ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE OVERVIEW

A glimpse of Arkansas’s leading agricultural products

Arkansas has 13.9 MILLION acres of farm land with an average farm size of 327 acres

ARKANSAS IS NATIONALLY RANKED #1 IN RICE PRODUCTION

TOP COMMODITIES RANKED NATIONALLY
1. In Rice
2. In Broilers
3. In Catfish
4. In Cotton Lint
5. In Cottonseed
6. In Turkey
7. In Sweet Potatoes
8. In Peanuts
9. In Chicken Eggs

ARKANSAS’S TOP AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IN TERMS OF 2018 CASH RECEIPTS (MILLIONS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Cash Receipts (Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broilers</td>
<td>$4,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>$1,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>$1,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>$528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>$432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>$416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber</td>
<td>$405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>$388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>$304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>$235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARKANSAS RANKS TOP 25 NATIONALLY IN THE PRODUCTION OF 17 DIFFERENT AG COMMODITIES

AGRICULTURE IS ARKANSAS’S LARGEST INDUSTRY, CONTRIBUTING MORE THAN $21 BILLION ANNUALLY TO THE STATE ECONOMY

269,556 JOBS PROVIDED BY AGRICULTURE IN ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS RICE ACCOUNTS FOR OVER 50% OF ALL U.S. LONG GRAIN RICE PRODUCTION

In , 56% of the state is forested land. 42% of land is comprised of farms.

Source: 2019 University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Agriculture Profile 2019; USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service 2019

INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov for more information.
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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY
Wesley W. Ward

I am pleased to provide you with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report. You will find information about the Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s divisions, programs, and services, and how we served Arkansas agriculture, our state’s largest industry, from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture exists to serve Arkansas’s broad, diverse, and strong agricultural and food industry; protect our forests and natural resources; to nurture, promote, grow, and revitalize our rural communities, and protect all Arkansans through our robust responsibilities. Agriculture provides more than $21 billion to Arkansas’s economy annually and provides one out of every six jobs. Arkansas continues to lead the nation in the production of rice, and the state ranks in the top 25 in 17 different agricultural commodities.

Fiscal Year 2019 was an exciting year of transformation for the Department with Governor Hutchinson’s signing of the Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019. The legislation officially changed the name of the Department and added 12 new boards, commissions, and programs under the administration of the Department.

To help explain the Transformation and Efficiencies Act’s impact on the Department, we have included a section in the report that provides an overview of the Department’s new organizational structure, the additional entities and programs, and our new logo. Although this report covers actions that took place prior to the effective date of the Transformation and Efficiencies Act, the report uses post-Transformation terminology.

Over the past year Department staff across all divisions spent a significant amount of time working together to identify additional ways to improve the Department’s efficiency and effectiveness, both internally and externally. You have my assurance that the Department is committed to being the strong and effective resource and partner that Arkansas’s 42,500 farm families, the many agribusinesses, and rural communities deserve and expect. It is an honor to serve our state’s largest industry.

Respectfully,

Wesley W. Ward
Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture
Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019

Overview

The Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019 (Transformation Act) was signed by Governor Hutchinson on April 11, 2019 and became effective July 1, 2019. The Transformation Act reduced the number of Cabinet-level departments from 42 to 15. It also changed the name of the Arkansas Agriculture Department to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and designated it as one of the 15 new departments.

The Transformation Act increased the number of boards, commissions, committees, and programs under the administration of the new Department from 10 to 22, and it specified that all personnel are employees of the Department. New additions to the Department are indicated by an * in the list below:

- Arkansas Agriculture Board
- Arkansas Forestry Commission
- Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission
- State Plant Board
- Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board
- Arkansas Bureau of Standards
- Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board
- Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Committee
- The Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board
- The Arkansas Seed Arbitration Committee
- Arkansas Natural Resources Commission*
- State Board of Registration for Foresters*
- State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers*
- Veterinary Medical Examining Board*
- Litter Utilization Committee*
- Commission on Water Well Construction*
- Red River Compact Commission*
- Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program*
- Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee*
- The Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee*
- The Ouachita River Commission*
- Arkansas Farm Mediation Program*

The Department is organized into the following five divisions:

- Forestry Division
- Livestock and Poultry Division
- Natural Resources Division
- Plant Industries Division
- Shared Services Division
On July 1, 2019, the Arkansas Agriculture Department was renamed the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. A new official identifying brand was developed to reflect the Department’s new name and organizational structure. The new brand for the Department and each of its divisions allows for a consistent identity for the Department and increases public recognition of its wide range of services.
New Additions to the Department
Overview

Twelve new boards, commissions, committees, and programs were placed under the administration of the Department by the Transformation Act. A summary of the mission and responsibilities of each of these entities follows.

Veterinary Medical Examining Board

The Veterinary Medical Examining Board (Board) ensures that public health, as well as animal health and welfare, is protected against the incompetent, unprofessional and unlawful practice of veterinary medicine.

Providers of veterinary services are required to obtain a license or certificate from the Board to practice their profession. The Board licenses veterinarians and certifies veterinary technicians or technologists and non-veterinarian embryo transfer technicians. Prior to issuing a license or certificate, the Board will establish that the applicant has met the proper qualifications for licensure or certification and will examine the applicant, when necessary.

In addition to ensuring that applicants meet the qualifications for initial licensure or certification, the Board also sets continuing education standards for the renewal of licenses and certificates. Continuing education is important because it helps licensees and certificate holders stay up-to-date with the latest developments, skills and new technologies in their respective professions.

Other ways in which the Board aids in public protection is by investigating consumer complaints, initiating its own investigations, and determining whether disciplinary action will be taken against a licensee, certificate holder, or an individual practicing veterinary medicine without a license. Finally, the Board has the authority to promulgate and enforce rules.

Accomplishments

The Veterinary Medical Examining Board accomplishments were as follows:

- Initial licensing of fifty-nine (59) veterinarians;
- Initial certification of eighteen (18) veterinary technicians;
- Initial certification of ten (10) corporate practices;
- Oversight of one thousand five hundred seventy-two (1,572) total licenses and certificates;
- Approval of sixty (60) continuing education programs;
- Review of twelve (12) complaints; and
- Promulgation of two (2) new rules.
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

The Commission adopts, modifies, and enforces rules related to water conservation, development, management, and planning. The Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. When appointing commissioners, the Governor must ensure that at least two members reside in each congressional district as those districts existed on August 1, 1985. Commissioners serve seven-year terms.

The Commission is responsible for approving or denying petitions to create, combine, divide, expand, or dissolve conservation districts. The Commission appoints conservation district directors and fills vacancies. It also has the authority to remove directors for neglect of duty and malfeasance in office. The Commission is responsible for adopting the Arkansas Water Plan and amendments to the Plan. The Commission is also responsible for making determinations concerning water shortages, implementing allocation plans in times of shortage, and designating critical groundwater areas. The Commission is also charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly when a person or entity requests permission to withdraw water from Arkansas for out-of-state usage. The Commission also issues orders relating to deficiencies that threaten a dam’s integrity and the safety of the lives and structures below the dam.

The Commission approves issuance of general obligation bonds to finance water development projects. The Commission then uses proceeds from the bond programs and additional state and federal funds to make loans and grants, primarily for water, wastewater, and solid waste projects.

The Commission also has authority to appoint a receiver to take charge of a public water or sewer system for failure to adequately oversee its financial operation, managerial operation, or technical operation. Receivers may also be appointed for failure to comply with Department of Health or Department of Energy and Environment rules.

The Commission also has responsibilities for hearing appeals of the Natural Resources Division Director’s decisions, including water plan compliance decisions; noncompliance with the Commission’s occupational accreditation, certification, and licensing programs; and noncompliance with the Arkansas Soil Nutrient and Poultry Litter Application and Management Act.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission accomplishments were as follows:

- Commission approved water, wastewater, and solid waste project loans and grants for 26 communities totaling $329,095,914;
- Commission approved 19 appointments and 49 reappointments to conservation district boards;
- Commission approved one conservation district director emeritus; and
- Commission designated one critical groundwater area.
State Board of Registration for Foresters

The mission of the State Board of Registration for Foresters (Board) is to protect private forest landowners by licensing and registering foresters who are qualified, experienced, and maintain their continuing education.

The Board is comprised of six members appointed by the Governor. Five positions are held by registered foresters selected from various forestry sectors, and one position is held by a consumer representative who is not a registered forester or retired from the forestry profession. Board members are appointed for five-year terms.

The Board’s duties include issuing certificates of registration to foresters who meet the statutory requirements, investigating alleged violations of the State Board of Registration for Foresters Act, and administering written examinations for applicants. The Board is also authorized to promulgate rules.

There are 428 registered foresters in Arkansas as of April 2019. Arkansas has reciprocity agreements with Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Accomplishments

The State Board of Registration for Foresters accomplishments were as follows:

- Sixteen new licenses were issued;
- Four examination opportunities were conducted;
- Co-sponsored an eight-hour continuing forestry education event with the Arkansas Division of the Ouachita Society of American Foresters with approximately 200 foresters in attendance; and
- The Board’s Executive Director presented an ethics talk at the Arkansas Forestry Association’s Annual Meeting in 2018.

