



Investing in the Next Generation of Agricultural Leaders



While many students pursue careers in agribusiness, government, education, research, or the private sector, not all have the opportunity to experience the day-to-day realities of farming. To fill the gap, the National Black Growers Council has proudly launched its inaugural Student Internship Program, a pilot initiative designed to bridge the gap between the classroom and the field while preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders.

INTERNSHIP

NBGC Internship Program Pillars

- Leadership
- Mentorship
- Hands-On Experience
- Professional Development
- Innovation & Advocacy

IN THIS ISSUE

- Inaugural Internship Program
- Hurricane Preparedness
- Annual Meeting Reminder
- Upcoming Events
- USDA Funding Opportunities
- Model Farm Field Days



Davis Farm Field Day



Member Spotlight



Staff Spotlight

WELCOME NBGC SUMMER INTERNS



Ivory Caldwell
Southern University and A&M
Mechanical Engineering



Jasiah P. Clay
Kentucky State University
Agriculture Business



Jahceana Forbes
Alcorn State University
Agriculture Plant and Soil Science



A'Keyla Inyang
West Virginia State University
Plant and Soil Biology



Kamryn Johnson
BS Health Science



Myles Jones
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Agricultural Engineering



Terrell Mason
Southern University A&M
Agriculture Plant and Soil Science



Tyson Reed-Grier
Florida A&M University
Food Science



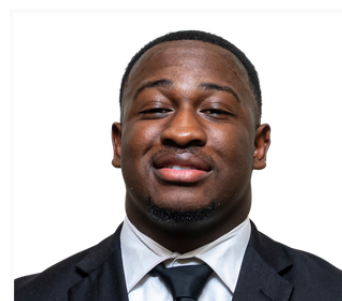
Jerniyah Richardson
South Carolina State University
Agriculture Business



Ke'Darius Stampley
Alcorn State University
Agriculture



Zahirah Wright
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Agriculture Plant and Soil Science



Joseph Evans
University of Arkansas @ Pine Bluff
Agricultural Business

Member Spotlight

Roger Smith

Roger Smith's farming journey launched in 2011 with a USDA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loan. What started as a 411-acre operation has grown into a thriving farm of 2,500 acres, with an additional 2,500 acres under his management.

With that, he is most proud of achieving a childhood dream to purchase his own farmland. For him, owning land represents not only a personal achievement but also an investment in the future of agriculture.



Today, he produces corn, soybeans, rice, and winter wheat in Brinkley, Arkansas, while continuing to build on the opportunities that others have entrusted to him over the years. For instance, as the farm's operation expanded, he gained additional acreage through relationships with retiring farmers and landowners who were willing to give him an opportunity. Like many farmers, Roger has faced challenges from rising input costs, inflation, changing weather patterns, and market fluctuations. To remain competitive, he has adopted technology and implemented GPS guidance systems on farm equipment to improve efficiency and precision. He focuses on careful management, evaluating new technologies, and researching the best options to maximize efficiency while controlling costs.



Roger is committed to preserving the land so future generations can continue farming and producing food. This long-term mindset guides many of the practices implemented across his operation where sustainability plays a major role in his decision-making.

Beyond the farm, Roger actively supports his local community by employing local workers and supporting area businesses, including restaurants, grocery stores, and equipment suppliers. He also believes in being a good neighbor—whether that's helping clear storm debris, checking on elderly residents, or simply lending a hand when needed.

When asked what advice he would give other farmers navigating today's challenges, Roger keeps it simple: "Pray, take your time, try to enjoy the good parts about farming, and remember why you love to farm in the first place."



Staff Spotlight

Lacey Bibbins

Administrative Assistant
National Black Growers Council

Behind every successful National Black Growers Council field day, Annual Meeting, and major event is the dedication and expertise of Lacey Bibbins.

Lacey plays a vital role in ensuring NBGC operates smoothly by coordinating event logistics, managing budgets, overseeing registration, developing agendas, supporting sponsors, and handling countless behind-the-scenes details that keep our programs running efficiently.

Known for her exceptional organization, attention to detail, and calm approach under pressure, Lacey consistently goes above and beyond to ensure every event and initiative is executed with excellence.

We are grateful for Lacey's dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to advancing NBGC's mission of supporting Black farmers and strengthening agricultural communities.

NBGC Model Farm Field Day Series Brings Farmers, Partners, and Innovation Together



The National Black Growers Council's 2026 Model Farm Field Day Series is off to a strong start, with its first two stops in Vidalia, Louisiana, and Timmonssville, South Carolina bringing together farmers, agricultural professionals, students, researchers, and industry partners for hands-on learning, networking, and collaboration.

