



ACRE

Agribusiness Center for
Research & Entrepreneurship

Speakers and Contact Information, In Order of Appearance

Steve Richards : Director, South Carolina Center for Cooperative and Enterprise Development

Steve Richards is a Senior Extension Associate with the Extension Agribusiness Program Team and the Director of the Center for Cooperative and Enterprise Development at Clemson University. His specialty is helping agricultural entrepreneurs with business planning, feasibility studies, business succession, and business expansion. Steve also has statewide responsibilities in agribusiness management, marketing, and finance.

Steve's work experience began in quality assurance and production management for food processing firms in the Midwest. Next, he worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension, authoring many business planning workbooks and consulting with hundreds of agricultural businesses on topics such as profitability improvement, business expansion, business financing, and succession planning. In his more recent roles, Steve consulted for Farm Credit East and worked with agricultural entrepreneurs in the Finger Lakes food, wine, and tourism region.

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Brian Briggeman: Director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Kansas State University.

Brian C. Briggeman is a Professor and Director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. His research interests include agricultural finance, agribusiness and cooperative management and macroeconomic implications for U.S. agriculture. He provides expert commentary on

agricultural and rural related issues to local, national, and international audiences. Brian also teaches agricultural finance and cooperative management to undergraduates.

Prior to joining Kansas State University, Brian was an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and a business analyst with Farm Credit Services of America, a financial cooperative. He holds a bachelor's degree in agribusiness from Kansas State University, an M.S. degree in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University and a Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University.

Brian and his wife, Sarah, live in Manhattan, Kansas with their two boys. He is originally from Iuka, Kansas where his parents, youngest brother and sister-in-law, own and operate the family farm.

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Steve Isaacs: Professor, Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky

Dr. Steve Isaacs serves the University of Kentucky as an Extension Professor in Agricultural Economics, Co-Director of the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program, and Director of the UK Income Tax Seminar Program.

He has a BS and PhD from the University of Tennessee. He grew up on a hill-side farm in Northeast Tennessee, managed a commercial farming operation for nine years prior to graduate school, and continues to manage a diversified family farm in Nonesuch, Kentucky with his wife, Geri, and son, Ben.

He teaches Ag Management Principles and Human Resource Management at UK. He has over 250 print and electronic publications and has conducted over 900 Extension educational programs.

Dr. Isaacs has received Extension and teaching awards at the state, regional, and national level. He has international farm management and leadership development experience in Asia, Africa, Europe, New Zealand, and South America. His mission is to communicate sound economic and management principles to diverse audiences in a way they can all understand.

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Kevin Burkett, CPA: Assistant Director, Clemson Tax School

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Jacob French : Director, USDA Rural Development

Jacob French currently serves as the State Director for Rural Development in South Carolina. He previously held positions in President Trump's first administration, initially at U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Food Safety and later at U.S. Custom and Border Protection's Office of Trade Relations. While working in the Office of Food Safety Jacob supported the Under Secretary of Food Safety in efforts to lead the Food Safety and Inspection Service to ensure a safe meat supply. During his time at the Office of Trade Relations at U.S. Custom and Border Protection Jacob was a key liaison with vital stakeholders to ensure communication and transparency between the agency and private sector. Most recently, Jacob served as the Growth and Outreach Manager for Tyler Technologies in South Carolina, where he worked to improve citizen experience through software solutions for state agencies and local government entities. Jacob holds a B.A. in Political Science from Dickinson College.

South Carolina USDA Rural Development

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Kyle Player, Director SC Department of Agriculture ACRE Program

The Agribusiness Center for Research and Entrepreneurship (ACRE), an initiative by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, is an umbrella organization that capitalizes on opportunities in the fields of agriculture, agricultural research, and entrepreneurship.

Overall, ACRE seeks to provide additional economic prosperity for SC agribusiness from within the state and from across the globe. ACRE will house a unique research platform devoted to addressing specific challenges for industries that can provide more market opportunities to South Carolina agribusinesses and farmers.

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Scott Mickey : Sr. Extension Associate – Assistant Director, Agribusiness Program Team

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