State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers

The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers was created in 1975 to register professional soil classifiers and soil classifiers-in-training and regulate the profession of soil classification. The Board administers exams and provides for penalties and punishment for violations of Act 460 of 1975.

The Board consists of five members, including three registered professional soil classifiers, one member who is a member of a conservation district board, and one member who represents the public at large.

Accomplishments

The State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers accomplishments were as follows:

- One regular meeting was held;
- One rule was promulgated; and
- 35 license renewals were issued.
Commission on Water Well Construction

The Water Well Construction Commission regulates water well construction and pump installation. The Commission promulgates rules to provide a framework for proper development of underground water in an efficient, orderly, sanitary, reasonable, and safe manner. It also licenses water well and pump installer contractors and certifies water well drillers and pump installers.

The Commission is composed of 7 members: the Secretary of the Department of Health; the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture; a person recommended by the Arkansas Heat Pump Association, the EnviroEnergy Group, or another ground water source industry association; two water well drillers located southeast of the fall line in Arkansas; and two water well drillers located southwest of the fall line.

Accomplishments

The Commission on Water Well Construction accomplishments were as follows:
- Six meetings were conducted; and
- One enforcement action was approved.

Red River Compact Commission

The Red River Compact Commission promotes interstate comity among each of the four member states by governing use, control, and distribution of the interstate water of the Red River and its tributaries. Member states include Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana. The Commission also serves as a basis for state or joint planning action because it identifies and provides an equitable apportionment of water among the signatory states by defining reaches or subdivisions of the Red River. It provides an active program for the conservation of water, protection of lives and property from floods, improvement of water quality, and development of navigation and regulation of flows in the Red River Basin.

The Commission is composed of two representatives from each Signatory State, designated or appointed in accordance with the laws of each state, and one Commissioner representing the United States appointed by the President. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture is a member of the Commission. The Governor of Arkansas appoints a second member who must be an individual residing within the basin of the Red River and its tributaries in Arkansas. This member serves a seven-year term.

Accomplishments

The Red River Compact Commission accomplishments were as follows:
- The Commission held an annual meeting in Oklahoma.
Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee

The Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee reviews applications for both wetland and riparian zone creation and restoration tax credits and for wetland and riparian zone conservation tax credit. The Committee provides recommendations on whether proposed projects meet eligibility requirements under this program.

The Committee is made up of the directors, or their designees, of the Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division; Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Department of Finance and Administration; Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism; Division of Environmental Quality of the Department of Energy and Environment; and two public members appointed by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

Accomplishments

The Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee accomplishments were as follows:

• The Committee did not meet in fiscal years 2015-2019.

Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee

The Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee was created to act as a consultant to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission in the development and administration of the wetland mitigation bank program rules, review proposed mitigation bank sites, and participate in site visits for the establishment, evaluation, and certification, and compliance of sites.

The committee is made up of the directors or their designees of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; the Arkansas Department of Transportation; the Division of Arkansas Heritage of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism; the Division of Environmental Quality of the Department of Energy and Environment; and two public members with expertise in aquatic resources ecology appointed by the Department of Agriculture’s Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

Accomplishments

The Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee accomplishments were as follows:

• The Committee did not meet in fiscal years 2015-2019.

Ouachita River Commission

The Ouachita River Commission cooperates with state and federal agencies to study, plan, and implement needed improvements or projects to and along the main stem of the Ouachita River in Dallas County, Hot Spring County, Clark County, Ouachita County, Calhoun County, Union County, Bradley County, and Ashley County.
The Governor appoints the nine-member Commission, which consists of one member from each of the following eight counties: Clark County, Ouachita County, Calhoun County, Union County, Bradley County, Ashley County, Hot Spring County, and Dallas County. The ninth member appointed by the Governor is the highest-ranking official of the Ouachita River Valley Association and is a resident of Arkansas.

Accomplishments

The Ouachita River Commission accomplishments were as follows:

- The committee held an annual meeting.

Litter Utilization Committee

This committee was created to consider methods of removal, valuation of the litter, avenues of distribution of litter, and alternative uses for litter as part of the implementation of the nutrient management laws. Committee members were appointed by the Director of the former Arkansas Soil and Water Commission and provided guidance during the drafting of nutrient management rules.

Accomplishments

The Litter Utilization Committee accomplishments were as follows:

- The committee has not met in more than ten years.

Farm Mediation Program

The Arkansas Farmer/Creditor Mediation Program provides an opportunity for farmers who are experiencing difficulties to come together with their creditors in a confidential setting with a neutral third party to discuss mutually beneficial options that may be available to assist in developing a work-out plan to resolve their problems. The farmers’ difficulties may be financial or non-monetary, such as the loss of a contract with an integrator thereby creating a technical default with the lender.

While it is mandatory that a creditor offers mediation to a farmer to settle credit issues prior to taking any type of legal action, participation in the Farmer/Creditor Mediation Program is completely voluntary. This means that no one is forced to accept mediation, and if mediated, no one is required to accept a negotiated agreement. The program is open to farmers with secured indebtedness totaling $20,000.00 or more.

Accomplishments

The Farm Mediation Program accomplishments were as follows:

- In FY 2019 39 mediations were held; and
- In FY 2019 32 agreements were reached.
Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program

The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Grant Program was established in 2015 to provide funding for projects to protect the state’s streams, lakes, and rivers from erosion and sediment delivery caused by unpaved roads. The Nonpoint Source Management Section of the Department’s Natural Resources Division is responsible for working with local entities for project implementation.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program accomplishments were as follows:

- Four projects in Washington, Dallas, Calhoun, and Independence Counties were funded for a total of $215,369.
FORESTRY OVERVIEW

Forest Health, Development and Conservation, Wildfire Suppression

ARKANSAS IS NATIONALLY RANKED #6 IN FORESTRY PRODUCTS VALUED AT OVER $6.4 BILLION

ARKANSAS HAS 12 BILLION TREES
NEARLY 19 MILLION ACRES OF TREES

THAT’S MORE THAN 56% OF THE STATE’S ENTIRE LAND MASS!

THIS MUCH FORESTED LAND REQUIRES THE HELP OF THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

1,626 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS TRAINED IN 2019
14,242 TOTAL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS
85 FIREFIREE COMMUNITIES

461 WILDFIRES IN 2019 burning over 6,000 acres!

6,882,925 SEEDLINGS PLANTED AT BAUCUM NURSERY (hardwood & pine)
3,347 LANDOWNER ASSISTS (supporting forest management plans and general forestry needs)
41 TREE CITIES (reaching more than 837,836 Arkansas residents)

Information provided by the Forestry Division 2019
INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov for more information.
The mission of the Forestry Division is to protect Arkansas’s forests, and those who enjoy them, from wildland fire and natural hazards while promoting rural and urban forest health, stewardship, development, and conservation for all generations of Arkansans. Through forest management and forest protection, the Division is a vital organization to the health and safety of Arkansas residents and natural resources.

To accomplish the Forestry Division’s mission, responsibilities are arranged in three general areas:

- Emergency Services
- Forest Management
- Poison Springs State Forest

The Forestry Division has 63 offices and work centers located in timbered counties that cover all 75 counties of the state. With a field staff of approximately 200 foresters and rangers, citizens of the state receive valuable technical assistance in many different programs.

**Emergency Services Section**

The Forestry Division is responsible for the protection of more than 16 million acres of non-federal forestland in Arkansas. Foresters and rangers in the seven districts are involved daily in one or more of the four key activities of wildfire protection: prevention, pre-suppression, detection, and suppression.

This year, 474 wildfires burned 6,218 acres in Arkansas. Overall, wildfires were smaller in 2019 with an average size of 13.1 acres compared to a ten-year average of 15.5 acres. The highest wildfire frequency months were July 2018 in which 121 fires burned 955 acres and March 2019 when 123 fires burned 2,490 acres.

The Division had a total of 105 firefighting units, each comprised of a bulldozer and transport truck. bulldozers are used to create firebreaks that stop an ongoing fire. Of those units, 93 are equipped with environmental cabs that provide added protection for the operator.

**Accomplishments**

The Emergency Services Section accomplishments were as follows:

- 474 wildfires were suppressed on 6,218 acres in Arkansas;
- The Division maintained 53 Very High Frequency (VHF) repeaters around the state;
- Division pilots recorded 400 flight hours, while detecting wildfires, timber damage, and other forestry-related issues;
- The Division made available 4,549 firefighting equipment items to fire departments, valued at $7,388,184 through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) and Firefighter Property Program (FFP); and
Due to the Division’s strong community outreach Arkansas is home to 85 nationally recognized Firewise sites.

**Forest Management Section**

The Forestry Division works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect, and enhance Arkansas’s forests through the Forest Stewardship Program. The program functions as a gateway for private landowners to access professional assistance managing their property to fulfill their management objective. Enrolled landowners receive a Forest Stewardship management plan which serves as a roadmap for the landowner to achieve the desired outcome for their property.

Arkansas has 373,201 acres of privately-owned timberland actively enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program. There are currently 1,263 landowners, owning 283,369 acres, who have been officially recognized as certified Forest Stewards.