The series kicked off in Vidalia, Louisiana, hosted by James Davis of Bales & Bushels LLC and Davis Farms. The three-day experience began with a tour of Davis Farms, followed by a reception and networking dinner. Due to Tropical Storm Arthur and heavy rainfall, the final day's activities were relocated to the Vidalia Convention Center, where attendees continued a full day of educational programming.

Participants heard from representatives of the LSU AgCenter, Southern University Ag Center, BASF, Bayer, Corteva, Syngenta, RIPE, ADM, and other agricultural partners. Discussions focused on crop genetics, soil health, conservation practices, drone technology, and producer opportunities.



James Davis grows corn, cotton, and soybeans at Davis Farms in Vidalia, Louisiana



FIELD DAY

Continued from page 5

Throughout the day, attendees engaged directly with university specialists, industry representatives, and fellow producers, asking questions, exchanging ideas, and exploring practical solutions they could take back to their own farming operations.

The Series Continues in South Carolina

NBGC's second Model Farm Field Day was hosted by Ronald Friday of **Candy Friday Farms LLC** in Timmonsville, South Carolina. More than 75 growers, industry partners, students, and agricultural professionals gathered for the event, which highlighted Friday's operation and corn and soybean production.

The South Carolina experience began with a reception on Thursday evening, creating an opportunity for attendees, partners, and farmers to connect before heading to the farm on Friday, July 17. During the Field Day, attendees learned about the history and growth of Candy Friday Farms, heard from agricultural experts, explored conservation and crop production practices, and experienced live drone technology demonstrations.

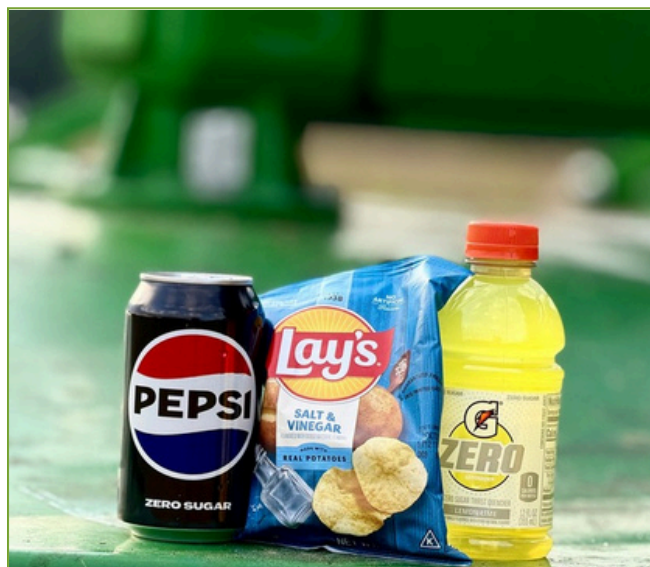


Host farmer Ronald Friday examines corn in the field while sharing insight into crop production at Candy Friday Farms.

The event was made possible with support from **Kellanova, PepsiCo, South Carolina NRCS, Southern SARE, South Carolina Department of Agriculture, South Carolina FSA, South Carolina Farm Bureau, Agri-Compound, McLeod Farms, Candy Friday Farms LLC, and the Farm Credit Associations of South Carolina.**

Their support helped create an environment where farmers could connect directly with organizations, resources, and expertise designed to strengthen their operations.

Across Louisiana and South Carolina, the Model Farm Field Day Series continues to demonstrate the value of bringing education directly to the farm and creating opportunities for producers to learn from one another. From conservation and technology to crop production and industry relationships, each stop is designed to provide farmers with practical information, stronger connections, and strategies that can contribute to the long-term sustainability and profitability of their operations.



PepsiCo kept attendees refreshed during the NBGC South Carolina Field Day with beverages and snacks for a day of learning in the field



Kellanova provided Nutri-Grain bars for attendees, highlighting the connection between crops grown by farmers and everyday products enjoyed by consumers.



Farmers, partners, agricultural professionals, and community members gathered at Candy Friday Farms for the South Carolina Field Day.

Next Stop: Woodburn, Kentucky

Through each stop of the 2026 Model Farm Field Day Series, NBGC continues to put this year's theme —"Rooted in Wisdom, Powered by Knowledge, Driven by Strategy"—in action.

The journey continues in Woodburn, Kentucky, where NBGC **Board Member Ronald Bunton**, 4th generation farmer, will host the next Model Farm Field Day featuring corn and soybeans.

Starting at 7am on September 4, farmers, partners, and agricultural professionals will once again come together to learn from the field, exchange knowledge, and explore resources and strategies that can strengthen their operations.

NBGC is currently holding rooms under our name at the Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, located at 85 Neha Drive, Franklin, KY. Please contact the [hotel directly](#) or call 270-586-7626.



NBGC Board Member Ronald Bunton grows corn and soybeans in Woodburn, KY

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Women in Agribusiness Summit 2026

September 22-24 | New Orleans Riverside, LA

Kentucky State AG RoundUp

September 24-26 |

Black AG Summit 2026

September 18-20 | Dallas Texas

Small Farmers Conference

September 28-30 | Vicksburg, MS

Black Urban Growers (BUG)

Oct 23-25 | New Orleans, LA

Professional Ag Workers Conference (PAWC)

October 25 - 27 | Montgomery, AL





Hurricane Preparedness Tips for Growers

Hurricane and extreme weather events can strike with little warning, but with the right preparation, you can minimize losses and recover more quickly.

Secure Farm Infrastructure and Protect Livestock

Remove debris and secure large objects that could become airborne
Clean out culverts and ditches for proper drainage
Plan for family and livestock evacuation
Secure or move equipment to prevent damage

Document Farm Assets and Review Insurance Coverage

Take photos or videos of buildings, equipment, and crops
Store records in multiple locations, including cloud-based systems
Ensure policies cover wind, flood, and hurricane-related damages
Understand terms of coverage and waiting periods

Access Real-time Emergency Information

- Download the FEMA app for safety tips and updates
- Subscribe to alerts from local USDA offices
- Report crop damage to your insurance agent within 72 hours
- Explore programs like the Livestock Indemnity and Emergency Conservation Program

Preparing Young Students for An Agricultural Back to School

It's that time of year again—back to school! As summer winds down after days filled with sunshine, family reunions, and NBGC Model Farm Field Days, it's the perfect moment to think about how to keep your children engaged in agriculture all year long.

We have one field day left in Woodburn, KY and you can visit www.nationalblackgrowerscouncil.org for more information on attendance.

If you won't get a chance to bring your family to one of our field days this summer, don't worry! Our Annual Meeting in Raleigh, NC is right around the corner. It's a great opportunity for youth to connect with farmers, meet our sustaining members, and explore the many career paths and possibilities within agriculture.

Another easy way to stay engaged in agriculture is by starting a fall garden at home. Crops like collards, cabbage, squash, and more can be grown during the school year. Planting, harvesting, and cooking food from the garden can teach valuable lessons about sustainability, nutrition, and self-reliance. This can also lead to interest in large scale row crop farming.

Looking for structured programs? Consider signing your children up for organizations like **4-H**, **National FFA**, **Farm Bureau youth programs**, Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), or Jr. MANRRS.

These groups are designed to help youth explore agriculture through leadership development, hands-on learning, travel experiences, and even scholarship opportunities.

Farmers markets are another excellent way to stay connected. Make it a family routine to visit your local market, or take

it a step further by encouraging your child to volunteer at a market or local farm.

And don't forget—fall is full of fun on the farm! Apple picking, pumpkin patches, and local harvest festivals are great ways to celebrate the season while introducing kids to where their food comes from.

**LET'S KEEP AGRICULTURE ALIVE
IN EVERY SEASON,
FOR EVERY GENERATION.**

**HOW CAN NBGC SUPPORT YOUR FAMILY'S
AG JOURNEY?**

**We want to hear from you.
Should we host youth farm tours?
Create at-home growing guides?
Offer school garden grants?
Your ideas will help us shape programs
that truly serve our community.**

**Share your comments here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZC22>**

N8G



Sustaining Member Spotlight: ADM Partnership in Action

Supporting this year's theme, "**Rooted in Wisdom, Powered by Knowledge, Driven by Strategy**," NBGC Executive Director Dr. Dawn A. Mellion, NBGC Treasurer Antron Williams, and NBGC member Roger Smith recently traveled to ADM's headquarters in Decatur, Illinois, for a day of collaboration, education, and strategic engagement.

The visit provided an in-depth look at the agricultural marketplace through presentations led by **Daniel Overberk** and **Tyler Becker**, who shared insights on river terminals, export markets, and current market trends. **Matt Fray** provided a virtual discussion on fertilizer outlooks and considerations for today's producers, while **Miranda Wombley** joined the group during lunch to discuss ADM's continued partnership with NBGC and opportunities for future collaboration.

The afternoon featured a presentation from **Kevin Burgard** on soybean crushing and soybean meal markets before concluding with a tour of ADM's Decatur facility, offering a firsthand look at one of the nation's largest agricultural processing and logistics operations.

