

The graphic features a vibrant background of rolling green hills with diagonal stripes, a bright sun with rays, and scattered white clouds. The text 'SASDA 2021 WELCOME' is centered in the upper half, flanked by horizontal lines. Below the text is a circular seal with a serrated edge. The seal contains the word 'AUTHENTIC' at the top, 'ARKANSAS' in the center, and 'SASDA 2021' at the bottom.

# **SASDA 2021** **WELCOME**



**Empowering the Global Future of Food, Fiber, and Forestry**  
June 5–9, 2021 | Little Rock, Arkansas

**[sasdaannualconference.com](https://sasdaannualconference.com)**

**#SASDA2021**



## SASDA 2021 SPONSORS

 Revolution





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# SASDA 2021

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members, Sponsors, and Friends:

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is honored to welcome you to Arkansas for the 2021 SASDA annual meeting!

Agriculture is Arkansas's largest industry, contributing more than \$21 billion to our state's economy each year. Our diverse agriculture production includes livestock, poultry, aquaculture, row crops, specialty crops, and forestry. Arkansas consistently ranks in the top 25 nationally in the production of more than 15 different agricultural commodities.

SASDA meetings are always informative, engaging, and entertaining. I'm confident that this year's annual meeting will be no different as we work together to address challenges and discuss opportunities in each of our states and southern agriculture.

We are grateful to the many generous sponsors that have made the 2021 SASDA annual meeting possible. They have all made significant contributions and have helped us work through the additional challenges of planning an in-person event during unprecedented times. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and I hope you will join me in thanking them personally over the next few days.

On behalf of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA), thank you again for attending this year's annual meeting and allowing us to show you some Authentic Arkansas hospitality. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of assistance in any way during your stay.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Ward".

Wes Ward  
Secretary of Agriculture  
State of Arkansas



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# SASDA 2021

## MEMBERS

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### **PRESIDENT**

Secretary Wes Ward  
Arkansas Department of  
Agriculture



### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Commissioner Kent Leonhardt  
West Virginia Department of  
Agriculture



### **SECRETARY**

Commissioner Rick Pate  
Alabama Department of  
Agriculture



### **TREASURER**

Commissioner Brad Copenhaver  
Virginia Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services



### **Commissioner**

Nikki Fried  
Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services



### **Commissioner**

Gary Ward Black Sr.  
Georgia Department  
of Agriculture



### **Commissioner**

Dr. Ryan F. Quarles  
Kentucky Department  
of Agriculture





**Commissioner**  
Dr. Mike Strain  
Louisiana Department of  
Agriculture



**Secretary**  
Joseph Bartenfelder  
Maryland Department of  
Agriculture



**Commissioner**  
Andy Gipson  
Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce



**Commissioner**  
Steve Troxler North Carolina  
Department of Agriculture and  
Consumer Services



**Secretary**  
Ramon Gonzalez Beiro  
Puerto Rico Department of  
Agriculture



**Commissioner**  
Hugh Weathers  
South Carolina Department  
of Agriculture



**Commissioner**  
Dr. Charlie Hatcher  
Tennessee Department of  
Agriculture



**Secretary**  
Sid Miller  
Texas Department of  
Agriculture



**Commissioner**  
Positive T.A. Nelson  
Virgin Islands Department  
of Agriculture



# SASDA 2021

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Saturday, June 5, 2021

11:00 am to 4:00 pm	Registration	Balcony, Ballroom level
1:30 pm	<b>Hot Springs Excursion</b> <i>(*Please be aboard the motorcoach no later than 1:25 pm)</i> <i>Attire: Casual</i>	
2:30 pm to 6:00 pm	<i>Exploring Hot Springs</i>	
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	<i>Reception and Dinner</i>	<i>The Bugler Restaurant,</i>
8:00 pm	<i>Return to Little Rock Marriott</i>	<i>Oaklawn Resort</i>
10:00 pm to 12:00 am	Hospitality Suite	Room 1907

### Sunday, June 6, 2021

7:00 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast	Balcony, Ballroom level
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Free time	
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Registration	Balcony, Ballroom level
12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	<b>Business Meetings</b> <i>Attire: Casual</i>	Pinnacle Room
12:00 pm to 12:30 pm	• Lunch	
12:30 pm to 2:00 pm	• SASDA Business Meeting	
2:00 pm to 2:30 pm	• NASDA Updates	
2:30 pm to 2:45 pm	• Break	
2:45 pm to 4:00 pm	• SUSTA Business Meeting	
4:00 pm to 5:30 pm	Free Time	
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm	<b>Reception</b> <i>Attire: Casual</i> • Special Guest - Senator Boozman, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	Pinnacle Room
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	<b>Dinner</b> Presented by Catfish Farmers of Arkansas	Old State House
8:30 pm to 12:00 am	Hospitality Suite	Room 1907

\* Buses will load from the front of the Little Rock Marriott.



## Monday, June 7, 2021

7:00 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast <i>Attire: Business Casual</i>	Grand Ballroom
8:30 am to 9:00 am	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture and 2020-2021 SASDA President</li> <li>• Faith Fritch, State President, 4-H</li> <li>• Anna Mathis, National Secretary, FFA</li> <li>• The Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor of Arkansas</li> </ul>	Grand Ballroom
9:00 am to 10:30 am	<b>Updates from Arkansas Congressional Delegation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rep. Rick Crawford, U. S. House Agriculture Committee</li> <li>• Rep. Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources</li> <li>• Rep. French Hill, U.S. House Committee on Financial Services</li> </ul>	Grand Ballroom
10:30 am to 10:45 am	Break	
10:45 am to 11:30 am	<b>Program and Industry Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USDA/NIFA's Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network: Southern Region Efforts - Dr. Heather Sedges, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture</li> <li>• Farms Under Threat: State of the States - Billy Van Pelt, American Farmland Trust</li> <li>• Policy Update - Ryan Yates, American Farm Bureau Federation</li> </ul>	
11:30 am to 12:45 pm	<b>Lunch</b> Presented by Simmons Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural Law Update - Harrison Pittman, National Agricultural Law Center</li> </ul>	Grand Ballroom
12:45 pm to 1:15 pm	Free Time	
1:15 pm	<b>Arkansas Delta Tour</b> <i>(*Please be aboard the motorcoach by 1:10 pm)</i> <i>Attire: Casual</i>	
2:15 pm to 3:15 pm	<i>Tour Mack's Prairie Wings and Rich-N-Tone Calls, Inc.</i>	
3:15 pm	<i>Depart for Five Oaks Hunting Lodge</i>	
3:45 pm to 6:00 pm	<i>Five Oaks Hunting Lodge - Conservation Tour/Update</i>	
6:00 pm to 6:30 pm	<i>Reception</i>	
6:30 pm to 7:45 pm	<i>Dinner</i> <i>Presented by Revolution</i>	
8:00 pm	<i>Return to Little Rock Marriott</i>	
9:00 pm to 12:00 am	Hospitality Suite	Room 1907



