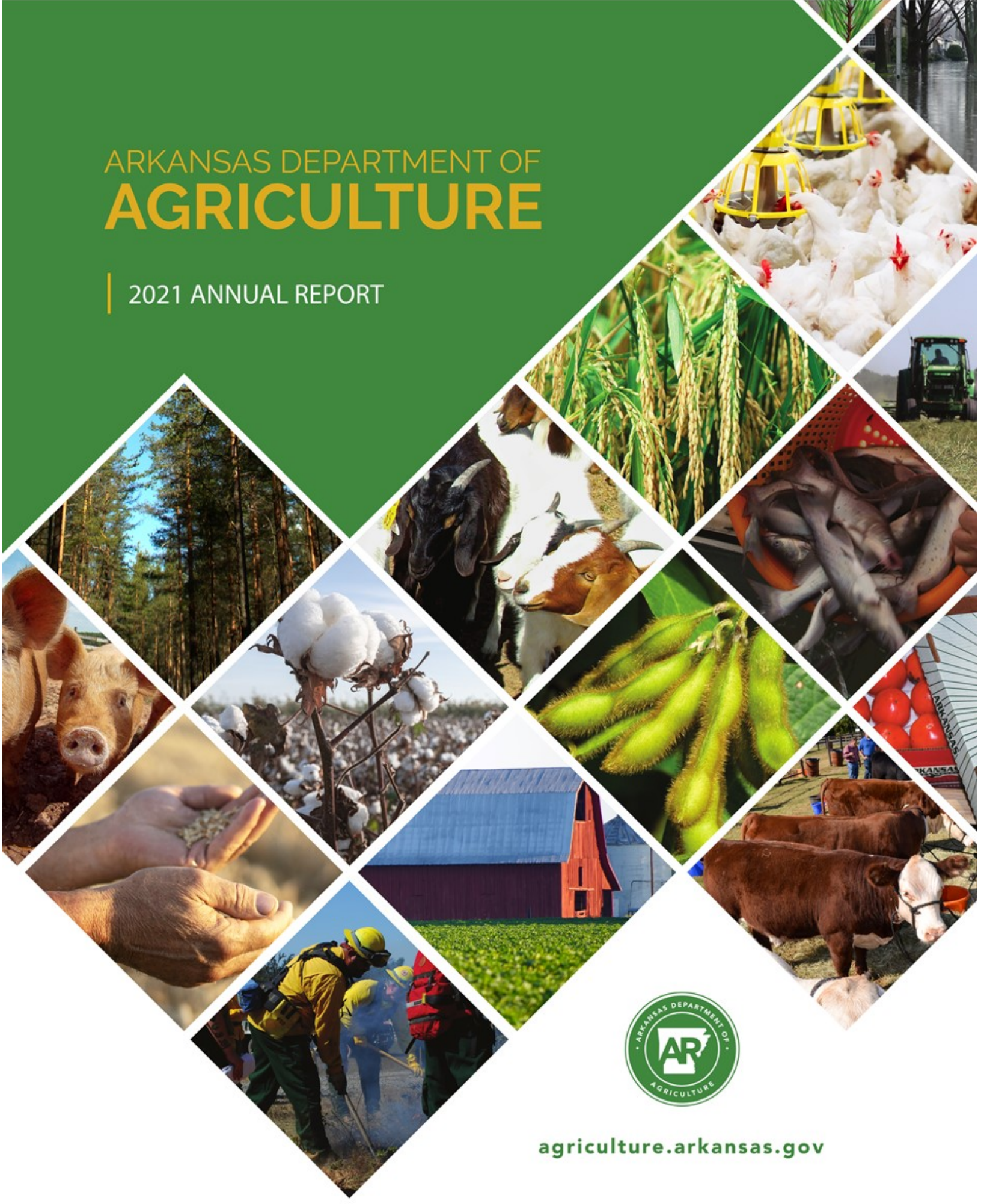
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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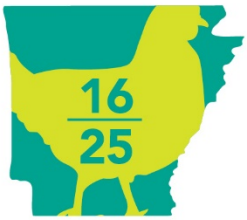
AGRICULTURE

An overview of Arkansas's leading agricultural products

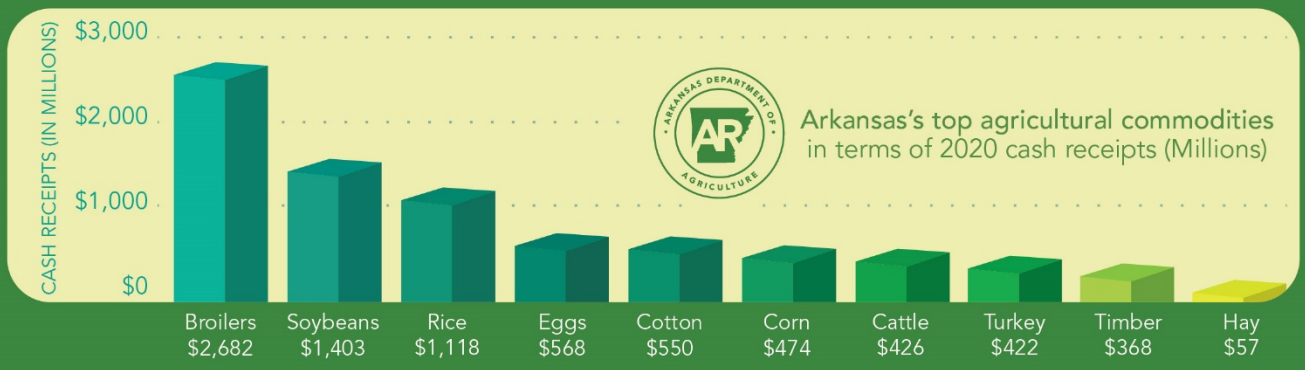


Arkansas ranks in the **TOP 25** nationally in the production of **16** different agricultural commodities

Agriculture is our largest industry, contributing more than **$21 Billion** annually to the economy

Arkansas is nationally ranked **#1** in Rice production, valued at **$1.3 Billion** dollars annually

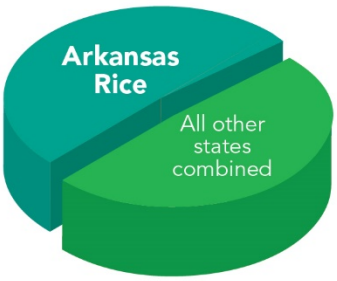
Arkansas boasts **42%** of land comprised of farms **55%** comprised of forestland



268,950 JOBS
PROVIDED BY AGRICULTURE IN ARKANSAS

7.4 BILLION POUNDS OF BROILERS
PRODUCED IN 2020

2,780,000 ACRES OF SOYBEANS
HARVESTED IN 2020



Arkansas rice accounts for **48%** of total U.S. Rice Production and **58%** of U.S. Long Grain Production

acres of Arkansas Peanuts harvested

182,400,000
pounds produced

$35,386,000
value

TOP ARKANSAS COMMODITIES

ranked nationally

#1 IN RICE
#2 IN TURKEYS, RAISED
#3 IN BROILERS
#3 IN COTTON
#3 IN COTTONSEED
#4 IN CATFISH
#7 IN PEANUTS
#10 IN EGGS
#11 IN BEEF CATTLE
#11 IN SOYBEANS

Source: 2021 University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Agriculture Profile 2021, USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service 2021

INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov** for more information.

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MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY Wes Ward

We are pleased to provide you with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report. In this report, you will find information about the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's divisions, programs, and how we served Arkansas agriculture, our state's largest industry, from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources 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. Agriculture contributes more than $21 billion to Arkansas's economy annually and provides one out of every six jobs in the state. Arkansas continues to lead the nation in the production of rice, and the state ranks in the top 25 in 16 different agricultural commodities.

Arkansas is a national leader in agriculture. Over the past fiscal year, we were proud to represent our state by serving as the President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA) which is the largest of four regional associations within the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). We were also proud to represent Arkansas by serving as the Chair of the NASDA Natural Resources and Environment Committee.

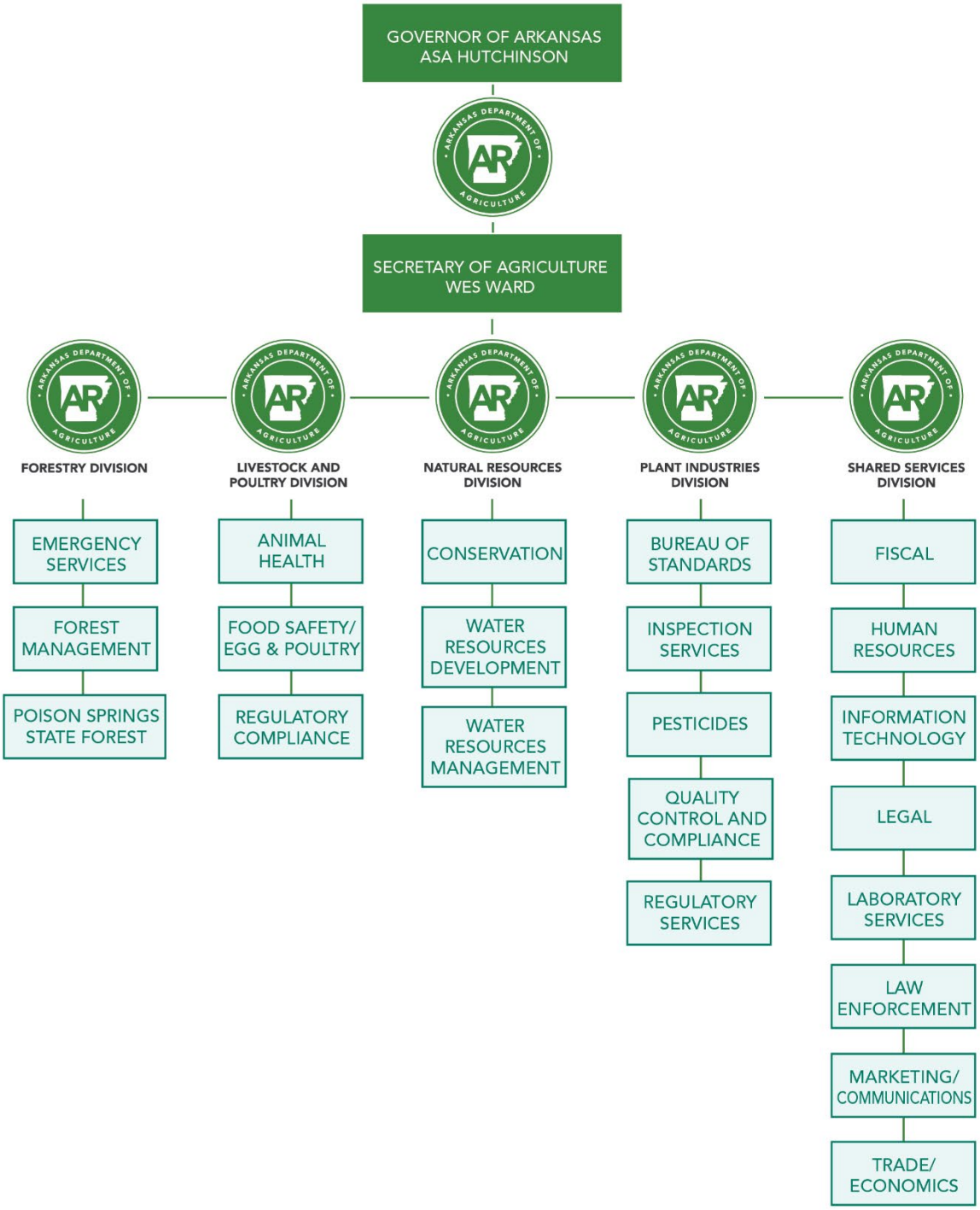
During this fiscal year we were honored to work with Governor Hutchinson, the Arkansas General Assembly, and our state's many agricultural organizations during the 2021 legislative session. Arkansas is blessed to have many leaders that understand the importance of agriculture and continue to support and strengthen our state's largest industry.

I am incredibly proud of the professionalism and dedication of our Arkansas Department of Agriculture employees, and I am grateful for their service. Our goal for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is to be the strong and effective resource and partner that Arkansas's 42,200 farm families, 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

Department of
AGRICULTURE



FORESTRY

Forest Management, Emergency Services, Poison Springs State Forest

44 Million tons of forestry-related products and timber produced

Arkansas is nationally ranked **#6** in forestry products valued at over **$6.4 Billion**

Arkansas has nearly **19 Million acres** of forests, with over **12 Billion trees**

More than **55%** of the entire land mass of the State of Arkansas is forested

787 WILDFIRES
burned over **14,439 acres!**

Trucks and equipment valued at $6 Million distributed to rural fire departments

Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov/forestry** to learn more about Firewise and other Arkansas Forestry programs.

BAUCUM NURSERY

5,082,875
SEEDLINGS SOLD BY BAUCUM NURSERY (hardwood & pine)

FORESTRY DIVISION

The Forestry Division aerially surveyed nearly 16 Million acres for insect, disease, or storm damage; over **88,000** damaged acres found

TREE CITIES
impacting more than **969,000** Arkansas residents

Arkansas produces timber valued at more than **$400 Million** each year

Information provided by the Forestry Division 2021

INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov** for more information.

FORESTRY DIVISION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 Forestry Division is a vital organization for the health and safety of Arkansas residents and natural resources.

State Forester
Joe Fox

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 forest rangers, citizens of the state receive valuable technical assistance through many different programs. The Forestry Division's responsibilities are arranged in three general areas: (1) Emergency Services; (2) Forest Management; and (3) Poison Springs State Forest.

The Forestry Division assists the Arkansas Forestry Commission in accomplishing its mission to promote forest resources, health, conservation, and stewardship. The Forestry Commission is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Forestry Commission members must be Arkansas residents with a long-standing interest in the state's forest resources. Three of the nine members are required to be tree farmers owning 250 acres or less of timber. Statutory duties of the Forestry Commission include assisting private and state landowners in managing forest resources under approved forestry practices, providing information to encourage the establishment of new industrial enterprises utilizing forest resources or the expansion of existing enterprises, furnishing educational information in forestry matters, and conducting or cooperating with other agencies on forestry related research projects.

The Forestry Division strengthened collaborations and partnerships at the federal, state, and local level in Fiscal Year 2021. Joe Fox, State Forester, served as the 2020-2021 president of the National Association of State Foresters, a group of national, state, and territorial foresters. His service in this position provided opportunities to work closely with many federal partners, including the U.S. Forest Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and members of Congress.

The Forestry Division also worked with its many longstanding partners and collaborators at the state and local level, including Volunteer Fire Departments, Central Arkansas Water, UA Monticello, the Southern Group of State Foresters, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, The Nature Conservancy, the Arkansas Forestry Association, the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, the Arkansas Timber Producers Association, the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts, the American Tree Farm System, and many more. The Forestry Division's mission is accomplished more completely when all from diverse perspectives pull together.
Examples of 2021 collaborations and accomplishments include:

- The first tract to be thinned and contracted by the Forestry Division under the Good Neighbor Authority partnership program with the U.S. Forest Service began in Perry County.

- Baseline forest inventory measurements began on land owned by Central Arkansas Water around Lake Maumelle.
- Testimony was provided to the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture at a hearing on forest management for public and private lands to combat catastrophic wildfire and promote forest health.
- Service was provided to the National Association of Conservation Districts' Blue Ribbon Task Force for comments to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on climate-smart agriculture and forestry strategies.
- Assistance was provided to the sponsors of Act 399, enacted during the 2021 session of the Arkansas General Assembly, that created the "Foresters for the Future" scholarship at the University of Monticello to help attract young people to forestry careers.
- The updating of the Farm Bill mandated Arkansas Forest Action Plan by the Division and multiple partners facilitated by The Nature Conservancy.
- Two episodes of "America's Forests with Chuck Leavell" were filmed in Arkansas in partnership with the Fay Jones School of Architecture and others.

A summary of the Forestry Division's accomplishments by area of responsibility are included below.

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.

In fiscal year 2021, 787 wildfires burned 14,439 acres in Arkansas. Overall, wildfires were slightly larger in 2021 with an average size of 18.3 acres compared to a ten-year average of 15.7 acres. The highest wildfire frequency months were March 2021 in which 192 fires burned 5190 acres and April 2021 when 134 fires burned 3,328 acres.

The Division had a total of 108 firefighting units, each comprised of a bulldozer and transport truck. Bulldozers are used to create firebreaks that stop an ongoing fire. Of those units, 101 were equipped with environmental cabs that provide added protection for the operator.

Training is an integral part of the Forestry Division. Each year the Division provides numerous training opportunities for new and veteran employees, including the Arkansas River Valley Wildland Fire Academy and trainings on dozer operations, basic fire suppression, and chainsaw safety.

Accomplishments

The Emergency Services Section's accomplishments include:

- 787 wildfires were suppressed on 14,439 acres in Arkansas.
- The Division maintained 53 Very High Frequency (VHF) repeaters around the state.
- Division pilots recorded 613 flight hours, while detecting wildfires, timber damage, and other forestry-related issues.
- The Division made available 6,156 items of firefighting equipment, valued at $5,572,547, to Arkansas fire departments through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) and

Firefighter Property Program (FFP).

- Due to the Division's strong community outreach efforts, Arkansas added 3 nationally recognized Firewise communities and is now home to 106 sites across the State.
- 58 Students attended the Arkansas River Valley Wildland Fire Academy, 19 attended Dozer Operations training, 40 attended Basic Fire training, and 23 attended Chainsaw Safety training.

Forest Management Section

The Forestry Division works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect, and enhance Arkansas's forests. Over half of Arkansas's timberlands are owned by private nonindustrial forest landowners, and the Forestry Division works with these landowners to encourage sound forest management practices on their lands. These practices enhance economic, recreational, wildlife, soil and water conservation, and aesthetic values. The Forestry Division also works with forest industries, universities, private forestry consultants, and other governmental natural resource agencies in forest management and sustainability of Arkansas's forests.

The Forest Management section administers multiple programs benefiting the citizens of Arkansas. These programs include the Reforestation program that produces millions of tree seedlings each year, and the Forest Stewardship program that provides an opportunity for landowners to receive direct land management recommendations from natural resource professionals. The Division actively serves as the primary forestry Technical Service Provider for landowners that are accepted into the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) programs.

The Forest Management section also administers the Arkansas Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Protection Program (BMP Program), the Forest Health Program, the Urban and Community Forestry Program, the Forest Legacy program, and the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program. The BMP program promotes and monitors silviculture best management practices to reduce soil erosion and water degradation. The Forest Health program continually monitors the economic and aesthetic losses caused by forest insects/diseases and informs landowners how to control these pest problems. Arkansas communities can receive technical assistance and grants through the Urban and Community Forestry program for urban planning and tree planting projects. The Forest Legacy Program protects private forests from conversion to non-forest uses through fee simple or conservation easement acquisitions from willing sellers. The Forest Inventory and Analysis program provides statewide annual surveys about the growth, mortality, and health of Arkansas's timberlands.

Accomplishments

The Forest Management Section staff's major accomplishments include the following:

- Forestry Division foresters and rangers provided technical assistance to 5,521 landowners impacting 409,280 acres across the state:
    - 130 Forest Stewardship Management Plans were written.
    - 70 Tree Farm plans were prepared.
    - 692 practice plans were developed for landowners enrolled in NRCS programs.
- During the fiscal year, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture purchased 587 acres of the Hot Springs Recharge Area (HSRA) in Garland County and facilitated the purchase of 638 acres in Drew County. As of June 30, 2021, the Department has purchased and protected 1,849 acres of

the HSRA.

