



ARKANSAS

Department of Agriculture

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Growing Arkansas's Largest Industry

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture consists of five main Divisions:



FORESTRY



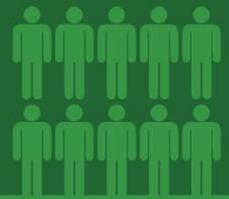
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY



NATURAL RESOURCES



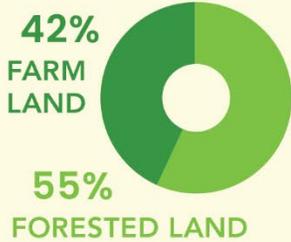
PLANT INDUSTRIES



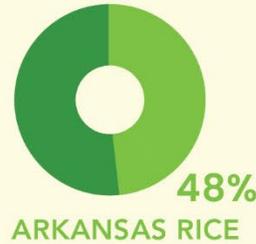
SHARED SERVICES

 **\$19 BILLION EACH YEAR**

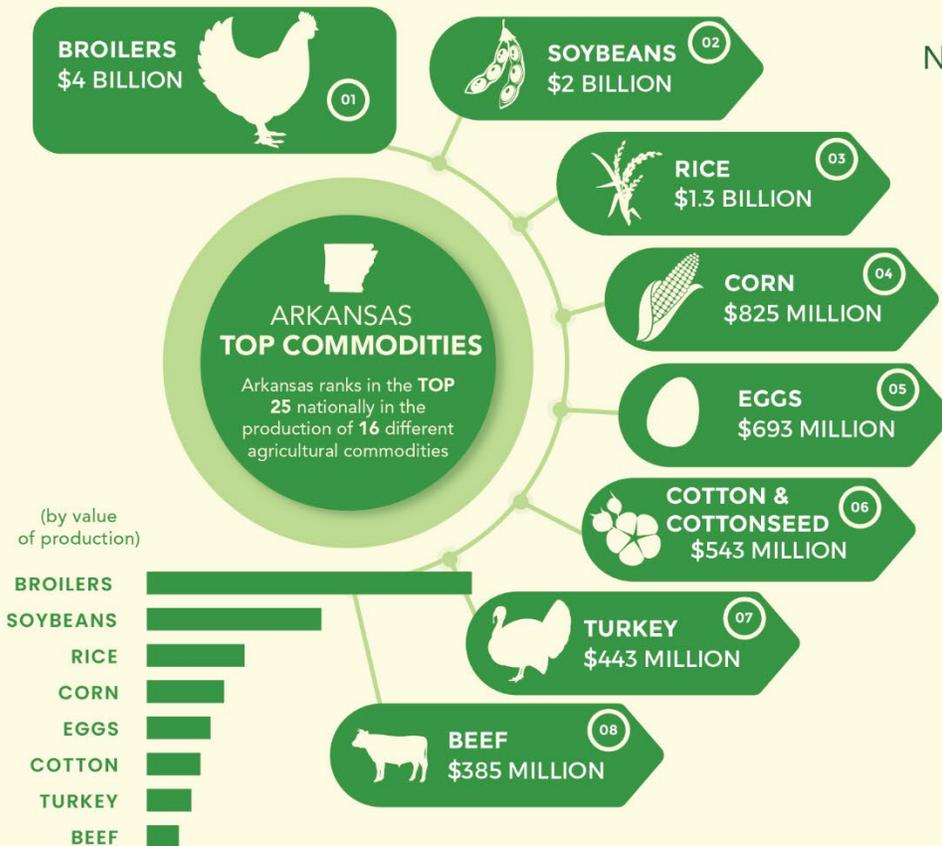
Agriculture is our largest industry, contributing more than **\$19 BILLION** annually to Arkansas's economy



ARKANSAS RICE accounts for **48%** of total U.S. Rice Production and **58%** of the entire U.S. Long Grain Production



243,165 JOBS in Arkansas created by the Agriculture Industry



Nationally ranked **#1** in **RICE** production, valued at **\$1.3 Billion** annually



AR TOP COMMODITIES RANKED NATIONALLY

- #1 in Rice
- #3 in Broilers
- #3 in Turkeys Raised
- #3 in Cotton
- #3 in Cottonseed
- #4 in Catfish
- #7 in Peanuts
- #8 in Eggs
- #11 in Beef Cattle
- #11 in Soybeans

AGRICULTURE

Source: 2022 University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Agriculture Profile 2022, USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service 2022

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MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY Wes Ward

We are pleased to provide you with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2022 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, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

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 \$19 billion to Arkansas's economy annually and provides one out of every seven 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 year, we were proud to represent our state by serving on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture as the Secretary-Treasurer and bring our agricultural perspective to all fifty states and the four U.S. territories.

