

SOUTHERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

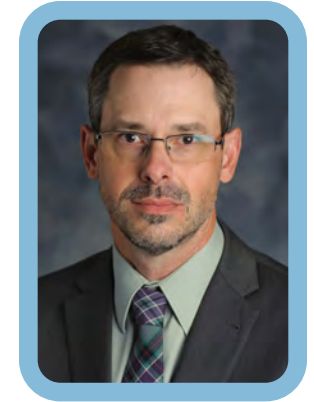
ANNUAL REPORT



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1974



Letter from the Director



The Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) marked its 50th anniversary of operation in 2024. One of the nation's four Regional Rural Development Centers established under the auspices of the Rural Development Act of 1972, the SRDC has worked across state, territorial, and institutional lines to build capacity in the Land-Grant System to address the ever-changing needs of people living in rural areas.

The SRDC's first plan of work was formally approved in March 1974. Our Technical and Operational Advisory Committee and Board of Directors recently met to review progress on our 2024 plan of work and drafted the plan for 2025. Their work set the basis for the next 50 years.

The title for this annual report – "Connecting Communities since 1974" – draws attention to a key function of the SRDC. Bringing people together from diverse backgrounds, locations, and organizations, we engage with each other to advance research, outreach, and educational initiatives to address issues of concern to advance rural prosperity and vitality.

As you read the pages of this report, I hope you will appreciate the breadth of efforts, variety of partners, and the commonality of purpose for the future of Rural America.

In Collaboration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Find us on social media



Southern Rural
Development Center



Southern Rural
Development Center



@so_dev_center



Southern Rural
Development Center

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Special thanks to our host institution



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

SOUTHERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER STAFF



Dr. John J. Green
Director
john.green@msstate.edu



Rachel Welborn
Associate Director
rachel.welborn@msstate.edu



Dr. Roseanne Scammahorn
Extension/Research Associate III
r.scammahorn@msstate.edu



Grace Langford
Extension Associate III
grace.langford@msstate.edu



Leah Mitchell
Business Manager
leah.mitchell@msstate.edu



Carmen Kelly
Communications Coordinator
carmen.kelly@msstate.edu



Mary Grace Frost
Administrative Assistant I
mary.frost@msstate.edu

1890 FELLOW



Dr. Michelle Eley
North Carolina A&T State University

ABOUT SRDC & CONTACT

Mission

The Southern Rural Development Center seeks to strengthen the capacity of the region's 30 Land-Grant institutions to address critical contemporary rural development issues impacting the wellbeing of people and communities in the rural South.

Background

The Southern Rural Development Center is one of four Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs) coordinating rural development and Extension education programs cooperatively with Land-Grant Institutions regionally and nationally. The RRDCs are supported by the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Mailing & Physical Address

P.O. Box 5187 | 150 Lloyd-Ricks-Watson | Mississippi State, MS 39762 | Phone: 662.325.3207

Websites

Southern Rural Development Center | srdc.msstate.edu & Regional Rural Development Centers | rrdc.info



Digital Skill Building and Digital Volunteer Initiative

THE DIGITAL VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE SEEKS TO

- Increase the percentage of adults volunteering in digital literacy within their communities
- Grow the number of digital literacy services in communities
- Leverage Extension's educational programming
- Convene community partners and strengthen collaboration
- Enhance self-efficacy and/or comfort with digital skills among key groups in communities
- Strengthen social and community connections
- Provide guidance on cybersecurity and securing online financial transactions

DIGITAL SKILL LESSONS STRIVES TO GUIDE AND INFORM PARTICIPANTS SO THAT THEY MAY:



Navigate the digital landscape responsibly



Communicate effectively



Feel empowered to access online information safely



Engage in online communities



Enhance general computer skills



To learn more, visit:

<https://srdc.msstate.edu/programs/digital-skill-building-and-digital-volunteer-initiative>

