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## Arkansas Department of Agriculture Names Dr. John G. Nilz as New State Veterinarian

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. John G. Nilz as the new state veterinarian, effective Monday, December 13.

“Dr. Nilz brings a wealth of experience from a wide variety of professional capacities that serves Arkansas’s animal agriculture sector well,” said Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture. “He has proven to be a valuable part of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s team and we look forward to working with him in this new capacity.”

Nilz has served as the field veterinarian for the Department of Agriculture (Department) since July 2020. Nilz, a native of Clark County, Arkansas, earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine and entered the veterinary profession as a large animal practitioner serving the private, corporate, and regulatory sectors. Nilz also has experience in small animal medicine and surgery, emergency response and management, and teaching.

Nilz said, “It is an honor to be selected to serve as the state veterinarian for the Department. I am committed to applying my time and talents to all facets of Arkansas’s animal industries.”

The role of the state veterinarian is to assist the Department’s Livestock and Poultry Division in fulfilling its mission to safeguard human and animal health, assure food safety and quality, and promote Arkansas’s livestock and poultry industries for the benefit of the state’s citizens. As state veterinarian, Nilz will work closely with the livestock and poultry industries, licensed veterinarians, and the public regarding animal health issues and will serve as co-chair of the Arkansas One Health Committee whose purpose is to promote cohesion between agencies responsible for human, wildlife, and domestic-animal health.

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