



Asa Hutchinson  
Governor

# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205  
agriculture.arkansas.gov  
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward  
Secretary of Agriculture

[Arkansas Department of Agriculture](https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov)

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Contact: Shaylee Barber, (501) 529-2689

[shaylee.barber@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:shaylee.barber@agriculture.arkansas.gov)

## **Arkansas Department of Agriculture and University of Arkansas Monticello Announce Foresters for the Future Scholarship Recipient for 2021**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR** – The Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division and the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) have named Shylee Head as the recipient of the first Foresters for the Future Scholarship. The scholarship provides \$4,000 per semester, for four years, to an incoming freshman, who is pursuing a forestry degree at UAM’s College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources.

Shylee Head, from Mena, is a member of the National Honor Society and National English Honor Society. She is also a member of the Mena High School band and jazz band and has won multiple awards for her musical talents. Head has been an active member of her local FFA chapter throughout her high school career, including competing as a member of the nursery and landscape Career Development Event team which first introduced her to forestry.

“My advisor suggested I take his forestry class in order to help me understand the tree portion of my competition,” said Head. “Now I am pursuing a degree in natural resource management in hopes of landing a job in timber management. I became so excited about my newfound passion. I would find myself purchasing books on the lives of trees and listening to podcasts and news reports. I enveloped myself in the world of trees.”

Head will be a first-generation college student this fall at UAM’s College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. She hopes that taking this step for her future will inspire her younger brothers to pursue their passions as well.

“We’re very pleased that this scholarship helps provide financial assistance to students like Shylee, who have demonstrated a great work ethic and a passion for studying and having a career in forestry,” said Dr. Michael Blazier, dean of the UAM College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources.

Foresters for the Future Scholarship recipients will partake in a paid internship exploring the various sections of the Forestry Division annually through their college career. The internship will allow them to experience the many career paths within forestry and strengthen their skill set before they enter their respective field.

“We hope to attract young leaders to forestry careers through the Foresters for the Future scholarship each year,” said State Forester Joe Fox. “Shylee Head is an excellent example of a future leader in conservation. We are excited to partner with UAM to give her the tools to learn and grow into her career.”

The scholarship program was established by Act 399 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly. The underlying legislation, House Bill 1389, was sponsored by Representative Ken Bragg and Senator Ben Gilmore and was signed into law by Governor Hutchinson on March 17, 2021.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit [agriculture.arkansas.gov/](http://agriculture.arkansas.gov/). The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Arkansas Forest Resources Center, a University of Arkansas System Center of Excellence, brings together interdisciplinary expertise through a partnership between the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. The College and Center are headquartered at the University of Arkansas at Monticello campus, but their programs range statewide with the mission of developing and delivering teaching, research, and extension programs that enhance and ensure the sustainability and productivity of forest-based natural resources and agricultural systems. Academic programs are delivered by the College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources through the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Through the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, research is administered by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, and extension and outreach activities are coordinated by the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

The University of Arkansas at Monticello offers all of their programs to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and are Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employers.