**Accomplishments**

The Forest Management Section accomplishments were as follows:

- 576 landowners, owning 77,224 acres, were reached through the Forest Stewardship program;
- Two tracts of land were submitted for Forest Legacy grants totaling 1,133 acres in Drew and Garland Counties;
- Arkansas’s Urban and Community Forestry Program now has 41 official Tree City USA communities;
- The Forestry Division’s Forest Inventory program collected data from 20% or 953 of the total Forest Inventory and Analysis research plots;
- Baucum Nursery produced 6,487,975 hardwood seedlings and 1,680,700 pine seedlings for Arkansas landowners;
- The Forestry Division’s Tree Improvement program staff harvested 985 bushels of genetically improved pine cones for seed;
- The Forestry Division staff began using unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to image forest health disturbances on forest land;
- The Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation rate was completed late-2018, confirming a voluntary BMP implementation rate of 93% across 237 sites; and
- 1,190 minority landowners on 65,683 acres have benefited from outreach that provides information about many existing private land forestry programs.

**Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF)**

PSSF is a demonstration forest located in western Ouachita and eastern Nevada counties. PSSF provides the Forestry Division with yearly revenue while demonstrating different forest management techniques to private, non-industrial landowners.

When PSSF was purchased in 1957, the 17,512-acre forest had 20,240,000 board feet of pine sawtimber and 10,303,000 board feet of hardwood sawtimber. The Forestry Division has harvested timber almost every year since 1957. Today PSSF comprises an area of 23,931 acres with over 50,000,000 board feet...
of pine sawtimber and over 15,000,000 board feet of hardwood sawtimber. PSSF has added some land most years for the last several years. The most recent acquisitions came from timber industry and non-industrial private forest landowners.

Accomplishments

The Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF) Section accomplishments were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pine Sawtimber</td>
<td>12,867 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Chip and Saw</td>
<td>222 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Pulpwood</td>
<td>7,291 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwood Pulpwood</td>
<td>705 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. and Salvage</td>
<td>331 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$447,895</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State Forestry Map
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY OVERVIEW

Food Safety & Quality, Diagnostic Laboratory, Animal Health and Fairs

ARKANSAS IS NATIONALLY RANKED #2 IN BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION, AND RANKED #5 IN TURKEY PRODUCTION

1.73 BILLION pounds of chicken meat inspected

776 MILLION pounds of turkey meat inspected

1.52 BILLION chicken eggs graded

1.34 MILLION pounds of rabbit meat inspected

NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM EXPANDS TO 14,156 CERTIFIED FLOCKS

30,243 calf hood vaccinations by livestock inspectors

36,710 equine infectious anemia (EIA) tests performed

83,526 cattle tagged for disease traceability

33,031 Health Certificates processed

650 Animal Movement Permits issued

469,000 Diagnostic Procedures performed

OVER 2,400 hours worked by Livestock and Poultry Division Inspectors at Arkansas Fairs

51,020 exhibits inspected at fairs

694,346 people attended Arkansas Fairs

OVER $1.7 MILLION provided to Arkansas Fairs

Information provided by the Livestock and Poultry Division 2019

INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov for more information.
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DIVISION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Livestock and Poultry Division’s primary goal is to protect animal and human health from zoonotic and other communicable animal diseases. The Livestock and Poultry Division has three key sections that monitor, evaluate, and regulate foreign animal diseases that threaten Arkansas animal industries:

- Food Safety / Egg and Poultry
- Regulatory Compliance / Livestock and Poultry
- Animal Health

Livestock and Poultry Division personnel administer and implement the provisions of various state and federal laws pertaining to livestock and poultry throughout Arkansas and the rules promulgated by the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission. The Livestock and Poultry Commission has statutory authority for providing control, suppression, and eradication of livestock and poultry diseases and pests, and supervision of livestock and poultry enforcement actions.

The Division partners with several federal agencies through cooperative agreements for livestock and poultry disease control, animal identification for disease traceback, and food safety programs. Our food safety programs protect consumers by providing grading services at meat processing plants across the state and by protecting the state from diseases. These programs promote and enhance marketability of livestock, poultry, and their products both nationally and internationally.

Food Safety / Egg and Poultry Section

The Food Safety / Egg and Poultry Section provides commodity grading, inspection, and certification of poultry, turkey, eggs, and rabbits under the Arkansas Egg Marketing Act. The Food Safety Section has 36 employees (graders and Inspectors) with 35 licensed by the USDA.

The Food Safety Section strives to protect consumers and the agricultural industry by ensuring that poultry, eggs, and rabbit products offered to the public are safe, wholesome and properly labeled. Graders provide service at processing plants to assure food safety and food quality. Inspectors provide auditing services at retail outlets for regulatory compliance on eggs, ensuring the products are properly graded and labeled according to State and Federal guidelines.

Accomplishments

The Food Safety / Egg and Poultry Section accomplishments were as follows:

- Grading of Poultry and Rabbits: Section staff graded and certified 1.73 billion pounds of chicken and chicken products, 776 million pounds of turkey and turkey products and 1.3 million pounds of rabbit and rabbit products;
- Child Nutrition Labeling Program (CN): Section staff performed 12 audits on manufacturers producing Child Nutrition Labeling Program products, and inspectors graded and certified 13,479,841 pounds of Child Nutrition Labeling Program products;
• Food Defense Program: Our certified auditors performed 44 Food Defense audits on manufacturers and off-site storage facilities;
• Grading of Shell Eggs: Section staff graded and certified 4,233,253 cases (30 dozen per case) of shell eggs; 1.5 billion total eggs graded; and
• Shell Egg Surveillance Program: Section inspectors inspected 36 processing locations and examined 2,562,524 dozen shell eggs; 30.7 million total eggs inspected.

Regulatory Compliance / Livestock and Poultry Section

The Regulatory Compliance section has 32 inspectors who are responsible for various statewide animal health activities. Inspectors provide testing of swine for brucellosis and pseudorabies, and of poultry for a variety of diseases and for compliance with the National Poultry Improvement Plan certification. Staff is present at livestock markets tagging cattle for disease traceability and at equine events to ensure all animals are current on applicable tests. A team of inspectors is trained to respond to animal disease outbreaks, including diseases such as Avian Influenza, that could be devastating to the state’s poultry industry, the largest sector of Arkansas’s agriculture industry.

Employees spend a substantial amount of time at County Fairs, District Fairs, and the Arkansas State Fair conducting inspections to ensure that all livestock, poultry, and exotic animals entering the fairground have the proper health certificates and permits. Inspectors work with fair association staff on audits for compliance with rules regarding the use of funding that fairs receive for show premiums and construction projects.

Inspectors respond to complaints regarding non-compliance with any laws or rules that the Division oversees, including carcass disposal and the state-to-state movement of animals. Inspectors also provide educational support to producers and partner agencies.

Accomplishments

The Regulatory Compliance / Livestock and Poultry Section accomplishments were as follows:
• 171 new USDA Premise IDs were issued for a total of 11,928 in the Premise Identification Number (PIN) program;
• 305 new Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) verifiers were certified this year bringing it to a total of 3,577 verifiers;
• Section staff issued 650 animal entry permits;
• We registered 60 new cattle brands and renewed 104 brands;
• Our section team processed 36,710 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) tests;
• A total of 83,526 new animals were identified and entered into the Animal Disease Traceability Database;
• Section staff processed 33,031 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection;
• Livestock inspectors contributed 2,400 hours of service to Arkansas fairs; and
• Livestock inspectors charted over 710,000 animals sold at markets across Arkansas.
Animal Health Section

The Arkansas State Veterinarian manages the Animal Health section. His primary areas of responsibility include the oversight and reporting of several animal health programs throughout the state, assisting in preventing animal illness by providing information and resources, and maintaining and compiling Arkansas Reportable Disease reports. The State Veterinarian relies heavily on the work of the Regulatory Compliance section, administrative staff, and livestock inspectors to fulfill these responsibilities.

Accomplishments

The Animal Health Section accomplishments were as follows:

- Issued 9,632 various certifications for poultry;
- Inspected 22 hatcheries for compliance with state and Federal guidelines;
- Inspected 31 poultry companies for NPIP/Lab;
- Screened 76 poultry flocks for Salmonella;
- Certified 6,062 poultry flocks as disease free for trade partners;
- Conducted 170,033 test for Avian Influenza; and
- Issued 126 licenses for individuals that test for pullorum typhoid.

Arkansas Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory (AVDL)

The Department maintains a diagnostic laboratory in Little Rock for the purpose of diagnosing livestock and poultry diseases that assist the livestock, poultry, and equine industries, and practicing veterinarians in the achievement of their disease control programs. The AVDL strives to provide high quality and legally defensible diagnostic results in a timely, efficient, and professional manner. The laboratory services include post-mortem examinations and bacteriological, chemical, serological, toxicological, and virological tests. Laboratory findings aid animal owners in limiting or eliminating health hazards to their animals.

Timely and accurate test results provided by the AVDL have tremendous economic effects on the State’s livestock and poultry industries by reducing death losses and increasing production. The laboratory is a member laboratory of the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and the FDA Veterinary Laboratory Network.

