



ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

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

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Farmers to use Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines to Manage Smoke During Post-Harvest Stubble Removal

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. – Prescribed fire, a strategically planned and carefully managed fire application, is among the most efficient and economic methods of removing crop stubble following the harvest of row crops. The practice is also used for specific land management goals for forests, prairies and forage areas. By using Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines, Arkansas agricultural producers and landowners can manage smoke during prescribed fire applications to avoid creating hazardous conditions in smoke sensitive areas. Find Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines, [here](#),

“Through science, collaboration, and a dedication from Arkansas producers and landowners to keep our landscape and air quality healthy, prescribed fire will be used for many years to come as a valuable management tool for our farmers, forest landowners, and statewide agricultural, conservation, and forestry agencies,” says Arkansas Agriculture Secretary Wes Ward. “Following the Smoke Management Guidelines benefits managers of all agricultural burning and helps us remain good partners to residents,” says Ward.

Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines are based on the development of a simple burn plan, which includes reporting the burn to the Arkansas Agriculture Department (AAD) Dispatch Center (1-800-830-8015). Reporting the burn to the Dispatch Center provides a full understanding of weather conditions including humidity and wind, information about other burns in the area, and proximity of nearby smoke sensitive areas like schools, nursing homes, and highways. Reporting the burn also provides notice to the public by having the burn added to a publicly available list at www.arkfireinfo.org.

Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines for Crop Burning are based on guidelines developed more than a decade ago by the Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council for forest landowners, and forestry and conservation agencies, available [here](#). In 2017, a crop burning task force comprised of producers and other stakeholders representing various agricultural agencies and associations including the Arkansas Rice Federation, Arkansas Soybean Association, Ag Council of Arkansas and the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation finalized guidelines for crop burning based on scientific data regarding air quality and smoke particles and experience with the application of prescribed fire, from the AAD’s Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, and University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

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. Visit www.agriculture.arkansas.gov

