

Rural Advocate

Spring 2006

2007 Rural Development Conference

It's time to register for the 2007 Rural Development Conference! This year's conference will take place at the Hot Springs Convention Center and Austin Hotel in Hot Springs. Mark your calendars for May 22th to May 24th, and be sure to save your spot now. Just fill out the registration form on page 3 and send it in to our office!

Attendees will learn all sorts of valuable information from the conference panels. Find out how to obtain funding for your fire station, ways to lower your ISO rating and how to recruit and retain volunteers by attending the panel session Strengthening Rural Fire Departments. This is just one example of the several panels we have lined up to help you improve your community.

The acclaimed Political Roundtable will take place on May 23rd. This is a perfect time find out what legislators have to say about issues affecting Rural Arkansas.

Each day attendees are invited to visit the exhibit booths located in the convention lobby. Representatives from public, private, and nonprofit organizations will be there to talk about community leadership and economic development.

The conference will also offer plenty of entertainment. Participants are invited to enjoy a magnificent dinner cruise on the Belle of Hot Springs. Of course there will be the always popular DRS karaoke!

The DRS annual convention is an excellent opportunity to network with other active citizens and enjoy yourself. All Arkansans are invited to attend the conference and learn about programs and funding available in our state. For more information about the 2007 Arkansas Rural Development Conference, please contact the Department of Rural Services toll free at 1-888-RURAL AR.

From DRS Director Butch Calhoun

I am very pleased that Governor Mike Beebe appointed me to be director of the Department of Rural Services. I have lived in rural Arkansas all my life. I made a living farming and trucking and have served in the public sector as a state representative for four terms for east central Arkansas and a county judge for Prairie County for four terms.

The Department of Rural Services was set up in 1991 to serve the people of rural Arkansas. We make sure that rural areas get funded for projects so they can improve their quality of life. DRS has been doing that for sixteen years. We are a small agency with a director and four hard working ladies. We are dedicated to making our agency the best it can be and to serving rural Arkansas in the best way possible with the amount of funds we have available.



Butch Calhoun
DRS Director



Bruce Leggitt
ARDC Chair

Arkansas Rural Development Commission

Bruce Leggitt
Chair
Greenbriar

Steve Cole
Vice-Chair
Lockesburg

Sam E. Angel II
Lake Village

Bryan Hood
Alma

David Jessup
DeWitt

Wayne Nichols
Marked Tree

Keith Provence
Batesville

Tommy Robinson
Brinkley

Angela Tate
Amagon

Arnell Washington
Dumas

Mellie Watson
Lake Village

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, May 22

8:00 AM	Exhibition Set-Up Time
11:00 AM	Conference Registration Convention Center Lobby
1:00 PM	Welcoming Session -Garland County Judge Larry Williams
1:30 PM	Legislative Committee Meeting
1:45 PM	Exhibit Break
2:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions: Session 1: USDA - TBA Session 2: Community Leadership
4:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Opens
4:30 PM	Load buses for cruise
6:00 PM	Dinner Cruise on the Belle of Hot Springs

Wednesday, May 23:

8:00 AM	Conference Registration Continental Breakfast Bar Opens
9:00 AM	Concurrent Sessions: Session 3: Strengthening Rural Fire Departments Session 4: Pre-K Effects on Rural Children's Education in Arkansas
10:30 AM	Exhibition Break Legislative Committee Meeting
11:30 AM	ARDC Luncheon Keynote Speaker – Hon. Dustin McDaniel, Attorney General
1:00 PM	Exhibit Break
1:30 PM	Session 5: Panel Discussion: Looking Back at the 86th General Assembly
3:00 PM	Exhibit Break
3:30 PM	Session 6: Political Roundtable
4:30 PM	Hospitality Suite Opens Dinner on your own
8:30 PM	Karaoke and Dancing - Convention Center

Thursday, May 24

8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast Bar Opens
9:00 AM	Concurrent Sessions: Session 7: USDA - TBA Session 8: Grant Writing Workshop
10:30 AM	Exhibit Break Legislative Committee Meeting
11:30 AM	Governor's Luncheon and Grant Awards Ceremony Guest Speaker: Governor Mike Beebe

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.

Arkansans with a genuine interest in a better quality of life and who are willing to work for change are strongly encouraged to attend.

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 9th. 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 \$70 per night and are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Austin Hotel as soon as possible by calling toll free 1-877-623-6697. Room block release date is April 21, 2007.

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

The Austin Hotel
305 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs National Park, AR 71901
1-877-623-6697
www.TheAustinHotel.com

**All sessions and meals will take place at the Hot Springs Convention Center.*



Registration Form
2007 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 22nd Dinner Cruise on the Belle of Hot Springs
_____	_____	8:00 - 9:00 a.m. May 23rd Continental Breakfast
_____	_____	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. May 23rd Luncheon
_____	_____	8:30 - 11:00 p.m. May 23rd Karaoke and Dancing
_____	_____	8:00 - 9:00 a.m. May 24th Continental Breakfast
_____	_____	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. May 24th Awards Luncheon

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
Website: www.arkansas.gov/drs



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DRS Staff

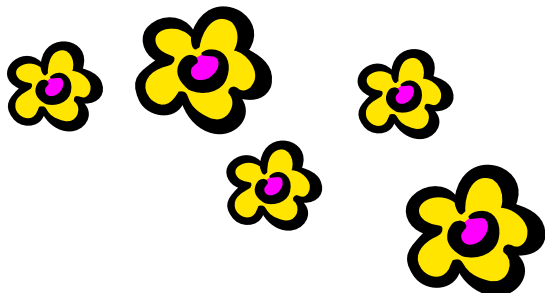
Butch Calhoun
Director

Stephanie Gueck
Deputy Director

Lucy Thompson
Grants Coordinator

Kelsey Scott
Grants Coordinator

Lauren Smith
Administrative Assistant



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

Department of Rural Services Grant Programs

Grants	Eligibility	Maximum	Match	Next Deadline
Rural Community Development Grant	Communities with less than 3,000 people	\$15,000	50%	8/24/07
Rural Fire Protection Grant	Communities with less than 3,000 people	\$15,000	50%	8/24/07
County Fair Building Grant	Counties with less than 55,000 people	\$4,000	50%	8/24/07
Rural Services Block Grant	Communities with less than 3,000 people and LMI of 51% or higher	\$50,000	10%	12/14/07



*Grant applications and guidelines can be downloaded from our website at www.arkansas.gov/drs. To have the information mailed to you, just call our office toll free at 1-888-787-2527!