Tuesday, June 8, 2021

6:30 am to 7:30 am	Breakfast <i>Attire: Casual</i>	Grand Ballroom
8:00 am	<b>Industry Discussion at Winthrop Rockefeller Institute</b> <i>(*Please be aboard the motorcoach by 7:55 am)</i>	Petit Jean Mountain
9:30 am to 10:00 am	Free time and self-guided tour of Winthrop Rockefeller Museum	
10:00 am to 10:45 am	Livestock and Poultry Update	
10:45 am to 11:30 am	The Arkansas Timber Project • Peter MacKeith, Fay Jones School of Architecture, University of Arkansas	
11:30 am to 11:45 am	Break	
11:45 am to 12:30 pm	Agricultural Technology Theft • Lily Hebert, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Little Rock Office	
12:30 pm	Lunch Presented by the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association • Remarks - Janet Harris, Winthrop Rockefeller Institute	
1:45 pm	Departure for Conway	
3:00 pm	<b>Tour of Structurlam Mass Timber Corporation</b>	
4:00 pm	Return to Little Rock Marriott	
4:45 pm to 7:00 pm	Free Time	
7:00 pm to 7:30 pm	<b>Reception</b> <i>Attire: Business Casual</i>	Grand Ballroom Foyer
7:30 pm to 10:00 pm	<b>President's Dinner</b> Presented by Southern Crop Production Association • Entertainment – Buddy Jewell - Arkansas Entertainers Hall of Fame inductee and ICMA Male Vocalist of the Year 2019	Grand Ballroom
10:00 pm to 12:00 am	Hospitality Suite	Room 1907

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

7:00 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast	Grand Ballroom
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## SASDA 2021

# SPEAKERS

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**Asa Hutchinson** is the 46th governor of the State of Arkansas and is the current Vice Chair of the National Governors Association. While serving in Congress, he was appointed by President George W. Bush as the administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and later as an undersecretary in the newly created Department of Homeland Security. Governor Hutchinson grew up on a small farm in Gravette.



**The Honorable John Boozman**, Arkansas's senior U. S. Senator, serves as the Ranking Member of the U. S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Senator Boozman has been a consistent champion for farmers, ranchers, and loggers and was instrumental in the fight for an equitable farm bill. As Ranking Member, he will play a key role in influencing policy that relates to the agriculture economy, nutrition programs, and quality of life in rural America.



**The Honorable Rick Crawford** has served five terms as the U. S. Representative from the First District of Arkansas. Representative Crawford is a member of the Agriculture Committee, serving on the Subcommittees on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit, and General Farm Commodities and Risk Management. He has played a critical role in passing two Farm Bills, having served on the Conference Committees in 2014 and 2018. Representative Crawford views agriculture as a national security issue - a nation that cannot feed itself is a nation that is not secure.



**The Honorable Bruce Westerman** is a Hot Springs native currently serving his fourth term as U. S. Representative from the Fourth District of Arkansas. Representative Westerman serves as Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources and on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering and received a Master of Forestry degree from Yale University.



**The Honorable French Hill** is serving his fourth term as U.S. Representative from Arkansas's Second Congressional District. He is a member of the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services where he serves as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy. Representative Hill also serves on the Congressional Oversight Commission established by the CARES Act and was selected in 2019 to be a member of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Republican House Whip Team.



**Dr. Heather Sedges** is an associate professor, human development specialist, and certified family life educator in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences Department of the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. Her work addresses individual- and family-level well-being from a socioecological systems-based perspective. Her expertise in community-based participatory practice translates into a strong ability to establish and elevate mission-driven networks of interdisciplinary groups.





**Billy Van Pelt** is the Director of External Relations and Senior Advisor for American Farmland Trust (AFT). He works with major donors throughout the Southeast, presents at conferences and meetings of allied organizations, and secures partnerships and sponsorships to increase AFT's visibility across the region. Before joining AFT, Van Pelt ran his own government relations firm. During this time, he served as the founding CEO of Woodford Forward, a land use advocacy organization.



**Ryan Yates** is the Managing Director for Public Policy at the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). In this role, Yates manages the AFBF Public Policy department in the preparation and execution of strategies to implement Farm Bureau legislative and regulatory policy priorities. Yates previously served as Director of Congressional Relations at AFBF and on the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources.



**Harrison Pittman** is the Director of the National Agriculture Law Center. Harrison received his Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law and earned an LL.M. in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law. He has authored articles on numerous subjects, including the National Organic Program, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, the constitutionality of corporate farming laws, pesticide regulation and litigation, agritourism, states' recreational use statutes, the Packers and Stockyards Act, agricultural bankruptcy issues, and environmental laws impacting agriculture.



