



## 2023 A-State Agribusiness Conference Speakers

**Dan Basse** is the founder of AgResource Company, an agricultural research firm based in Chicago. AgResource provides information and research to farmers, elevators, food companies, and traders in over 80 countries. Dan previously worked with Professional Farmers of America, Brock Associates, and GNP Commodities. Reared on a dairy/grain farm in Waukesha, Wisconsin, Dan earned his M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Austin Brown** is the manager of sustainability at Riceland Foods, Inc. As part of the sustainability team, Austin helps manage farm level programs and internal sustainability initiatives for the company. A native of El Dorado, AR, Austin is a graduate of Harding University and currently lives in Little Rock.

**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 Arkansas State University and his M.S. in agricultural economics from Purdue University.

**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 a Ph.D. from Mississippi State University.

**Josh Hankins** is the director of grower relations and the rice stewardship partnership for USA Rice. Headquartered in Arkansas, he leads efforts to assist rice producers with conservation and wildlife management practices. Josh grew up in Arkansas and is a graduate of Pepperdine University.

**Jeff Johnson** is vice president and head of U.S. Domestic Sales at Allenberg Cotton Company in Memphis, Tennessee. He has 31 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 Arkansas State University.

**Micky A. LaTour** was appointed dean of the Arkansas State University 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.

**David Newman** is a professor of animal science at Arkansas State University. He is also a livestock producer, industry consultant, and an expert on the "farm-to-fork" continuum. David served as president of the National Pork Board in 2020-2021 and currently sits on the United States Meat Export Federation executive committee. David earned his B.S. in animal science from the University of Missouri and his Ph.D. in meat science from North Dakota State University.

**Joe Outlaw** is a professor and Extension economist at Texas A&M University and serves as the co-director of the Texas A&M Agricultural and Food Policy Center. In this role, he interacts with members of Congress and agricultural committee staff to provide feedback on the likely consequences of agricultural policy changes. Joe's extension education and research activities focus on assessing the impacts of farm programs, risk management tools, renewable energy, and climate change legislation on U.S. agricultural operations. Originally from Devine, Texas, Joe received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University.

**Jerica Rich** is an assistant professor of animal science at Arkansas State University where she joined the faculty in 2020. A specialist in beef reproductive physiology, Jerica's research investigates the economics of heat detection versus fixed-time artificial insemination synchronization protocols in beef herds. A native of New Hampshire, Jerica earned her B.S. in biomedical sciences at the University of New Hampshire and her M.S. and Ph.D. in animal science at South Dakota State University.

**Mary Kay Thatcher** is the senior manager for federal government and industry relations for Syngenta Corp. Prior to 2018, Mary Kay was the senior director of congressional relations for the American Farm Bureau Federation where she focused on farm programs, crop insurance, conservation, and credit issues. Before joining AFBF in 1982, she served as a legislative assistant for agriculture to Sen. Roger Jepsen of Iowa and later served in the George H.W. Bush administration as director of congressional and public affairs for the Farm Credit Administration. A fifth-generation farmer, Mary Kay was reared on her family's farm in Cumming, Iowa and now owns and manages a corn, soybean, and cattle farm in Corydon, Iowa. She earned her B.S. degrees in animal science and agricultural economics from Iowa State University.

**Christopher J. Waller** took office as a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on December 18, 2020, to fill an unexpired term ending January 31, 2030. Prior to his appointment to the Board, Chris served as executive VP and director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis beginning in 2009. He previously served as a professor and chair of economics at the University of Notre Dame and as a research fellow with Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute for International Studies. From 1998 to 2003, Chris was a professor and chair of macroeconomics and monetary economics at the University of Kentucky and a research fellow at the Center for European Integration Studies at the University of Bonn. From 1992 to 1994, he was an assistant and associate professor in the Indiana University Department of Economics. Chris earned his B.S. in economics from Bemidji State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Washington State University.