The AVDL is Livestock and Poultry’s source for validation and determining next steps if an outbreak has accrued or if there is a disease issue of concern. The laboratory is also our first line of defense in monitoring and identifying potential concerns in the field.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory staff accomplishments are as follows:

- Performed over 468,735 total procedures;
- Completed the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) lab for testing in cooperation with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission;
- Conducted 23,398 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) procedures;
- Performed 160 drug tests at the Arkansas State Fair;
• Performed 167,630 tests for mycoplasma bacteria;
• Performed 10,801 tests on specimens related mostly to pets seen in veterinary clinics;
• Performed 9,058 tests in the bacteriology section;
• Performed 12,087 tests by the virology section; and
• Performed 425 necropsies.

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**ARKANSAS POULTRY INDUSTRY**

**POULTRY is the LARGEST agriculture commodity in Arkansas**

**ARKANSAS is NATIONALLY RANKED #2 IN BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION**

In 2018, **ONE BILLION** broilers were raised and processed for distribution across the nation

**OVER 6,000 FARMS IN produce some type of poultry**

**BENTON is the No.1 poultry producing county**
The Natural Resources Division is guided by the **Arkansas Water Plan**, a long-term strategy designed to lead the conservation, development, management, and use of water for all citizens.

The Plan brings data, science, and public input together to define water demands, water supplies, issues, and potential solutions to meet our future needs.

**Floodplain Management Section**

**State Water Planning Section**

**Ground Water Section**

**Dam Safety Section**

**Conservation Section**

**Water Resources Development Section**

**Nonpoint Source/Unpaved Roads Section**

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**14** Nine-Element Watershed Management plans were developed intended to help reduce sediment runoff.

**137** dam inspections over the past year provided details to dam owners on deficiencies and how to address them.

**73** municipalities were assisted in their mission to obtain safe drinking and sewer water.

**More than 250** cities & towns were equipped and trained to address floods.

**411** Nutrient Management Plans for communities across Arkansas were developed.

**140** applications were received and **70** certificates of project completion were issued over the past five years.

Information Provided by Natural Resources Division 2019

INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov for more information.
The Natural Resources Division, formally known as the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, is responsible for the sustainable conservation, development, and management of Arkansas’s waters.

Prior to the Transformation Act, the term “Arkansas Natural Resources Commission” was used interchangeably to refer to both the nine-member body appointed by the governor to make rules and orders related to water conservation, development, and management as well as to the agency responsible for administering the rules, programs and orders of the nine-member Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. When the Transformation Act became effective, the agency joined the Arkansas Department of Agriculture as the Natural Resources Division, and the term “Arkansas Natural Resources Commission” now exclusively references the nine-member commission.

The Natural Resources Division is guided by the Arkansas Water Plan (“AWP”), a long-term strategy to guide the conservation, development, management, and use of water for all citizens. The AWP includes all previous updates and is a dynamic framework updated to meet our state's changing needs. The AWP brings data, science, and public input together to define water demands, water supplies, issues, and potential solutions to meet our future needs. The recommendations within the 2014 Arkansas Water Plan Update continue to guide the Division’s actions today, including many of the actions taken by the Division in FY 2019.

The Natural Resources Division is composed of three sections: Conservation, Water Resources Development, and Water Resources Management.

Conservation Section

The Conservation Section provides leadership and support for Arkansas's conservation districts in the development, management, and conservation of the state's land and water resources. Three land resource specialists within the Conservation Section are each assigned to a different area of the state, Northeast, Northwest, and South, to provide education and information as well as communicate district concerns to the Section. Every year a third of the state’s conservation districts hold an election to elect three directors, and the Section provides instructions, documents, and ballots. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission appoints two of the five directors to each county’s conservation district board. The Section also presents information to district directors at area meetings, district field days, and youth workshops.

Accomplishments

The Conservation Section accomplishments are as follows:
- The Section provided $250,000 to conservation districts for pollinator projects, irrigation studies, urban garden projects, outdoor classrooms, and conservation field days;
- Irrigation Water Management Technicians wrote 1,372 plans to improve farm water management practices;
• Technical Service Providers provided free planning and design services to agricultural producers participating in USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services programs at an amount valued $328,698;
• Certified nutrient management planners wrote 983 plans in FY 2019;
• Provided bounties for 16,485 beaver tails using Division and district funds amounting to $164,850. Districts paid out $15,000 more in FY 2019 than in FY 2018; and
• The Section allocated $904,740 to funding conservation district operation in FY 2019.

Water Resources Development Section

The Water Resources Development Section administers two federal and three state programs that provide financial assistance primarily for water and wastewater projects through loans and grants. Each program has different criteria for funding. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission considers the Division’s funding recommendations and approves funding at its bimonthly meetings. These recommendations are based upon financial and managerial review of the borrower or grantee and technical review of the project by the section.

The types of projects funded primarily include the following:
• Public water supply source development, water treatment systems (water plants) and distribution systems (water lines and water storage tanks);
• Wastewater treatment systems (sewer plants) and sewer collection systems (sewer lines and sewer pump stations);
• Solid waste collection systems and disposal facilities (landfills and recycling facilities);
• Storm water control and treatment; and
• Drainage projects and flood control systems (levee systems).

Eligible applicants include cities, towns, counties, rural development authorities, public facilities boards, water associations, water authorities, improvement districts, regional water distribution districts, levee and drainage districts, conservation districts, regional solid waste authorities, and regional wastewater treatment districts. Borrowers pledge water or wastewater system revenue, sales tax revenue, or property tax revenues as collateral for these loans.

Accomplishments

The Water Resources Development Section staff in FY 2019 accomplishments were as follows:
• Provided funding to two applicants from the Division’s Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund;
• Disbursed $15.7 million to projects through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program, including six new projects;
• Provided $413,515 in low-interest funding for six projects implementing conservation best management practices for agricultural croplands in partnership with local financial institutions in FY 2019. Cumulative binding commitments totaled $69,971,920. Applicants, located in four counties, implemented six projects in FY 2019; and
• Closed nine Water Sewer and Solid Waste Fund Program loans, seven Water Development Fund loans, and three Consolidated General Obligation Bond Program loans.
Water Resources Management Section

The Water Resources Management Section performs state-level planning for management, conservation, and development of Arkansas's water resources. It also provides safe and effective water supply and protection from flooding for present and future generations. One employee of the Section serves as the Arkansas State Climatologist. Due to the diverse responsibilities of the Water Resources Management Section, the Section is divided into five subsections.

Dam Safety
The Dam Safety Section provides regulation and supervision of dams for the health, safety, welfare, and economic well-being of the citizens of Arkansas. To meet regulatory status, a dam must have a height of 25 feet or greater and contain a volume of at least 50 acre-feet of water at normal pool. Downstream owners can petition the Natural Resources Division through the Section to regulate smaller dams believed to pose a threat to life or property. Regulation assures dams are both properly designed and constructed and assures continued maintenance and monitoring.

Accomplishments

The Water Resources Management Dam Safety staff accomplishments were as follows:

• Inspected 107 high hazard dams, 56 significant hazard dams, and 106 low hazard dams;
• Oversaw the completion of six major repairs to high hazard dams;
• Facilitated the completion of a study producing probable maximum precipitation values for Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. These values are used to calculate watershed runoff values and spillway capacities;
• Prepared and conducted a dam safety workshop for 65 dam owners and operators, which exceeded attendance records for all past workshops and similar trainings;
• Attended five Emergency Action Plan (“EAP”) tabletop demonstrations and two EAP full-scale drills. These demonstrations and drills better prepare emergency response personnel in the event of a dam failure;
• Provided equipment to allow dam owners to safely maintain and repair their dams; and
• Provided technical assistance on numerous repairs, modifications, emergency best practices, reservoir management, new constructions, and deficiencies for dam owners and the general public.

Floodplain Management
Floods have been, and continue to be, a destructive natural hazard in terms of economic loss to the citizens of Arkansas. Since 1978, flood insurance policy holders have received over $154 million in claim payments. The real cost to the State is much more since most of the State’s flood-prone property owners do not have flood insurance. To help Arkansas communities reduce the risk of flooding and assist when floods do occur, the Arkansas Natural Resources Division, Floodplain Management Program administers programs including the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for the state of Arkansas.
Accomplishments

The Water Resources Management Floodplain Management staff accomplishments were as follows:

- Convened the first meeting of the Arkansas Drought Contingency Response Network on March 26, 2019. The Network coordinates efforts among agencies, organizations, and the private sector to prepare for drought by alerting the public to impending drought, sharing consistent messages and information with the public, and providing information on conservation and mitigation actions that can be taken before a drought occurs;
- Provided 12 one-day floodplain management training workshops reaching 174 towns, cities, and counties;
- Sponsored a four-day intensive training course for 45 participants representing 26 communities, agencies, and private firms. These participants included management administrators and state and federal officials;
- Led six flood recovery workshops for local officials and residents in communities impacted by the 2019 Arkansas River Flood;
- Conducted a radio, television, and social media campaign to provide guidance and assistance to communities in the wake of the 2019 Arkansas River Flood;
- Provided technical assistance to more than 350 communities and residents;
- Presented at the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Federal Emergency Management Administration (“FEMA”) Region VI Community Assistance Program Conference, and the National FEMA Community Assistance Program conference; and
- Coordinated with FEMA to obtain $5,315,740 for federal flood mitigation assistance grants.