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 2022 fiscal session as well as in implementing the laws that were passed 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 42,000 farm families, many agribusinesses, and rural communities deserve and expect. It is an honor to serve our state's largest industry.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wesley W. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Wesley W. Ward
Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture



**SECRETARY
WES WARD**



FORESTRY DIVISION

**STATE FORESTER
JOE FOX**

**EMERGENCY
SERVICES**

**FOREST
MANAGEMENT**

**DISTRICTS &
STATE FORESTS**



**LIVESTOCK AND
POULTRY DIVISION**

**DIRECTOR
PATRICK FISK**

**ANIMAL
HEALTH**

FOOD SAFETY

**REGULATORY
COMPLIANCE**



**NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION**

**DIRECTOR
CHRIS COLCLASURE**

CONSERVATION

**WATER
RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT**

**WATER
RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT**



**PLANT INDUSTRIES
DIVISION**

**DIRECTOR
SCOTT BRAY**

**BUREAU OF
STANDARDS**

**INSPECTION
SERVICES**

PESTICIDES

**QUALITY
CONTROL &
COMPLIANCE**

**REGULATORY
SERVICES**



**SHARED SERVICES
DIVISION**

**DEPUTY SECRETARY
CYNTHIA EDWARDS**

**FISCAL/HUMAN
RESOURCES**

**INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

**LABORATORY
SERVICES**

**LAW
ENFORCEMENT**

LEGAL

MARKETING

**TRADE/
ECONOMICS**

Arkansas ranks #6 nationally in the production of forest related commodities.

1327 WILDFIRES

More than 1327 of wildfires were sparked in 2022, burning over 26,684 acres

914 volunteer firefighters trained

13,791 total volunteer firefighters statewide

74 Firewise Communities in Arkansas

\$ 6.5 BILLION EACH YEAR

Arkansas forest industries state economic contributions total \$6.5 BILLION

5.6 million acres surveyed

The Forestry Division aerially surveyed 5.6 million acres for insect, disease, and fire damage; identifying over 22,000 damaged acres

ARKANSAS TIMBER



44 MILLION TONS
annual timber growth

24 MILLION TONS
annual harvest

20 MILLION TONS
surplus annual growth

Surplus growth makes for attractive investment opportunities for forest-based businesses
"Healthy Markets equal Healthy Forests"



5,508 ASSISTS
Arkansas landowners assisted with management plans and forestry needs



\$5 MILLION
in Trucks & Equipment distributed to Rural Fire Departments

46 TREE CITIES
impacting more than 1,057,000 Arkansas residents



SEEDLINGS
7.9 Million Seedlings grown and sold by Baucum Nursery (Hardwood & Pine)