PROJECTS

- Relunched Connect Extension Broadband Access and Digital Skills online blog
- Digital Volunteer Initiative – Key Initiative: Connecting existing lesson skills with specific extension program areas
- National Digital Skill Focus Groups with support through the Extension Foundation

TOP FIVE SKILLS PRESENTED & PARTICIPANTS

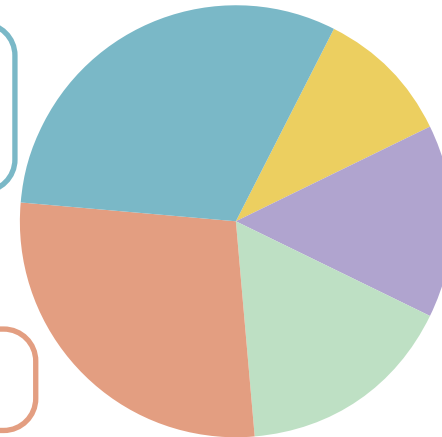
Internet Safety, Ethics, and Credibility
131

Buying and Selling Online
43

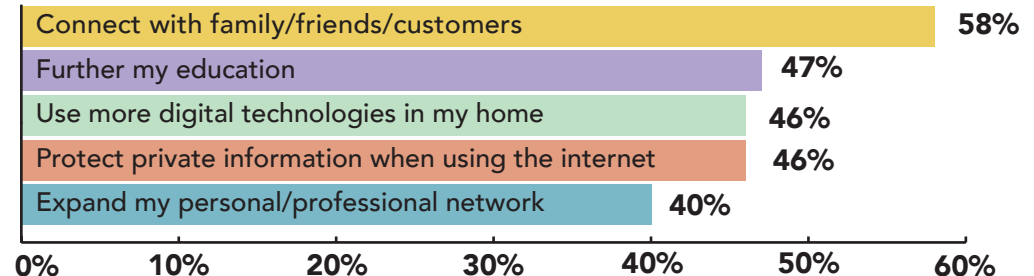
Social Media Savvy
60

Introduction to Email
69

Computer Basics
117



TOP 5 WAYS PARTICIPANTS PLAN TO USE THE INFORMATION LEARNED:



JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Coming Together for Racial Understanding

In 2024, Coming Together conducted the following national activities: launched updated curriculum and web pages, delivered Coming Together Basics Training, and conducted internal training in partnership with USDA NIFA.

Ripple Effect Mapping and Survey Evaluation:

Sample Responses:
These comments reflect how participants responded to recognizing the "Greatest Wins" or most significant changes that resulted from Coming Together for Racial Understanding.

Category	Feedback
Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Became better at facilitating dialogues Had more curiosity to learn
Interpersonal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looked for opportunities to learn about people who are different Normalized conversations around race and Coming Together in more spaces
Institutional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created new Extension partnerships Changing hiring vales drew more applicants
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed knowledge and attitudes in communities and increased action toward social change

Coming Together facilitators who were trained pre-COVID were surveyed in 2021 and again in 2024.

They were given the following prompt and response options for the following question: Please share the extent to which you have been able to launch Coming Together in your institution or state Extension system by checking all that apply (participants were allowed to select multiple options).

Those surveyed in 2021 were not necessarily the same participants who responded to the survey in 2024.



To learn more, visit: <https://srdc.msstate.edu/programs/coming-together>



FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
					Valentine's Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Presidents' Day					
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Southern Region Community Development Extension Impacts



Number of plans adopted and implemented in community, agency, local government, business, or disaster



Number of participants who reported new leadership roles & opportunities undertaken



Number of businesses created, retained, or expanded



\$13,450,756

Value of in-kind resources contributed by organizations/communities



Number of universities reporting

\$44,923,908

Grants acquired by organizations/communities



Full Time Equivalents

Entrepreneurship & Workforce Development



Land-Grant Universities are collaborating with national, state, and local resources to foster rural entrepreneurial activities with a focus on growing and sustaining workforce development through educational opportunities.