**Peter MacKeith** is dean and professor of architecture at the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas. MacKeith is a nationally recognized design educator and administrator, serving as chair of the advisory committee for the Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program, a regional initiative of the Walton Family Foundation. MacKeith is a member of the editorial board of Places Journal for architecture, landscape architecture, and urbanism.



**Janet Harris** is the Chief Strategy Officer with the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute. Harris holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and spent 20 years as a public administration professional in Arkansas prior to joining the Institute staff in 2016. Harris is the creator of the Institute's Walks with the Governor program and speaks frequently on the legacy of Winthrop Rockefeller.



**Anna Mathis** serves as the 2020-2021 National FFA Secretary. In this role she informs, motivates, and inspires 760,000+ FFA members, along with advisors, state staff and teachers, while forming relationships with corporate sponsors and state and national legislators. Anna previously served as the Arkansas State FFA President.



**Members of the FBI Little Rock Counterintelligence Squad**, who work to identify and defeat threats by adversarial governments and their proxies. Their efforts primarily focus on safeguarding critical sectors, including the agricultural industry—particularly threats posed by nontraditional actors seeking to gain unauthorized access to cutting edge business practices, research, and development.



# SASDA 2021

## SPOUSE AGENDA

### Sunday, June 6, 2021

7:00 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast	Balcony, Ballroom level
9:00 am to 5:30 pm	Explore Little Rock	
12:00 pm to 5 pm	Registration	Balcony, Ballroom Level
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm	<b>Reception</b> <i>Attire: Casual</i>	Pinnacle Room
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	<b>Dinner</b>	Old State House
8:30 pm to 12:00 am	Hospitality Suite	Room 1907

### Monday, June 7, 2021

7:00 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast	Balcony, Ballroom level
9:15 am to 11:00 am	<b>Authentic Arkansas Tour</b> <i>(Bus will load at the front of the hotel)</i> <i>Attire: Casual</i>	
11:15 am to 12:30 pm	<b>Private lunch and shopping, The Root Café and The Green Corner Store</b>	
12:30 pm	<i>Load bus for Bella Vita</i>	
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	<b>Shopping and Authentic Arkansas "Wire Wrapped Crystal" Workshop, Bella Vita Jewelry &amp; Gifts</b>	
2:30 pm	<i>Load bus for Five Oaks Hunting Lodge</i>	
3:45 pm to 6:00 pm	<b>Five Oaks Hunting Lodge Tour and Entertainment</b>	
6:00 pm to 7:45 pm	<i>Reception and Dinner</i>	Five Oaks Hunting Lodge
8 pm	<i>Return to Little Rock Marriott</i>	
9:00 pm to 12:00 am	Hospitality Suite	Room 1907

### Tuesday, June 8, 2021

6:30 am to 8:00 am	Breakfast	Balcony, Ballroom level
8:30 am	Load bus and depart for Garvan Woodland Gardens <i>Attire: Casual</i>	
9:30 am to 11:00 am	<b>Explore Garvan Woodland Gardens</b>	
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	<i>Private Lunch in the Magnolia Room</i>	
12:15 pm	<i>Load bus and depart for Little Rock Marriott</i>	
1:30 pm to 7:00 pm	Free Time	
7:00 pm to 7:30 pm	<b>Reception</b> <i>Attire: Business Casual</i>	Grand Ballroom Foyer
7:30 pm to 10 pm	<b>President's Dinner</b> • Entertainment – Buddy Jewell – Arkansas Entertainers Hall of Fame inductee and ICMA Male Vocalist of the Year 2019	Grand Ballroom
10:00 pm to 12:00 am	Hospitality Suite	Room 1907

### Wednesday, June 9, 2021

7:00 am to 9:00 am	Breakfast	Balcony, Ballroom level
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**SASDA 2021**  
**SPONSORS**  
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