Groundwater Protection and Management

The mission is to manage and protect the groundwater resources in Arkansas for human, environmental and economic benefit. The Natural Resources Division is the State's water resources planning and management agency. The Commission is responsible for state level planning, management, and protection of our groundwater resources. This is accomplished through monitoring of aquifer water levels and water quality, the implementation of best management practices (BMPs), conservation, enforcement of the proper construction of water wells, and education. These goals are accomplished through working with the public and with other agencies.

Accomplishments

The Water Resources Management Groundwater Protection and Management staff accomplishments were as follows:

- Designated Monroe County as part of the Cache Critical Groundwater Area. This designation enables persons who convert from groundwater usage to surface water usage by constructing reservoirs to claim a 50% tax credit rather than a 10% tax credit;
- Issued Water Resource Conservation Development Incentive Act Certificates of Tax Credit Approval for seven flowmeter projects, 26 impoundments, ten land-leveling projects, and 11 surface water conversion projects; and
- Produced the Annual Groundwater Report.
Nonpoint Source Pollution Management

Nonpoint Source Pollution is pollution resulting from many diffuse sources, in direct contrast to point source pollution which results from a single source. Nonpoint source pollution generally results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage or hydrologic modification. Natural and human-made pollutants are deposited into lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and even our underground sources of drinking water.

Potential sources of NPS Pollution include:

- Excess fertilizers and chemicals from agricultural lands, residential, and urban areas;
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding streambanks;
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock and animal wastes; and
- Hydro-modification.

The Natural Resources Division is responsible for developing and implementing the State's Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Management Program. This program is a cooperative effort of many local, state and federal agencies.

Accomplishments

In the area of Nonpoint Source Pollution Management, the Division achieved the following:

- Provided federal funds and technical assistance to 35 projects associated with the abatement/reduction or control of nonpoint source pollutants. These projects included implementation of best management practices, demonstrations of effective abatement/reduction techniques, technical assistance, education, and monitoring;
- Held the annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Meeting to review and discuss projects with 86 attendees;
- Developed an EPA nine-element watershed management plan for the Middle White River watershed;
- Developed 17 new project workplans and agreements;
- Completed five Best Management Program cost share project inspections;
- Approved seven water quality agriculture loans related to nonpoint source pollution that totaled $989,900; and
- Managed 35 nonpoint source pollution projects with a total federal cost over $8.5-million.
State Water Planning

The Natural Resources Division is guided by the Arkansas Water Plan ("AWP"), a long-term strategy to guide the conservation, development, management, and use of water for all citizens. The AWP includes all previous updates to the Plan and is a dynamic framework, bringing data, science, and public input together to define water demands, water supplies, issues, and potential solutions to meet our future needs.

Accomplishments

Division State Water Planning accomplishments were as follows:

- Received and responded to 14 new project applications from applicants seeking tax credit for creation or restoration of wetlands and riparian zones. Taxpayers completed nine ongoing projects, and another 20 projects are scheduled for completion in the near future. The Section conducted 53 inspections of tax credit projects in FY2019;
- Completed reports, coordinated retrieval and compilation of data, and participated in several conference calls in preparation for the 2019 Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission and the Red River Compact Commission meeting;
- Monitored 18 projects with existing quality assurance project plans ("QAPPs") and approved eight new QAPPs; and
- Audited 21 projects, four laboratories, and 17 field projects.
PLANT INDUSTRIES OVERVIEW
Environmental Regulation, Enforcement, Pest Control, Quality Assurance

Arkansas is nationally RANKED #4 in Cotton Lint AND Cotton Seed

22,034 PESTICIDE APPLICATORS CERTIFIED STATEWIDE

PLANT INDUSTRIES HAS SAFELY DISPOSED OF 4.4 MILLION POUNDS OF UNWANTED PESTICIDES ACROSS THE STATE SINCE 2015

- 1,185 certificates issued attesting export products are free of pests, weeds and diseases
- 11,800 quality assurance tests on seeds for more than 100 different crops
- 3,617 registered beekeepers
- 47,138 registered bee colonies
- 900 N-P-K tests performed on 945,500 tons of fertilizer sold in Arkansas

DID YOU KNOW?
- 100 different crop varieties in the U.S. rely on bees for pollination

INVASIVE PEST QUARANTINE
- FIRE ANT 39 counties
- EMERALD ASH BORER 75 counties

BUREAU OF STANDARDS
performed inspections and testing on
- 7,147 motor fuel dispensers
- 8,905 retail business inspections
- 3,566 scale inspections

Information Provided by the Plant Industries Division 2019
INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov for more information.
The Plant Industries Division mission is to protect and serve the citizens of Arkansas and the agricultural and business sectors by providing information and unbiased enforcement of laws and regulations, with the objective of ensuring quality products and services. Our vision is to maintain a competent, friendly, cooperative, and efficient Division able to promptly serve the agricultural and business communities and the general public in a highly credible, professional manner.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Plant Industries Division is organized into four sections:

- Pesticide
- Regulatory Services
- Quality Control and Compliance
- Bureau of Standards

General oversight of the Division and the field inspection team is provided by the State Plant Board Director. Oversight of each of the remaining four sections is provided by a Section Manager.

The Division conducts work activities associated with 58 diverse programs. Staffing levels average 118 total personnel, including approximately 54 field inspectors.

**Pesticide Section**

The responsibilities of the Pesticide Section include the administration and enforcement of the following:

- Pesticide Control Act and regulations;
- Pesticide Use and Application Act and regulations;
- Regulations on pesticide classification; and
- Cooperative agreements with EPA regarding worker protection, endangered species, ground water protection, and container and containment.

The Pesticide Section’s major activities involve product registration approval and the issuance of permits and licenses to manufacturers, dealers, and several categories of applicators. The staff works closely with field inspection staff on pesticide complaint cases and develops civil penalty assessments to effect compliance when violations are found. The section also compiles statistical data for the use by industry and educational agencies, provides compliance assistance and enforcement of worker protection standards, implements a state ground water protection plan, and is involved in developing a state endangered species plan.
Accomplishments

The Pesticide Section accomplishments were as follows:
- 1,377 pesticide manufacturers registered;
- 13,978 pesticide products registered;
- 454 pesticide dealers licensed;
- 171 commercial applicators certified; 483 re-certified;
- 33 commercial applicator technicians certified; 92 re-certified;
- 176 non-commercial applicators certified; 560 re-certified;
- 2,093 private applicators certified; 2,963 re-certified;
- 43 training and testing sessions attended;
- 399 commercial firms licensed;
- 1,138 individual commercial applicators licensed;
- 643 non-commercial applicators licensed;
- 4,822 private applicators licensed;
- 162 custom applicators permitted;
- 210 custom pilots authorized;
- 109 pieces of application equipment inspected;
- 2,276 various inspections and sampling conducted;
- 620,722 pounds of abandoned pesticides collected in 7 counties;
- 172 warning letters issued;
- 500 administrative hearings conducted; and
- 142 civil penalties issued.

Regulatory Services Section

The Regulatory Services Section provides diverse program services for Arkansas agriculture-related industries and individuals. The mission is to provide an avenue for proper regulations of plant disease, plant pests, food safety, and pest control which perpetuates quality products and services to the public and regulated industries.

The Regulatory Services Section consists of 22 full-time employees and utilizes agricultural specialist inspectors on an as-needed basis. The Section also employs seasonal employees which are hired as needed for survey work, fruit and vegetable inspecting, and peanut grading. Seasonal employees average 30 annually.

Accomplishments

Regulatory Services Section accomplishments were as follows:
- 193 bio-regulatory permits reviewed;
- 1,143 phytosanitary certificates issued;
- 971 entities inspected as part of the Imported Fire Ant Survey;
- 5,000 traps placed by Department-led team of cooperators for the Gypsy Moth Survey;
- 936 nursery licenses issued;
- Certificates for 570 pounds of ginseng were issued;
- 6,192 apiary colonies inspected;
- Collected $1,765,283 from 705 producers in the Boll Weevil Eradication program;
- Surveyed/trapped and certified 4,949 acres in the Sweet Potato Weevil program;
- Surveyed/trapped 17 gins in the Pink Bollworm program;
- 14,291 aquaculture acres certified in the Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Certification program;
- Commercial Pest Control
  - 1,230 licensed operators
  - 1,078 technicians registered
  - 401 applicants certified
  - 509 inspections performed;
- 250 growers trained and 10 large farms inspected through the Produce Safety Program;
- Fruit and Vegetable Inspections conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement
  - Fresh Tomatoes – 675,600 Lbs.
  - Cucumbers - 611,400 Lbs.
  - Peppers - 242,700 Lbs.
  - Okra - 1,800 Lbs.
  - Eggplant - 56,600 Lbs.
  - Summer Squash - 330,900 Lbs.
  - Winter Squash - 172,500 Lbs.;
- Audits conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement – 22 conducted
  - 12 Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices Audit4 Produce GAPS Harmonized Field Operations Harvesting W/Global Markets Addendum Audit
  - 1 Produce GAPS Harmonized Post Operations W/Global Markets Addendum Audit
  - 2 USDA Harmonized GAP Plus+ Field Operations and Harvesting Audit
  - 2 USDA Harmonized GAP Plus+ Post Harvest Audit
  - 1 Unannounced Audit- USDA GAP Harmonized Plus+ Field Operations and Harvest, Post-Harvest Audit;
- Peanut Grading
  - 44,270.7 tons graded at the Birdsong facility located in Portia
  - 19,725.5 tons graded at the Golden facility located in Pocahontas; and
- BRS Inspections
  - 6 Bioregulatory Services Inspections conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement
  - 8 surveys conducted in the Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey program.