- The Forestry Division submitted two 2022 Forest Legacy project proposals and one 2022 Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council proposal for the purchase of 6,441 acres for Forest Legacy in Garland, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline Counties.
- Arkansas's Urban and Community Forestry Program now supports 43 official Tree City USA communities, four Tree Campus Higher Education campuses, and one Tree Line USA Utility Company. Two communities earned the Growth Award for demonstrating higher levels of tree care and long-term sustainable community forestry programs.
- Five Urban and Community Forestry Community Assistance grants totaling $38,000 were awarded for projects to improve community forests across Arkansas.
- As part of a new campaign to celebrate Arbor Day, approximately 4,000 hardwood seedlings were handed out during 18 "Free Tree Friday" events held every Friday between Arkansas's Arbor Day in March and National Arbor Day in April.
- The Division's Forest Inventory team collected data from 952 (20 percent) of the total Forest Inventory and Analysis research plots.
- Baucum Nursery sold 4,182,925 hardwood seedlings and 899,950 pine seedlings for Arkansas landowners. The nursery produced 25 percent of all hardwoods in the South.
- The Division's Tree Improvement program staff harvested 732 bushels of genetically improved pinecones for seed.
- Division staff aerially surveyed a total of 16,109,570 acres (some acres surveyed more than once) during FY 2021 forest health flights and mapped 88,099 acres of forest disturbances, such as defoliation or pine bark beetles.
- The Division's BMP Program delivered five training sessions for 61 attendees and responded to 13 water quality logging complaints. Additionally, 15 courtesy examinations were completed on timber harvests.
- Information about private land forestry programs was provided to 271 African American landowners (11,782 acres total) and 740 women landowners (41,489 acres total).

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 nonindustrial landowners.

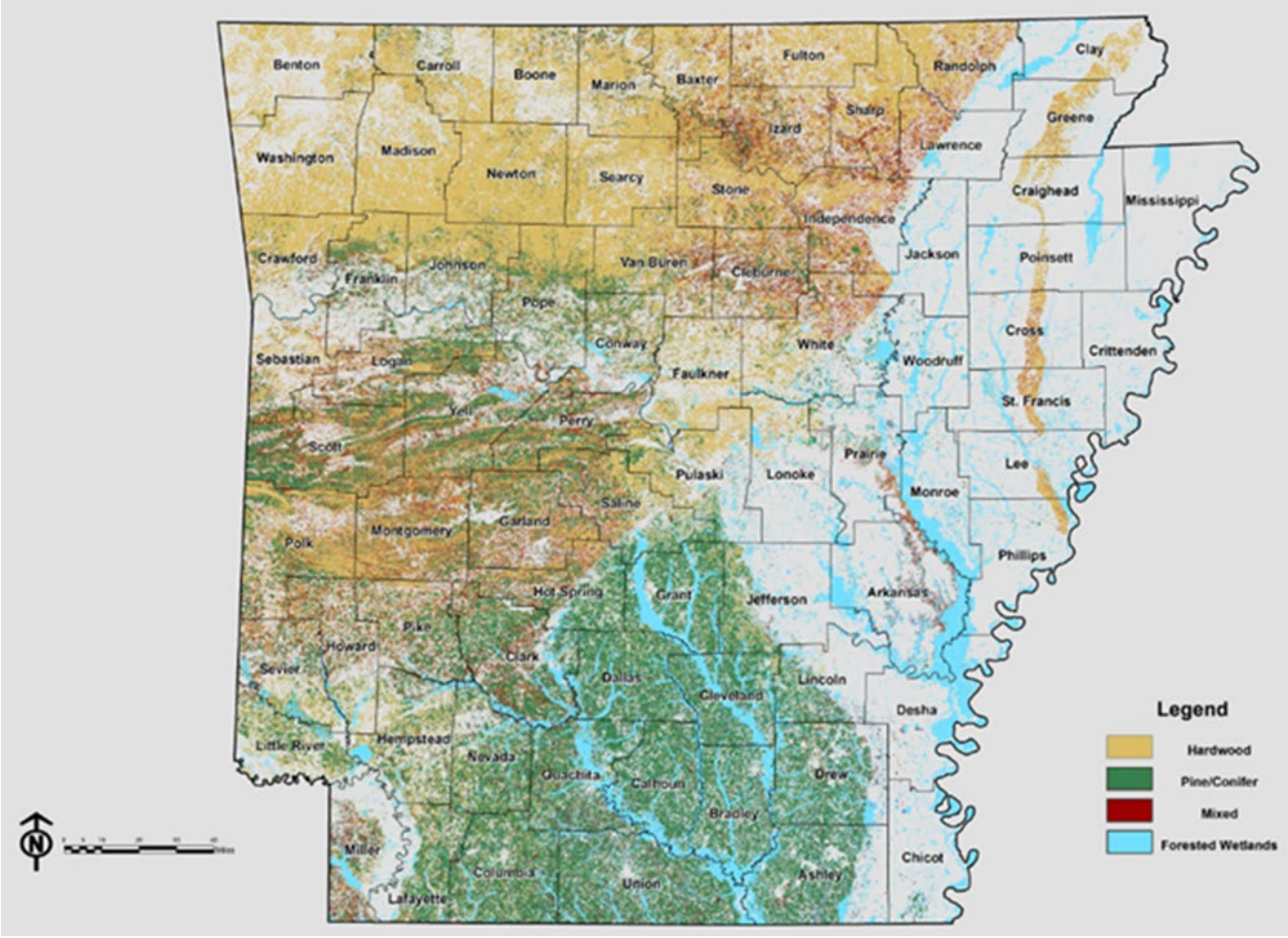
When PSSF was purchased in 1957, the 17,512-acre forest had 20,240,000 board feet of pine sawtimber and 10,303,000 board feet of hardwood sawtimber. The Forestry Division has harvested timber almost every year since 1957. Today PSSF comprises an area of 24,010 acres with over 50,000,000 board feet of pine sawtimber and over 15,000,000 board feet of hardwood sawtimber.

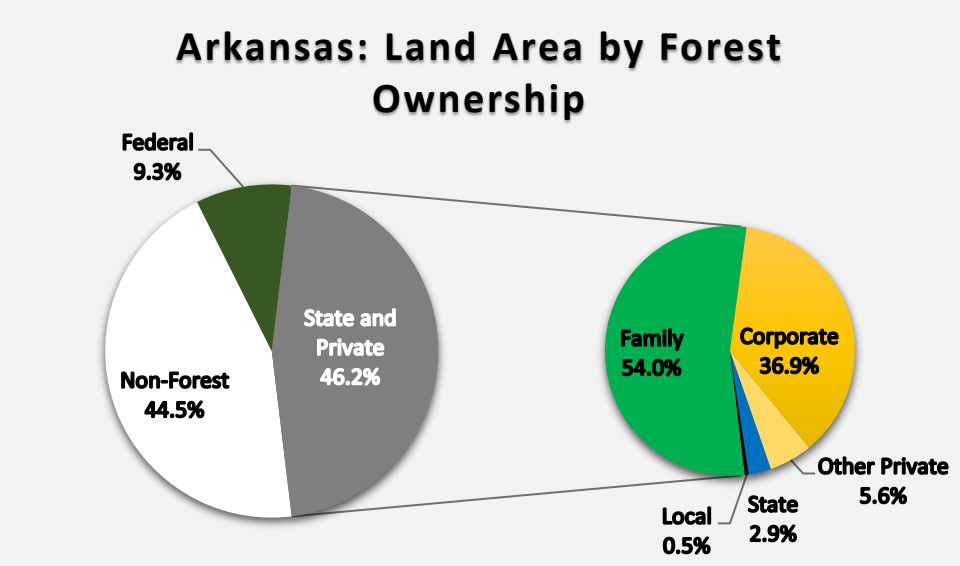
Accomplishments

The Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF) Section staff's major accomplishments include:

Timber Revenue from Poison Springs State Forest, 2020	
Product	**Volume**
Pine Sawtimber	16,904 tons
Pine Chip and Saw	0 tons
Pine Pulpwood	10,291 tons
Hardwood Pulpwood	715 tons
Misc. and Salvage	2,075 tons
Total Revenue	**$711,779**

Arkansas State Forestry Map





LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Food Safety, Regulatory Compliance, Animal Health

Arkansas ranks **#2** nationally in the production of chicken broiler meat

Arkansas is the **fifth largest** producer of turkey meat

1.57 Billion chicken eggs graded in fiscal year 2020

Arkansas is ranked **#10** in the nation in the production of beef cows

Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov/livestock-poultry** to learn more about Arkansas livestock programs.

25,166 calfhood vaccinations by livestock inspectors

36,109 equine infectious anemia (EIA) tests performed

98,311 cattle tagged for disease traceability

38,511 Health Certificates processed

1,397 Animal Movement Permits issued

2,111 hours worked at 85 livestock events

672,911 Diagnostic Procedures performed

ARKANSAS MEATS

1.66 BILLION pounds of chicken meat inspected

859 MILLION pounds of turkey meat inspected

617 THOUSAND pounds of rabbit meat inspected

13,374 certified flocks in the National Poultry Improvement Program

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DIVISION

TOP LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES

ranked nationally

#2 IN BROILERS
#3 IN CATFISH
#5 IN TURKEY
#7 IN EGGS
#10 IN BEEF COWS
#17 IN CATTLE & CALVES
#26 IN HOGS & PIGS

Information provided by the Livestock and Poultry Division 2021

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: (1) Animal Health; (2) Food Safety/Egg and Poultry; and (3) Regulatory Compliance.

Livestock and Poultry Division Director
Patrick Fisk

Livestock and Poultry Division personnel administer and implement 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 seven members of the Livestock and Poultry Commission are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for seven-year terms. Each congressional district must be represented by a member on the commission.

The Division partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through cooperative agreements for livestock and poultry disease control, animal identification for disease traceback, food safety programs, and livestock market news reporting. These programs promote and enhance the marketability of livestock and poultry both nationally and internationally.

In Fiscal Year 2021, the Division continued to provide COVID-19 related assistance to the agricultural industry. The Division administered $10.4 million in grant funding awarded to the Department through Arkansas's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Steering Committee and the Arkansas Legislative Council to expand meat and poultry processing capacity in Arkansas. Thirty-one facilities across the state received funding through the Arkansas Meat and Poultry Processing Grant program. The Division also continued to assist the agriculture industry and the Arkansas Department of Health in approving COVID-19 agriculture-related event plans.

The Livestock and Poultry Division also worked with federal, state, and industry partners to implement new programs and services authorized during the 2021 session of the Arkansas General Assembly. These new services included the development and implementation a new state meat inspection program pursuant to Act 418 and the development of a database to assist with labeling requirements found in Act 1040. The Division also worked with industry partners to update and streamline several program rules, including those related to fowl carcass disposal, fairs, and feral hogs.

Highlights of the Livestock and Poultry Division's accomplishments and collaborations include:

- Convened a working group of industry partners to review proposed requirements for the Arkansas Meat and Poultry Processing Grant Program and select grant awardees

- Administered the Arkansas Meat and Poultry Processing Grant program, dispersing $10.4 million to 31 existing or proposed processing facilities
- Applied for and received $183,000 in grants from U.S. Department of Agriculture and the CARES Act to improve the readiness of the Division's animal depopulation program
- Continued the development and implementation of a new state meat inspection program pursuant to Act 418, including drafting a state plan and proposed rules
- Developed a database system to provide identification numbers for producers of homemade goods under the Food Freedom Act
- Worked with the USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics to authorize an Arkansas company to participate in a safety trial for a new vaccine for Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus.
- Convened a working group of industry partners to review program rules for updating or streamlining existing program rules. Consensus was reached on changes to rules regarding feral hogs, swine, fairs, carcass disposal, and garbage feeding
- Partnered with the Arkansas Department of Health to review 295 large, agriculture-related event plans

A summary of the Livestock and Poultry Division's accomplishments by area of responsibility are included below.

Animal Health Section

The Arkansas State Veterinarian manages the Animal Health section. 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 staff's major accomplishments include:

- Participated in discussions and policy formation for OneHealth programs of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Health
- Served on subject/topic/program committees of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA)
- Served as a participating member of the National Alliance of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO)
- Participated in Arkansas Department of Agriculture and commodity advisory group reviews of Arkansas regulations
- Conducted presentations for continuing education and on-boarding of newly licensed Arkansas veterinarians
- Conducted Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) response planning for African Swine Fever (ASF) and Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)
- Assisted with COVID-19 related disturbances to business continuity, management of illegal animal movement, and meat supply interruption concerns
- Received a $50,000 grant from the CARES Act to assist the animal agriculture industry with COVID-19 related animal depopulation needs

- Received a $138,000 USDA grant to expand the Division's response capability for large animal disease outbreaks
- Promoted rural veterinary service availability through the USDA Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program
- Provided management and reporting for USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Service Cooperative Agreement grants
- Prepared quarterly newsletters sent to more than 1,300 Arkansas licensed animal health professionals
- Participated in and provided section leadership for the Poultry Health Advisory Committee and the Arkansas Poultry Veterinarian Association

The National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) within the Animal Health Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Issued 9,633 various certifications for poultry
- Inspected 15 poultry companies for NPIP/Lab approvals. COVID-19 concerns prevented visitor access to many facilities in poultry production
- Screened 39 poultry flocks for Salmonella status determination
- Certified 13,374 poultry flocks as NPIP program disease-free for trade certification partners
- Conducted 119,172 tests for Avian Influenza.

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 a cooperative agreement with the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service. The Food Safety Section enforces the provisions of the Arkansas Egg Marketing Act of 1969, which authorizes employees or agents to enter any store, vehicle, market, or any other business or place where eggs are bought, stored, sold, offered for sale, or processed to make inspections as needed to determine if the grades of the eggs conform to grades as labeled on the exterior of the container. The Food Safety Section has 33 employees (graders and inspectors) with 32 licensed by 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 staff's major accomplishments include:

- Graded and certified 1.66 billion pounds of chicken and chicken products, 859 million pounds of turkey and turkey products, and 617,000 pounds of rabbit and rabbit products
- Performed 13 audits on manufacturers producing Child Nutrition Labeled Products, and graded and certified 3,385,715 pounds of Child Nutrition Labeled products
- Conducted 42 Food Defense audits on manufacturers and off-site storage facilities
- Graded and certified 4,387,063 cases (30 dozen per case) of shell eggs; 1.57 billion total eggs graded
- Inspected 43 processing locations and inspected 120 dozen (3,600 total) shell eggs

- Issued 210 Egg Handler Permits and inspected 169,017 dozen shell eggs at retail.
- Inspected 2 million total shell eggs, with 482 dozen shell eggs (5,784 total shell eggs) placed on stop sale and returned to the processor for rework or destruction

Regulatory Compliance Section

The Regulatory Compliance section has 27 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. Inspectors are 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.

Inspectors 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.

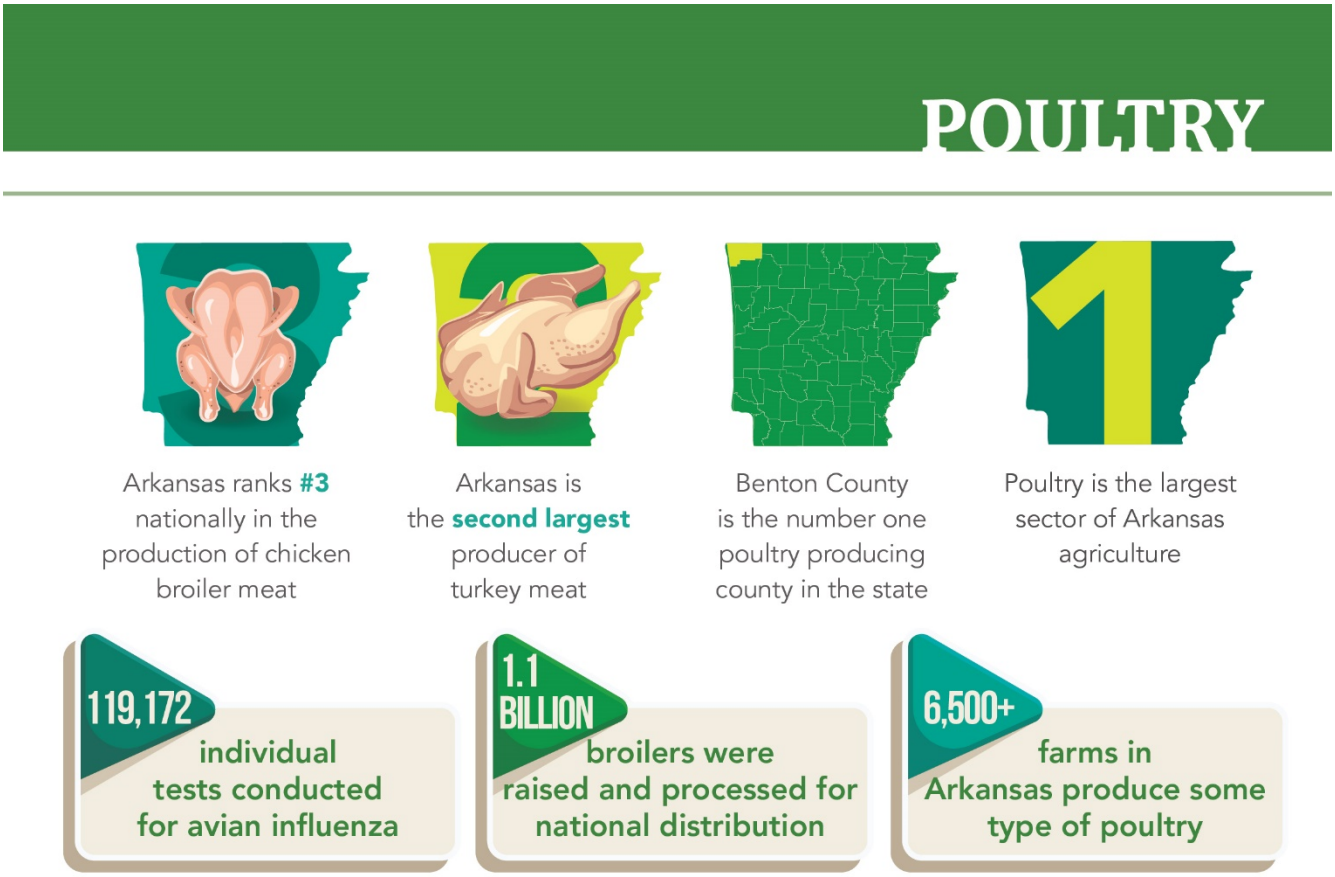
Inspectors respond to complaints regarding non-compliance with any laws or rules that the Division oversees, including carcass disposal and the state-to-state movement of animals. They provide educational support to producers and partner agencies. Three of the Livestock and Poultry Division inspectors, along with three part-time employees, also provide livestock marketing reporting services at 10 livestock markets across the state.

