



October 2024

UAPB Small Farm Program



## Dates to Remember

**Oct. 3** - CEP 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Landowners' Conference, Hope, Arkansas

**Oct. 17** - Conservation: BioChar and Income Potential and Program Signup, UAPB

**Oct. 21** - Landowner Empowerment Session III Webinar, Zoom

**Oct. 31** - Thursdays Empowerment Session: Heir Property and Land Income Potential, Marianna, Arkansas

**Nov. 7** - Thursdays Empowerment Session: Financial Management, Taxes and Business Structure, UAPB

**Nov. 14** - Thursdays Empowerment Session: Heir Property and Land Income Potential, Eudora, Arkansas

**Nov. 20-21** - Borrower Training, UAPB

**Nov. 21** - Thursdays Empowerment Session: Heir Property and Land Income Potential, UAPB

**Dec. 9** - Conservation: BioChar and Income Potential and Program Signup, Forrest City, Arkansas



As cool weather vegetables, leafy greens grow best and are the tastiest when planted in the late summer to early fall in the southern region.

## Producers: Plant Fall Greens

In Arkansas, August to mid-September is the perfect time to plant fall greens, including turnip, mustard and collard greens. Fall greens should always be planted 8-10 weeks before the first expected fall freeze. For example, if the first expected fall freeze is on Nov. 7, it's good to plant greens no later than Sept. 12.

Some of the commonly grown green varieties in Arkansas are Florida broadleaf (mustard), purple top white globe (turnip) and Vates (collard). The best soils for greens are sandy loam or silt loam soils because they allow for good internal drainage. Farmers occasionally grow greens in raised beds to help with drainage.

Before planting, producers should be aware of:

- the fertility requirements of the soil. Take a soil test to know the

- fertilizer requirements.
- whether a hard pan has developed in the soil. This hard pan will affect the plant's ability to obtain water and nutrients.
- the field's herbicide history. Producers need to know what types of previous herbicides have been used. The current crop can be negatively affected if residual herbicides remain in the soil.
- The field's weed history. Producers should develop a good weed control plan to produce maximum yields.

Turnips, kale and mustard greens are direct-seeded. Varieties should be seeded at 1-2 pounds per acre with a precision seeder. With a conventional seeder, the rate is 2-3 pounds per acre for turnip greens and 3-4 pounds per acre for mustard greens. Collard



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greens can be direct-seeded or transplanted. Most commonly, they are transplanted to shorten the harvest date.

A good weed control plan would include a pre-emergence application of Dual Magnum 7.62 EC. Use rates range from 0.67 to 1 pt./A. Dual controls a wide spectrum of annual grasses and small-seeded broadleaf weeds. Do not use more than 1 pt./A; only make one application yearly.

To harvest, cut the plants approximately 1 inch above the soil's surface, allowing them to grow for another harvest quickly. Workers can also pull up the entire plant. Leaves are then bundled into whatever size is needed for the market.



Landowners should ensure tax payments are made each year to avoid a tax sale.

## Missing Tax Payments Can Lead to Land Loss

In Arkansas, the deadline for paying property taxes is October 15. They become delinquent if taxes are not paid within a year of the deadline.

Once taxes become delinquent, the land is forfeited to the state. The county collector holds the delinquent land for a year. After this year, the county transfers the property to the Commissioner of State Lands.

Before the transfer, notice is given to the landowner that the transfer will occur. This notice is also published in a local newspaper. The notice includes the amount the landowner must pay to “redeem” (buy back) the property and the deadline.

Once the land is transferred, the state owns it and can sell it after holding it for one year. To buy back the property, the landowner must pay the redemption amount and any fees before the tax sale date. When a property is redeemed, the title is restored to the name of the previous recorded owner. If the property is not redeemed, it is auctioned off to the highest bidder through a tax sale.

In 2023, the Arkansas Legislature changed the deadline for redeeming property. Before Act 241 was enacted, landowners had 10 days after a tax sale to redeem the property. As of July 1, 2023, all tax sales are final, and the previous owner cannot buy the property back after the tax sale occurs.