Examples from:

University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Clemson University, South Carolina State University, Prairie View A&M University, Virginia Cooperative Extension, West Virginia State University

Community Development



Employing an interdisciplinary approach to leadership development through the intersection of theory, practice, and application, LGUs are addressing disaster relief, legislative issues, and community strategic plan development. This approach focuses on community development to reduce the vulnerability of youth, families, and seniors, while increasing resiliency.

Examples from:

University of Arkansas, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, & Environment, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Langston University, University of Tennessee, Kentucky State University

Community Health & Well-Being



Creating healthy communities, Land-Grant Universities are addressing food system insecurity, rural mental health, and active communities to improve quality of life across the lifespan.

Examples from:

University of Georgia, Mississippi State University, North Carolina Cooperative Extension, University of Puerto Rico

To learn more, visit: <https://srdc.msstate.edu/impacts/southern-region-impacts>



MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Daylight Savings Begins						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Saint Patrick's Day					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



The Southern Rural Development Center Celebrates 50 Years of Connecting Communities

The SRDC is one of the Nation’s four Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs) established under the Rural Development Act of 1972 which we acknowledged the 50th anniversary for in 2022 through a variety of activities, including numerous proclamations.

The year 2024 marks a related but distinct anniversary – the first year of work as the SRDC, housed at Mississippi State University but operating across Land-Grant Institutions. As documented in its first Annual Progress Report, February 1, 1974, was the first official day of operation, and March 28 is noted as the approval of the first plan of work. From the very beginning, according to minutes from the Board of Directors, the SRDC’s approach has been interdisciplinary and focused on the integration of research and Extension efforts. These ideas continue to resonate fifty years later. Rural people and communities have changed, as have the opportunities and challenges they confront, yet the importance of bringing together scientific knowledge, outreach, and education across organizational and state lines remains consistent.

This work has come to encompass regional collaboration with thirty universities across thirteen states and two territories, connecting 1862 and 1890 institutions, and now a 1994 tribal partner. It also involves work on national issues and collaboration between the RRDCs, regional research and Extension associations, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture. With such a solid foundation, the next fifty years are off to a good start.

To learn more, visit: <https://srdc.msstate.edu/50th-anniversary>



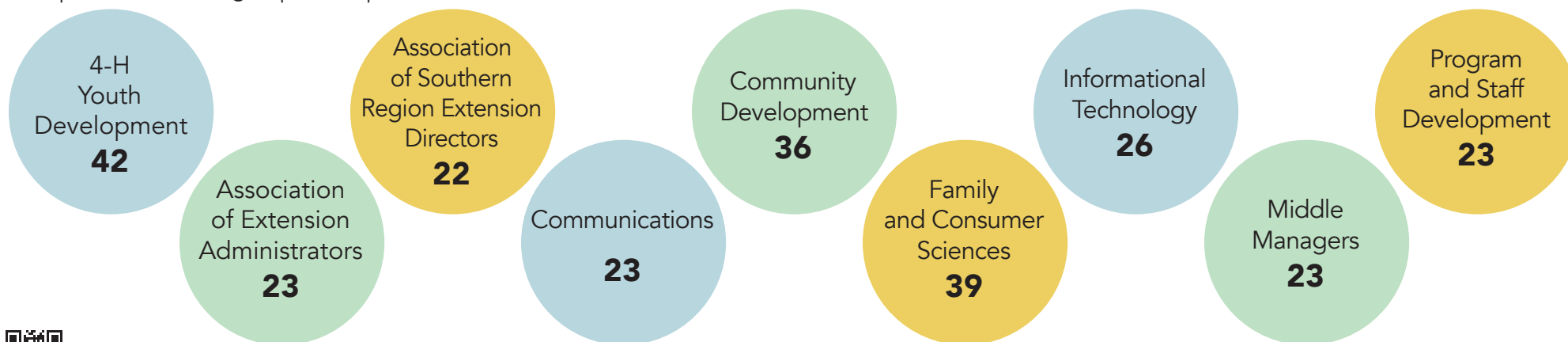
Top left: SRDC Task Force Report from 1974.
Top right: Annual Progress Report from 1974.
Bottom: SRDC history video