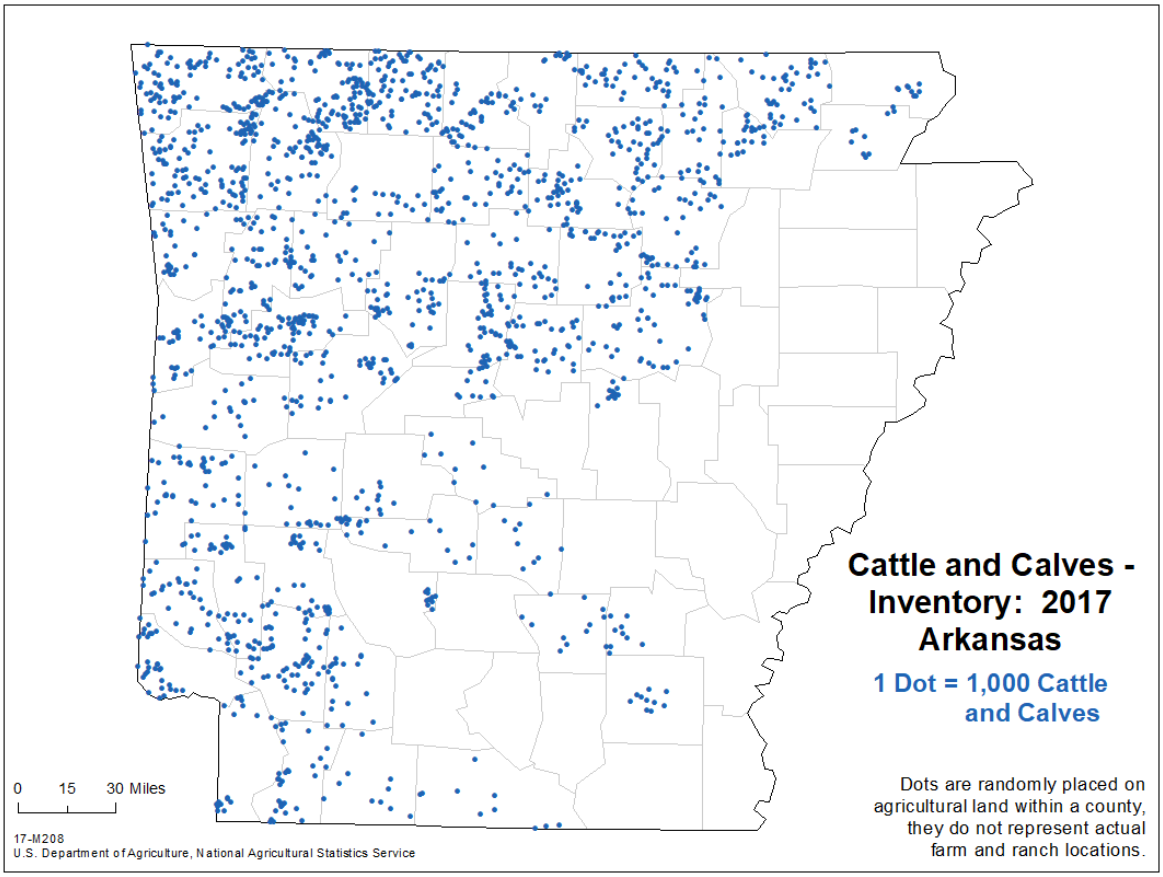
Accomplishments

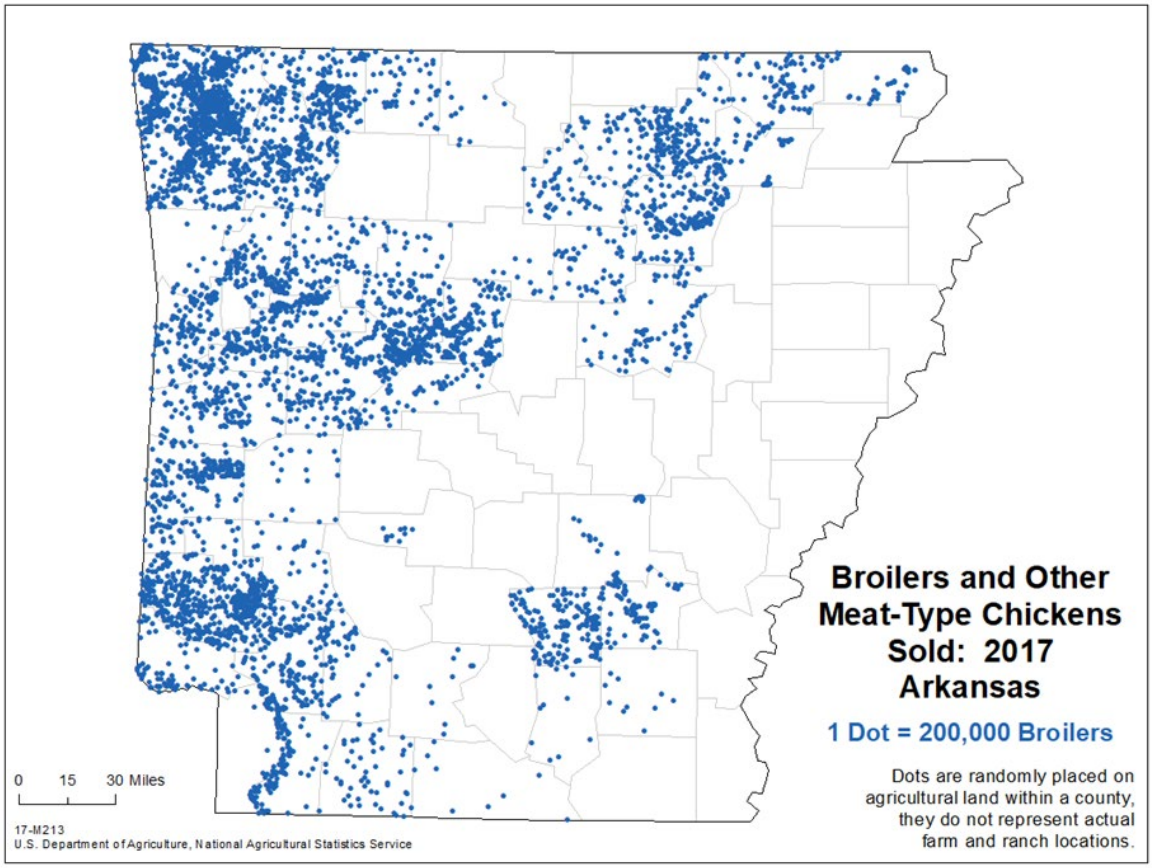
The Regulatory Compliance section's major accomplishments include:

- 115 new USDA Premise IDs were issued for a total of 12,249 in the Premise Identification Number (PIN) program
- A total of 98,311 new animals were identified and entered in the Animal Disease Traceability Database
- Certified 19 new Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) verifiers for a total of 3,247 verifiers
- Processed 18,666 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) tests
- Issued 1,397 animal entry permits
- Registered 81 new cattle brands and renewed 187 brands
- Processed 36,109 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection
- 2,111 hours of service contributed by Livestock inspectors contributed at Arkansas fairs
- Charted over 635,811 animals sold at markets across Arkansas
- Vaccinated 25,166 calves for Brucellosis.
- Provided Livestock Market News reporting services for 330,802 cattle sold at 10 Arkansas livestock markets
- Performed 2 foaming exercises in preparation for disease outbreaks
- Assisted industry with depopulating over 30,000 poultry.

- Participated in the Arkansas Nuclear One Exercise hosted by the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management
- Participated in 7 USDA trainings on animal traceability and disease monitoring and response




Cattle and Calves - Inventory: 2017 Arkansas
1 Dot = 1,000 Cattle and Calves
0 15 30 Miles
Dots are randomly placed on agricultural land within a county, they do not represent actual farm and ranch locations.
17-M208
U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service


Broilers and Other Meat-Type Chickens Sold: 2017 Arkansas
1 Dot = 200,000 Broilers
0 15 30 Miles
Dots are randomly placed on agricultural land within a county, they do not represent actual farm and ranch locations.
17-M213
U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

NATURAL RESOURCES

Conservation, Water Resources Development, and Water Resources Management

Funded **6** Unpaved Road Program projects totaling **$396,475**

Provided **$1.4 Million** and technical assistance to **44** projects associated with the abatement/ reduction or control of nonpoint source pollutants

Provided **$150,000** in funding to **55** Arkansas conservation districts for bounties for **16,933** beaver tails

Provided technical training and support on flood risk reduction and mitigation to **1,700** community officials - representing **425** towns, cities, and counties

63 community water-related projects worth more than $154M

In cooperation with our partners at the U.S. Geological Survey and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, monitored the aquifers of Arkansas through approximately measurements at **1,200** wells

917 nutrient management plans developed and provided **$713M** to hire Nutrient Management Technicians

Was recognized by the American Council of Engineering Companies Arkansas for work on the Arkansas Base Level Engineering Project and received an Engineering Excellence Honor Award for flood risk mapping efforts in recognition of "a high degree of achievement, value, and ingenuity."

Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources** to learn more about Natural Resources Division projects.

Managed the ongoing deployment of **$5,000,000** in flood mitigation projects, providing support to communities ravaged by the 2019 Arkansas River Flood

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Processed and approved **16** new riparian zone tax credit projects; for **$835,500** in eligible project costs

Information Provided by Natural Resources Division 2021

INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov** for more information.

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Natural Resources Division Director
Chris Colclasure

The Natural Resources Division serves as the lead agency for conserving Arkansas's land and water resources. The Division accomplishes its responsibilities by administering rules and programs focused on the sustainable conservation, development, and management of Arkansas's natural resources. The Natural Resources Division is directed by the Arkansas Water Plan, a long-term strategy to guide the conservation, development, management, and use of water for all citizens. The Arkansas Water Plan brings data, science, and public input together to define water demands, water supplies, issues, and potential solutions to meet future needs.

The Natural Resources Division is composed of three sections:
(1) Conservation; (2) Water Resources Development, and (3) Water Resources Management.

The Natural Resources Division administers rules promulgated by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. The Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. At least two members must reside in each congressional district as the districts existed on August 1, 1985. Each member serves a several year term.

In fiscal year 2021, the Natural Resources Division moved from its downtown location to a new site closer to the Department headquarters in west Little Rock. The relocation resulted in significant cost savings and increased the Division's operational efficiency and effectiveness to its clients and within the Department.

The Natural Resources Division also continued its work with public and private sector partners and stakeholders through a variety of programs and projects in Fiscal Year 2021. The Division worked with communities across the state on loans and grants for water, wastewater, and solid waste projects. Division staff also provided technical assistance for floodplain management and dam safety and continued to disperse grant funding provided by Governor Hutchinson and the Arkansas Legislative Council for the repair of levees damaged by flooding in 2019.

Several legislative changes enacted during the 2021 session of the Arkansas General Assembly were also a primary focus for the Natural Resources Division. Act 605 shifted the primary responsibility of regulating retail water providers to the Natural Resources Commission and required the adoption of rules and training to be administered by Division staff. Act 563 and Act 875 made changes to the administration of tax credits by the Division under the Water Resources Conservation and Development Incentive Act that also required changes to existing rules.

Examples of collaborations and accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2021 include:

- Achieved savings of $57,000 in FY2021 and $120,000 in subsequent years and increased

efficiency by relocating the Division offices to a space closer to the Department headquarters
- Worked with 63 communities on water, wastewater, and solid waste projects totaling more than $154 million
- Provided safety inspections on 39 dams across the state
- Provided technical training and support of flood risk reduction and mitigation to 1,700 community officials representing 425 Arkansas towns, cities, and counties
- Disbursed $5.9 million from funding provided by Executive Order 19-09 for the repair of levees damaged by flooding
- Worked with the Legal section on administrative rule changes

A summary of the Natural Resource Division's accomplishments by area of responsibility are included below.

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 staff's major accomplishments include:

- Provided $250,000 to conservation districts for district priority projects including pollinator projects, irrigation studies, urban garden projects, feral hog eradication, outdoor classrooms, and conservation field days
- Provided $126,999 to Arkansas Conservation Districts to serve as Technical Service Providers that provide free planning and design services to agricultural producers participating in USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services programs
- Certified nutrient management planners wrote 917 plans and Conservation Districts were provided $713,000 to hire Nutrient Management Technicians
- Provided $150,000 in funding to 55 Arkansas conservation districts for bounties for 16,933 beaver tails under the Beaver Eradication program
- Allocated $918,750 to fund Arkansas conservation district operations.

Feral Hog Eradication Program

The feral hog program provides coordination, leadership, and support to the Department's multiple Divisions on issues related to feral swine. Additionally, the feral hog program also provides co-chair leadership and expertise to the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force in conjunction with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and twenty-two member organizations. The Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force was established to develop and implement statewide feral hog control plans to reduce populations through the development and implementation of effective legislative, policy,

management, control, and communication efforts. Furthermore, the feral hog program was also established to assist with development and implementation of U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Farm Bill grants related to feral swine control projects.

Accomplishments

Feral Hog Eradication Program Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Assisted and coordinated implementation of USDA-NRCS Feral Swine Eradication and Control Project (FSCP) through the Department to twelve county soil and water conservation districts
- Assisted and coordinated with eight soil and water conservation districts to hire ten district technicians as part of the FSCP within twelve counties
- Assisted and coordinated with partners to obtain UDSA-NRCS supplemental funding for the FSCP
- Assisted and coordinated education and outreach through virtual and in-person landowner workshops to support the FSCP and feral swine control with all partners
- Informed partners of the FSCP and feral swine issues by attending regional, state, and national meetings, workshops, and conferences
- Coordinated with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) to provide feral swine invasive species information to the Department as part of Invasive Species Awareness month and week
- Established MOUs with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service (UACES) for the FSCP
- Coordinated with UACES to develop statewide surveys which are compatible with national surveys across the FSCP
- Assisted Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission with issuance of two Aerial Eradication Permits for private landowners in Desha and Little River counties to remove 940 feral swine
- Developed and implemented a mobile application to collect feral swine removal data for private landowners and public agencies with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Assisted members of the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force with the development and distribution of more than 41,000 copies of the Arkansas Feral Hog Handbook
- Provided co-chair leadership with AGFC to the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force to conduct quarterly meetings, address and resolve topics related to feral hogs within Arkansas,
- Assisted with the development of the USDA APHIS- "One Call" document for release to those landowners needing assistance with feral swine issues
- Coordinated the development of press release materials and scheduling of articles related to feral swine damages, diseases, livestock threats and wildlife reduction
- Assisted the Legislative and Policy subcommittee by reviewing and implementing legislative modifications for consideration during 2021 Arkansas General Assembly
- Developed and collaborated with Task Force partners to provide reports to the Legislature/Agriculture committees
- Continued to collaborate with USDA-APHIS and other Task Force partners with the development of a draft statewide feral hog elimination plan
- Engaged partners to encourage potential feral swine research to obtain damage assessments and determine values of resources protected
- Assisted USDA-APHIS with securing $50,000 in Buffalo River Conservation Committee funding for feral swine trapping equipment within the Buffalo River watershed.

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 primary types of projects funded 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
- Drainage projects and flood control systems (levee systems).

Eligible applicants include cities, towns, counties, rural development authorities, public facility 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's major accomplishments include:

- Approved water, wastewater, and solid waste project loans and grants for 63 communities totaling $154,558,179
- Disbursed $110.5 million to projects including $98.6 Million from the Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds, $5.9 Million from State Programs, and $5.9 Million from the funding authorized by Executive Order 19-09 for the repair of levees damaged in the May 2019 flood
- Provided $492,271 in low-interest funding for 3 projects, implementing conservation best management practices for nonpoint source agricultural water quality impacts on croplands in partnership with local financial institutions in FY 2021. Cumulative funding for the Agriculture Water Quality Loan Program totaled just over $25 million
- Started construction on 46 projects and completed construction on 26 Commission funded projects.

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; Floodplain Management; Groundwater Protection and Management; Nonpoint Source Pollution Management; and State Water Planning.

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 to regulate smaller dams believed to pose a threat to life or property. Regulations assure dams are properly designed, constructed, monitored, and maintained.

Accomplishments

The Dam Safety staff's major accomplishments include:

- Inspected 23 high hazard dams, 7 significant hazard dams, and 9 low hazard dams
- Provided equipment to allow dam owners to safely maintain and repair their dams

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 Natural Resources Division's Floodplain Management Program administers programs including the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for the state of Arkansas.

Accomplishments

The Floodplain Management staff's major accomplishments were as follows:

- Provided technical training and support on flood risk reduction and mitigation to 1,700 community officials - representing 425 towns, cities, and counties
- Responded to 2,500 requests for technical assistance from residents, mayors, county judges, and other government officials
- Implemented a series of statewide and national virtual training sessions
- Managed the ongoing deployment of $5,000,000 in flood mitigation projects, providing support to communities ravaged by the 2019 Arkansas River Flood
- Spearheaded efforts to provide state-of-the-art flood risk analysis and mapping to towns and cities in 20 Arkansas counties
- Was recognized by the American Council of Engineering Companies Arkansas for our work on the Arkansas Base Level Engineering Project. Received an Engineering Excellence Honor Award for our flood risk mapping efforts in recognition of "a high degree of achievement, value, and ingenuity"

Groundwater Protection and Management

The Groundwater Protection and Management section assist the Natural Resources Division and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission in managing and protecting the groundwater resources in Arkansas for human, environmental, and economic benefit. This work 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. Groundwater Protection and Management staff work in partnership with the public and other agencies to accomplish these objectives.

Accomplishments

The Water Resources Management Groundwater Protection and Management staff's major accomplishments include:

- Collected groundwater level data and produced the annual Groundwater Protection and Management Report pursuant to the Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Act 154 of 1991
- In cooperation with our partners at the U.S. Geological Survey and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, monitored the aquifers of Arkansas through approximately 1,200 wells
- Managed the State's Conservation Tax Credit Program, including approving 62 new projects and issuing certificates of completions to 105 completed tax credit projects
- Managed the Arkansas's Water-Use Registration Program, which includes 20,000 surface water sites and 60,000 groundwater sites

Nonpoint Source Pollution Management

Nonpoint Source Pollution is pollution resulting from various sources over a large area, 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, or hydrologic modification and is often deposited into lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and even our underground sources of drinking water.

Potential sources of Nonpoint Source 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
- Hydro-modification

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

Accomplishments

The Nonpoint Source Pollution Management staff's major accomplishments include:

- Provided federal funds and technical assistance to 44 projects associated with the abatement/reduction or control of nonpoint source pollutants including the implementation of best management practices, demonstrations of effective abatement/reduction techniques,

technical assistance, education, and monitoring
- Began the development of a Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model for the Little Red River Watershed
- Developed 13 new project workplans and agreements
- Completed fifteen Best Management Program cost share project inspections
- Approved seven water quality agriculture loans related to nonpoint source pollution that totaled $492,271
- Disbursed $1,420,732 in federal funding to support 44 total projects

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.

The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Grant Program receives $300,000 annually for projects. In FY 2021, six project applications totaling $396,475 were received.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- Funded six projects as follows:

Calhoun County	$75,000
Izard County	$21,475
Independence County	$75,000
Lincoln County	$75,000
Van Buren County	$75,000
Washington County	$75,000
Total	$396,475

- Utilized $96,475 from the federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program to fully fund the five projects selected

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

State Water Planning staff's major accomplishments include:

- Riparian Zone Tax Credit Program staff processed and approved 16 new riparian zone tax credit projects; conducted 16 project inspections for approval and compliance, approved $835,500 in eligible project costs; conducted 13 final project inspections and monitored 24 projects
- Data Quality Assurance/Quality Control Program staff conducted four project manager coordination meetings; monitored 18 ongoing projects with existing Quality Assurance Project Plans ("QAPPs")
- Processed and conducted technical reviews on 25 projects

PLANT INDUSTRIES

Pesticides, Regulatory Services, Quality Control, Bureau of Standards, Inspection Services

14,245 pesticides registered and monitered by the Pesticide Section

More than **22,758** pesticide applicators certified statewide in 2020

Inspections conducted on **864,465** pounds of fruits and vegetables

119,917 tons of peanuts graded

1,067 export products certified free of pests, weeds, and diseases

8,620 quality assurance tests on seeds for more than 100 different crops

1105 N-P-K tests performed on 1,072,549 tons of fertilizer

BUREAU OF STANDARDS

performed inspections and testing at

8,425 motor fuel dispensers

4,262 retail businesses

3,575 scale inspections

Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov/plant-industries** to learn more about the Plant Industries Division.

ARKANSAS APIARIES

56,348 registered bee colonies

3,354 registered beekeepers

5.2 MILLION pounds of unwanted pesticides across Arkansas safely disposed of since 2015

PLANT INDUSTRIES DIVISION

INVASIVE PEST QUARANTINE

FIRE ANT **43** counties

EMERALD ASH BORER **STATEWIDE** **75** counties

Arkansas certified **4,949 acres** of Sweet Potatoes

Information Provided by the Plant Industries Division 2021

INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov** for more information.

PLANT INDUSTRIES DIVISION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Plant Industries Division's 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 five sections: (1) Pesticide; (2) Regulatory Services; (3) Quality Control and Compliance; (4) Bureau of Standards; (5) Inspection Services Section.

The Division conducts work activities associated with 58 diverse programs. Staffing levels average 118 total personnel, including approximately 60 field inspectors. General oversight of the Division is provided by the Plant Industries Division Director. Oversight of each of the five sections is provided by a Section Manager.

Plant Industries Division Director
Scott Bray

The Plant Industries Division administers the rules promulgated by the State Plant Board. The membership of the Plant Board was amended by Act 361 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly to include 19 members. Seventeen members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, with eight of those members selected from nomination submitted by statutorily designated trade associations. Two non-voting members are designated by the Vice President for Agriculture of the University of Arkansas. The Plant Board promulgates rules pursuant to more than 20 different Arkansas laws regarding a wide range of agricultural products, practices, and pests. The Plant Board also establishes administrative penalties for rule violations.

The Plant Industries Division experienced significant change, growth, and challenges during fiscal year 2021. The Division's peanut grading program expanded to accommodate the industry's significant and rapid growth over the past several years, which increased from 11,000 acres in 2012 to 38,000 acres in 2020 and more than doubled the number of grading locations. Due to the success and excellent reputation of its grading program, the Division was asked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to providing grading services and training at a new peanut buying point in Missouri.

