



28th Annual Agribusiness Conference

February 16, 2022

Conference Speakers

Grayson Daniels is vice president for grain sales and procurement at Riceland Foods, Inc., a farmer-owned cooperative headquartered in Stuttgart, Ark. Prior to joining Riceland in 2002, Grayson was an agricultural policy analyst at Sparks Companies, Inc. in Washington, D.C. Reared on his family's rice and soybean farm near Paragould, Ark., 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, Ark. From 1999 to 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 and economics from Arkansas State University, an M.S. from the University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. from Mississippi State University.

Jeff Johnson is vice president and head of U.S. domestic sales at Allenberg Cotton Company in Memphis, Tenn. 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. 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.

Chelsie Keys serves as Policy Director for Ranking Member John Boozman of Arkansas on the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry where she leads policy development and strategy for agricultural issues including nutrition, forestry, and rural development. Keys first joined the Committee in 2015 under then Chairman Pat Roberts of Kansas and was Senior Professional Staff for issues related to climate change, livestock and poultry, animal health, animal welfare and food safety. From 2006 to 2015 Keys worked for the National Pork Producers Council where she held numerous roles including Director of Government Relations. Keys hails from Minnesota where she was raised on a 6th generation grain and cow-calf farm. Her degree in applied economics is from the University of Minnesota.

Michael Klein is vice president of marketing & domestic promotion for USA Rice. A writer and filmmaker by trade, he tells the story of U.S. rice in the USA Rice Daily, on social media, and in the Whole Grain newspaper his team launched in 2014. He is also the co-host of The Rice Stuff podcast launched in 2020.

Mickey Latour is dean of the College of Agriculture at Arkansas State University. 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.

Sarah Moran is vice president of international marketing programs for USA Rice. Prior to working with the rice industry, Sarah worked for the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service on capacity- building programs. She previously served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Timor-Leste.

Jerica Rich is an assistant professor of animal science at Arkansas State University and joined A-State in 2020. Jerica's training is in beef reproductive physiology and she worked with South Dakota beef cattle producers during her graduate study. She is currently involved in a multi-state research trial assessing the efficacy of a new estrous synchronization protocol for beef cattle herds. 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.

Charles L. Welch serves as president of the Arkansas State University System and as one of the state's leading advocates for higher education. He is also Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, a Washington, D.C.-based higher education association of nearly 400 public colleges, universities, and systems, and he serves on the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education. Dr. Welch was named the second president of the ASU System in November 2010 and officially began his new position in April 2011. He is the youngest person to ever serve as president or chancellor of an Arkansas community college and is the youngest university president in Arkansas.

James Wiesemeyer has been the agricultural policy and political analyst for Pro Farmer since rejoining the company in 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, Jim 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 previously spoke at the A-State Agribusiness conference in 2007, 2019 and 2020.