in agribusiness management at Mississippi State University.

**Joe Verser** is senior vice president and commercial loan manager with Arvest Bank where he specializes in commercial and agricultural lending. He has over 25 years of experience in commercial banking. Joe is a native of Harrisburg, Arkansas, where he owns and manages farmland. He earned his B.S. in zoology and M.S. in agriculture from Arkansas State University, and an MBA from the University of Arkansas. In 1995, Joe and Worthen Bank were one of the two founding sponsors of the A-State Agribusiness Conference.

**James Wiesemeyer** has been the agricultural policy and political analyst for the Pro Farmer newsletter since rejoining the company in June 2017. He is also a frequent guest on Farm Journal Media's AgriTalk radio program. An agricultural journalist since 1978, Jim has previously served as the Washington consultant for Informa Economics and Doane's Agricultural Report. Jim received his B.A. in History from Southern Illinois University. He last spoke at the A-State Agribusiness conference in 2007.

**Grant Wilson** is a graduate student and research assistant in the University of Arkansas department of agricultural economics and agribusiness. He previously served internships in Senator John Boozman's Jonesboro office, the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, and Congressman Rick Crawford's Washington, D.C. office. A native of Mountain View, Arkansas, Grant earned his B.S.A. in agricultural business at Arkansas State University.