The Division also worked with industry partners on Act 364 that was enacted during the Arkansas General Assembly's 2021 session to help ensure the continuation of the popular Abandoned Agricultural Pesticide Disposal program administered by the Division. The program, commonly known as the Abandoned Pesticide program, provides a way for agriculture producers and commercial applicators to dispose of unwanted or unusable pesticides anonymously and free of charge. Since 2005, approximately 5.2 million pounds of unwanted pesticides have been collected.

The discovery of cogongrass, known as one of the world's worst invasive species, in eastern Arkansas also presented a new challenge for the Plant Industries Division in late fiscal year 2021. Division staff quickly formed and led a multiagency response team that successfully treated the site, conducted surveys to identify any additional locations, and continues monitoring and training activities.

Highlights of these accomplishments and successful collaborations include:

- Increased peanut grading program staff and training capacity to meet the Arkansas peanut industry's needs. Staffing levels increased from two full-time staff and 20 seasonal employees in 2012 to 10 full-time staff and 93 seasonal employees in 2021. All peanut grading program costs are paid from service fees paid by the peanut industry
- At the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provided grading services and training for Missouri Department of Agriculture staff and seasonal employees at a new buying point in Missouri
- Worked with industry partners in the development of Act 364 to amend the Arkansas Abandoned Agricultural Pesticide Program Act to increase the fee, for the first time since 2001, from $50 for each pesticide registered to an amount not to exceed $100. The new proposed fee of $75, if enacted by rule, will help offset the increase in disposal costs and allow for successful continuation of the program
- Led a multiagency response team, including employees from the Department's Forestry Division and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to eradicate the first identified population of cogongrass in Arkansas
- Conducted site surveys for additional populations of cogongrass in eastern Arkansas
- Performed monitoring and additional eradication efforts on the cogongrass population
- Formed a multiagency cogongrass working group to provide ongoing education and training for all field staff within the Department and others. Members include representatives from all divisions within the Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, Arkansas Department of Transportation, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and the Arkansas Heritage Commission
- Developed a field guide on cogongrass to add in visual detection
- Conducted surveys at plant nurseries for ornamental varieties of cogongrass

A summary of the Plant Industries Division's accomplishments by area of responsibility are included below.

Bureau of Standards Section

The Bureau's mission is to ensure equity and fairness in the commercial transactions of the marketplace 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 include:

- 8,130 fuel samples collected
- 4,262 retail stations inspected
- 5,993 storage tanks inspected
- 20,484 laboratory tests performed
- 43 Notice of violations issued
- Increased compliance by assisting W&M staff in checking annual inspection decal requirement

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 services 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 accomplishment include:

- 512 vehicle scales tested
- 418 platform scales tested
- 1,299 High Volume fuel meters tested
- 15,118 meat packages inspected
- 5,602 packaged commodities inspected
- 7,126 petroleum pumps inspected
- 2,645 small scales inspected
- 68 fish identification inspections
- 1,457 egg labeling inspections

- 40 USDA country of origin labeling inspections
- 44 complaints investigations
- 28 Notice of violations issued

Inspector Services Section

This section consists of 1 Section Manager, 4 district supervisors and 25 inspectors located throughout the state. The inspectors provide inspections services for three Plant Industries Division Sections. They are trained to conduct various types of inspections, sampling procedures, trapping/surveying, and pesticide misuse investigations. These activities include plant symptomology identification from herbicide exposure. The inspectors have participated in invasive pest surveys and eradication efforts and assisted with an assortment of duties on an as needed basis. This a critical component of the work activities conducted by the entire Division.

Activities such as sampling, investigations, inspections, and others conducted by this group are reflected in the reports from all other Sections. Programs for which inspections services are provided include:

Pesticide Section

- Enforcement
- Worker Protection Standard
- Container/Containment
- Endangered Species
- Pesticides in Water
- Abandoned Pesticide Program
- Experimental Use Permits

Regulatory Services Section

- Produce Safety (FSMA)
- Aquaculture (Bait & Ornamental Certification Program)
- BRS Inspections (Bio Regulatory Services)
- Nursery/ Landscape (licensing)
- Pink Bollworm
- Peanut Grading
- AFSIP (Fruit & Vegetables, Federal Audits)
- Sweet Potato Certification
- Phytosanitary Certificates
- Quarantines
- Ginseng
- Pest Survey
- CAPS (Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey – USDA)

Quality Control & Compliance Section

- Regulatory Seed Label Compliance
- Certified Seed Program Compliance
- Industrial Hemp

- GMO Rice Testing
- Commercial Fertilizer registration
- Fertilizer Facility Licensing
- Soil Amendment Registration

In addition to the inspectors' normal duties, their workload increased significantly with the introduction of dicamba tolerant seed and in crop use technology. Pesticide complaints increased dramatically in 2017 and have remained high.

Pesticide Complaints:

- 2010 = 189
- 2011 = 195
- 2012 = 179
- 2013 = 176
- 2014 = 181
- 2015 = 237
- 2016 = 274
- 2017 = 1312
- 2018 = 456
- 2019 = 462
- 2020 = 514
- 2021 = 533

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
- 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 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 include:

- 2,000 pesticide manufacturers registered
- 14,670 pesticide products registered

- 454 pesticide dealers licensed
- 63 commercial applicators certified and 393 re-certified
- 33 commercial applicator technicians certified and 67 re-certified
- 42 non-commercial applicators certified and 174 re-certified
- 858 private applicators certified and 1,370 re-certified
- 28 training and testing sessions attended
- 128 aerial commercial firms licensed; 194 ground commercial firms licensed
- 340 aerial individual commercial applicators licensed; 589 ground individual commercial applicators licensed
- 81 commercial applicator technicians licensed
- 483 non-commercial applicators licensed
- 2,173 five-year private applicators licensed; 422 1-year private applicators licensed
- 1 private applicator with pilot authorization licensed
- 161 custom applicators permitted
- 5 custom applicators permitted for tree injection and similar methods
- 202 custom pilots authorized
- 32 pieces of aerial application equipment inspected; 1 piece of ground application equipment inspected
- 1,509 various inspections and sampling conducted
- 418,277 pounds of abandoned pesticides collected in 10 counties
- 348 requests of investigations
- 44 warning letters issued
- 221 civil complaints issued
- 218 administrative hearings conducted
- 26 civil penalties issued
- 463 case files closed by staff

Quality Control and Compliance Section

The Quality Control and Compliance (QCC) Section works to ensure public safety and a fair marketplace through the enforcement of 15 agricultural laws and by providing oversight for licensing, certifications, and product registrations for twelve (12) programs involving the feed, fertilizer, limestone, seed, industrial hemp, and grain warehouse programs. In coordination with Laboratory Services, the QCC conducts quality assurance programs for feed, fertilizer, lime, and seed. The QCC also collects and reports tonnage fees for several programs and provides a portion of the collected fees to the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Soil Testing and Research Fund.

Regulatory 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 include:

- 358 seed labelers licenses issued
- 131 seed treater licenses issued
- 1054 seed labels reviewed
- 18,666 acres inspected and certified
- 39 stop sales issued
- 894 GMO rice lots sampled and tested
- 118,247 seed labels printed.

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

The Feed and Fertilizer program accomplishments include:

Feed:

- 1,246 feed facility licenses issued
- 1,400,621 tons of feed reported sold,
- 1,668 sample reports received
- 118 penalties issued

Fertilizer:

- 494 fertilizer companies registered
- 5206 fertilizer products registered
- 175 Arkansas fertilizer facilities licensed
- 924,940 tons reported sold
- 744 fertilizer sample reports received
- 108 penalties issued

Soil Amendments:

- 58 soil companies registered
- 306 soil amendment products registered
- 74,532 tons reported sold

Lime:

- 99 lime companies registered
- 125 liming products registered
- 42 lime vendor licenses issues
- 158 lime sample reports received
- 22 lime penalties issued
- 167,976 lime tons reported sold

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.

Accomplishments

The Industrial Hemp Program accomplishments include:

- 167 total licenses approved:
    - 126 licensed growers
    - 41 licenses processors
- 211 fields totaling 2,304 acres approved
- 124 greenhouses totaling 346,590 square feet approved

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, 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 include:

- 160 consultant licenses 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:

- 39 licenses issued
- 11 audits conducted
- 0 violations found

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. The Division also administers a "Slow Pay Hotline" for producers to report grain sale payment concerns.

Accomplishments

Under the Arkansas Grain Dealer Law staff accomplished the following:

- 27 licenses issued
- 4 audits conducted
- 0 violations found

The Arkansas Grain Grading Act

The Arkansas Grain Grading Act was enacted in 2019**.** The Act charged the Arkansas Department of Agriculture to adopt rules to develop a course of instruction for sampling and grading of grain consistent with those developed by the USDA. The Department issues and maintains a 2-year certificate for individuals who have accomplished this course of instruction.

Accomplishments

- 28 certificates issued

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 required to be registered with the state.

Accomplishments

- Arkansas had no registrants under the Arkansas Catfish Processors Fair Practices Act for FY2021

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 approximately 55 seasonal employees as needed for survey work, fruit and vegetable inspecting, and peanut grading.

Accomplishments

Regulatory Services Section accomplishments include:

- 194 bio-regulatory permits reviewed
- 1,067 phytosanitary certificates issued
- 790 entities inspected as part of the Imported Fire Ant Survey
- Approximately 5,000 traps placed by Department-led team of cooperators for the Gypsy Moth Survey
- 874 nursery licenses issued
- Ginseng harvest was 643 pounds dry and 242 pounds green. (Green roots lose about 2/3 of their weight when dry.) We issued certificates for 589 pounds dry and 230 pounds green
- 3,314 apiary colonies inspected
- Collected $1,497,142 from 650 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
- 14,290.8 aquaculture acres certified in the Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Certification program
- Commercial Pest Control
    - 1,262 licensed operators
    - 1,687 technicians registered
    - 104 applicants certified
    - 338 inspections performed
- 45 growers trained and 8 large farms inspected through the Produce Safety Program
- Fruit and Vegetable Inspections conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement:
    - Fresh Tomatoes – 653,180 Lbs.
    - Cucumbers – 176,760 Lbs.
    - Sweet Peppers – 30,075 Lbs.
    - Eggplant – 4,450 Lbs.
- 22 audits conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement
    - 4 Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices Audits
    - 4 Produce GAPS Harmonized Field Operations Harvesting W/Global Markets Addendum Audits
    - 3 USDA Harmonized GAP Plus+ Post Harvest Audits
    - 2 USDA Harmonized GAP Plus + Field Harvest Audits

- Peanut Grading
    - The Department provided peanut grading services to two companies: Birdsong and Delta Peanut
    - Producers grew 55,000 acres
    - Department staff graded 119,958 tons
- BRS Inspections
    - 5 Bioregulatory Services Inspections conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement
- CAPS
    - 25 surveys conducted in the Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey program

SHARED SERVICES

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

Fiscal managed a combined operating budget of more than **$208 Million**

492,395 tests performed by the Laboratory Services Section

Marketing issued **74** press releases, and promoted **14** state proclamations

Human Resources filled **142** open positions across all divisions

$608,645 Restitution
returned to Arkansas land owners

Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov** to learn more about the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

FISCAL

11,350
Vendor Invoices Processed

$14 Million
in Federal Grant aid payments processed

$27 Million
in Federal Grant aid reimbursements requested

LEGAL

Assist Department's boards and commissions in promulgating **9** rules

Coordinated **14** farm loan mediations, with **10** resulting in succesful resolutions

Information Provided by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture 2021

INFOGRAPHIC PROVIDED BY THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Visit **agriculture.arkansas.gov** for more information.

SHARED SERVICES DIVISION

Shared Services Division Overview

Deputy Secretary
Cynthia Edwards

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 also provides external-facing services that benefit the Department's diverse network of clients, partners, and stakeholders.

The Shared Services Division encompasses the following eight sections: (1) Fiscal; (2) Human Resources; (3) Information Technology; (4) Legal; (5) Laboratory Services; (6) Law Enforcement; (7) Marketing and Communications; (8) Trade/Economics.

The Fiscal, Human Resources, Legal, and Information Technology sections of the Shared Services Division collaborated extensively throughout Fiscal Year 2021 to update and streamline policies and processes to improve workflows and increase efficiencies. These improvements help the Department achieve its goal of providing excellent service to the public through a well-trained and equipped workforce.

The Shared Services Division continued working with industry partners and stakeholders in Fiscal Year 2021 to meet the needs of Arkansas's agriculture industry. Partnering with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service resulted in significant progress on the Grand Prairie and Bayou Meto irrigation projects that are designed to conserve groundwater resources. The Division's Laboratory Services section expanded its scope of services to assist Arkansas's aquaculture industry by implementing a new baitfish health certification testing program while also continuing to provide testing services for other entities, including the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The Trade/Economics section developed a new weekly market report that provides information for all sectors of the agricultural industry in one place to help producers make informed marketing decisions.

The extensive outreach efforts of the Shared Services Division's Marketing and Communications team helped provide critical educational and promotional benefits for agricultural producers, agribusinesses, other agricultural partners, and consumers. Several programs administered by the Marketing and Communications section, including the Arkansas Grown and Arkansas Made branding programs and the Arkansas Farm to School program, launched new outreach tools and services and experienced increased participation. In addition, the team provided comprehensive support for the Department's planning and hosting of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture's 2021 annual meeting which showcased Arkansas agriculture to more than 130 attendees.

Examples of the Shared Services collaborations and accomplishments include:

- Implemented new ARCareers to streamline personnel hiring and onboarding

- Upgraded information technology infrastructure to include a new server, content management systems, and wireless network while also developing a long-term plan for information technology infrastructure.
- Developed the Department's first combined employee handbook for all employees
- Developed a website for employees to purchase clothing with the Department's official logos
- Implemented a new baitfish health certification testing program that is critical to the baitfish industry's ability to export its products.
- Continued to provide extensive laboratory testing services, including conducting a combined total of 487,505 tests in the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Chemistry Lab, Petroleum Lab, and the Seed Lab.
- Provided laboratory testing support to other state entities, including Chronic Wasting Disease testing for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and dicamba residue testing for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.
- Launched the new, multiplatform website for the Arkansas Grown and Arkansas Farm to School Programs, the first of its kind to link a Farm to School program website with a state's branding program website.
- Developed and distributed a new weekly market report that includes relevant market information for all sectors of Arkansas agriculture
- Continued the development and expansion of the Arkansas Farm to School Program and provided technical assistance to 362 Arkansas schools, farmers, agencies, and non-profits.
- Maintained 16 social media channels, distributed 74 press releases, facilitated 62 interviews, and produced 20 bi-monthly online newsletters.
- Developed and distributed the 2021 edition of the Department's *Arkansas Grown* magazine.

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 2021, the fiscal section continued cross-training employees to maximize efficiency and resilience.

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, requesting new vendor(s), maintaining vendor files, and responding 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

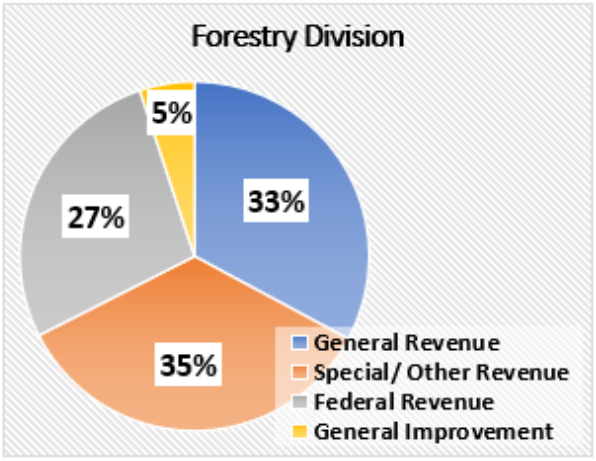
Fiscal Section staff's major accomplishments include:

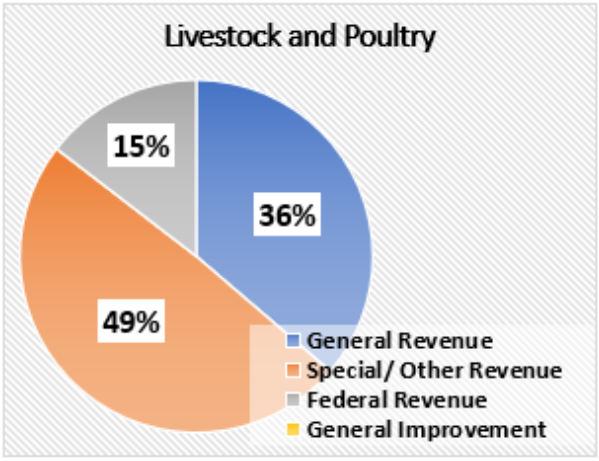
- Processed 11,350 vendor invoices in FY 2021
- Processed over $14 million in federal grant aid payments to subrecipients
- Requested over $27 million in federal grant reimbursements

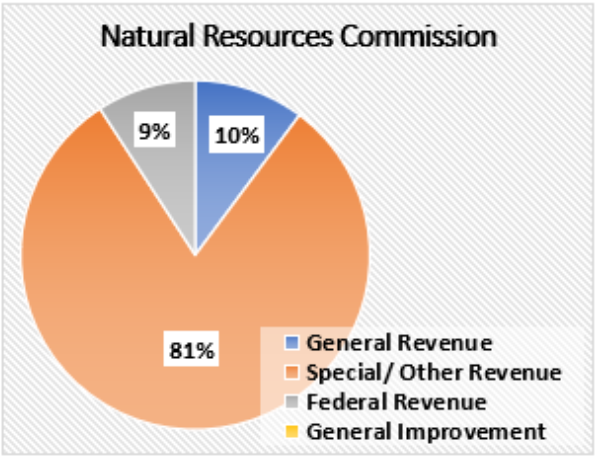
Department and Division FY 2021
Adjusted Budget and Expenditures

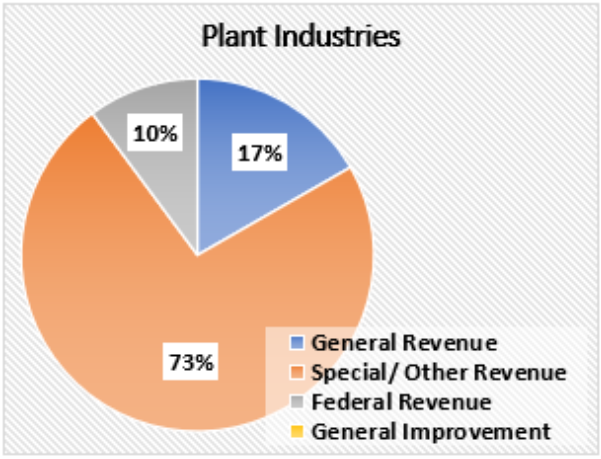
Department and Division	Adjusted Budget	Capital Improvement Budget	Expenditures
Forestry Division	$28,319,758	$1,651,137	$23,343,565
Livestock & Poultry Division	$12,121,612		$9,454,814
Natural Resources Division	$127,454,647		$24,435,102
Plant Industries Division	$18,419,345		$9,219,304
Administration	$21,631,712		$19,052,347
Soil Classifiers	$1,296		$47
Registration for Foresters	$19,255		$13,245
Veterinary Board	$110,190		$80,992
Department		$162,937,136	$0
TOTALS	**$208,077,816**	**$164,588,273**	**$85,599,416**

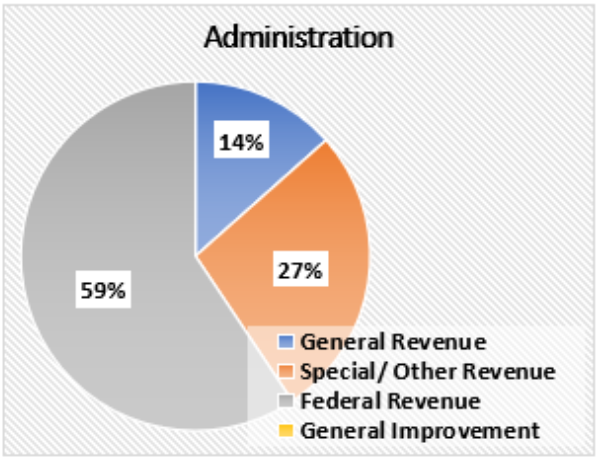
FY 2021 Revenue Sources

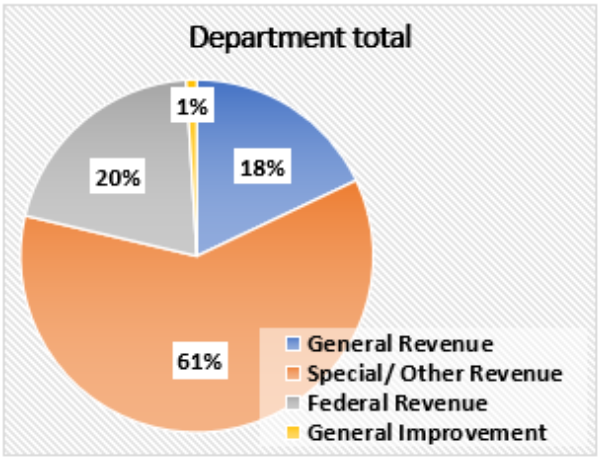












Human Resources Section

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 staff accomplishments include:

- Implemented new ARCareers system for personnel hiring and onboarding
- Processed 142 employee hires and promotions
- Processed 10 retirements
- Processed 56 resignations
- Processed 13 terminations
- Processed 12 transfers
- Continued scanning of personnel files for storage savings
- Created and issued 254 employee ID badges
- Broadened databases to capture required training

Information Technology Section

The Information Technology (IT) Section provides critical data, development, 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, Digital Infrastructure supports a wide range of agency operations, including tracking license payments, providing a pathway for superior data analysis in the Department's labs, and a multitude of laws and regulations surrounding the agricultural industry in the state.

