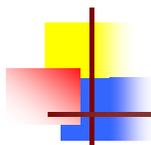


# Arkansas Discovery Farms Program

Mike Daniels, Andrew Sharpley,  
Pearl Daniel & Raven Lawson

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## Water Sustainability

- Local and regional water issues
  - Nutrients in Northwest Arkansas
  - Gulf of Mexico hypoxia
  - Declining Groundwater
- Complex Issues
  - Scope larger than Agriculture
  - Lack of Cause / Effect Data
  - Who's in Charge?



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## The Three E's to Extension

- Engage —Contacts
- Educate —Outputs
- Empower —Outcomes / Impact



## *Wisconsin Farmers Sold the Discovery Farm Concept to Arkansas Farmers*



# What is a Discovery Farm?

- Real, working farms that have volunteered to help address water sustainability
- Monitor Runoff Quality for nutrients and sediments
- Monitor Water Use
- Evaluate Potential Solutions

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## Discovery Farm Principles

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- Sound Science
- Research-based and Unbiased
- Transparent
- Stakeholder Driven
- Partnerships

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# Stakeholder Committee

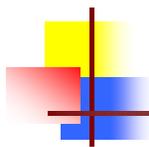


Don Alexander (Chair)	Agricultural Council
Woody Bryant (Vice-Chair)	Dairy Producer
Andrew Wargo (Liaison)	Association of Conservation Districts
Max Braswell	AR Forestry Commission
Terry Dabbs	AR Farm Bureau
Brad Doyle	Soybean Association
Jennifer James	Rice Federation
Adam McClung	AR Cattlemen's Association
Gene Pharr	Poultry Producers
Scott Simon	Nature Conservancy
Steve Stephan	Pork Producers Association
Dennis Sternberg	Rural Water Association

