



## Weekly News Round-up

IN THIS ISSUE: White House Rural Council announces 7 Local Foods Local Places partner communities in Delta | DRA leadership hold orientation for Arkansas Governor-Elect | Good news in small business



### **DRA leadership welcomes Arkansas Governor-elect Asa Hutchinson, holds DRA orientation**

This week, Chairman Masingill and DRA Chief of Staff Bill Triplett met with Arkansas Governor-elect Asa Hutchinson and his staff to provide a DRA orientation and discuss its role as a federal-state partnership with Arkansas and its economic development leaders.

As Governor, Governor-elect Hutchinson serves on the DRA Board of Governors and has the opportunity to work closely with DRA through his Board Designee on DRA programs, policy initiatives, and investments that align with the state's and region's economic development plans. Governor-elect Hutchinson shares a strong commitment to strengthening the Arkansas Delta economy, and we look forward to working with him and his team in 2015.

[Read More about Governor-elect Hutchinson >](#)

### **Upcoming Events:**

*Register or Apply Today*

#### **December 17**

#### **DRA End-of-year Board Meeting**

Conference Line 662-624-8565  
Conference Code 341300 | PIN 300

#### **December**

#### **USDA Farm Bill Learning Sessions**

*Held throughout the month of December. For location information, email [j.m.riley@msstate.edu](mailto:j.m.riley@msstate.edu)*

*\*If you have an event that you would like featured in our Upcoming Events section, send event information to [news@dra.gov](mailto:news@dra.gov)*

### **Announcements From Our Partners:**

**HHS awards \$1.4 million in ACA funding to Delta community health centers to expand quality improvement**

**BLS report that about 7 million of 10.9 million jobs added back since recession came from startups and small businesses**

**OECD Report "Skills Beyond School" Identifies Good Practices**



## DRA, White House Rural Council partners announce partner communities for local food development, 7 in Delta

The White House Rural Council and six federal agencies announced 26 communities-7 in the DRA region-selected to participate in Local Foods, Local Places, a federal initiative providing technical support to integrate local food systems into community economic action plans. Under this effort, a team of agricultural, transportation, environmental, public health and regional economic experts will work directly with the communities to develop specifically identified local food projects.

The following Delta communities will receive technical support from partner agencies in developing innovative programming to support local food systems development:  
**Tuskegee, AL; Flippin, North Little Rock, and Osceola, AR; New Orleans, LA; and Clarksdale and Itta Bena, MS.**

[Read More >](#)

in Addressing Growing Skills Gap

Rural Health Network  
Development Planning Program  
applications available | Deadline  
January 9, 2015



## Blog: Small businesses are driving US job recovery

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that our economy added 321,000 jobs in November. That's 57 consecutive months we've added jobs - the longest employment growth streak since America started

keeping track. BLS also reported that about 7 million of the 10.9 million jobs we've added back were created not by large corporations, but by startups and small enterprises.

These gains are a product of some smart policy decisions by President Obama as well as a lot of hard work and perseverance by the American people during our recovery from the worst recession in generations.

But most of all, this new trajectory is attributable to the success of America's entrepreneurs and the resurgence of our nation's small businesses.

[Read More >](#)



## **SBA report shows MO SBTDCs infused \$670 million into Missouri economy**

The Delta Regional Authority works closely with the Small Business Development Centers within its region, partnering to provide important support services, education, and resources to Delta small businesses and entrepreneurs.

A new report from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) says these Missouri Small Business Technology & Development Centers (MO SBTDC), a University of Missouri Extension Business Development Program (BDP) located in universities and Extension offices statewide, exceeded its annual capital infusion goal by nearly 150 percent, pumping more than \$670

million into Missouri's economy over four fiscal years, \$164 million in fiscal year 2013.

With six SBTDCs throughout southeast Missouri, the DRA is excited to see the powerful impact that these programs are having on Missouri Bootheel small businesses and communities.

[Read More >](#)



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