SOUTHERN REGION PROGRAM LEADERSHIP NETWORK

The mission of this group is to foster and strengthen Extension education programming throughout the southern region by promoting multi-state cooperation, anticipating emerging program issues and needs, and implementing action processes to address them in a timely manner. The annual meeting in August hosted **253 participants** representing state program leaders from eight committees, the Association of Extension Administrators (AEA), and the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED) convened in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Participants from each group are depicted here.



To learn more, visit: <http://srpln.msstate.edu/>

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
					Good Friday	
6	7	8	10	11	12	13
Easter Sunday						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Building Capacity to Address Heirs' Property Issues

Extension/Outreach

Understanding Heirs' Property at the Community Level is a train-the-trainer workshop designed to build capacity among Extension/outreach professionals to help families take the initial steps into preventing or resolving heirs' property issues.

Since beginning the training in November 2022, the accomplishments include:



10 Train-the-Trainer workshops conducted



259 Extension/outreach professionals trained



33 States sending team members to trainings

Based on 152 participants' evaluation of train-the-trainer workshops:



140 Have new knowledge concerning heirs' property



151 Know where to find resources to help with heirs' property



141 Feel confident in sharing this knowledge with communities

Top 5 Topic Areas Participants Report Highest Knowledge Gained:

Importance of working with other family members

Why heirs' property exists

How tax sales and partition sales can lead to land loss

Impacts of heirs' property

Identifying heirs' property

Partners:



Alcorn.
SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS
AND RANCHERS POLICY RESEARCH CENTER



SOUTHERN
EXTENSION
RISK MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SRDC is committed to:

- *Expand and refine the baseline Understanding Heirs' Property at the Community Level curriculum*
The Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center at Alcorn State University and SRDC hosted four Understanding Heirs' Property at the Community Level trainings in 2024. Trainings were held in Birmingham, AL (February), Houston, TX (June), Raleigh, NC (October) and Orlando, FL (November).
- *Expand educational materials*
Two advanced curricula were created to meet the specific needs of community educators. Land Use and the Farm Bill and Heirs' Property Volunteer Navigator trainings were hosted in Houston, TX (June) and Memphis, TN (October).
- *Develop a uniquely tailored Toolkit for specific stakeholder groups*
Engaged with a diverse group, the team pursued research on ethical issues around heirs' property and data to inform the development of training toolkits, working with the support from the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center at Alcorn University and JPMorganChase.

To learn more, visit: https://srdc.msstate.edu/programs/heir_property



MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Memorial Day					



CREATE BRIDGES:

Celebrating **RE**tail, **A**ccommodations, **T**ourism and **E**ntertainment
by **B**uilding **R**ural **I**nnovations and **D**eveloping **G**rowth **E**conomies

Best Practices Observed:



BOOTS ON THE
GROUND



LEADERSHIP AND
CONNECTIONS



EARLY
ACTIONS



DEFINED
EXPECTATIONS



MINDFUL
BUDGETING

Individual Impacts:

41%

Employees surveyed reported increased satisfaction with career support

14

Participants took steps towards a career in retail, tourism, accommodations, and entertainment

1

Business established/revised career paths or developed an employee retention program

Participant Quote:

"The Entrepreneurial Edge Expo was an awesome experience. I was able to learn vital information about opening a small business legally. I was also able to connect with a short-term accommodations business owner during the event." –Small business conference participant (Illinois)

Community Impacts:

- Improved accessibility to career support services
- Workforce trainings positively impacted businesses

Participant Quote:

"The Illinois SBDC experienced a substantial growth, escalating from merely 2 attended workshops in 2022 to an impressive total of 33 workshops in 2023, partially from the support of CREATE BRIDGES funding." –Community partner (Illinois)