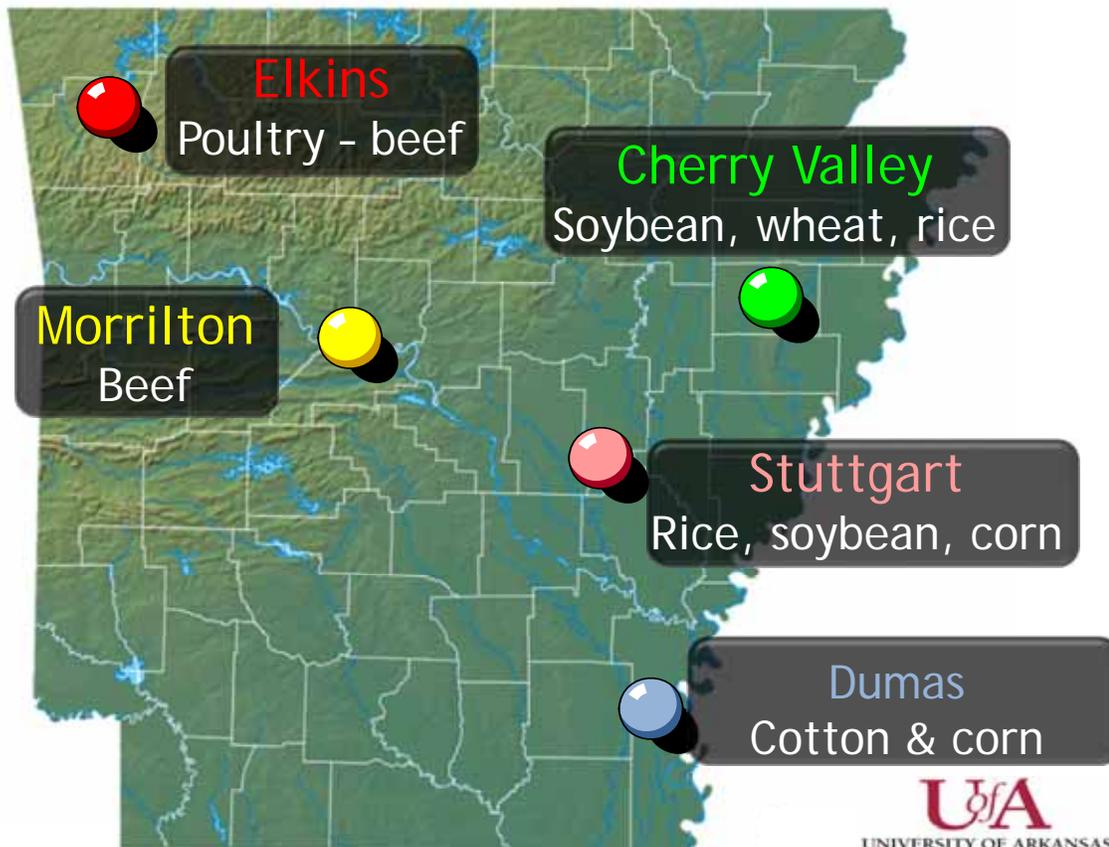
# Technical Committee



Adrian Baber (Chair)	Natural Resources Commission
Debbie Moreland (Liaison)	Association of Conservation Districts
Jamey Johnson	Plant Board
Billy Justus	U.S. Geological Survey
David Long	Game and Fish Commission
Teresa Marks	AR Department of Environmental Quality
Larry Nance	AR Forestry Commission
Cliff Snyder	International Plant Nutrition Institute
Evan Teague	AR Farm Bureau
Lewis Wray	Livestock and Poultry Commission
Nancy Young	Natural Resource Conservation Service



# Funding Partners



# Marley Farm — Washington County



## Flumes at Elkins

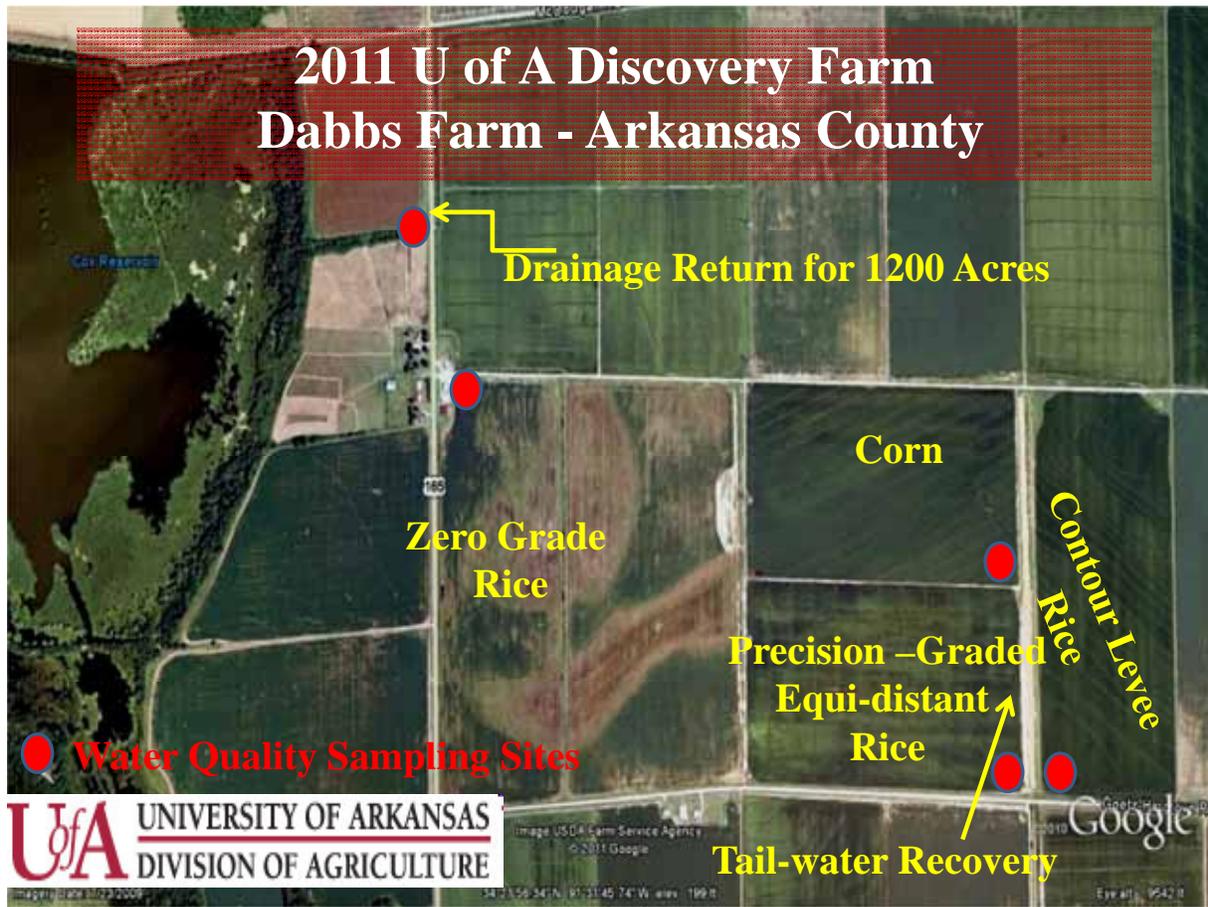


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One of the most important aspects is  
farmer involvement / ownership