Landowners should ensure tax payments are made each year to avoid a tax sale. If land is jointly owned, all owners are responsible for making the payment. The person who pays the taxes does not get any extra ownership rights over the other owners.

More information about tax sales and related laws is available at the Commissioner of State Lands website at [www.cosl.org](http://www.cosl.org).

# Iris Cole Crosby Receives Trailblazer Award by National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals

Iris Cole Crosby, UAPB Extension specialist, was presented a Trailblazer Award by the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) during its annual meeting in Houston, Texas. Hosted by Prairie View A&M University Extension in collaboration with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the conference offered an opportunity for community development Extension professionals to collaborate, grow professionally and network.

“It is my passion to help others and leave a legacy,” Crosby said. “Receiving this award means a lot to me and shows me that the work I do for a living is not done

in vain. If I can help someone as I pass along, then my living has not been in vain.”

Crosby received the award for her role serving as the 1890 representative on the NACDEP’s board.

“This year was the first time in the history of NACDEP that an 1890 land-grant university hosted the national conference,” Crosby said. “We had record-breaking attendance from 1890 land-grant universities, with 11 of the 19 participating universities being 1890s. We also had record-breaking donations and sponsorships.”



Iris Cole Crosby received the Trailblazer Award for her role serving as the 1890 representative on the NACDEP’s board.

## Planting Cover Crops Benefits the Soil

Cover crops are unharvested crops grown in the gap between cash crops. This crop captures sunlight, feeds soil organisms, sequesters carbon and improves soil health. Unlike crops grown primarily for harvest, cover crops are grown first and foremost for the benefit of the soil. Since different cover crops provide different benefits, producers must decide the purpose of the planned cover crop.

Cover crops can be grown for weed control, to break up soil compaction, or to conserve moisture on non-irrigated ground. They can provide nitrogen for the next crop and scavenge nitrogen from the soil. They can also be grown to control erosion or build soil health. Cover crops improve soil health by increasing organic matter, water-holding capacity, biological activity, diversity, aggregation, building soil macrospores and recycling nutrients.

Once the purpose of the cover crop is identified, the type or types of cover crop or crops can be selected. There are three major types of cover crops: grasses, which include wheat, oats and triticale; brassicas, which include tillage radish, oilseed radish and turnips; and legumes, which include Austrian winter pea, clover and hairy vetch.

There is always a learning curve associated with growing cover crops, so it is best to start simple. This could mean starting with a single species. For instance, you could plant a legume such as an Austrian winter pea before growing corn or plant cereal rye before soybeans. However, cover crop mixtures are more efficient if building soil health is your goal. Cover crop mixtures are always better for the soil due to their diverse nature, adaptability to

changes in climate, suitability to the microbial population and tendencies to mimic nature. Consider using a mixture of Austrian winter pea, oilseed radish and oats.

Producers looking for cover crop selections and seeding recommendations should check with their cover crop seed dealer, the Cooperative Extension Service, or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS provides cost-share funding for 340 cover crops under its Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).



Cover crops such as winter wheat add organic matter to a garden’s soil. (University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture photo by Mary Hightower)

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## Workshops: Understanding Heirs' Property at the Community Level

The UAPB Small Farm Program will conduct heirs' property workshops during the summer and fall of 2024. The "Understanding Heirs Property at the Community Level" workshops are designed to educate producers and families about heirs' property and the problems heirs' property owners face. Land loss and the inability to take advantage of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs because of heirs' property issues will be discussed. In addition, the rights of heirs' property owners will be addressed.

The workshops are divided into three sections: overview, preview and resolution. It may take two sessions to complete the workshops. Producers and families will also receive fact sheets and other material on heirs' property, including information on USDA Programs that may not be accessed due to heirs' property.

These workshops are funded by the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Research Center at Alcorn State University.



Partners of the UAPB "Keeping it in the Family" Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program work with landowners on a site visit. Upcoming workshops are designed to educate producers and families about heirs' property.



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