Accomplishments

Information Technology Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Installed a high-end content management system that integrates with mapping software and supports the legal and human resources sections
- Upgraded the Department's board room to support in-house and hybrid digital meetings
- Implemented the use of micro-PCs to control the display of daily and critical information to those entering our facility
- Increased use of online tools to replace a wide range of manual tasks throughout the facility
- Installed a new database server, allowing the Department to clean up old data and handle larger amounts of data, all while providing faster communication
- Restructured the wireless network to better support our internal customers

Legal Section

The Legal Section furnishes advice on all legal issues arising in the course of the Department's work, including providing support and assistance to the Secretary of Agriculture, agency staff and management regarding enforcement of laws and administrative rules. This includes assisting the Department in formulating and implementing policies and interpreting law. The Legal Section's attorneys respond to inquiries from the Governor's office, Attorney General's office, legislators, Bureau of Legislative Research, and other officials and citizens. They also review and draft department administrative rules and ensure that proper procedures are followed in adopting rules under the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, coordinate the approval of those rules by the Governor and Legislative Council, and ensure that the rules are properly filed with the Secretary of State and State Library.

During each legislative session, the Legal Section develops and drafts bills to be presented to the Legislature, and monitors bills filed during the session. At the end of the legislative session, the division's attorneys interpret new or amended laws to aid the Department in implementing those laws and assists the Department and all its entities in issuing rules or policies regarding them.

The Legal Section also conducts administrative hearings before the Department boards and commissions and aids Department inspectors and management in enforcement actions, and reviews inspection reports, photographs, and case files. The division ensures compliance with the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by reviewing each request for information received by the Department and assisting the Department's boards and commissions with the open meetings provisions of FOIA. Other functions include collaborating with the Attorney General's office when litigation needs arise and reviewing and drafting of contracts and other agreements.

Accomplishments

The Legal Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Monitored all bills filed during the 2021 General Assembly, and specifically tracked 75 bills.
- Prepared a report for the Governor's office regarding 2021 Acts that would affect the Department or agriculture in general
- Assisted Department Boards/Commissions with adoption or amendment of 9 administrative rules
- Coordinated contract procurement for a private debt collection attorney to assist in collection of unpaid civil penalties
- Continued to work with design professionals, Division of Building Authority, ADFA, bond counsel, and others in processes necessary to move forward with plans for new building construction
- Led significant legal and administrative changes in the administration of the Pesticide Section enforcement program, resulting in quicker turnaround times for consent agreements and reduced backlog of cases
- Assisted Plant Industries Division in the investigation of noncompliant grain dealers, resulting in recovery of over $1,000,000 in delinquent payments to farmers. Actions included suspension of dealer license, coordination of administrative of fiscal staff during investigation, after-hours dealer inspection, and continued monitoring to ensure completion of corrective action by dealer

- Participated as a strategic partner in matters related to the Illinois River Watershed, Bayou Meto Irrigation Project, White River Irrigation Project, and the Red River Compact Commission

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 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 or more.

Accomplishments

The Farm Mediation Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- Established 288 case files affecting $126,444,869 in loans with an average loan size being $439,045
- 26 mediations requested, with several settled prior to mediation
- 19 mediations held, and 13 agreements reached

Laboratory Services Section

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture supports the state's largest industry through a broad range of services, one of which focuses on laboratory sciences. The Laboratory Services Section is comprised of the following:

- Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- Chemistry Laboratory
- Seed Laboratory
- Petroleum Laboratory
- Weights and Measures Laboratory.

Laboratories house employees that receive samples and, according to rigorously defined procedures, use consumables, utilities, and instrumentation to generate results. Formal approaches to safety and quality management enable the laboratory to satisfy external requirements by regulatory and accrediting agencies. Laboratory employees are typically selected and assigned on the basis of subject matter expertise acquired in a narrow field of study, coupled with significant laboratory experience in their chosen field.

Accomplishments

Significant achievements in the Laboratory Services Section include:

- Addition of aquaculture as an entirely new service area in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

- Supported a multi-state U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) pet food recall by screening for aflatoxin in the chemistry lab
- Voting membership in the American Society for Testing and Materials Petroleum Division
- Provided support for a University of Arkansas weed science project involving analysis of dicamba in the chemistry lab
- Participation in the 2020 State Standards Laboratory survey by the National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Participation in the FY2020 Survey of State Government Research and Development by the U.S. Department of Commerce
- Continued recognition of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab by the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)
    - Expansion of approved scope of work from 8 foreign animal diseases to 10
    - Renewed infrastructure grant of $133,000 for FY2022
    - Supplemental infrastructure grant of $187,200 for FY2022
- Renewed the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab's Memorandum of Understanding with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing
- Renewed the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab's FDA Vet-LIRN Grant for $20,000 / year
- Sharing of personnel between Bureau of Standards Area Inspectors and Petroleum Laboratory during the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance resiliency in fuel inspection services
- Maintained on-site staffing levels throughout the Covid-19 pandemic

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) in Little Rock supports the diagnosis of livestock, poultry, and aquatic farm animal diseases in order to support the livestock, poultry, equine, and aquaculture industries, as well as practicing veterinarians in the achievement of their disease control programs. The VDL 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 help a broad array of constituents to ensure the wellness of their animals.

Timely and accurate test results provided by the VDL have tremendous economic effects on the State's livestock, poultry, and aquatic farm animal industries by reducing death losses and increasing production. The VDL is a member of the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), the FDA Veterinary Laboratory Information and Response Network (Vet-LIRN), and the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). It is accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) for a defined scope of testing (#4109.01).

The VDL cooperates closely with the department's Livestock and Poultry Division for validation and determining next steps if an animal disease outbreak has occurred or if there is a disease issue of concern. The laboratory is also our first line of defense in monitoring and identifying potential animal disease outbreaks in the field.

The addition of aquaculture as a new service area entailed remodeling of lab space, acquisition of over $100,000 in equipment, expansion of the lab's federal approvals with six new disease programs, acquisition of a live virus transport permit, and hiring of a new division manager -- all within a 6-month time frame.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory staff's major accomplishments include:

- Performed 441,823 total tests
- Completed 7,373 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) screening tests
- Processed 9,986 fish submitted by 47 aquaculture producers for pathogen screening
- Conducted 18,684 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) procedures
- Performed 112 drug screens for the Arkansas State Fair livestock show
- Performed 148,288 tests for mycoplasma bacteria
- Performed 5,958 tests on specimens related mostly to pets seen in veterinary clinics
- Performed 6,474 tests in the bacteriology section
- Performed 10,340 tests by the virology section
- Performed 454 necropsies

Chemistry Laboratory

The Department's chemistry laboratory ensures the quality of agricultural products sold in Arkansas. The lab, located in Little Rock, receives representative samples of feed, fertilizer, pesticide, and limestone submitted by inspectors stationed throughout the state. These products are analyzed by the lab and results are reported back to the regulatory sections for comparison to label guarantees. The lab assists regulatory sections during investigations of product contamination by providing analysis and sampling guidance.

The pesticide area of the lab assists the Pesticide Section and Pest Control section in cases of misuse and off-target applications of pesticides to include plant, soil, animal, and human exposure cases. The residue lab also conducts a survey of pesticide contamination in groundwater throughout the state. Hemp grown in Arkansas is monitored for THC compliance with state and federal guidelines.

Arkansas farmers and consumers benefit greatly from having agriculture products that are held to a high standard of label compliance. The economic gains range from proper nutrition in animal husbandry to soil amendments for optimal plant growth. Lab accuracy is validated through membership in the following proficiency testing programs: Association of American Pesticide Control Officials (AAPCO), Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO), Magruder Check Sample, Wisconsin Pesticide Residue Check Sample Program, and the Hemp Proficiency Testing program. Regulatory analyses are performed in accordance with Association of Official Agricultural Chemists (AOAC) guidelines.

Accomplishments

The Chemistry Laboratory staff's major accomplishments include:

- Performed 16,898 total tests
- Completed 11,703 tests on 1,694 feed samples
- Completed 1,424 tests on 682 fertilizer samples
- Completed 576 tests on 144 limestone samples
- Completed 1,317 tests on 737 pesticide samples
- Completed 350 tests on industrial hemp samples
- Completed 1,528 tests on University of Arkansas research samples
- Formulated 25 gallons of hand sanitizer according to specifications of the World Health Organization

Seed Laboratory

The Department's seed laboratory provides consumer protection by characterizing regulatory seed samples collected by field inspectors. Samples are taken from seed that has already been labeled and in trade. The samples are submitted to the Seed Lab for testing to ensure proper labeling.

Certified samples are produced from crops that are in the Certification Program. This seed was field inspected by Plant Industries Division inspectors and has met field standards. The samples must be taken by Plant Industries staff and must pass the strict standards of laboratory testing before being allowed to bear the official Arkansas Certified label. Non-Certified samples are not grown under an application for Seed Certification or do not meet the requirements under the Certification program. Samples may be submitted by the seedsman/farmer.

Accomplishments

The Seed Laboratory staff's major accomplishments include:

- Analyzed 4,240 seed samples
- Completed 2,705 purity tests
- Completed 3,999 germination tests
- Completed 349 accelerated aging tests
- Completed 232 herbicide tolerance tests
- Completed 867 red rice tests for a total of 2,808 pounds of rice hulled

Metrology Laboratory

The Arkansas State Standards Laboratory (Metrology Lab) is responsible for performing mass and volume calibrations that are traceable to the International System of Units (SI) through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The results provided by this lab serve as the basis for ensuring equity in the marketplace and as reference standards for calibration services throughout state industry.

The purpose of performing legal metrology activities within the state is to provide the state economy with a mutually compatible and internationally recognized infrastructure of measurement that facilitates trade and establishes mutual confidence in the level of consumer protection. Our laboratory is committed to the protection of trade and equipping our industry users with the most precise tools and measurement capabilities.

The staff also runs the Grain Moisture Meter Program. Accurate measurement of grain moisture is vital to the fair market value of Arkansas crops. This is accomplished by preparing field samples in the laboratory with known moisture contents using the USDA air-oven method. These samples are then used in the field to certify the accuracy of all commercial grain moisture measuring devices.

Accomplishments

The Metrology Laboratory staff accomplishments include:

- Certified 1,769 large mass standards (25 lb. – 1000 lb.)
- Certified 2,817 small mass standards (0.001 lb. – 10 lbs.)
- Certified 143 volume provers (5 gallon)
- Certified 161 grain moisture meters

- Received Full Recognition from the NIST Office of Weights and Measures for Mass Echelon 3 and Volume Echelon2 - Volume Transfer
- Enhanced resiliency of the grain moisture meter calibration program
- Responded to 47 complaints, re-sampled 138 stations, and completed 29 requested compliance checks

Petroleum Laboratory

This program administers the fuel quality law through inspection, analysis, and enforcement to help ensure that consumers are purchasing quality motor fuels. Fuel samples are collected by field chemists and submitted for testing. The petroleum laboratory analyzes gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuels, and alternative fuels, including biodiesel and E85 (Flex Fuel), for compliance with applicable state quality and safety standards. Annual samples are collected from gas pumps across the state during routine inspections for analysis. The lab conducts between 18,000 and 29,000 analyses per year. Samples are also collected when consumers file a complaint.

Accomplishments

The Bureau of Standards Petroleum Laboratory staff's major accomplishments include:

- Sampled over 3,000 fuel stations, including retail, wholesale, and distribution points
- Collected 6,025 gasoline samples and 2,091 diesel samples
- Performed 20,632 tests on fuel samples to ensure product reliability
- Responded to 47 complaints, re-sampled 138 stations, and completed 29 requested compliance checks

Law Enforcement Section

The Department's five 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 staff's major accomplishments include:

- Opened 204 Law Enforcement Cases in FY2021
    - Timber – 75
    - Fire – 22
    - Equipment – 0
    - Dumping – 41
    - ADA property – 5
    - Agency Assistance – 21
    - Livestock and Poultry – 31
- Closed 133 Law Enforcement Cases in FY2021
    - Timber – 47

    - Fire – 11
    - Equipment – 0
    - Dumping – 32
    - ADA property – 1
    - Agency Assistance – 12
    - Livestock and Poultry – 26
- Restitution back-to-land owners: $608,645
- Fine money and suppression fees back to agency: $1,312
- Law Enforcement Agency Assists: 158
- Minority Assists: 59

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 the agricultural industry through various outreach efforts. The team participates in trade shows and conferences, hosts outreach and educational events, and provides presentations to a variety of audiences.

The Marketing and Communications section distributes information via the following:

- Website and social media channels
- Press releases and newsletters
- The annual *Arkansas Grown* publication.

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

- Agricultural Proclamation signing events with Governor Hutchinson
- Arkansas Farmers Market Promotion Grant
- Arkansas Farmers Market Shopping Bag Program
- Arkansas Century Farm Program
- Arkansas Fair Funding
- Arkansas Department of Agriculture Scholarship Program
- USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant
- USDA National Organic Certification Cost Share Program
- Market Access Programs/Internships through the Southern United States Trade Association
- Certificates of Free Sale
- Farmer Veteran Coalition partnership,
- Arkansas Grown, Arkansas Made, and Arkansas Grown Homegrown by Heroes Branding Programs
- Arkansas Grown Homegrown by Heroes Scholarship Program
- Local Conversation Events
- Local Food, Farms, and Job Act

- Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest
- Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program

The Marketing and Communications section also provides layout, design, and editorial support for educational, outreach, and promotional materials for the Department, Divisions, and various Department programs and services.

Accomplishments

The Marketing and Communications Section Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- Distributed 74 press releases to media partners and partner agencies
- Facilitated 62 interviews, including those provided by branding programs, Farm to School and Minority Outreach
- Developed and distributed 20 bi-monthly online newsletters to 1,928 stakeholders
- Produced 13 videos to include branding programs and Farm to School
- Developed and distributed the 2021 edition of the *Arkansas Grown* magazine
- Facilitated and hosted 14 proclamation events
- Distributed $360,643 in Specialty Crop grants to 4 entities
- Administered the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program
- Partnered with Southern U.S. Trade Association, who administers the Market Access Program and Agricultural Trade Promotion program, to aid Arkansas companies in meeting qualified foreign buyers and promoting products internationally, and hosted a learning webinar
- Coordinated the award of $20,000 in scholarships to 8 students with funding from civil penalties collected by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture
- Coordinated the presentation event for 30 families inducted into the 2020 Arkansas Century Farm program
- Distributed $9,000 in grants to 23 Arkansas Farmers Markets through a partnership with Farm Credit
- Provided more than 28,750 shopping bags to Arkansas farmers markets at a greatly reduced rate that results in significant cost savings for the markets
- Produced and provided COVID-19 printable and shareable resources for stakeholders
- Maintained 16 social media outlets
- Edited 12 blogs
- Led efforts for the 2021 SASDA Conference
- Developed and released the Department Employee Handbook
- Coordinated and launched the Department clothing website
- Developed a Feral Hog handbook, banners, and advertising and assisted with distribution

Arkansas Grown/Arkansas Made/Homegrown By Heroes

The Arkansas Grown branding program was launched in 2012 to promote the many agricultural products that are grown in Arkansas. The program helps make the critical connection between producers and consumers.

The Arkansas Made branding program promotes goods and products made in our state by local makers and connects them to buyers.

In 2015, the Department adopted the national Homegrown by Heroes branding program that enables farmer veterans to market their local agricultural products by labeling them as veteran-produced. The program is administered by the Farmer Veteran Coalition. To participate in this free program, farmers must have veteran, active duty, National Guard, or Reserve member of the United States Armed Forces status. In order to apply for Homegrown By Heroes certification, individuals must first belong to the Farmer Veteran Coalition and be certified through the national Homegrown By Heroes program.

Accomplishments

- Launched new Arkansas Grown website
- Launched restructuring of Arkansas Grown and Arkansas Made programs, providing free membership with use of the program logos to all growers, producers, and makers, and establishing a new Supporter Member category for restaurants, retail establishments, and organizations that sell and/or support Arkansas Grown and Arkansas Made products
- Produced five videos of members and their Alternative Selling Methods to be used for training purposes through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant
- Hosted a virtual Local Conversations event
- Managed a research project through the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant
- Co-hosted Veterans Day Celebration in partnership with the newly established Arkansas Chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition
- Awarded $2,000 in scholarships to two students with personal military experience through the Homegrown By Heroes Scholarship program in partnership with Farm Credit: one student currently serving in the Army National Guard and one student retired after 20 years of service in the United States Army
- Received $95,192 from the USDA Specialty Crop Block 2020 Grant program, in partnership with the Farm to School program
- Partnered with the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism for History is Served dinner series promoting specific Arkansas grown products
- Initiated partnership with Arkansas AmeriCorps Service Commission, EngageAR, to host two forums inviting support organizations to develop pilot programs to overcome food insecurity by connecting with local farmers through AmeriCorps manpower
- Worked with the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act team to develop annual report

Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program

The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program (Program) connects schools, local growers, and the community to food and farm education experiences paired with healthy, locally grown food. The Program provides programming, resources, funding, and technical assistance to schools, farmers, and partners in the local food system.

Farm to school activities include a combination of school gardening, local food procurement, and traditional or garden-based education on the topics of food, nutrition, and agriculture. Farm to school activities improve public health, strengthen the local economy and communities, improve food access and food abundance for all, and protect the environment.

This Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program was created within the Department by the passage of The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Act in 2019. The Department hired the State's first Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Coordinator in August 2019. The Program expanded in 2020 to include an AmeriCorps VISTA member and a part-time State School Garden Manager.

The Department is recognized as the Core Partner by the National Farm to School Network and joins the USDA Southwest Region in regional farm to school development and growth events. The Department is also the facilitator of the Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative.

Accomplishments

The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- Provided technical assistance to 362 schools, farmers, agencies, and non-profits in Arkansas
- Participated in 70 regional and national farm to school meetings
- Hosted and spoke at 60 farm to school educational trainings, webinars, and events with 1,930 attendees
- Visited 28 schools, farms, and organizations as outreach about Farm to School
- Facilitated 5 Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative bi-monthly meetings that engaged 12 state agencies and non-profit partners
- Released 4 Farm to School press releases
- Participated in 7 Farm to School interviews
- Wrote 3 Farm to School articles and provided a quote for another
- Released 12 Farm to School newsletters
- Released 4 Farm to School blogs
- Created 15 webinar recordings
- Provided updated information for the Department website to include a page on Local Procurement, Arkansas Farm to School Month, Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act, and to include the School Garden Map
- Wrote 6 letters of support for farm to school projects
- Wrote 6 Farm to School reports, including the first annual Arkansas Farm to School Annual Report
- Developed a Farm to School toolkit
- Created 15 Farm to School handouts and infographics
- Produced 4 Farm to School videos
- Managed and awarded $4,000 in total funding to 6 schools and early childhood education facilities as awardees of the 2020 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest
- Managed and awarded $26,000 in total funding to 52 schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments as part of the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program
- Partnered with the Full Circle FarmCorps program, hosted by the Arkansas Resource Conservation & Development Council, to bring on 17 AmeriCorps members to serve at 10 service sites in central and western Arkansas
- Received $95,192 from the USDA Specialty Crop Block 2020 Grant program, in partnership with the Arkansas Grown program
- Worked with the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act team to develop annual report

Local Food, Farms, and Job Act

The Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act was enacted in 2017 and amended in 2019 to create, strengthen, and expand local farm and food economies throughout the state. The Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act requires institutions to set a goal of at least 20% of their purchase of food products to be spent on local food. It also requires institutions to complete a reporting form, created by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, on their local food procurement budget on a yearly basis.

