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# ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

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

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## **Twelve Days of Arkansas Agriculture: Phytosanitary Certificates Keep Arkansas Exports Moving**

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Arkansas ranks 16th in the nation in total agricultural exports with a value of over \$1 billion and is ranked in the top eleven nationally for exports of rice, chicken meat, cotton, soybeans, and soymeal. Phytosanitary certificates are required for many of the plant products that are exported from Arkansas. The Arkansas Agriculture Department’s State Plant Board manages the phytosanitary certification process that helps keep plant product exports from transporting insects, diseases, or weed seeds to other states and countries.

Phytosanitary certificates are issued for interstate and international exports. Since July of 2016, over 1,800 phytosanitary certificates for international export, and 120 certificates for interstate shipment have been issued. The largest Arkansas exports to receive certificates included more than 529 million pounds of milled rice, over 7 million board feet of oak lumber, and 336,162 pounds of soybean seeds. The Department anticipates completing even more phytosanitary certificates in the future as a result of the historic trade agreement signed in July allowing the United States to ship rice to China for the first time ever.

The phytosanitary certification process starts with a seller or broker visiting the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking site, [here](#), to apply for a phytosanitary certificate and a tracking number. The seller or broker then contacts the State Plant Board to complete an inspection required by the destination state or country of the export. Once the inspection is complete, the inspector sends documentation to the State Plant Board for processing and final review, followed by the printing and signing of the certificate by an Accredited Certification Official.

“Our job is to help exporters get their products to their customers,” says Plant Inspection and Quarantine Manager Paul Shell. “We maintain a working knowledge of international export requirements so that we can provide fast, thorough, and reliable service to those exporting Arkansas commodities,” he said. Arkansans interested in learning more about exporting their products, or for questions about the Phytosanitary Certification process, may email [Paul.Shell@aspb.ar.gov](mailto:Paul.Shell@aspb.ar.gov) or call 501-225-1598.

This release is the fifth edition to the Twelve Days of Arkansas Agriculture campaign, which highlights some of the programs and services provided by the AAD that support our state’s agriculture industry. Follow each of the 12 stories by searching the #12DaysofARagriculture hashtag, or visit [aad.arkansas.gov](http://aad.arkansas.gov). 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.

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*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.*