# 2011 U of A Discovery Farm Dabbs Farm - Arkansas County

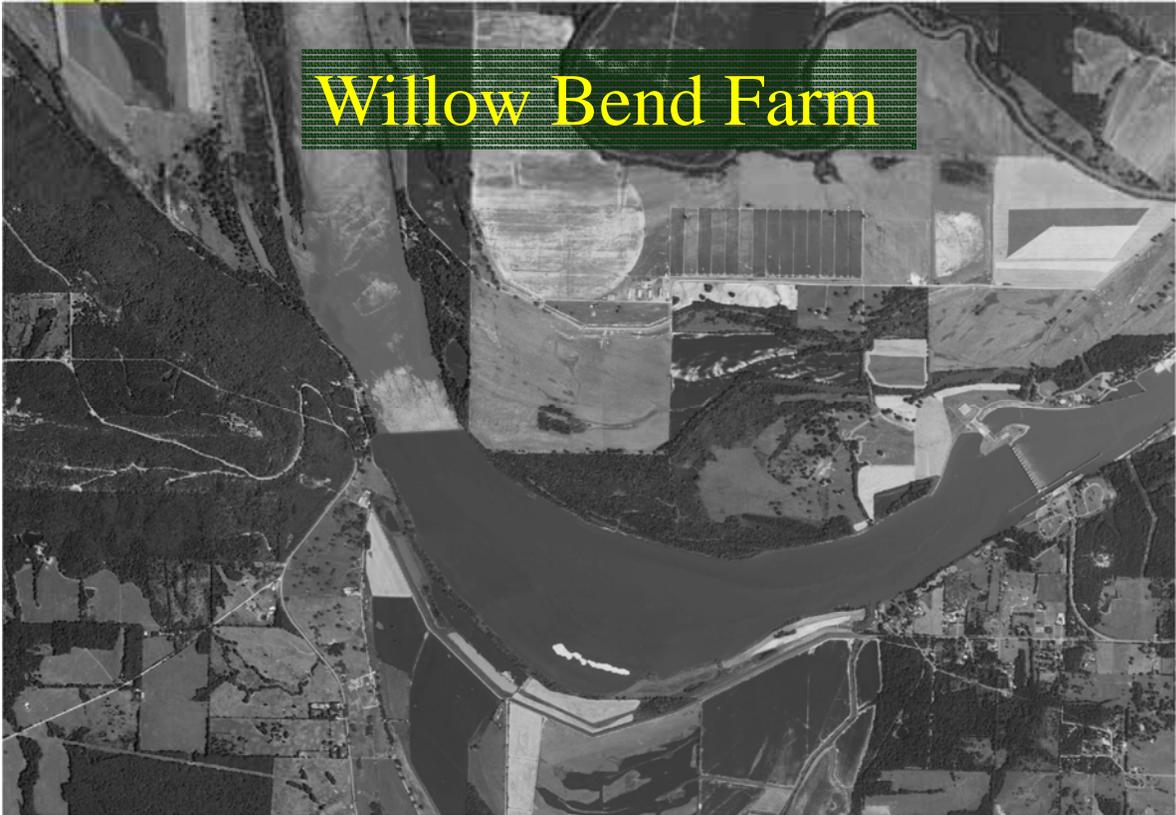


## Tail water Recovery











Cotton is next...



Steve Steven Farm  
Dumas, AR  
Soil Classifications

- Dh - Delta Clay
- He - Herbert DE Loam
- Pe - Perry Clay
- RxA - Rite silt loam  
0 to 1% slopes
- RxB - Rite silt loam  
1 to 3% slopes
- SaA - Sharkey and Deale clays  
0 to 1% slopes
- W - Water



Cartography by Pearl Daniel  
August 2011

# Empowering Farmers

- Imparting Ownership
- Supplying Data
  - For Policy Development
  - Promoting Stewardship
  - Motivating Change
- Inspiring solutions



*Short-term sustainability is whether I can stay in business while long-term sustainability is leaving the farm in better shape than I received in terms of natural resources*

---Steve Stevens, Farmer Desha County

Thank You

