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ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

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Arkansas Forest Industry Highlighted During National Forest Products Week

LITTLE ROCK, AR – President Trump proclaims October 15 through October 21, 2017, as National Forest Products Week, highlighting the contribution forest products make in our day-to-day lives, the industry's importance to our economy, and the recreational opportunities that forestry provides.

"Arkansans appreciate the aesthetic, economic and recreational opportunities that our forests offer. Not only does the Arkansas forest industry provide thousands of jobs, but the thinning and management of forests to produce wood products keeps our woods in a balanced, healthy condition. We appreciate those who make our forest industry successful from logging operations to mills and factories, those that monitor our forests for pests and general health, and those who work to protect and conserve rural and urban forests," says Governor Hutchinson.

Forest Inventory and Analysis data shows that Arkansas has 19 million acres of forestland, which represents 58% of the total land area. 60% of Arkansas's forests are owned by private landowners. Data also shows that Arkansas forests are producing 40% more wood than is dying or being harvested.

According to the Arkansas Forestry Association, the forest industry directly employs over 28,000 people in Arkansas and has a total compensation to workers of more than \$1.4 billion. The National Alliance of Forest Owners data shows an even greater impact because of indirect jobs and income, for a total of 62,000 forestry jobs in Arkansas and an impact of \$2.4 billion.

"A strong marketplace for forest products helps keep rural America employed and U.S. forests robust. These healthy forests in turn provide crucial habitat for species, filter America's drinking water, sequesters carbon, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the public," says Congressman Bruce Westerman, the only licensed forester in Congress.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission is charged with protecting, conserving, and developing Arkansas's forests. "With highly trained staff, state-of-the-art equipment, 24-hour dispatch and emergency response capability, and outreach efforts across counties, it is with great pride that we protect and help grow one of our state's biggest resources," says State Forester Joe Fox.

See the President's National Forest Products Week proclamation, here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/10/13/president-donald-j-trump-proclaims-october-15-through-october-21-2017>

The AAD 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.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer

