



Rural Advocate

Spring 2006

2006 Rural Development Conference

We are gearing up for the 2006 Arkansas Rural Development Conference! Mark your calendars for May 24th - 26th, and join us in Eureka Springs for a fantastic conference. The DRS Conference had an outstanding turnout of over 500 attendees two years ago in Eureka Springs, and we are looking forward to an even bigger turnout this year!

Panel Sessions are always popular, and this year we have topics you are sure to enjoy. Arkansas state police are cracking down on drug trafficking in Arkansas. Hear their stories and more at the Rural Crime Scene Investigations panel. Physician shortages in rural communities are taking its toll on small towns all across our state, and we are

bringing in the experts to discuss Recruiting Doctors & Nurses to Rural Arkansas. The Development in the Delta panel will look at the serious

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issues facing the Delta and discuss solutions for economic growth and opportunities. These are just a few examples of the discussions we have in store this year.

Hear what your legislators have to say about issues facing rural Arkansas. Join the Political Roundtable on May 25th.

Each day attendees are invited to visit the exhibit

booths located in the convention hall. Representatives from public, private, and nonprofit community organizations will be there to talk about community leadership and economic development. Take advantage of this perfect opportunity to discover valuable resources for your community.

Put on your game face and join in the card tournaments on May 24th. We will be giving away fantastic door prizes! Of course there will be the ever-popular karaoke. DRS Karaoke is sure to entertain!

The DRS annual conference is an excellent opportunity to network with other active citizens and enjoy yourself. All Arkansans are invited to attend. For more information call toll free 1-888-RURAL AR.

From DRS Director and ARDC Chair

The Director of the Arkansas Department of Rural Services and the Chairman of the Arkansas Rural Development Commission both cordially invite you to attend the 2006 Rural Development Conference in Eureka Springs. Your attendance at this year's conference helps ensure the success and continuation of the many programs we provide. For your convenience, we have included a registration form in this edition of the *Rural Advocate*. Register soon to take advantage of this educational and always entertaining event. Thank you for supporting Rural Arkansas, and we look forward to seeing you May 24th—26th!



Sam E. Angel II
ARDC Chair



Bruce Campbell
DRS Director

Arkansas Rural Development Commission

Sam E. Angel II
Chair
Lake Village

Bruce Leggitt
Vice-Chair
Greenbrier

Brenda Beltrani
DeQueen

Judy Brown
Brinkley

Steve Cole
Lockesburg

Jeff Gillespie
Danville

Mike Hathorn
Huntsville

Tommy Robinson
Brinkley

Larry Teague
Nashville

Darla Verkamp
Charleston

Arnell Washington
Dumas

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, May 24^h:

8:00 AM – 12:00 AM	Exhibition Set-Up Time
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	ARDC Commission Meeting
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Registration
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Opening Welcome
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Legislative Committee Meeting
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Exhibit Break
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions: Session 1: USDA Session 2: Development in the Delta
4:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Opens
6:00 PM	Dinner & Game Night

Wednesday, May 25th:

8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast Bar Opens
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Concurrent Sessions: Session 3: Grant Writing Workshop Session 4: Rural Crime Scene Investigations
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM	Exhibition Break
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM	Legislative Committee Meeting
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	ARDC Luncheon Keynote Speaker – TBA
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Exhibition Break
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Session 5: Panel Discussion: Looking Toward the 86th General Assembly
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Exhibition Break
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Session 6: Political Roundtable
4:30 PM	Hospitality Suite Opens Dinner on your own
8:30 PM – 12:00 AM	Karaoke and Dancing

Thursday, May 26th:

8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast Bar Opens
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Concurrent Sessions: Session 7: USDA Session 8: Recruiting Doctors & Nurses to Rural Arkansas
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Exhibition Break
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Legislative Committee Meetings
11:15 AM	Doors open for lunch
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Governor's Luncheon & DRS Grant Awards Ceremony Keynote Speaker—TBA

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The objective of the annual event is to provide participants with the opportunity to gain a working knowledge about a variety of programs and services that are available to assist our communities and their leaders with development, planning and revitalization efforts. The Department of Rural Services and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission are committed to providing the most up to date information in a relaxed environment conducive to learning and sharing. If there is one goal of this annual event, it would be to provide our participants with the information and resources to help themselves.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Arkansas Rural Development Conference is designed for anyone interested in improving the quality of life in Arkansas' rural communities. Its target audience includes state legislators, mayors, county judges, rural fire fighters, local community leaders, and community development professionals who are interested in the future development of the State of Arkansas.

Over 75 state legislators attended the 2005 Rural Development Conference. This is an excellent opportunity to network and discuss your issues with state leaders.