Accomplishments

- Updated and distributed reporting form to 2,322 institutions
- Gathered contact information for reporting entities
- Created a Frequently Asked Questions handout for the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act
- Created an instructional infographic for the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act
- Provided an instructional reporting form webinar
- Developed and distributed the 2020 Local Food, Farms, and Job Act Annual Report

Minority Landowner Programs and Resources

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Minority Outreach Program is designed to help ensure minority agriculture and forest landowners are aware of the various agriculture and forest programs and services available to them. The Minority Outreach Coordinator leads the outreach efforts by assisting with scheduling of landowner workshops, providing speakers for outreach meetings, building awareness of agriculture as a career, and more.

Accomplishments

- Recorded a Public Service Announcement during Black History Month
- Provided an interview about Department Minority Landowner Outreach programs
- Provided update information for the Department Minority Landowner Resources website page
- Submitted three minority landowner articles
- Recruited minority participation in the Keeping It In The Family (KIITF) Program, Specialty Crop Block Grant, and Arkansas Century Farm Program
- Provided assistance and support to KIITF Champion landowners and to landowners residing out-of-state
- Participated in two landowner's property site visits
- Assisted with improving the reporting system to better capture outreach efforts
- Participated in meetings and conferences of the following organizations:
    - AR Land & Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) Board, Virtual meetings
    - AR Land & Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Board
    - AR Women in Agriculture (AWIA) Board, Conference
    - Sustainable Forestry & African American Retention Program (SFLR)
        - Policy Committee
        - Communications Committee
    - Diversity in AG Conference
    - Alcorn State's Socially Disadvantage Farmer & Ranchers Policy and Research Center's conference and two stakeholder virtual meetings
    - American Forest Foundation's 2021 National Leadership Conference
    - Keeping It In The Family (IITF)
- Attended three White House/USDA Stakeholder Calls & Briefing on the American Recovery Act Debt Relief for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers (virtual)
- Attended a Hearing to Review the State of Black Farmers in the US (virtual)
- Assisted Forestry Division staff in writing/updating 46 management plans (including Forest Stewardship) for KIITF landowners

2021 SASDA Conference

Under Secretary Ward's leadership as the 2020-2021 President, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture hosted the 2021 Southern Associations of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA) Annual

Conference. SASDA, one of the four National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) regions, strives to improve American agriculture through the development and promotion of sound public policy and agriculture-related businesses and programs, and to communicate the vital economic importance of agriculture.

The SASDA conference provided the opportunity to showcase Arkansas's diverse landscape. The conference also provided a venue for updates on a range of issues and policies important to agriculture. Members of Arkansas's congressional delegation and representatives from the National Ag Law Center and the FBI were among the broad range of speakers.

Accomplishments

- Provided support and resources for the 2021 SASDA Annual Conference

Trade / Economics Section

Economist

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Economist provides leadership and support to the Department's Secretary and Deputy Secretary, Division Directors, and their staffs in the areas of management and finance, economic and market outlook, fiscal, monetary, and trade policy, macroeconomics, and resource development. Approximately 80-percent of time is devoted to management and finance, economic and market analysis, and fiscal, monetary, trade and regulatory policy. Twenty percent of time is devoted to farm sustainability and organizational structure, macroeconomics, and resource development.

Accomplishments

The Trade and Economics Section Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- Weekly Market Summary, a 300-plus page weekly overview of Arkansas livestock and grain sales, market outlook information and charts on cattle and beef, lamb and veal, dairy, hogs and pork, broilers, turkeys, eggs, all types of wheat, corn, sorghum and oats, rice, oilseeds, sugar, cotton, peanuts, forestry, aquaculture, fruit movement and prices, and food price outlook
    - Top and sub-soil moisture maps for state, region, and United States
    - Extensive coverage of crop progress and condition for field crops
    - Ethanol fundamentals
    - Export inspections and sales for 9 key U.S. field crops
    - State, regional, national, and global weather coverage
    - Visualizing markets series, an extensive look at a vast array of markets in a consolidated format
    - Commitment of Trades comprehensive review of 11 field crop and livestock markets
    - Price seasonal report covers 42 markets comparing current, 3-year and 5-year time periods
    - Other timely economic, market, and policy reports
- Daily talking points related to fiscal, monetary, trade and regulatory policy, markets, social, political, and economic issues, business dynamics, disease, weather, technology, etc.
- Daily technical analyses and study of supply and demand fundamentals impacting the agricultural and forestry business sector's market prices with key focus on rice, soybeans, corn, wheat, cotton, livestock, and array of other related markets
- Editor of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Annual Report

- Developed, maintained, and evaluated 58 Arkansas Department of Agriculture Monthly Division, Section, Board and Commission reports
- Daily study of evolving geopolitical challenges and domestic and global fiscal, monetary, trade, and regulatory policy considerations impact on global and domestic markets and Arkansas agriculture
- Daily study of fiscal, monetary, and trade policy's impacting the profitability of Arkansas agriculture, supporting infrastructure, and communities
- Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources transformation as the green energy evolution evolves
- Proactive considerations related to disease, weather and technology's evolving impact on food and fiber supply chains, commodity prices, food security, and agricultural and forestry sector viability
- Futuristic big picture global macro considerations potential impact on domestic and global market outlook.

Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Nineteen boards and commissions were under the administration of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture in fiscal year 2021. A total of 145 Arkansans serve as members on these boards and commissions.

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

The Department serves as a member of the following boards and commissions:

- Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission
- Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission
- Red River Compact Commission
- Buffalo River Conservation Committee

The current members of each board and commission, along with a summary of its responsibilities and accomplishments, are provided in the following sections.

Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board

The Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board selects ten counties per year in which to hold collection events, with a goal of ultimately holding at least one collection event in every county in Arkansas. The Advisory Board uses priority watersheds as a guiding principle when selecting counties for pesticide collections. Since the program's inception, collection events have been held in 65 counties, with a total of 5,265,457 pounds of unwanted pesticide collected.

The board is composed of up to six members, with the State Plant Board's representative serving as chair.

Board Members	Location	Representing
Susie Nichols	Little Rock	Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Brandy Carroll	Little Rock	Arkansas Farm Bureau
Kevin McGaughey	Sherwood	Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Stephen Ratley	Little Rock	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality
Ples Spradley	Little Rock	University of Arkansas - Division of Agriculture

Accomplishments

The Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board's major accomplishments were as follows:

- 10 collection events in White, Cleburne, Perry, Pulaski, Faulkner, Fulton, Sharp, Randolph, Izard, and Independence counties disposed of 418,277 pounds of unwanted pesticides.

Arkansas Agriculture Board

The Arkansas Agriculture Board offers expertise to the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture on all matters concerning agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, and kindred industries. The board selects the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and submits the name to the Governor for confirmation. Board members meet quarterly and elect officers every two years.

The Arkansas Agriculture Board consists of 20 voting members and 8 nonvoting ex officio members selected as follows:

- Nine members of the following boards are appointed by their respective boards:
  - 2 members from the State Plant Board
  - 2 members from the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission
  - 2 members from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
  - 2 members from Arkansas Forestry Commission
  - 1 member from the Arkansas Rural Services Commission

- Eleven members are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate:
  - 3 members who are actively engaged in growing rice, cotton, or small grains, including but not limited to, corn, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat
  - 3 members who are actively engaged in at least one of the following areas:
    - Plant food, agricultural chemicals, or seed merchandising
    - Meat processing
    - Grain processing
    - Domestic food products, processing, and global marketing
    - Aquaculture
    - Arkansas Livestock Marketing Association

- Five members from specific sectors of agriculture:
    - 1 who is actively engaged in producing beef
    - 1 who is actively engaged in producing swine
    - 1 who is actively engaged in dairy farming
    - 1 who is actively engaged in producing poultry
    - 1 who is actively engaged in producing wine, grapes, fruits, or vegetables

- Eight nonvoting ex officio members:
    - The Vice President for Agriculture of the University of Arkansas System
    - The Dean of Agriculture and Technology of Arkansas State University
    - The Dean of Agriculture of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
    - A representative of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences who is actively involved in nutrition teaching or research, or both
    - A representative of the University of Arkansas at Monticello
    - The President of the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
    - A representative of Southern Arkansas University
    - A representative of Arkansas Tech University

Board Members	**Location**	**Representing**
Kyle Baltz	Pocahontas	State Plant Board
Matthew Marsh	England	State Plant Board
Marcus Creasy	Heber Springs	Livestock and Poultry Commission
Christopher Kauffman	Searcy	Livestock and Poultry Commission
Will Brewer	Paragould	Natural Resources Commission
Bruce Leggitt	Greenbrier	Natural Resources Commission
Allen Bedell	Hot Springs	Forestry Commission
Ray Dillon	Little Rock	Forestry Commission
Frank Lisko	Stuttgart	Arkansas Rural Development Commission
Ronald Cavenaugh	Walnut Ridge	Rice, Cotton, and Grain Producer Representative
Sam Angel II	Lake Village	Rice, Cotton, and Grain Producer Representative
Sam Whitaker	Monticello	Rice, Cotton, and Grain Producer Representative
Robin Ralston	Atkins	Grain Processing Representative
Landon Pool	Lonoke	Aquaculture Representative
Jammy Turner	Gillett	Ag Chemical Representative
Ryan Anglin	Bentonville	Dairy Farming Representative
Robert "Steve" Balloun	Dardanelle	Swine Representative
Jerry Christie	Nashville	Beef Producer Representative
Brent Butler	Siloam Springs	Poultry Production Representative
Damon Helton	Lonsdale	Wine, Fruits, or Vegetables Representative

Ex Officio Members	**Location**	**Representing**
Dr. Michael Blazier	Monticello	University of Arkansas at Monticello
Dr. Doze Butler	Pine Bluff	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Jerry Don Clark	North Little Rock	AR Association of Conservation Districts
Dr. Mark Cochran	Fayetteville	University of Arkansas
Dr. Reza Hakkak	Little Rock	UAMS

Dr. Justin Killingsworth	Russellville	AR Tech University
Dr. Mickey Latour	Jonesboro	Arkansas State University
Dr. Jeff Miller	Beebe	Southern Arkansas University

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Agriculture Board's major accomplishments were as follows:

- The Arkansas Agriculture Board convened four quarterly meetings where the Board provided their broad-based expertise on all matters concerning agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, and kindred industries. The Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and division directors provided updates to the Board on the Department's programs and activities.

Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Committee

The Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Committee's mission is to oversee the Arkansas Boll Weevil Foundation's program budget and ongoing activities. The Committee consists of cotton growers and members of the Plant Board.

Committee Members	Location	Representing	Term
Travis Senter	Osceola	Ag Council	2020
Rick Bransford	Lonoke	Farm Bureau	2020
Scott Bray	Little Rock	Plant Board	2021
Gregg Garner	Lake City	Plant Board	2021
Joe Mencer	Lake Village	Farm Bureau	2022
Pace Hindsley	Marvell	Ag Council	2023
Matt Hyneman	Jonesboro	Ag Council	2023

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Committee's major accomplishments include:

- Assessed 457,862 acres of cotton at $3.00 per acre
- Collected 99.94% of program assessments
- Captured all Arkansas cotton acreage within the trapping protocols with no boll weevils detected
- Provided a rebate of $1.00 per acre on grower assessed acreage due to the Boll Weevil Eradication Program's pesticide and managerial efficiency

Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board

The mission of the Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board is to coordinate and provide council on fire ant research efforts and educational programs.

The board consists of eight members as follows: Vice President for the University of Arkansas System's Division of Agriculture, Department of Entomology Department Chair, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville or a designated representative, Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Secretary or a designated representative, and others to be appointed from an ant-infested area by the Chair of the Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board with four-year terms of service.

Board Members	Location	Representing	Term
Chalres Hartsell	El Dorado	Arkansas Pest Control Association	2019
Scott Bray	Little Rock	Director, Plant Industries Division	N/A
Donna Bemis	Little Rock	Horticulture or Nursery Industry	2019
Jennifer Caraway	Texarkana	County Extension Agent	2019
Mark Cochran	Fayetteville	University of Arkansas	N/A
Ken Korth, Interim	Fayetteville	University of Arkansas	N/A

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board's major accomplishments were as follows:

- No meetings of the Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board were held in FY 2021.
- The Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board was eliminated by Act 501 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly.

Arkansas Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission provides oversight guidance to the Forestry Division in pursuing its mission 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.

Nine members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Three members must be tree farmers owning 250 acres or less of timber acreage. Each congressional district must be represented.

Commission Members	Location	Representing Congressional District	Term
Mary Elizabeth Eldridge	Fayetteville	District 3	2022
Robert Parkes	Dover	District 3	2023
Steven Anthony	Bearden	District 4	2024
John McAlpine	Monticello	District 4	2025
Ray Dillon	Little Rock	District 2	2026
Matthew Stone	Camden	District 4	2027

Allen Bedell	Hot Springs	District 4	2028
Frank Wilson	Rison	District 4	2029
George Dunklin	Stuttgart	District 1	2030

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Forestry Commission's major accomplishments were as follows:

- Held four Arkansas Forestry Commission meetings that included quarterly reports from all programs
- Approved 12 interest-free loans to Arkansas Volunteer Fire Departments totaling $151,431.71 through the Rural Fire Program's Volunteer Fire Department loan program.

Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission

The mission of the Livestock and Poultry Commission is to control, suppress, and eradicate livestock and poultry diseases and pests; and supervise livestock and poultry sanitary work in the state.

The Livestock and Poultry Commission is composed of seven members who are Arkansas residents and actively engaged in the Arkansas livestock or poultry industries. The members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for 7-year terms.

Commission Members	Location	Representing	Term
James Smith	Fayetteville	Poultry Industry	2022
Christopher Kauffman	Searcy	Cattle Industry	2023
Dr. William Hewat	Goshen	Poultry Industry	2024
Marcus Creasy	Heber Springs	Cattle Industry	2025
Tyler Davis	Ashdown	Cattle Industry	2026
Danny Wright	Waldron	Cattle & Swine Industries	2027
Tommy Wren	Melbourne	Cattle Industry	2028

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission's major accomplishments were as follows:

- 4 scheduled meetings and 1 special-called meeting
- Promulgated 1 new rule
- Revised 3 rules
- Repealed 4 rules
- Approved 1 enforcement action

Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board

The purpose of the Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board is to take actions to assure the continued viability of dairy farming in the state, assure consumers of an adequate, local supply of milk, and encourage increased production to meet the state's need for quality milk.

The Board consists of five members appointed by the Governor, with two members required to be actively engaged in dairy farming. The balance of the members consists of one Arkansas consumer, one Arkansas milk processor, and one Arkansas retailer.

Board Members	Location	Representing	Term
William Anglin	Bentonville	Producer	2021
Fredric Simon	Conway	Producer	2022
Michael Flagg	Roland	Processor	2023
David Hendrix	Benton	Retailer	2024
Vacant		Consumer	N/A

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board's major accomplishments were as follows:

- The Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board held three meetings in fiscal year 2021.

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. At least two members must 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 responsible for making determinations concerning water shortages, implementing allocation plans in times of shortage, and designating critical groundwater areas. The Commission is 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 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.

Commission Members	Location	Representing	Term
Bill Poynter	Texarkana	District 4	2022
Bruce Leggitt	Greenbrier	District 2	2023
Roy Reaves	Russellville	District 3	2024
Will Brewer	Paragould	District 1	2025
Neal Anderson	Lonoke	District 2	2025
Eddie Glover	Farmington	District 2	2026
Troy Gaston	Conway	District 3	2026
William Anderson	DeValls Bluff	District 1	2027
JoAnne Bush	Lake Village	District 4	2028

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission's major accomplishments include:

- Approved water, wastewater, and solid waste project loans and grants for 63 communities totaling $154,558,179
- Approved 16 appointments, 42 reappointments, and 1 conservation district director emeritus to conservation district boards

Arkansas Seed Arbitration Committee

The purpose of the Seed Arbitration Committee is to assist agricultural seed buyers and agricultural seed dealers or labelers in determining the facts relating to matters alleged in complaints made by buyers against dealers or labelers.

The Director of the Plant Industries Division appoints an arbitration committee composed of six members and six alternate members, with one member and one alternate to be appointed upon the recommendation of the presidents of the Arkansas Seed Growers Association, the Arkansas Seed Dealers Association, the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, and the Agricultural Council of Arkansas. The members and alternates are confirmed by the Governor. The Director of the University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Director of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service serve as ex officio members.

The committee may recommend money damages be paid to the buyer for the alleged failure of seeds to produce as represented by the labeling of the seed and may also recommend that the seed dealer or labeler reimburse the buyer for the filing fee paid.

Committee Members	Location	Representing	Term
Billy Maddox III	Jonesboro	Seed Growers	2021
Lee Hughes	England	Seed Dealers	2022
Terry Dabbs	Stuttgart	AR Farm Bureau	2023
Nathan Reed	Marianna	Agricultural Council of AR	2024
Dr. Jason Kelley	Little Rock	U of A Coop. Ext. Service	Ex Officio
Dr. Robert Bacon	Fayetteville	U of A Ag. Exp. Station	Ex Officio

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Seed Arbitration Committee's major accomplishments include:

- No arbitrations were held.

Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters

The mission of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters 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 385 registered foresters in Arkansas as of July 2021. Arkansas has reciprocity agreements with Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Board Members	Location	Representing	Term
Matthew Pelkki	Monticello	Consumer Representative	2022
David Smith	Arkadelphia	Foresters at large	2023
Darren Spinks	Greenbrier	AR Forestry Commission	2024
Scott Meek	Morrilton	Industry Foresters	2024
Michael Marter	Roland	GIS Specialist	2025

Accomplishments

Major accomplishments of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters include:

- 17 new licenses issued
- Four examination opportunities conducted
- Sponsored six continuing forestry education webinars with a combined attendance of 971

foresters.

Arkansas 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 appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Arkansas Association of Professional Soil Classifiers. The Board is comprised of 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.

Board Members	Location	Representing	Term
Dr. Vern (Steven) Green	State University	Public at large	2021
Edgar Mersiovsky	Conway	Professional Soil Classifier	2022
Robert Goff	Vilonia	Professional Soil Classifier	2023
Larry West	Fayetteville	Professional Soil Classifier	2024
Tom Fortner	Lonoke	Soil and Water Conservation District Director	2025

Accomplishments

Major accomplishments of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers include:

- Held one regular meeting
- Provided testimony to the State Occupational Licensing Review subcommittee
- Issued 35 license renewals

Arkansas State Plant Board

The mission of the Plant Board is to protect and serve the citizens of Arkansas and the agricultural and business communities by providing information and unbiased enforcement of laws and regulations thus ensuring quality products and services.

Prior to June 10, 2021 the Board consisted of 16 voting members and two non-voting members.

The nineteen members included:

- Nine appointed by the Governor
- Eight appointed by industry associations/organizations
- Two non-voting representatives of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

Legal challenges concerning the constitutionality of the Board were heard by the Supreme Court this Spring. The Court ruled that the appointment of Board members by private trade associations is unconstitutional, and the nine members appointed by industry should be removed. On June 10th the nine members were removed.