19 MILLION ACRES
Arkansas has 19 Million Acres of forests with over 12 Billion Trees

FORESTRY

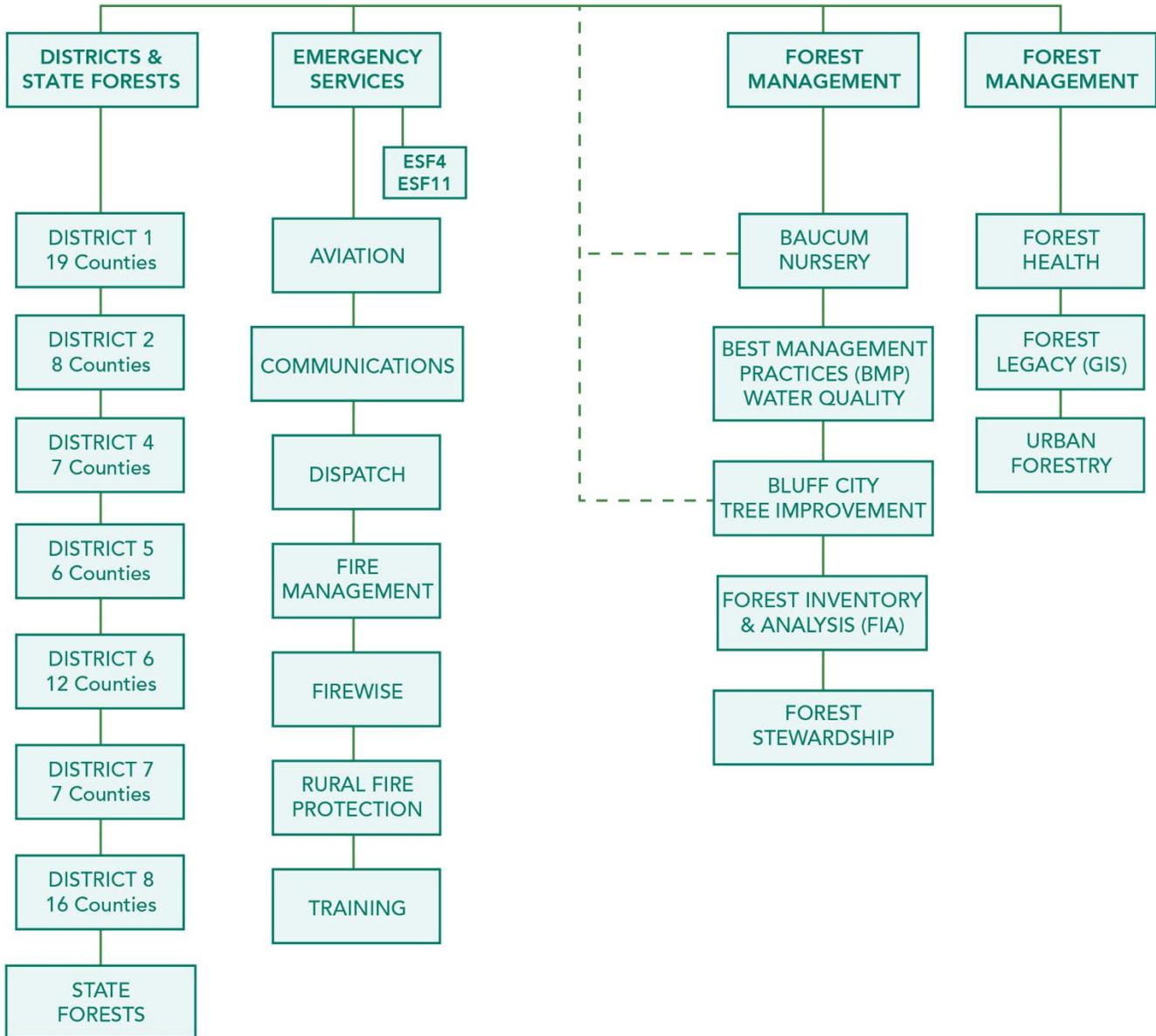
Information provided by the Forestry Division 2022

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



FORESTRY DIVISION

STATE FORESTER
JOE FOX



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.

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.



State Forester
Joe Fox

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 2022. Joe Fox, State Forester, served as the 2021-2022 immediate past 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 2022 collaborations and accomplishments include:

- Participation on the Senate Agriculture Committee’s Republican Roundtable on Forest Management and Working Forests in Washington, DC.
- Service on the US Forest Service Forest Stewardship Program Guidance Committee
- Forest management descriptions provided on the Congressional Western Caucus Arkansas Field Tour led by Congressman Westerman
- Service to Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee
- Baseline forest inventory measurements were completed on land owned by Central Arkansas Water around Lake Maumelle
- Provided service to the National Association of Conservation Districts’ Climate Action Task Force for comments to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on climate-smart agriculture and forestry strategies
- Selected Shylee Head as the first recipient of the “Foresters for the Future” scholarship at the University of Monticello
- Participated in two Arkansas episodes of “America’s Forests with Chuck Leavell” 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 15 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 2022, 1,327 wildfires burned 26,684 acres in Arkansas. Overall, wildfires were slightly larger in 2022 with an average size of 20.1 acres compared to a ten-year average of 15.7 acres. The highest wildfire frequency months were March 2022 in which 229 fires burned 7,359 acres and April 2022 when 229 fires burned 4,836 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:

- 1,327 wildfires were suppressed on 26,684 acres in Arkansas
- The Division maintained 53 Very High Frequency (VHF) repeaters around the state
- Division pilots recorded 1,321 flight hours, while detecting wildfires, timber damage, and other forestry-related issues
- The Division made available 6,156 items of firefighting equipment, valued at \$5,110,983, 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 is home to 74 nationally recognized Firewise communities across the State
- 67 Students attended the Arkansas River Valley Wildland Fire Academy, 20 attended Dozer Operations training, 21 attended Basic Fire training, and 3 attended Leadership in Action

