

2020 CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Kelly Dampousse was appointed chancellor of Arkansas State University in 2017. He earned his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in sociology at Texas A&M University and his B.S. in criminal justice at Sam Houston State. 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 is past 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.

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. Greenwalt 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 a Ph.D. from Mississippi State University. Greenwalt was recognized in 2016 as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Arkansas Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

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

Jeff Johnson is vice president and head of U.S. domestic sales at Allenberg Cotton Company in Memphis, Tennessee. He has 28 years of experience in originating and merchandising U.S. cotton for the Louis Dreyfus Group. Johnson 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. Johnson 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. Johnson earned his B.S. in marketing management and M.S.A. in agriculture from Arkansas State University.

Mark Jordan is an instructor of agricultural economics at Arkansas State University. Prior to joining A-State in 2016, he was director of poultry and eggs at Informa Economics where he led research of the broiler, turkey and egg industries. Before joining Informa, Jordan 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. Jordan earned his B.S.A. in agribusiness from Arkansas State University and his M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas.

Donald "Bud" Kennedy is interim dean of the A-State College of Agriculture and a professor of animal science. A native of Alvin, Texas, Kennedy 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 Kennedy with its National Outstanding Teacher and Advisor Award.

Susannah Marshall is the deputy bank commissioner at the Arkansas State Bank Department. In this position since 2007, she oversees the application and analyst division of the department, as well as two commercial examination groups and the information systems examination group. She began her career at

the Arkansas State Bank Department as a financial examiner in 1995. Marshall is a Certified Examination Manager, a Commissioned Senior Examiner and a 2002 graduate of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking. She earned her B.S. in accounting from Arkansas State University.

David Newman is an associate professor of animal science at Arkansas State University. Prior to joining A-State in 2016, he was an associate professor and extension specialist at North Dakota State University where in 2009 he received the Myron and Muriel Johnson Excellence in Extension Award. Newman is a co-owner of his family's diversified livestock farm in southern Missouri which focuses on direct marketing of pork across the U.S. He currently serves as the president of the National Pork Board. Newman earned his B.S. in animal science with a minor in international agriculture from the University of Missouri and his Ph.D. in meat science from North Dakota State University.

Michael Pakko is chief economist and state economic forecaster at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Institute for Economic Advancement. Prior to assuming his current position in 2009, he was a research economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis where during 2006-2009 he monitored and reported on Arkansas economic conditions as the "Little Rock Zone Expert." Pakko earned his B.A. from Michigan State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester.

Harrison Pittman is director of the National Agricultural Law Center, a faculty member of the University of Arkansas Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences and legal risk coordinator of the Southern Risk Management Education Center. His research areas include the farm bill, water and environmental law, pesticide regulation and agritourism. A native of Clarendon, Arkansas, Pittman received his J.D. and L.L. M. in agricultural law from the University of Arkansas.

Bill Shannon is an accredited farm manager and real estate broker with the Farmers National Company. Based in Jonesboro, Arkansas, he is a past president of the Mid-South Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers and currently the chairman of the chapter's land values and lease trends publication committee. Shannon earned his B.S.A. in agronomy at 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, his 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 around 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, Stiles earned a B.S.A. in agricultural business and economics at Arkansas State University and his M.S. in agribusiness management at Mississippi State University.

Darci Vetter is vice-chair for agriculture, food and trade for Edelman North America, a global communications firm. From 2014-2016, she served as the chief agricultural negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative where she led the development of agricultural trade policy and negotiated the agricultural package of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. Prior to her work at USTR, Vetter served as Deputy Under Secretary at USDA where she oversaw the Foreign Agricultural Service. Reared on her family's farm in Nebraska, Vetter is a graduate of Drake University and earned her Master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University.

James Wiesemeyer has been the agricultural policy and political analyst for Pro Farmer since rejoining the company in June 2017. He is also a frequent guest on *Farm Journal's* AgriTalk radio programs and an editor for The Agriculture Letter. An agricultural journalist since 1978, he has previously served as the Washington consultant for Informa Economics and Doane's Agricultural Report. Wiesemeyer earned his B.A. in history from Southern Illinois University. He previously spoke at the A-State Agribusiness conference in 2007 and 2019.

Wes Ward was named Arkansas' third Secretary of Agriculture in March 2015. He currently represents the southern region on the board of directors of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. A native of Lake City, Arkansas, Ward earned his B.S.A. in agricultural business at Arkansas State University and his J.D. and L.L.M. in agricultural and food law at the University of Arkansas. He has served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 19 years and is currently a civil affairs officer in the Marine Corps Reserve.