During the 2021 Legislative session Act 361 To Amend the Make Up of State Plant Board was passed. The passage of this act was out of concern related to the constitutionality question of the make-up of the Board. Act 361 became effective July 28th. It increased Board membership from 18 to 19 members. Seventeen members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, with eight of those members selected from nomination submitted by statutorily designated trade associations and 2 non-voting members designated by the UofA Vice President of Agriculture. The trade association nominees are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate from a list of at least 2 names provided by each association:

- Two non-voting designated by University of Arkansas Vice President of Agriculture
- 1 cotton grower appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate
- 1 member of fertilizer industry appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate
- 1 rice grower appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate
- 1 horticulturist or nurseryman appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Horticultural Society and the Arkansas Green Industry
- 1 corn, peanut, sorghum, turf, or wheat grower appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate
- 1 soybean grower appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate
- 1 pest control business operator appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Pest Management Association
- 1 seed dealer appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Seed Dealers Association
- 1 seed grower appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least names submitted by the Arkansas Seed Growers Association
- 1 member appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Oil Marketers Association
- 1 member appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Crop Protection Association
- 1 member appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least two names submitted by the Arkansas Agri Aviation Association
- 1 member appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Forestry Association
- 2 farmers engaged in production of corn, cotton, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, turf, or wheat appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate
- 1 livestock producer appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate
- 1 forage grower appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate

The Board will continue to provide guidance and direction as to the implementation of regulatory oversight, enforcement actions, and will retain the authority to promulgate rules. All enforcement actions will continue to be reviewed by and approved for final disposition by the Board.

Board Members	Location	Representing	Term
Darrell Hess	Wynne	AR Plant Food Association	2022
Sam Stuckey	Clarkdale	Cotton Growers	2022
Matthew Marsh	Cammack Village	Rice Grower	2023
Mark Morgan	Clarksville	Cotton Growers	2023
David Gammill	Tyronza	Grower	2023
Matt Miles	McGehee	Soybean Grower	2023
Mark Hopper	Mountain Home	Pest Control Operators	2023
Marty Eaton	Jonesboro	Seed Dealer	2023
Lester Scott	Little Rock	Pesticide Manufactures	2023
Mark Hartz	Stuttgart	Agricultural Aviators	2023
Richard Watts	Watson	Forest Sector	2023
Nathan Reed	Marianna	Farmer	2023
Travis Senter	Osceola	Farmer	2023
Reynold Meyer	Eudora	Livestock Producer	2023
Bruce Alford	Lewisville	Forage Grower	2023
Vacant		AR Seed Growers Assn.	N/A
Vacant		AR Oil Marketers Assn.	N/A

Ex Officio

Dr. Ken Korth	Fayetteville	University of Arkansas	N/A
Dr. Nathan Slaton	Fayetteville	University of Arkansas	N/A

Accomplishments

The Arkansas State Plant Board's major accomplishments include:

- Held 3 regular meetings and 1 special-called meeting
- Promulgated 3 rules
- Approved 122 enforcement actions
- Heard 1 petition for rulemaking.

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. The Board consists of five members appointed by the Governor for five-year terms. Four members must be licensed to practice and actively engaged in veterinary medicine in Arkansas, have at least five years of experience in veterinary medicine, be in good standing and a member of the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association, and be graduates of an accredited or approved college of medicine or holders of an Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates Certificate.

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,

corporate practices, 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.

Applicants who apply for licensure as a veterinarian must take a written examination given by the Board, unless otherwise approved by the Board for licensure by endorsement or reciprocity. The written examination is conducted by the Board and composed of, but not limited to, the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act and Rules, state and federal laws relating to prescription and controlled drugs, ethics of veterinary medicine, the laws of the Arkansas Department of Health concerning rabies control, and the laws of the Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services.

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.

Board Members	Location	Representing	Term
Phillip DeSalvo	Center Ridge	Public Member	2021
Dr. Conley Byrd	Redfield	Veterinarian	2022
Dr. Norette Underwood	Truman	Veterinarian	2023
Dr. Paul Turchi, Chairman	Fayetteville	Veterinarian	2024
Robert Bonner	Nashville	Veterinarian	2025

Accomplishments

The Veterinary Medical Examining Board's major accomplishments include:

- Initial licensing of sixty-five (65) veterinarians,
- Initial certification of twenty-one (21) veterinary technicians,
- Initial certification of eight (8) corporate practices,
- Oversight of one thousand six hundred fifty-seven (1,657) total licenses and certificates,
- Approval of forty-six (46) continuing education programs, and
- Review of eighteen (18) complaints.

Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission

The Arkansas 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, including the Secretary of the Department of Health and the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The Governor appoints 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. Senate confirmation is required for the members appointed by the Governor.

Commission Members	Location	Representing	Term
David Washington	Calico Rock	Ouachita Mountain	2017
David Gilbert	Mena	Ouachita Mountain	2018
Tom Hunt	Maumelle	HVAC	2019
Mike McDermott	Weiner	Gulf Coast	2019
Steven Ernest Pender	Texarkana	Gulf Coast	2020
Chris Colclasure	Little Rock	Director, AR Natural Resource Division	2021
Lance Jones	Little Rock	AR Department of Health or Designee	2022

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission's major accomplishments include:

- Conducted four meetings
- Approved 11 new driller applicants
- Approved nine new pump installer applicants
- Approved six new apprentice driller applicants
- Approved 12 new pump installer applicants
- Waived all renewal fees for FY2021 and lowered the number of continuing education credits necessary to maintain licensing from six to three in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Litter Utilization Committee

This committee was created to consider methods of removal, valuation, avenues of distribution, 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.

- The Litter Utilization Committee has not met in more than ten years and was eliminated by Act 501 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly.

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 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.

Committee Members	Location	Representing
Cindy Osborne	Little Rock	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Lazendra Hairston	Little Rock	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Jorge Sanchez	Little Rock	Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
Melanie Treat	Little Rock	Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Dareen Spinks	Little Rock	Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry
Jody Duke	Little Rock	Streamwork Mitigation Services, LLC
Vacant	Little Rock	Member of the Public

Accomplishments

The Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee major accomplishments include:

- Approved $411,276 in project costs as eligible for a tax credit.

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.

Commission Members	Location	Representing	Term
Mike Dumas	El Dorado	Ouachita River Valley Association	2020
Alan Meadows	El Dorado	Union County	2020
Tena Carter	Wilmot	Ashley County	2022
David Brazeale	Sparkman	Dallas County	2022
Shannon Shepherd	Malvern	Hot Springs County	2022
Tim Knight	Arkadelphia	Clark County	2024
David Richardson	Camden	Ouachita County	2024
Hugh Quimby	Warren	Bradley County	2025
James Rawls	Hampton	Calhoun County	2026

Accomplishments

- The Ouachita River Commission was transferred to the Department of Parks and Tourism during the 2021 Legislative Session.

Red River Commission

The Arkansas Red River Commission was created to study and plan needed improvement to and along the main stem of the Red River in Little River, Hempstead, Miller, and Lafayette Counties.
The Red River Commission is composed of eight members appointed by the Governor, with two members appointed from each of the following counties: Little River, Hempstead, Miller, and Lafayette.

Commission Members	Location	Representing	Term
Warren Plyler	Hope	Hempstead County	2022
Randy Bobo	Hope	Hempstead County	2023
Bruce Alford	Lewisville	Lafayette County	2024
Gayther Crank	Lewisville	Lafayette County	2025
Dwayne Raper	Ashdown	Little River County	2026
Dan York	Foreman	Little River County	2027
Robert Sanderson	Texarkana	Miller County	2028
Brandon Wren	Texarkana	Miller County	2028

Accomplishments

The Red River Commission's major accomplishments include:

- Held two meetings
- Secured funding commitments of $3 million to complete a feasibility study on the extension of navigation on the Red River into Arkansas.

The 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, 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's major accomplishments include:

- The Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee exists to provide technical assistance to NRD staff in administering the state-sponsored wetland mitigation banking program. Because the NRD is currently divesting from this program, the Committee did not meet in FY 2020-2021.
- The Wetland Technical Advisory Committee was eliminated by Act 501 during the 2021 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly.

Commissions and Committees with Department Representation

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture serves as a member of the following commissions and committee:

- Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission
- Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission
- Red River Compact Commission
- Buffalo River Conservation Committee

A brief summary of these entities' responsibilities and members is provided below.

Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission administers the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact (Compact) established by Public Law 93-152 in 1973 after formal approval of both states in 1972. The purpose of the Compact is to promote interstate comity between Arkansas and Oklahoma, provide for an equitable apportionment and orderly development of the waters of the Arkansas River between the two states, provide an agency for administering agreed upon water apportionment, encourage the maintenance of an active pollution abatement program in each state, and facilitate the cooperation of the water administrative agencies in both states in the development and management of water resources in the Arkansas River Basin.

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission is required to meet annually and prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor of each signatory State and to the President of the United States covering the activities of the commission for the preceding fiscal year, together with an accounting of all funds received and expended by it in the conduct of its work.

The Commission is composed of three commissioners representing the State of Arkansas, three commissioners representing the State of Oklahoma, and one commissioner representing the United States. The Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is designated as one of the three Arkansas commissioners. The two additional Arkansas members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for four-year terms. The Oklahoma commissioners include the Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and two members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The President of the United States or an authorized federal agency designates the member to represent the United States.

Commission Members	**Representing**
Dr. Delia Haak	Federal Commissioner
Joel West Williams	Alt. Federal Commissioner
James Mardis, III	Arkansas Commissioner
Chris Colclasure	Arkansas Commissioner
Victoria Tran	Oklahoma Commissioner
Scott Thompson	Oklahoma Commissioner
Julie Cunningham	Oklahoma Commissioner
Vacant	Arkansas Commissioner

Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission

The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission is the environmental policy-making body for Arkansas. The environmental policy is determined with guidance from the Governor, the Arkansas legislature, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others and is implemented by the Division of Environmental Quality within the Department of Energy and Environment.
The Commission is comprised of 15 members, with eight appointed by the Governor to include at least one, but no more than two, from each of the four congressional districts. The remaining seven members are the directors or their designees of the following entities:

- Arkansas Department of Agriculture
- Arkansas Department of Health
- Arkansas Department of Agriculture- Forestry Division
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Arkansas Geology Commission
- Arkansas Department of Agriculture- Natural Resources Division
- Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission

Commission Members	Location	Representing
Lawrence Bengal	Little Rock	Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission
Chris Colclasure	Little Rock	AR Department of Agriculture- Natural Resource Division
Joe Fox	Little Rock	AR Department of Agriculture- Forestry Division
Miles Goggans	Little Rock	District 2
Richard McMullen, PhD	Little Rock	Arkansas Department of Health
Dough Melton	Bentonville	District 3
Swan 'Rusty' Moss, Jr.	Dermott	District 1
Robert Reynolds	El Dorado	District 4
Richard Roper	Warren	District 4
David B. Vandergriff	Little Rock	Pulaski County
Wes Ward	Little Rock	Secretary of Agriculture
Scott Ausbrooks	Little Rock	Arkansas Geology Commission
Vacant		Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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.

Commission Members	Location	Representing
Sue Lowry	Cheyenne, WY	Chairman/Federal Commissioner
Julie Cunningham	Oklahoma City, OK	Oklahoma Commissioner
Charles Lynn Dobbs	Altus, OK	Oklahoma Commissioner
Toby Baker	Austin, TX	Texas Commissioner
Robin Phillips	Sherman, TX	Texas Commissioner
Patrick Landry	Baton Rouge, LA	Louisiana Commissioner
John Michael Moore	Bossier City, LA	Louisiana Commissioner
Wes Ward	Little Rock, AR	Arkansas Commissioner
William Daniel York	Foreman, AR	Arkansas Commissioner

Buffalo River Conservation Committee

The Buffalo River Conservation Committee (BRCC) was established by Governor Hutchinson in Executive Order 19-14 in 2019. The established of the BRCC was codified by Act 785 of the 2021 regular session of the Arkansas General Assembly.

The BRCC is required to:

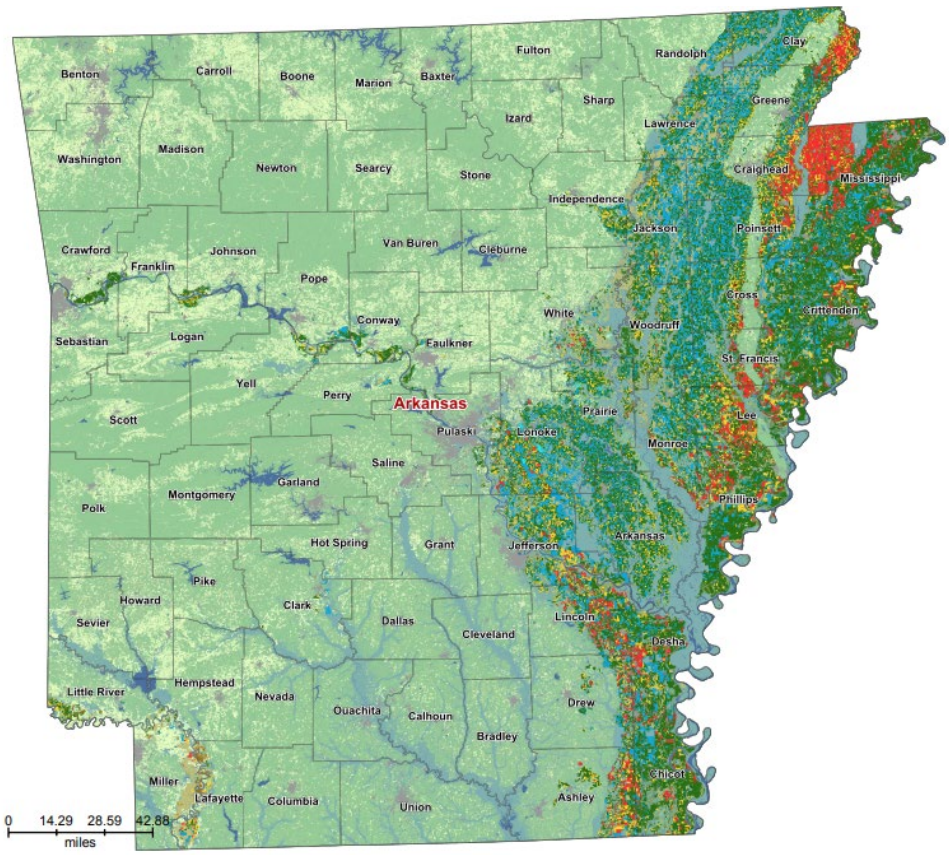
- Work in cooperation with one another to identify opportunities to leverage their departments' expertise, resources, relationships, focus areas, and funding mechanisms in support of the vitality of the Buffalo River Watershed
- Annually review the Buffalo River Watershed Management Plan, provide recommendations for updates, and provide a report to the Governor on successes during the year
- Establish subcommittees to lead various aspects of implementing the watershed management plan, including identifying opportunities for training, relationship building, and specific projects to preserve and enhance water quality within the watershed.
    - The subcommittee will include key stakeholders representing local landowners, conservation organizations, tourism industry representatives, environmental and technical experts, county and municipal officials, and federal partners.
- Consider the continued sampling and analysis of water quality data throughout the Buffalo River Watershed as vital for informing the work of the committee and its member agencies and organizations

The BRCC membership consists of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Department of Energy and Environment, the Secretary of the Department of Health, the Secretary of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, the County Judge of Newton County, and the County Judge of Searcy County.

Committee Members	Location	Representing
Secretary Wes Ward	Little Rock	Department of Agriculture
Secretary Becky Keogh	Little Rock	Department of Energy and Environment
Secretary Jose Romero	Little Rock	Department of Health
Secretary Stacy Hurst	Little Rock	Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism
Judge Warren Campbell	Newton County	Newton County Judge
Judge Kim Harness	Searcy County	Searcy County Judge

Arkansas Land Cover Categories

Source: USDA National and Delta Regional Agricultural Statistics Service



Land Cover Categories

(by decreasing acreage)

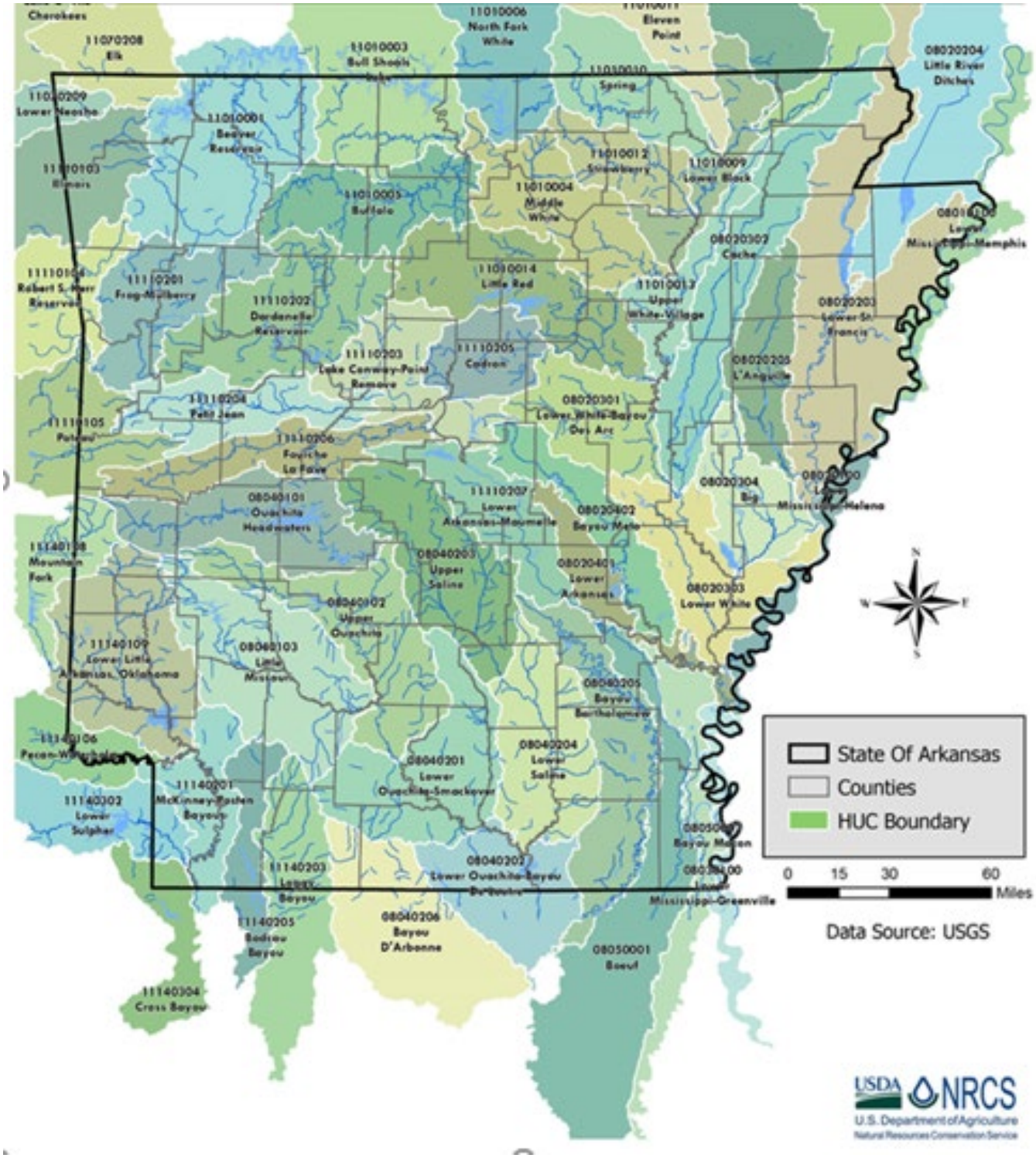
AGRICULTURE*

- Grass/Pasture
- Soybeans
- Rice
- Fallow/Idle Cropland
- Corn
- Cotton
- Other Hay/Non Alfalfa
- Dbl Crop WinWht/Soybeans
- Winter Wheat
- Peanuts
- Aquaculture
- Pecans
- Sorghum
- Sod/Grass Seed
- Sweet Potatoes
- Dbl Crop Soybeans/Oats

NON-AGRICULTURE**

- Deciduous Forest
- Evergreen Forest
- Woody Wetlands
- Mixed Forest
- Developed/Open Space
- Open Water

Arkansas Watersheds



Arkansas Watersheds

Listed Alphabetically and Largest to Smallest

Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically	Acres
Bayou Bartholomew	982,089
Bayou D'Arbonne	279,409
Bayou Macon	365,300
Bayou Meto	641,115
Beaver Reservoir	1,389,297
Big	606,271
Bodcau Bayou	299,428
Boeuf	494,351
Buffalo	856,963
Bull Shoals Lake	703,335
Cache	1,251,642
Cadron	484,309
Cross Bayou	54,340
Current	67,589
Dardanelle Reservoir	1,192,772
Eleven Point	113,439
Elk	141,459
Fourche La Fave	712,912
Frog-Mulberry	822,578
Illinois	484,548

Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically	Acres
Lake Conway-Point Remove	728,758
Lake O' The Cherokees	14,151
L'Anguille	611,537
Little Missouri	1,342,695
Little Red	1,152,281
Little River Ditches	311,094
Loggy Bayou	406,407
Lower Arkansas	441,454
Lower Arkansas-Maumelle	702,540
Lower Black	450,829
Lower Little Arkansas, Oklahoma	1,147,191
Lower Mississippi-Greenville	121,509
Lower Mississippi-Helena	173,630
Lower Mississippi-Memphis	95,821
Lower Neosho	91,980
Lower Ouachita-Bayou De Loutre	442,135
Lower Ouachita-Smackover	1,153,694
Lower Saline	971,689
Lower St. Francis	1,936,408
Lower Sulpher	119,908

Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically	Acres
Lower White	870,807
Lower White-Bayou Des Arc	726,668
McKinney-Posten Bayous	513,395
Middle White	943,985
Mountain Fork	157,615
North Fork White	282,504
Ouachita Headwaters	990,183
Pecan-Waterhole	143,071
Petit Jean	702,924
Poteau	356,235
Robert S. Kerr Reservoir	211,235
Spring	470,590
Strawberry	486,616
Upper Black	116,830
Upper Ouachita	1,121,157
Upper Saline	1,097,047
Upper White-Village	473,908
Grand Total	34,023,623

Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Largest to Smallest	Acres
Lower St. Francis	1,936,408
Beaver Reservoir	1,389,297
Little Missouri	1,342,695
Cache	1,251,642
Dardanelle Reservoir	1,192,772
Lower Ouachita-Smackover	1,153,694
Little Red	1,152,281
Lower Little Arkansas, Oklahoma	1,147,191
Upper Ouachita	1,121,157
Upper Saline	1,097,047
Ouachita Headwaters	990,183
Bayou Bartholomew	982,089
Lower Saline	971,689
Middle White	943,985
Lower White	870,807
Buffalo	856,963
Frog-Mulberry	822,578
Lake Conway-Point Remove	728,758
Lower White-Bayou Des Arc	726,668
Fourche La Fave	712,912

Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Largest to Smallest	Acres
Bull Shoals Lake	703,335
Petit Jean	702,924
Lower Arkansas-Maumelle	702,540
Bayou Meto	641,115
L'Anguille	611,537
Big	606,271
McKinney-Posten Bayous	513,395
Boeuf	494,351
Strawberry	486,616
Illinois	484,548
Cadron	484,309
Upper White-Village	473,908
Spring	470,590
Lower Black	450,829
Lower Ouachita-Bayou De Loutre	442,135
Lower Arkansas	441,454
Loggy Bayou	406,407
Bayou Macon	365,300
Poteau	356,235
Little River Ditches	311,094

Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Largest to Smallest	Acres
Bodcau Bayou	299,428
North Fork White	282,504
Bayou D'Arbonne	279,409
Robert S. Kerr Reservoir	211,235
Lower Mississippi-Helena	173,630
Mountain Fork	157,615
Pecan-Waterhole	143,071
Elk	141,459
Lower Mississippi-Greenville	121,509
Lower Sulpher	119,908
Upper Black	116,830
Eleven Point	113,439
Lower Mississippi-Memphis	95,821
Lower Neosho	91,980
Current	67,589
Cross Bayou	54,340
Lake O' The Cherokees	14,151
Grand Total	34,023,623

BRANDING PROGRAMS

ARKANSAS GROWN

Arkansas Grown, administered through the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, began in 2012 to help promote the many agricultural products that are grown 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 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**

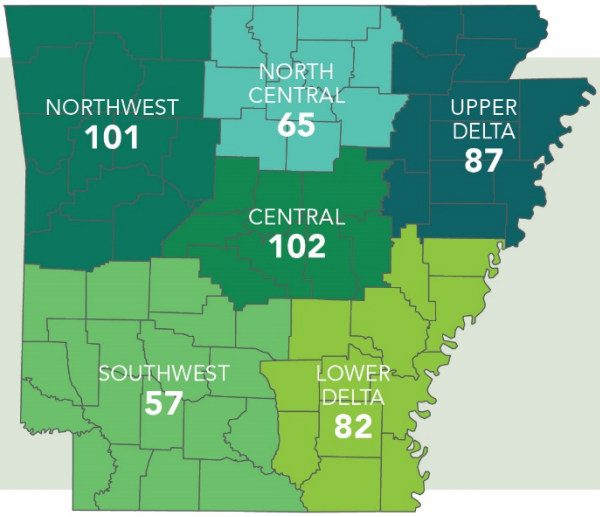
CENTURY FARM

The Arkansas Century Farm Program recognizes Arkansas farm families who have owned and operated an area of 10 acres or more for a 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 **494** farms have been inducted. In 2020 alone, **30** farms were inducted.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 CENTURY FARM INDUCTEES!

Biram Farm
Bradford Family Farm
Cole Farm
DeShazo Family Farm
FloRa Farms LLC
Fowler Farm
Hearst/Brownfield Farm
Hoggard-Stevenson Union Valley Farm
Hoover Farm
Hughes and Hughes Farm
Hughes Farm
Long-McGehee Farm
Madden Farms
Martin Cattle Company
Moreton Farm
N-W Farm Properties, LLP
(O.L. Johnson Estate)
Oscar Clark Farm
Ransom "Tack" Adamson Estate-Timber Farm
Rob Scroggins Farm
S4 Cattle Company
Siebenmorgen Family Farm
South Parks Ranch
Strasner Family Farm
The Massey Family Farm
Thomas Family Farm
Trett Hulett Family Farm
W 7 Farm
Walthall Tree Farm
Wesson Family Farm
Wright-O'Neal-Massey Family Farm

AG EXPORTS

(In Millions of Dollars)

SOYBEAN
$977

RICE
$742

COTTON
$489

BROILER MEAT
$379

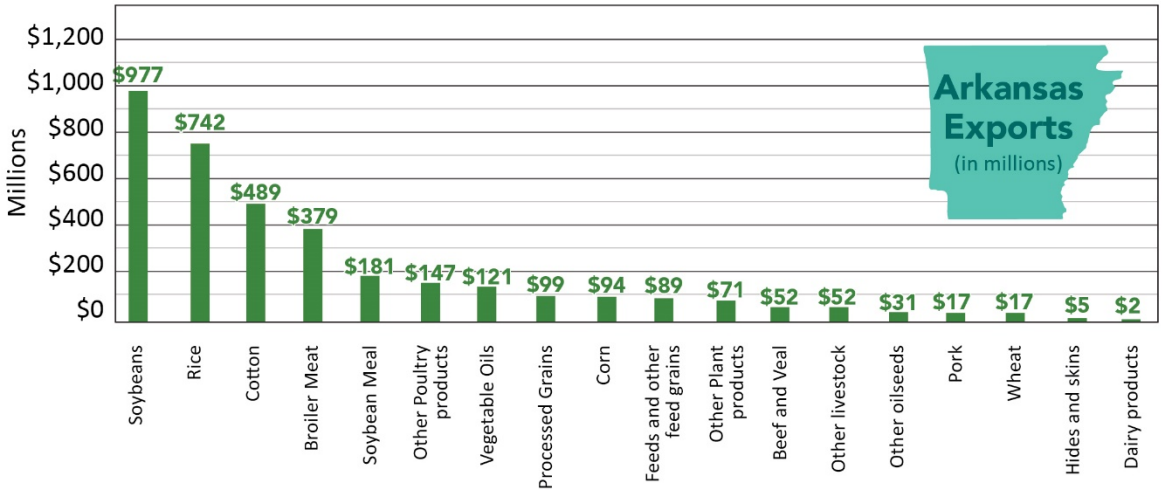
SOYBEAN MEAL
$181

OTHER POULTRY
$147

VEGETABLE OIL
$121

GRAIN PRODUCTS PROCESSED
$99

Corn	$94
Feed and other feed grain	$89
Other plant products	$70
Beef and veal	$52
Other livestock products	$52
Other oilseeds and products	$31
Pork	$17
Wheat	$17
Hides and skins	$5
Dairy products	$2

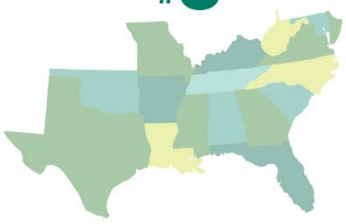


AG EXPORTS

Delta States
#1

Arkansas exports rank **Number 1** among the Delta States

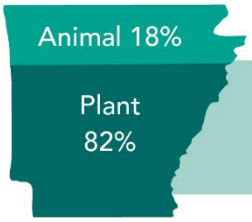
Southern States
#3



Arkansas ranks **Number 3** in all the Southern States

Nationally
#15

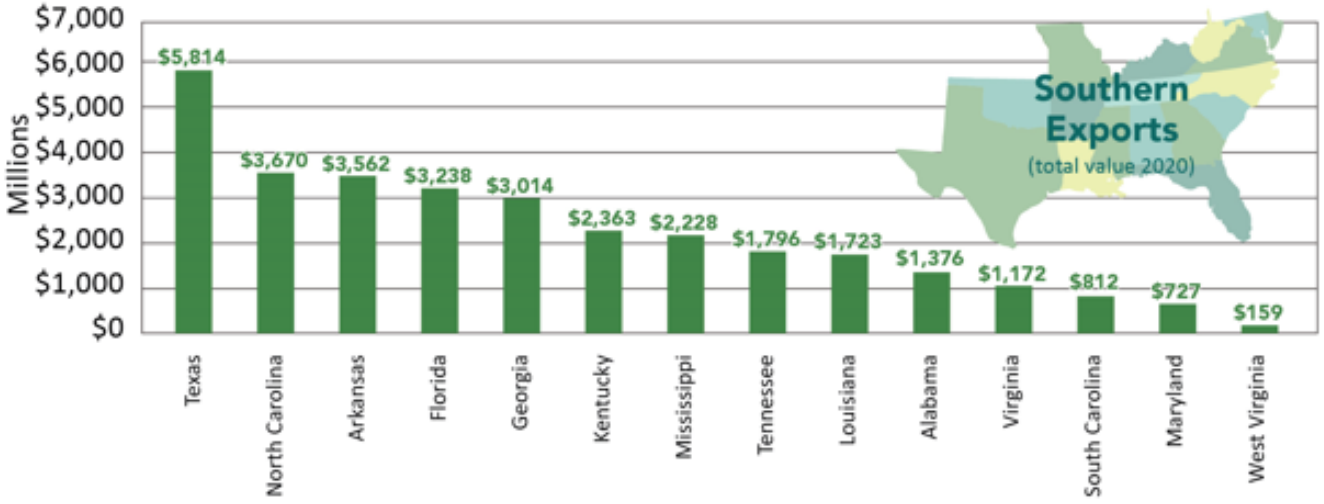
Arkansas ranks **Number 15** in the nation



Total Animal: **$651,900,000**

Total Plant: **$2,909,700,000**

Total Agricultural Exports: **$3,561,600,000**



Future Outlook

FACTORS THAT POTENTIALLY CHALLENGE ARKANSAS'S ECONOMY AND AGRICLUTURAL SECTOR

Delta Variant of the Coronavirus, geopolitical, weather, and domestic and foreign fiscal, monetary and trade policy challenges continue limiting supply chain efficiencies, elevate cashflow challenges and financial uncertainties for our agricultural and forestry sectors and supporting communities and infrastructure.

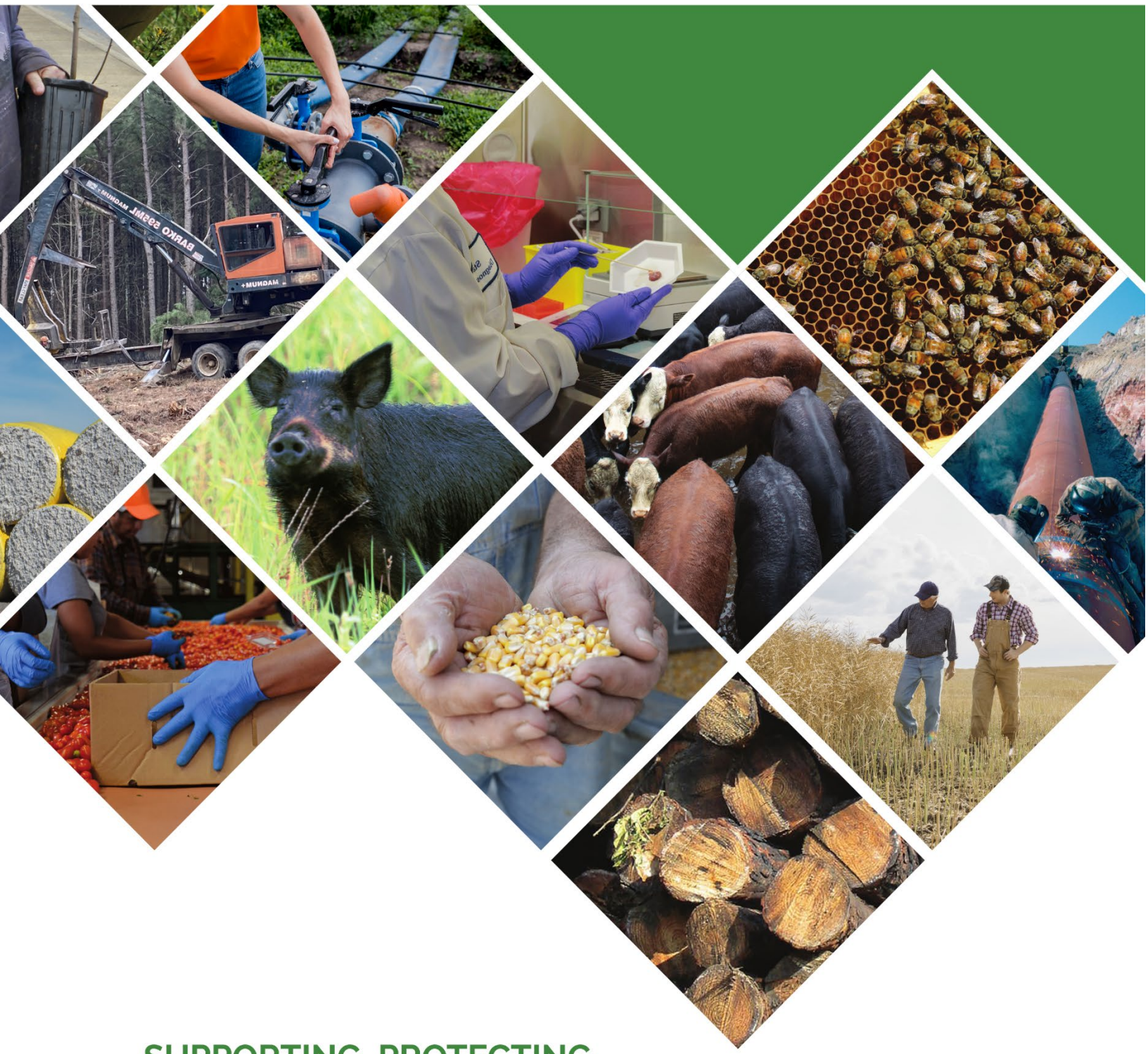
- ***Cashflow Concerns***. Many Arkansas farmers, ranchers, forest landowners and their supporting infrastructure and communities continue facing cashflow challenges due to the historic ongoing supply chain and market disruptions generated by the sharp domestic and global economic contraction from the global Coronavirus disease (COVID-19, Delta Variant, etc.) pandemic's continuing impact.
- ***Pandemic's Impact***. The pandemic's ongoing impact varies by commodity. When the disease disrupts processing facilities, producers, ranchers, and forest landowners may find themselves with a contracting market, further aggravating their cashflow challenges and potentially leading to additional financial hardships for agribusinesses and communities.
- ***Technologies Rapid Evolution Replacing Workforce Segments.*** The COVID-19/Delta Variant pandemic will have producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, and others focused on the use of technology to minimize human dependency across all levels of production, processing, transportation, distribution, and sales.
- ***Local Processing and Food Scarcity***. The pandemic reminded us not to take local food security for granted. A strong realization emerged that producers and communities must have food processing availability contingency plans that are profitable in normal times and provide local food sustainability during times of food scarcity.
- ***Sustainability in Times of Change***. In the highly competitive policy driven global marketplace, protectionism and nationalism are increasingly becoming the norm, resulting in lost global marketplace efficiencies. Agricultural and forestry sectors are required to increasingly focus on risk management and the maintenance of a strong farm government program safety net.
- ***Consumer Tastes and Preferences***. 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 timber processing and marketing infrastructures become more fluid and responsive.
- ***Plant and Cell Based Meat and Dairy Options Rising.*** Global population growth, human and animal disease, climate activists, and simply changes in tastes and preferences are helping fuel the movement for meat and dairy substitutes. Plant and cell-based meat and dairy options will continue to expand, so the livestock and dairy sector must enhance climate neutrality production efficiencies, like those proposed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).
- ***U.S. Department of Agriculture.*** We continue 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, forestry, and societal challenges.
- ***Plant and Animal Disease.*** We stand alert for potential animal and plant disease outbreak challenges and other issues that could significantly disrupt the profitability and viability of our production sector.
- ***Feral Hogs.*** 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.*** Black headed vultures attacking newborn calves present an economic hardship to Arkansas cattle producers each spring and fall.
- ***National Security Issues.*** 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.
- ***Weather Patterns***. 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.
- ***Emergency Response***. 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.
- ***Disease Awareness and Emergence 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.
- ***Trade Issues and Logistics***. Export trade issues, including policy disputes and phytosanitary/sanitary issues can constrain delivery and may require Department personnel's immediate attention.
- ***Export Demand Disruption***. 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.
- ***Emergency Preparedness Efforts.*** 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.
- ***Woods Revolutionary Role.*** Woods evolving new uses have the potential to be game changers. Tall wood buildings (plyscrapers) built with cross-laminated timber (CLT) are sprouting up globally, including Walmart's new headquarters. Other emerging applications include wood-based nanomaterials are renewable and biodegradable material that can be used to make computer chips, flexible computer displays, car panels, etc.; power-generating wood flooring; wood fiber fabric; wood nails; transparent wood substitute for glass windows; and biodegradable electronics; to list a few uses.
- ***Food and Agriculture Critical Infrastructure.*** There are 16 critical infrastructures sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof. The new Delta Variant of the Coronavirus and other potential mutations will continue challenging the food and agricultural sector, but the industry will continue to operate 24/7.
- ***Delta Variant of the Coronavirus.*** To remain strong as an industry we must remain vigilant of the new mutations of the COVID-19 virus like the now highly present Delta Variant, a highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 virus strain. The Delta Variant's ability to spread has the healthcare community highly concerned, so consider the following:
    - The Delta variant is more contagious than other virus strains,
    - Unvaccinated people are at risk, and
    - "Vaccination" is the best protection.

Annual and Biennial Reports

Reports	Requirement Citation	Presented To
Evaluation of Boards and Commission	A.C.A. § 25-1-106	Arkansas Legislative Joint Performance Review Committee
FEMA Community Assistance Program	National Flood Insurance Act and Flood Disaster Protection Act, 42 USCA 4001-4129	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Safe Drinking Water and State Revolving Loan Fund	Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 USC 300j-12	Environmental Protection Agency
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	Clean Water Act, 33 USC 1383	Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Emergency Management Agency-Dam Safety Grant	Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, 33 USC 467f	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Secretary Report on State of the Department	A.C.A. § 25-38-202	Arkansas Legislative Council
Buffalo River Conservation Committee Annual Report	A.C.A. § 15-23-1001 et seq.	Governor/Arkansas Legislative Council
Department of Agriculture Annual Report	A.C.A. § 25-38-203	Governor/Arkansas Legislative Council
Farm to School Annual Report	A.C.A. § 6-18-2001 et seq.	Governor/Arkansas Legislative Council
Local Food, Farm, & Jobs Act Annual Report	A.C.A. § 15-4-3801 et seq.	Governor/Arkansas Legislative Council



SUPPORTING, PROTECTING, AND GROWING ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

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