2024 Accomplishments

Completed CREATE BRIDGES Curriculum

Available through these links:

Southern Rural Development Center:

<https://srdc.msstate.edu/programs/create-bridges/curriculum>

Community Development Extension Library:

<https://cdextlibrary.org/resource-library/create-bridges/>

Completed strategy implementation for 8 regions in 6 states

To learn more, visit: <https://srdc.msstate.edu/programs/create-bridges>



Funding for the project provided by:



JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Father's Day						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging (INRPHA)

Funded by the National Institute on Aging (grants R24-AG065159 and 1R24-AG089064)

The Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health and Aging facilitates innovative research on factors affecting the health and wellbeing of working age and older adults living in rural and urban areas of the United States.

University of Minnesota, Pennsylvania State University, Syracuse University, University of Colorado Boulder, and Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University

Year Five Pilot Project Topics:



Behavior-opportunity gaps and dementia risk



Drivers of infectious disease burden



Disparities in chronic pain among older adults



Impact of healthcare exit on health outcomes among older adults

INRPHA was renewed for an additional five years, with a focus on the:

- Array of rural older adult experiences across the country
- Assets/success stories in rural communities that should be built on
- Expansion of the network through interdisciplinary growth

Activities include:

- Pilot projects
- Webinars
- Conference events
- Research briefs



To learn more, visit: <https://sph.umn.edu/research/projects/inrpha/>



Rural Population Research Network (RPRN)

The Rural Population Research Network is a multi-state research committee project focused on the causes and consequences of demographic change in rural America. RPRN's primary goal is the production of relevant and high-impact research that informs users about demographic trends and their implications for rural policy.

The SRDC partnered with RPRN in 2023 and 2024 on in-person and virtual listening sessions to identify research topics that need attention from the perspective of Cooperative Extension professionals and others working on issues of rural development. Topical areas addressed the connections between population change and agriculture and food systems, community and economic development, environment and natural resources, and health, healthcare, and disability services.

Among other findings, listening session participants called for:

- Engagement with local people and practitioners to inform research questions
- Strategic dissemination of research findings to help inform practitioners
- Data analyses to advance best practices



Rural Population Research Network

A USDA supported multi-state research project.

To learn more, visit: <https://rprn.org/>



JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

PROPEL: Providing Resources and Opportunities through Partnerships, Locally

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA), a federal regional commission promoting economic development within an eight-state service region, has partnered with the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) on the Providing Resources and Opportunities through Partnerships, Locally (PROPEL) initiative.



PROPEL provides targeted support and resources to help communities increase capacity and alleviate challenges on issues such as public infrastructure and business development.

The SRDC will provide capacity-building opportunities and resources to seven communities in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development also partnered with the DRA to provide similar services to communities in Illinois and Missouri.



Capacity-building Opportunities through SRDC Partnership includes:



Coaching and assistance to help communities tell comprehensive narratives



Templates for assessing and sharing grant opportunities



Training in grant proposal writing



Training on accessing and using data to inform planning and proposal development



Facilitating plans for leadership succession to ensure continuity of success

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Southern Region Program Leadership Network, Association of Extension Administrators & Association of Southern Region Extension Directors Joint Meeting					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Delta Scholars



16 Number of students-leaders participating in the 2024 cohort

110 **Delta Scholars**, including 35 from eight different Land-Grant Universities, since beginning in 2018

Delta Scholar activities include:

- Two-week summer session with community-university activities
- Delta Regional Forum
- Boston Conference with professional development opportunities



The Delta Scholars Program is led by the Mississippi State University Shackouls Honors College in collaboration with other partners in the Delta Directions Consortium.



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
JUDY AND BOBBY SHACKOULS
HONORS COLLEGE



The Delta Directions Consortium is an interdisciplinary network focused on creating positive social change in the multi-state region. Participants include individuals working with academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and foundations.