**Quality Control and Compliance Section**

**Seed Program**

The Seed Section’s responsibilities are both service oriented and regulatory in three core areas: (1) enforcement of seed laws and regulations; (2) management of the seed certification program; and (3) management of the rice GMO testing program.

The Seed Laboratory tests regulatory samples for both certified seed and non-certified seed, and service samples, which are submitted by seedsmen or farmers for the purpose of obtaining information as to the quality of the seed for planting purposes. If the seedsman is going to sell seed for planting, an
official seed laboratory test is needed to support the labeling information. The seed laboratory currently tests more than 60 different crops.

Accomplishments

Seed Program accomplishments were as follows:
- 1,443 regulatory samples collected;
- 245 seed labelers licenses issued;
- 164 subsidiary seed labelers licenses issued;
- 114 seed treater licenses issued;
- 24 seed treater restricted use pesticide licenses issued;
- 17,150 non-certified seed label analysis;
- 28,686 acres inspected and certified; and
- 371 lots (representing 3.9 million acres) of rice sampled and tested.

Feed and Fertilizer Program

The Feed and Fertilizer program works to ensure public safety and a fair marketplace by providing oversight of feed and fertilizer products sold in the state. The program administers and enforces the Feed and Fertilizer Laws and Regulations, Agricultural Liming Materials Act, Soil Amendment Act, Agricultural Consultants Licensing Act, 100% Natural Organic Fertilizer Act, and the Aflatoxin Act.

The program’s oversight duties involve inspection of facilities, reviewing producer labeling practices, and random sampling from retail sites and distribution points for laboratory testing against label claims. The program also investigates all claims of product contamination, inferior quality, and unlicensed activity brought to its attention.

The Feed and Fertilizer program is responsible for product registration approval after label review, and issues permits and licenses to manufacturers, blenders, vendors, grain warehousemen, catfish processors, and consultants. The program also tracks the tonnage of feed and fertilizer products sold in the state, collects required fees, and provides statistical data for use by the agricultural industry.

Accomplishments

Feed and Fertilizer Program accomplishments were as follows:
- 1,240 licensed feed facility firms;
- 1,417,286 tons of feed products/ingredients reported;
- 2,034 samples completed;
- 250 liming materials registered by 133 firms;
- 4,420 fertilizer products registered;
- 442 fertilizer companies registered;
- 202 soil amendment products registered;
- 50 soil amendment companies registered; and
- 231 Ag Consultants licensed.
Industrial Hemp Program

The Industrial Hemp Program staff administers the Arkansas Industrial Hemp Act that was enacted in 2017 and directed the creation of a program to research the feasibility of growing industrial hemp in Arkansas. Rules for the Arkansas Industrial Hemp Research Program became effective August 2018. The Industrial Hemp Program staff began accepting industrial hemp applications in October 2018, and the first industrial hemp license was issued in November 2018.

Existing Plant Industry staff administered the program through Fiscal Year 2018. Due to the number of applications and the associated workload, the Department hired its first full time Industrial Hemp Program coordinator in May 2019.

Accomplishments

The Industrial Hemp Program accomplishments were as follows:

- 156 applications received; and
- 105 total licenses approved
  - 87 licensed growers
  - 18 licenses processors.

Agricultural Consultants Licensing Program

Each person performing the functions of a licensed agricultural consultant, before advertising as such, must meet specific licensing requirements and obtain a license. Functions include providing advice or prescriptions for: the control or eradication of any insect or mite pest, and plant, pathogen (including nematodes), or any weed; and the use of fertilizer, lime and/or micro-nutrients based on soil classification and cropping systems and soil or plant tests.

Accomplishments

The Agricultural Consultants Licensing Program accomplishments were as follows:

- 231 consultant licenses were issued.

Grain, Warehouse, and Catfish Processor Program

The Public Grain Warehouse and Catfish Processor Section oversees three regulatory laws: The Public Grain Warehouse Law, The Grain Dealer Law, and The Catfish Processor Fair Practices Act. Each law is designed to give producers a measure of protection against bad business practices of facilities that fall under the jurisdiction of these laws.

The Public Grain Warehouse Law

Staff auditors are required to audit each licensed grain warehouse at least once annually. The Plant Industry Division has a goal of conducting two unannounced audits annually of each licensed warehouse per year. Audits include measuring the grain in the facility and examining scale tickets, settlements, contracts, warehouse receipts and any other documents that are needed to ensure compliance.
Office staff reviews all documents for new applications, renewal applications, and amended applications. Staff reviews financial statements and ensures proper fees are paid, correct bonding amount is received and on file, and the proper amount of grain insurance is kept by the licensee.

Accomplishments

Under the Public Grain Warehouse Law staff accomplished the following:
- 41 grain warehouses received licenses; and
- 83 grain warehouse audits were conducted.

The Arkansas Grain Dealer Law
Staff licenses and audits grain dealers as defined in the Arkansas Grain Dealer Law enacted in 2015. Audits are conducted annually with documents reviewed to ensure that all producers are being paid timely and correctly. Program staff issue warning letters to grain dealers out of compliance, and auditors conduct follow-up audits to ensure compliance has been achieved.

Accomplishments

Under the Arkansas Grain Dealer Law staff accomplished the following:
- 27 grain dealers received licenses;
- 4 warning letters were issued; and
- 28 grain dealer audits were conducted.

The Arkansas Catfish Processors Fair Practices Act
The Arkansas Catfish Processors Fair Practices Act was enacted in 1987 to protect catfish producers from bad business practices of catfish processors in the state of Arkansas. The law classifies all processors who purchase $50,000 worth of catfish as a Class A registrant and they are required to be registered with the state under this act. Arkansas had no Class A registrants in Fiscal Year 2019.

Bureau of Standards Section

The Bureau’s mission is to ensure equity and fairness in the commercial transactions of the market place by establishing accuracy and uniformity in the State’s commerce through enforcement of laws and regulations which benefit and protect both buyers and sellers of the products and services. The section’s regulatory goals are to provide consumers and businesses a fair-trade environment, to encourage business development and instill consumer confidence. To achieve these goals, the division routinely performs unannounced inspections, complaint investigations, and other regulatory activities that involve suppliers, retailers, and distributors.

The Arkansas Bureau of Standards is the only Weights and Measures regulatory agency in the State of Arkansas to provide consumers and the industry with oversight and protection in commercial transactions. It’s estimated that Weights and Measures programs and regulations affect approximately 50% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Arkansas.
**Petroleum Program**

The State Petroleum Products Program is responsible for testing motor fuels such as gasoline, kerosene, diesel, and illuminating and heating oils used in Arkansas commerce. The program provides consumer protection, technical assistance to the petroleum industry, and assures consumers and the petroleum industry that they receive quality petroleum products. Unannounced inspections and collection of samples from retail fuel stations, terminal storage tanks, pipeline terminals, refineries and wholesale bulk plants are conducted regularly.

**Accomplishments**

The Petroleum Program accomplishments included the following:

- 7,565 samples collected;
- 4,051 retail stations inspected;
- 5,820 storage tanks inspected; and
- 18,100 laboratory tests performed.

**Weights and Measures Program**

The State Weights and Measures Program is responsible for ensuring “equity may prevail” in commercial transactions involving weighing and measuring in the marketplace. Every transaction encompassing exchange of goods, property, and service is affected by some form of weighing or measuring. This program enforces the regulations prescribed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbooks 44, 130, 133, and ASTM Standards.

The program consists of sixteen field inspectors, residing strategically throughout the state. They carry out large scale testing and inspections of the standard and random pack products at the wholesale and retail outlets, test gasoline pumps and storage tanks, small and large capacity scales, pawn scales, and airport baggage scales. Inspectors also conduct inspections for catfish and egg labeling compliance and for misleading advertising violations in the news media.

**Accomplishments**

The Weights and Measures Program included the following:

- 653 vehicle scales tested;
- 405 platform scales tested;
- 1,044 fuel meters tested;
- 15,276 meat counter inspections;
- 10,351 packaged commodities inspections;
- 6,103 petroleum pumps inspections;
- 2,508 small scales inspections;
- 197 fish identification inspections;
- 527 egg labeling inspections; and
- 61 USDA country of origin labeling inspections.
Standards Laboratory (Metrology and Moisture Meter) Program

The State Standards Laboratory consists of the Metrology and Grain Moisture Meter Laboratory. The Metrology Laboratory maintains the official state standards of mass, length, and volume. The primary responsibility of the laboratory is to provide calibration service to the Registered Scale/Meter companies, manufacturing and food processing facilities, and some government agencies.

