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# ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

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SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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## **Arkansas Agriculture Department Offers Assistance to Oklahoma Residents through Wildfire Suppression and Hay Certification**

**STATEWIDE, ARK.** – Arkansas Agriculture Department personnel are assisting Oklahoma residents with wildfire suppression and certification of donated hay as the state continues to experience devastating wildfires. Extended drought and related weather conditions have created high wildfire frequency for the third consecutive year in Oklahoma.

### **Wildfire Suppression Assistance**

Thirteen wildland firefighters and nine dozer and transport units from the Agriculture Department’s Forestry Commission are currently serving with crews in Oklahoma to suppress wildfires. All thirteen firefighters are located near the Rhea Fire, east of Leedey, Oklahoma, in Dewey County. The Rhea Fire has burned 286,724 acres and is 74% contained. Learn more about the Rhea Fire, [here](#).

Arkansas wildland firefighters assisting crews from across the southern region in Oklahoma include: Wes McKinney, Conway County; Rodney Haney, Pike County; Dusty Walton, Dallas County; Dale Pace, Drew County; Dennis Spear, Washington County; Nick Bennett, Cleveland County, Drew County; Justin Hoopengartner and Russell Huskey, Sebastian County; Seth Sumners, Pope County; James Wall, Bradley County; Clayton Mcgilton, Ashley County, later replaced by Cody Brooks, Ashley County; Chris Vent, Jefferson County; and Lewis Horn, Yell County.

### **Hay Certification**

Wildfires have consumed large areas of livestock forage, resulting in an increased demand for baled hay in many areas of western Oklahoma. To assist Oklahoma livestock producers, the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association is organizing donations of hay from Arkansas. If you are interested in donating or transporting baled hay to Oklahoma, contact the [Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association](#) at 501-224-2114.

Any baled hay moving out of Arkansas’s Imported Fire Ant (IFA) quarantine area, which includes most of central and south Arkansas, must be under a compliance agreement or inspected by the Agriculture Department’s State Plant Board to determine whether it has been stored in a manner that prevents fire ants from colonizing. All certification inspection fees for donated hay are being waived by the State Plant Board. For more information about requirements for transporting hay or to arrange for free inspections, contact Paul Shell at 501-225-1598.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit [www.aad.arkansas.gov](http://www.aad.arkansas.gov).

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