To learn more, please visit: <https://www.honors.msstate.edu/delta-scholars/> & <https://cfnm.org/programs/delta-directions/>



Delta Regional Forum

The Delta Regional Forum is coordinated by partners in the University of Mississippi's Community First Research Center for Wellbeing and Creative Achievement and the Southern Rural Development Center, housed at Mississippi State University. They work in collaboration with the Delta Directions Consortium.

The 2024 two-day event with 81 registrants from students and faculty to nonprofit, philanthropic, and business leaders...

- Provided an opportunity for sharing perspectives on a wide range of development topics
- Entailed panel presentations on successful community-university collaborations around maternal-child health and community development
- Featured project pitch presentations from Delta Scholars
- Engaged participants in facilitated dialogue using the world café approach



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Labor Day					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Southern Extension & Research Activity (SERA) 49: Heirs' Property: Impacts at Family, Community, and Regional Levels

Building from the previous working group, Southern Extension and Research Activity (SERA) 49 was officially approved in 2023.

Five Year Objectives:	Assess federal, state, and local government policies related to heirs' property, including variations in county tax office practices, state property tax policies, and legal and policy options at the federal level necessary to meet the needs of heirs' property owners.	Increase multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaborations and networking efforts among Extension and research professionals addressing heirs' property issues across the Southern Region.
		Identify current and emerging issues specific to heirs' property in the Southern Region.
		Support civil society organizations in serving the needs of the ultimate stakeholder, the owners of heirs' property.

Current Projects:	Heirs' Property Network Analysis Survey	The Legal & Policy Group met with staffers from Congressional offices to discuss policy approaches to heirs' property. The team met in the fall to discuss potential improvements to the Uniform Partition of Heirs' Property Act.
	Heir-Wave: The SERA 49 Heirs' Property Research Committee Newsletter	

Land-Grant Participating States/Institutions:

Alcorn State University, Auburn University, Mississippi State University, Tuskegee University, North Carolina A&T State University, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Non Land-Grant Participating States/Institutions:

Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, Harvard Law School, Livelihoods Knowledge Exchange Network (LiKEN), Roots to Limbs, Southern Rural Development Center, USDA-Forest Service/GA



To learn more, visit: https://srdc.msstate.edu/programs/heir_property



OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Columbus Day					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					Halloween	



Southern Extension & Research Activity (SERA) 47: Local Foods

Five Year Objectives

- Increase interdisciplinary efforts among Extension and research food system professionals
- Identify current and emerging issues specific to food system development
- Assess local food system policy, environmental change, and economic development and identify best practices

2024 Southern Rural Sociological Association Annual Meeting

- Moderated sessions for local and regional food systems themed presentation
- Presented on the SERA-47 purpose and activities



2024 Annual Meeting

The 2024 Meeting was held in December, allowing Extension and research colleagues to share their work and explore collaborative opportunities.



Quarterly Tea & Coffee Hour Webinars

June:

- Featuring Brenda Williams from Communities Unlimited
- Topics: Farm to Pantry Program; Food Access

COMMUNITIES
Unlimited

September:

- Featuring Amber Vallotton and Lenah Nguyen with Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Topic: Farm to School Program; Carver Food Enterprise Center



To learn more, visit: <https://sera-47.extension.org/>



NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Daylight Savings Ends						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Veterans Day				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
				Thanksgiving Day		

Bonnie Teater Lifetime Achievement Award

For 30 years, Bonnie Teater provided valuable support to the Southern Rural Development Center as a member of its staff. She served as an inspiration through her dedication to her work and her passion for the rural development research and Extension outreach mission of the region's Land-Grant Universities. She currently is enjoying retirement in Kentucky.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded on even number years and honors the superior work of an individual who has made an important contribution to the Extension Community Development area. Below is this year's recipient.