The Grain Moisture Meter Laboratory is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of field moisture meters used in the buying and selling of grain. The laboratory develops grain standards and specifies testing techniques used in the standardization, calibration, and examination of public grain elevator moisture meters, as well as testing and verifying the accuracy of all commercial moisture meters in Arkansas.

Accomplishments

The Standards Laboratory Program included the following:

- 5,332 calibrations; and
- 249 moisture meters checked.

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**ARKANSAS FARMERS MARKETS**

More than two-thirds (79%) of all Arkansas counties have an active farmers market, together generating $9.2 MILLION in sales in 2017. There are 111 farmers markets across the state.

A farmers market is a place where producers from a local area gather to sell their own product directly to the consumer.
SHARED SERVICES OVERVIEW

Fiscal, Human Resources, Marketing, Information Technology, Legal, and Law Enforcement

**FISCAL**
- 12,697 Vendor Invoices Processed
- $3 Million in Federal Grant aid payments processed
- $11 Million in Federal Grant aid reimbursements requested

**HUMAN RESOURCES**
- 506 positions filled

**MARKETING**
- 111 press releases issued
- 11 proclamations promoted

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
- Upgraded to one gigabit fiber optic connection
- Agency-wide upgrade to Windows 10

**LEGAL**
- Assisted in drafting proposed rules and monitored legislation throughout the legislative session

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- 190 Law Enforcement Cases Closed
- $386,941 Restitution returned to land owners
- $3,280 Received in fines
- 165 Law Enforcement assists performed

Information Provided by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture 2019
INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov for more information.
Shared Services
Fiscal, Human Resources, Marketing, Information Technology, Legal, Law Enforcement

Shared Services Division Overview

The Shared Services division of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture administers the centralized, shared services that are available and utilized by all divisions and employees within the Department. The Shared Services Division encompasses the following sections:

- Fiscal
- Human Resources
- Marketing and Communications
- Information Technology
- Legal
- Law Enforcement
- Laboratory Services
- Trade and Economics

Fiscal Section

The fiscal staff provides a full range of fiscal support to all divisions within the Department, including budgeting, procurement, receivables, and federal grant reimbursement and reporting. In fiscal year 2019, the fiscal department prepared for the relocation of fiscal staff from the Natural Resources Division to the Department’s headquarters location to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

Budget staff analyzes and prepares financial information concerning personnel, operations, grants, capital projects, and other expenses to determine budgetary requirements. They also analyze and prepare biennial budget requests and present budgetary requirements to the Governor for Executive Recommendations.

The Fiscal Section’s accounting staff establish agency accounting policy, procedures, and business processes necessary to conform to the State of Arkansas’s policy and procedures manual. They prepare agency financial statements, and all required supplemental reporting information to be used in the production of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the State of Arkansas. The accounting staff also coordinate and monitor the implementation of grants, contracts, and other programs by developing goals and objectives, funding procedures, and monitoring implementation to ensure compliance with policies, laws, and regulations.

The accounts payable staff assist in reconciliations which includes matching purchase orders to invoices, request new vendor(s), maintain vendor files, and respond to billing inquiries.
Staff assigned to purchasing and contract duties assist departments and vendors on current purchasing procedures, and review purchase requests and contract awards for compliance with state and federal purchasing laws and regulations.

**Accomplishments**

Fiscal Section accomplishments included the following:
- Processed 12,697 vendor invoices in FY 2019;
- Processed over 3 million in federal grant aid payment to subrecipients; and
- Requested over $11 million in federal grant reimbursement.

**Human Resources Section**

The Human Resources section is responsible for all employment procedures, recruitment, employee benefits, time data entry, payroll processing, worker compensation claims, training, and safety. The three members of the Human Resources section work with Department employees daily on a myriad of personnel needs and processes to facilitate a productive work environment.

**Accomplishments**

Human Resources Section accomplishments included the following:
- Processed 61 employee hires;
- Processed 42 promotions;
- Processed 17 retirements;
- Processed 46 resignations;
- Processed 13 terminations;
- Processed 9 transfers;
- Continued scanning of terminated personnel files for storage savings;
- Created and issued employee ID badges for Department; and
- Broadened training database to capture required training for Department.

**Marketing and Communications Section**

The Marketing and Communications section is committed to promoting and supporting the many accomplishments and successes of Arkansas’s diverse agricultural industry. The Marketing and Communications team distributes information and updates on news, program opportunities, and laws and rules that affect agricultural families through various outreach efforts. The team participates in trade shows and conferences, connects with and makes presentations to other agricultural organizations, and through various other outlets.

The Marketing and Communications section distributes information via the following:
- Website and social media channels;
- Press releases and newsletters; and
• The annual *Arkansas Grown* publication.

The Marketing and Communications team administers several programs that provide agricultural stakeholders with opportunities to apply for marketing funds, special projects, scholarships, and increased visibility in the marketplace. These programs include the following:

• Agricultural Proclamation signing events with Governor Hutchinson;
• Arkansas Grown, Arkansas Made, and Arkansas Grown Homegrown by Heroes Branding Programs;
• Arkansas Grown Homegrown by Heroes Scholarship Program;
• Local Conversation Events;
• Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest;
• Arkansas Farmers Market Promotion Grant;
• Arkansas Farmers Market Shopping Bag Program;
• Arkansas Century Farm;
• Arkansas Fair Funding;
• Specialty Crop Block Grant;
• National Organic Certification Cost Share Program;
• Market Access Programs/Internships through the Southern United States Trade Association;
• Veterans4Ag Program in partnership with Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs; and
• Certificates of Free Sale.

In anticipation of the Department name and logo change, the Marketing and Communications team did preliminary work to ensure a smooth transition and unity within the Department. The Marketing and Communications team developed a new communication plan for the Department post-Transformation. The Department hired a graphic artist as part of the Marketing and Communications section that has increased the Department’s ability to produce educational and outreach materials in house.

**Accomplishments:**

Marketing and Communications team accomplishments were as follows:

• Distributed 111 press releases to media partners and partner agencies;
• Developed and distributed a monthly online newsletter to 3,900 stakeholders;
• Developed content and oversaw the development and distribution of the 2019 edition of the *Arkansas Grown* magazine;
• Facilitated and hosted 11 proclamation events with Governor Hutchinson;
• Facilitated and hosted a Homegrown by Heroes event;
• Provided $351,220 in Specialty Crop grants to nine entities;
• Hosted six Arkansas growers at an Arkansas Grown booth at the 2018 Fresh Summit specialty crop trade show in Orlando, Florida;
• Awarded $12,000 in scholarships to 12 students through the Homegrown by Heroes Scholarship program in partnership with Farm Credit;
• Awarded $3,000 in cash awards provided by Farm Credit to five schools through the Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year contest;
• Provided $9,000 in grants to 24 Arkansas Farmers Markets through a partnership with Farm Credit;
• Inducted 42 families into the Arkansas Century Farm program;
• Provided more than 17,500 shopping bags to Arkansas farmers markets at a greatly reduced rate that results in significant cost savings for the markets;
• Provided more than $1.7 million in funding to Arkansas fairs; and
• Facilitated and hosted a Local Conversations event with 72 attendees from 16 counties.

Information Technology Section

The Information Technology (IT) Section provides critical data, communications, networking infrastructure, and desktop support that enables all divisions under the Arkansas Department of Agriculture to deliver services directly to its employees and the citizens of Arkansas. The extensive, enterprise wide voice and data network supports a wide range of agency operations, including tracking license payments, providing a pathway for the plethora of data analysis in the Department’s labs, historical agricultural weather data tracking, and multitude of laws and regulations surrounding the farming industry in the state.

Accomplishments

Information Technology Section accomplishments were as follows:
• Completed the upgrade to a one gigabit fiber optic internet connection that will allow the Department to successfully integrate next generation cloud-based technology;
• Completed the agency wide upgrade from end-of-life Microsoft Windows 7 operating system to the Microsoft Windows 10 operating system that is current;
• Completed the upgrade by which we either moved physical servers to the cloud or mirrored them with a redundant server instance that is located off-site. This gives the agency a much higher level of server resilience;
• Completed the migration of all user data located on the local user’s PC and file server to the cloud which provides data resilience; and
• Completed the deployment of Carbon Black to every single agency endpoint which provided us with a much higher level of cyber security.

Legal Section

The Department’s legal section provides legal guidance to all divisions within the Department and advises the boards, commissions, and committees. The Legal section oversees the rule promulgation process within the Department and assists with the drafting and revising of personnel policies.

