

# 2018 Arkansas Rural Development Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, May 22nd

- 9:00 a.m. Exhibitor Set-up
- 11:00 a.m. Conference Registration  
Convention Center Lobby
- 1:00 p.m. Welcoming Session  
Primary Day Pontification Panel  
Moderated by Rex Nelson
- 2:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Session 1: EcoTourism  
Session 2: The Generation Gap
- 4:00 p.m. Session 3: Mobile Classroom Experience  
Heifer International Urban Farm
- 7:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens  
Election Night Watch Party

## Wednesday, May 23rd

- 8:30 a.m. Conference Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Session 4: Smart Growth Principles  
Session 5: Opioid Epidemic in Arkansas
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting  
City, County and Local Affairs
- 11:00 a.m. Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m. Rural Development Commission Luncheon  
Keynote: Anne Hazlett, Assistant to the  
Secretary, USDA Rural Development
- 1:00 p.m. Exhibit Break
- 2:00 p.m. Session 6: Political Roundtable  
Moderated by Roby Brock
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Opens  
Dinner on your own
- 8:00 p.m. Karaoke & Dancing

## Thursday, May 24th

- 8:30 a.m. Conference Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Sessions  
Session 7: Ready, Set, Action: Film Industry  
in Arkansas  
Session 8: Marketing on a Shoe String Budget
- 10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting  
Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development
- 11:15 a.m. Exhibit Break
- 11:30 a.m. Governor's Luncheon & Awards Ceremony  
Keynote: Governor Asa Hutchinson



### 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 Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) Division 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. The goal of this annual event is to provide our participants with the information and resources to help their communities.

### 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 our state.

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 \$125 per attendee. Spouse/Child(ren) fees are \$100 per person. Exhibit space is \$400 and provides two complimentary registrations (any additional person must pay regular fee). The full attendance fee covers conference materials as well as entertainment activities, receptions, breaks and meals. The registration form and all fees should be received by AEDC Rural Services by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 11th, 2018. Cancellations will be subject to a 50% charge. Registration is also available online at [RuralServices.Arkansas.gov](http://RuralServices.Arkansas.gov).

Please make checks payable to:  
**Arkansas Economic Development Commission**  
Attn: Rural Services  
900 W Capitol Ave, Suite 400  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
[RuralServices@ArkansasEDC.com](mailto:RuralServices@ArkansasEDC.com)

### Hotel Information

Hotel accommodations start at \$96 per night and are not included in the above fee. Arrangements must be made directly with the Little Rock Marriott as soon as possible by calling 1-877-759-6290. Discounted room rates expire on May 7th.

**Remember to tell them you are with the Arkansas Rural Development Conference to receive the special block rate.**