Stacey McCullough



The Southern Rural Development Center is proud to honor Dr. Stacey McCullough as the 2024 recipient of the Bonnie Teater Community Development Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. McCullough currently serves as an Assistant Vice President for Community, Professional and Economic Development at University of Arkansas System-Division of Agriculture (UADA) Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and the Director of the Public Policy Center at UADA. She has over 20 years of experience working with community and economic development at the local, regional, institutional, and national levels.

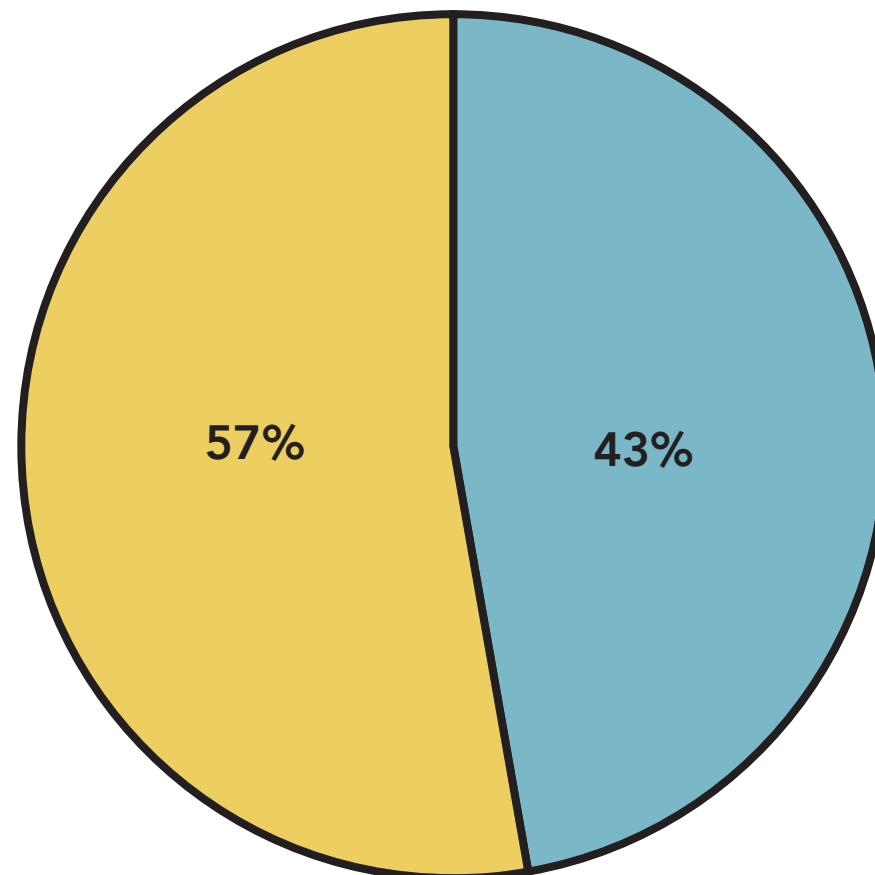
Dr. McCullough's career is characterized by a servant-leadership, data-driven approach to program development and institutional change that are people and impact focused; leadership driven by investment in people; and research designed to strengthen local community investment and capacity for quality of life. Leading by example, Dr. McCullough mentors, supports, and uplifts her team to continue the work she initiated through UADA Extension.

In addition to her service, she has assisted with development or collaboration with many initiatives including: Arkansas Community and Economic Development Alliance (ACEDA); Celebrating REtail, Accommodations, Tourism, and Entertainment by Building Rural Innovations and Developing Growth Economies (CREATE BRIDGES); Coming Together for Racial Understanding; Future Opportunities for Rural Workforce and Rural Development through Extension (F.O.R.W.A.R.D); and Stronger Economies Together (SET). She has served in active roles within Joint Council of Extension Professionals; National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals; National Digital Extension Education Team; Southern Rural Development Center efforts; Southern Region Program Leaders' Network; and Community Development Society.

To learn more, visit: <https://srdc.msstate.edu/bonnie-teater-award>



2024 Expenditures



Subaward/Contracts: \$1,218,160

SRDC Operating Costs: \$913,349

By funding received from the Southern Rural Development Center in 2024, **57 percent** went to sub-awards and contract with partners to support:

- Community Programming
- Curriculum Development
- Evaluation and Program Assessment
- Trainer Facilitation
- Travel Awards

To learn more, visit: <https://srdc.msstate.edu/>



DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	30	31	Christmas Day
			New Year's Eve			

2024 Board of Directors

Rick Avery
Texas A&M AgriLife | 1862 Extension

Angus Catchot
Mississippi State University | 1862 Extension

Raymon Shange
Tuskegee University | 1890 Extension

Laura Stephenson
University of Kentucky | 1862 Extension

Carolyn Williams, Chair
Prairie View A&M University | 1890 Extension

Amy Grunden
North Carolina State University | 1862 Research

Alfred Parks
Prairie View A&M University | 1890 Research

Gary Thompson
agInnovation South | 1862 Research

Wesley Whittaker
Langston University | 1890 Research

Scott Willard
Mississippi State University | 1862 Research

Justin Burch, Chair Elect
Washington County Economic Alliance | Non Land-Grant

Dānia Davy
Land & Liberation, LLC | Non Land-Grant

Stephanie Otts
National Sea Grant Law Center | Non Land-Grant

Kelsey Conley Thomas
USDA Economic Research Service | Liaison

Sarah Rocker
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture | Liaison

2024 Technical and Operational Advisory Committee

Krystle Allen
Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension
Center | 1890 Extension

Michelle Eley, Chair
North Carolina A&T State University | 1890 Extension

Susan Kelly
North Carolina State University | 1862 Extension

Ken Robinson
Clemson University | 1862 Extension

Crystal Tyler-Mackey
Cooperative Extension Virginia Tech | 1862 Extension

Dreamal Worthen
Florida A&M University | 1890 Extension

John Davis, Chair Elect
Florida Agricultural Experiment Station University of Florida/
IFAS | 1862 Research

Will Davis
Mississippi State University | 1862 Research

Kenrett Jefferson-Moore
North Carolina A&T State University | 1890 Research

Harshvardhan (Harsha) Thippareddi
University of Georgia | 1862 Research

Dexter Wakefield
Alcorn State University | 1890 Research

Robert Zabawa
Tuskegee University | 1890 Research

Darnella Burkett-Winston
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives | Non Land-Grant

Ann Carpenter
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta | Non Land-Grant

Aury Kangelos
Heartland Foundation | Non Land-Grant

Kelsey Conley Thomas
USDA Economic Research Service | Liaison

Sarah Rocker
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture | Liaison

SRDC Partners

agInnovation South
Association of Extension Administrators
Association of Research Directors
Association of Southern Region Extension Directors
Center for Heirs' Property Preservation
Center for Population Studies, University of Mississippi
Community Development Society
Delta Directions Consortium
Delta Regional Authority
Economic Research Service, USDA
Extension Committee on Organization and Policy
Extension Foundation
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic
Heartland Forward

Interdisciplinary Network on Rural Population Health
and Aging
Joint Council of Extension Professionals
Journal of Rural Social Sciences/Southern Rural
Sociological Association
JPMorganChase
LiKEN Knowledge
Local and Regional Food Systems Extension and Research
National Association of Community Development
Extension Professionals
National Digital Education Extension Team
National Extension Climate Initiative
National Extension Outdoor Recreation Working Group
National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA
National Institute on Aging
North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss
Prevention Project

North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
Purdue Center for Regional Development
Rural Coalition
Rural Population Research Network
Rural Sociological Society
Shackouls Honors College, Mississippi State University
Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy
Research Center at Alcorn State University
Southern Extension Risk Management Education
USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station
University of Mississippi Community First Research Center
for Wellbeing and Creative Achievement
Walmart
Western Rural Development Center