CONFERENCE FEE INFORMATION

The conference fee is \$100 per attendee. Spouse/Child(ren) fees are \$50 per person. Exhibit space is \$200 or complimentary with two full paid registrations (any additional person must pay regular fee). The full attendance fee covers all conference materials as well as entertainment activities, receptions, breaks and meals. The registration form and all fees should be received by DRS by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 3rd. Cancellations may be subject to a service charge.

Please make checks payable to:

ARDC
101 E. Capitol, Ste. 202
Little Rock, AR 72201

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel accommodations start at \$62 per night are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks as soon as possible by calling 1-800-552-3785. The room block release date is May 15th.

**REMEMBER TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE
ARKANSAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE.**

Best Western Inn of the Ozarks
207 W. Van Buren
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
1-800-552-3785
www.innoftheozarks.com



Registration Form
2006 Arkansas Rural Development Conference
 (please copy or cut-out)

Participant Information:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone/Fax: _____ / _____

E-mail: _____

Spouse/Child(ren) Information:

Name(s): _____

Below are sponsored events which will be provided with your paid registrations (\$100 regular, \$50 each spouse or child). For planning purposes, please indicate which events you and/or your spouse/child(ren) plan on attending by placing an **X** in the blank next to each event.

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Spouse/ Child(ren)</u>	
_____	_____	6:00 p.m. May 24th Buffet Dinner and Game Night/Card Tournament
_____	_____	8:00 - 9:00 a.m. May 25th Continental Breakfast
_____	_____	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. May 25th Luncheon
_____	_____	8:30 - 12:00 a.m. - May 25th Karaoke and Dancing
_____	_____	8:00 - 9:00 a.m. May 26th Continental Breakfast
_____	_____	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. May 26th Award Luncheon

Please check the box for your tournament of choice on May 24th Game Night:

- Texas Hold'em Black Jack

YES! My organization has paid two **full** registration fees (\$200 or more) or I am paying one registration fee plus an additional \$100 and would like to reserve a **BOOTH** in the exhibit hall.
 I **will** or **will not** require electricity for my exhibit. (booth participants will receive final instructions before event)

No. My organization will be unable to have a booth this year.

Make all checks payable to:
ARDC
 101 E. Capitol, Ste. 202
 Little Rock, AR 72201

For Office Use Only

Paid Check No. _____ Amount \$ _____
 PO Number _____

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES

101 E. Capitol, Ste. 202
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: 888-787-2527
Fax: 501-682-6014
Email: Rural.Arkansas@arkansas.gov
Website: www.arkansas.gov/drs

PRSR STD
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OP

DRS Staff

Bruce Campbell
Director

Stephanie Pistole
Assistant Director

Lucy Thompson
Grants Coordinator

Kelsey Scott
Grants Coordinator

Lauren Smith
Administrative Assistant

“Striving to Enhance the Quality of Life in Rural Arkansas”

Telehealth Brings Healthcare to Rural Arkansas

Many citizens in Arkansas do not have direct access to quality healthcare. Even if they do have a local physician, they often lack specialized care. These community members can either travel to a facility or just simply ‘make do’. Today’s technology makes it possible for distant medical care to reach rural areas.

Telehealth encompasses telemedicine technology that allows physicians in differing locations to instantly share visual and audio information. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has made this technology available in Arkansas. The UAMS Rural Health Program obtained federal, state, and foundation grants to fund the interactive compressed video equipment. Currently forty-one affiliates in Arkansas have this technology and are a part of the UAMS Telehealth network. These affiliates can confer with UAMS specialists in maternal-fetal medicine, endocrinology, exchange x-rays, EKGs, heart and lung sounds, and more without ever leaving their rural communities.

Not only does the UAMS Telehealth program provide rural areas with direct medical care, it also offers education opportunities. Through the interactive television system, residents, practitioners, students and community members across the state can participate in UAMS classes and programs. Medical personnel can obtain their continuing education credits without the cost and stress of travel.

Available medical care has a large impact on the economic life of a community. Rural community hospitals generate a high income for small towns. Losing patients to urban areas means losing funds for small communities. Also, businesses factor in the availability of local health care when deciding on a location.

Find out more about Telehealth at the Arkansas Rural Development Conference May 24th—26th. See page 3 for a registration form.

The benefits of rural health are far reaching. It is possible for Arkansans get the best

Find out more about rural health resources at the **Arkansas Rural Development Conference May 24th—26th**. Medical specialists from around the state will discuss **Recruiting Doctors & Nurses to Rural Arkansas**.

The panel will be held on May 25th at 9:00 AM. To register for the ARDC Conference mail in the registration form on page 3 or call toll free 1-888-787-2527.