Accomplishments

The Legal Section accomplishments were as follows:
• Advised Department of Agriculture staff on daily basis and advised the Department’s Boards and Commissions at all regular meetings;
• Advised Plant Board and Livestock & Poultry Commission through promulgation process of five rules;
• Assisted in drafting proposed legislation and monitored legislation throughout the legislative session;
• Conducted training for Forestry Division;
• Drafted new policies and/or revised several agency personnel policies and conducted Department-wide employment law training;
• Conducted Continuing Legal Education training for attorneys on animal law; and
• Handled all Act 781 rules repeal for Department of Agriculture, Plant Board, Livestock & Poultry Commission, and Forestry Commission resulting in the repeal of 26 outdated rules.

Law Enforcement Section

The Department’s four law enforcement officers investigate agricultural crimes that affect any part of Arkansas’s diverse agricultural industry and help enforce the laws and rules promulgated by the boards and commissions within the Department. Investigators work with state and local law enforcement to investigate crimes and assist with prosecution when necessary. Common investigations include wildfire arson, timber theft, livestock theft, and agricultural and forestry equipment theft or vandalism.

Accomplishments

The Law Enforcement Section accomplishments were as follows:

• Opened 211 Law Enforcement Cases in FY 2019
  o Timber - 94
  o Fire - 23
  o Equipment - 3
  o Dumping - 69
  o Forestry Division property - 4
  o Miscellaneous - 3
  o Agency Assistance - 8
  o Livestock and Poultry Division – 7;
• Closed 190 Law Enforcement Cases in FY 2019
  o Timber - 74
  o Fire - 32
  o Equipment - 3
  o Dumping - 67
  o Forestry Division property - 2
  o Miscellaneous - 3
  o Agency Assistance - 4
  o Livestock and Poultry Division – 5;
• Restitution back-to-land owner: $386,942;
• Fine money and suppression back to agency: $3,281;
• Law Enforcement Assists: 165; and
• Minority Assists: 104.
### Department and Division FY 2019 Adjusted Budget and Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department and Division</th>
<th>Adjusted Budget</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forestry Division</td>
<td>$27,021,299</td>
<td>$21,663,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock &amp; Poultry Division</td>
<td>$11,954,823</td>
<td>$9,898,259</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources Division</td>
<td>$124,549,407</td>
<td>$29,208,725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant Industries Division</td>
<td>$20,002,262</td>
<td>$10,329,609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shared Services Division</td>
<td>$4,447,594</td>
<td>$3,243,838</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>$188,103,587</td>
<td>$74,505,474</td>
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</table>

### FY 2019 Revenue Sources

- **General Revenue**
- **Special/Other Revenue**
- **Federal Revenue**

#### Forestry
- General Revenue: 42%
- Special/Other Revenue: 12%
- Federal Revenue: 46%

#### Livestock and Poultry
- General Revenue: 40%
- Special/Other Revenue: 9%
- Federal Revenue: 51%

#### Natural Resources
- General Revenue: 81%
- Special/Other Revenue: 10%
- Federal Revenue: 9%

#### Plant Industries
- General Revenue: 68%
- Special/Other Revenue: 19%
- Federal Revenue: 13%

#### Shared Services
- General Revenue: 47%
- Special/Other Revenue: 17%
- Federal Revenue: 36%

#### Department
- General Revenue: 69%
- Special/Other Revenue: 21%
- Federal Revenue: 10%
## ARKANSAS WATERSHEDS

Listed Alphabetically and Largest to Smallest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically</th>
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<td>Beaver Reservoir</td>
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<td>Boeuf</td>
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<td>1,251,642</td>
<td>Lower Little Arkansas, Oklahoma</td>
<td>1,147,191</td>
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<td>Cadron</td>
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<td>54,340</td>
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48
ARKANSAS LAND COVER CATEGORIES

Land Cover Categories
(by decreasing acreage)

AGRICULTURE*
- Grass/Pasture
- Soybeans
- Rice
- Corn
- Cotton
- Fallow/Idle Cropland
- Other Hay/Non Althea
- Dry Crop Wth/Wh/Sojbeans
- Winter Wheat
- Peanuts
- Aquaculture
- Pecans
- Sod/Grass Seed
- Sorghum
- Sweet Potatoes
- Dry Crop Sojbeans/Oats

NON-AGRICULTURE**
- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Woody Wetlands
- Developed/Open Space
- Shrubland
- Mixed Forest

Source: USDA National and Delta Regional Statistics Service
ARKANSAS GROWN
Arkansas Grown, administered through the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, began in 2012 to help promote the many agricultural products that are grown here in Arkansas. The program helps connect the growing number of consumers, who want to know where their food originates, with local producers.

ARKANSAS MADE
Arkansas Made promotes goods and products manufactured in our state by businesses and connects them to potential buyers. Since 2014, Arkansas Made has encouraged the purchase of locally made products by creating a community of suppliers and buyers that call Arkansas home.

HOMEGROWN BY HEROES
When consumers search for an Arkansas Grown or Arkansas Made item and see a Homegrown By Heroes logo, they know that the item was produced in Arkansas by an Arkansas veteran. In 2015, the Department adopted the national Homegrown by Heroes branding program that enables farmer veterans to market their agricultural products by labeling them as veteran-produced.

Learn more at ArkansasGrown.org
THE ARKANSAS CENTURY FARM PROGRAM

The Arkansas Century Farm Program recognizes Arkansas farm families who have owned and operated an area of 10 acres or more for at least 100 years. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture began the Century Farm program in 2012 as a way to highlight the impact of these families on the agriculture industry as well as their overall contributions to our state.

The Arkansas Century Farm program is open for applications each year from February until May. To get more information about applying, visit: agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-century-farm-program

NUMBER OF CENTURY FARMS BY REGION
Since the program began, over 464 farms have been inducted. In 2019 alone, 46 farms were inducted.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 CENTURY FARM INDUCTEES!

Arch Westmoreland Farm
Beard Family Farm
Beaty Old Homeplace
Bob & Sue Austin Farm
Chambers Farm
Chronister Family Farm
Churchill Holler Farm
Crigger Farm
Curtis Farm
Dickson Farm
Donovan Farm
E.M. Brown Farm
Edward “Eddie” Ahrent Farm
F. H. Lyons Farm
Flynn Farms
Grinder/Taylor Farm
H & D Tucker Farms
Henry Jones Family Farm
Henry-Franklin Farm
Highfill Family Farm
Hoover Family Farm
Humphries Hubble Creek Farm
James B. Whitlow Farm
JK-M&M Ranch
Johns Family Farm
Locke Farm
Louis Floyd Farm
Mahony Farm
Marshall Farm
Miller Bros/Flying Farmers Farm
Morris-Taylor Family Farm
Ragsdell Family Farm
Rauls Family Farm
Reding Farm
Ryland Family Farm
Sehorn Farms
Sharp County Farm
Sickel Farms
Simmons Family Farm
Sitzer Farm
Sugar Creek Farm
Troy & Donna Henson, Gol & Jewell Smith Farm
Webb Place
Wiles Family Farm
Wilks Family Farms
York Family Farm
FUTURE OUTLOOK

FACTORS THAT POTENTIALLY CHALLENGE ARKANSAS’S ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

- Many Arkansas farmers, ranchers, and timberland owners are struggling to cashflow, due to a rapidly changing and highly competitive global marketplace where global protectionism and nationalism are increasingly becoming the norm as globalization has lost its efficiencies.
- Rapid shifts in consumer demands associated with quality, convenience, taste, and nutrition due to new technologies and other factors are expected to accelerate with each passing year. This will dictate that farming, ranching, and marketing infrastructures become more fluid and responsive.
- We are building on our strong relationship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prioritize regulatory, research, educational, and service needs to assist in solving agricultural and societal challenges.
- Potential animal and plant disease outbreak challenges and other issues could significantly disrupt the profitability and viability of our production sector.
- Reducing the growing number of the feral hogs and managing the populations to reduce property damage, diseases, and environmental impacts will take collaboration between the public and private sectors.
- Black headed vultures attacking newborn calves present an economic hardship to Arkansas cattle producers in the spring and fall.
- Collaborative efforts with USDA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on national security concerns are essential to help protect agriculture from intentional and accidental acts that might impact Arkansas’s and America’s food supply or natural resources.
- Recent weather patterns have produced increased weather intensity, duration, and volatility. Colder winters, periods of excessive rain and flooding, and excessive heat and droughty periods, both domestically and internationally, are potentially disruptive to global food production.
- Periods of excessive heat and prolonged droughty periods increase the probability of a catastrophic fire event. The Department’s Forestry Division maintains continuous monitoring and preparedness activities to ensure emergency response readiness.
- Animal disease outbreaks, including African swine fever, avian influenza, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, brucellosis, and chronic wasting disease, highlight the need for continued emphasis on disease awareness, protection, and response readiness.
- Export trade issues, including policy disputes and phytosanitary/sanitary issues, can constrain delivery and may require Department personnel’s immediate attention.
- Disruption in export demand due to U.S. global policy disputes (fiscal, monetary, trade, and regulatory policy) with China and other economic and trading partners requires continued Department attention to assure trade fairness and profitability.
- The ability of the public and private sectors to collaborate effectively on food safety, security, and related emergency preparedness efforts is a key focus of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.
PROTECTING AND PROMOTING ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE, FOOD, FORESTRY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

“Serving All Arkansans”

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