Visits like these demonstrate the strength of NBGC's partnerships with sustaining members. By connecting farmers directly with industry leaders and market experts, ADM continues to invest in the knowledge, relationships, and strategic insights that help Black row crop farmers remain competitive in an evolving agricultural economy. NBGC extends its sincere appreciation to these presenters and the entire **ADM team** for their hospitality, expertise, and continued commitment to advancing opportunities for our farmers. Together, we are ensuring that our farmers remain rooted in wisdom, powered by knowledge, and driven by strategy.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS CORNER



NBGC AGRICULTURE & MARKET OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



ADVANCING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE & MARKET OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

NBGC will provide 100 eligible row crop farmers \$140 per acre – up to 50 acres – to adopt regenerative agricultural practices to boost crop yields, and strengthen marketing capacity to build long-term profitability. Row crop producers with farms in the following states may apply:

- Alabama
- Georgia
- S. Carolina
- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- N. Carolina
- Florida
- Mississippi
- Virginia

ENROLLMENT PERIOD

July 1, 2026 – August 15, 2026

FINANCIAL INCENTIVE FOR

- ✓ Crop Rotation
- ✓ Reduced Till
- ✓ Cover Crops
- ✓ No Till
- ✓ Nutrient Mangement

Soil Testing
Crop Consulting
Technical Support

\$5,000
Enrollment Bonus
\$140 Per Acre
Incentives

Brokerage
Service
Marketing
Opportunity



CONTACT US

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www.nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com

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To enroll, visit
www.nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com

USDA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

• FARMERS FOR SOIL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Farmers for Soil Health is a farmer-led initiative that provides educational resources, technical support, and financial incentives to help producers adopt soil health practices such as planting cover crops. The program empowers farmers to improve soil productivity, increase resilience, and strengthen the long-term sustainability and profitability of their operations.

<https://farmersforsoilhealth.com>

• LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND GRAIN MARKETS

Farmers for Soil Health is a farmer-led initiative that provides educational resources, technical support, and financial incentives to help producers adopt soil health practices such as planting cover crops. The program empowers farmers to improve soil productivity, increase resilience, and strengthen the long-term sustainability and profitability of their operations.

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/livestock-poultry-grain>

• THE GREAT AMERICAN COTTON PLAN

The USDA's Great American Cotton Plan outlines strategies to strengthen the U.S. cotton industry by increasing demand for American-grown cotton, expanding trade opportunities, and supporting domestic textile manufacturing. The plan also provides resources and policy initiatives designed to improve profitability, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability for cotton producers.

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cotton-plan.pdf>

• AG LAUNCH UPDATES

This AgWeb article highlights how farmers can earn equity in agricultural technology startups by participating in field trials, sharing data, and providing real-world expertise. The innovative model rewards producers for their contributions while giving them early access to emerging technologies that can improve farm productivity and profitability.

<https://www.agweb.com/news/business/ag-tech-equity-model-gains-momentum-farmer-checks-range-hundreds-21-000>

• U.S FARM BILL UPDATE

The USDA Farm Bill webpage provides farmers with information on federal programs that support crop insurance, conservation, disaster assistance, farm loans, and risk management. It serves as a valuable resource to help producers access funding opportunities and stay informed about programs that strengthen the long-term success of their farming operations.

<https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/farm-bill>

• REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is investing up to \$310 million through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to support conservation projects that strengthen farm operations and protect natural resources. The program funds partner-led initiatives that improve soil health, water quality, wildlife habitat, and precision agriculture while providing technical and financial assistance directly to producers. This investment reinforces the USDA's commitment to keeping working lands productive and supporting the long-term sustainability of American agriculture.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/regional-conservation-partnership-program/news/usda-invests-up-to-310-million>

SAVE THE DATE



ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 8-10, 2026

Location: HILTON RALEIGH NORTH HILLS, 3415 WAKE FOREST RD, RALEIGH, NC 27609

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Registrar on our website: nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com

Early registration ends July 31st, 2026

Model Farm Field Days

- **Bunton Farms Field Day (NBGC):** September 3 - 4, 2026, Woodburn, KY

- **Registration Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D6VRV3R>

Gilbert Farms Cotton & Peanut Harvest Field Day

September 10–11, 2026 | Marianna, FL

Join Gilbert Farms, the University of Florida IFAS, G&G Farms, and the National Black Growers Council for a two-day Cotton & Peanut Harvest Field Day featuring a welcome reception, field demonstrations, and CEU-approved educational sessions.

Thank you for reading!

Visit Our Website

www.nationalblackgrowerscouncil.com

Don't forget to share your stories, accomplishments, and highlights for a chance to be featured in this monthly newsletter.

Use the QR code below to submit your information and let your voice be heard!



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