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 voluntary 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 5,508 landowners impacting 476,679 acres across the state:
 - 128 Forest Stewardship Management Plans were written
 - 38 Tree Farm plans were prepared
 - 713 practice plans were developed for landowners enrolled in NRCS programs

- During the fiscal year, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture purchased 362 acres of the Hot Springs Recharge Area (HSRA) in Garland County and facilitated the purchase of 85 acres in Drew County. As of June 30, 2022, the Department has purchased and protected 2,211 acres of the HSRA
- The Forestry Division submitted three 2023 Forest Legacy project proposals and one 2023 Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council proposal for the purchase of 3,811 acres in Garland, Madison, Nevada, and Perry Counties
- Arkansas’s Urban and Community Forestry Program now supports 46 official Tree City USA communities, three Tree Campus Higher Education campuses, and one Tree Line USA Utility Company. Fayetteville earned their 9th consecutive 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 \$47,205 were awarded for projects to improve community forests across Arkansas
- During the 2nd annual “Free Tree Fridays” campaign, 17,800 hardwood seedlings were distributed to 4,400 attendees at 36 events, which were 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 805 (20 percent) of the total Forest Inventory and Analysis research plots
- Baucum Nursery sold 6,747,425 hardwood seedlings and 1,145,175 pine seedlings for Arkansas landowners. The nursery produced 25 percent of all hardwoods in the South
- The Division’s Tree Improvement program staff harvested 76 bushels of genetically improved pinecones for seed
- Division staff aerially surveyed a total of 5,654,838 acres (some acres surveyed more than once) during FY 2022 forest health flights and mapped 19,548 acres of forest disturbances, such as defoliation or pine bark beetles
- The Division’s BMP Program delivered 15 training sessions for 160 attendees and responded to six water quality logging complaints. Additionally, 26 courtesy examinations were completed on timber harvests
- Information about private land forestry programs was provided to 405 African American landowners (22,094 acres total) and 688 women landowners (42,767 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 and loggers.

When PSSF was purchased in 1957, the 17,512-acre forest had 145,728 tons of pine sawtimber and 87,576 tons of hardwood sawtimber. Today PSSF comprises an area of 24,090 acres with 980,361 tons of pine sawtimber and 157,464 tons of hardwood sawtimber.

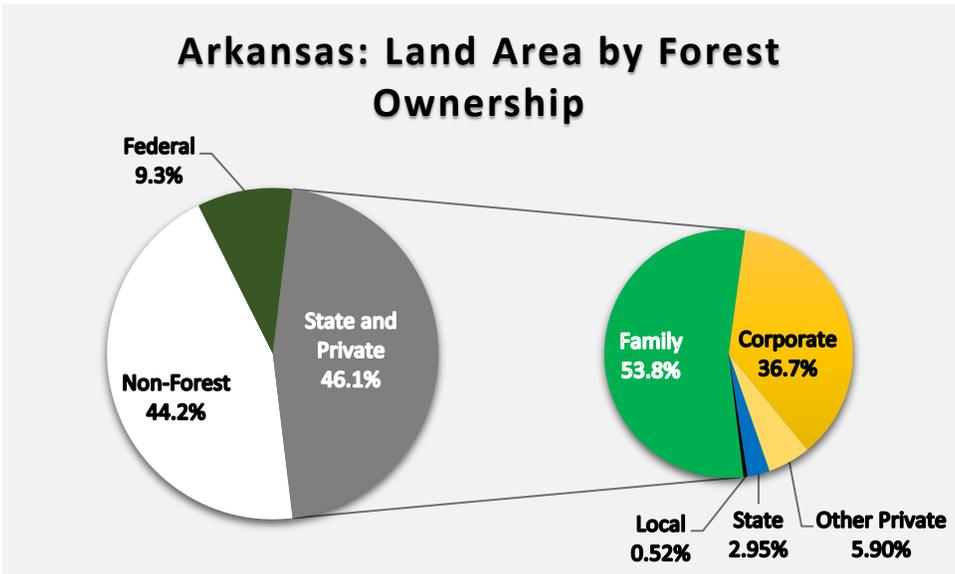
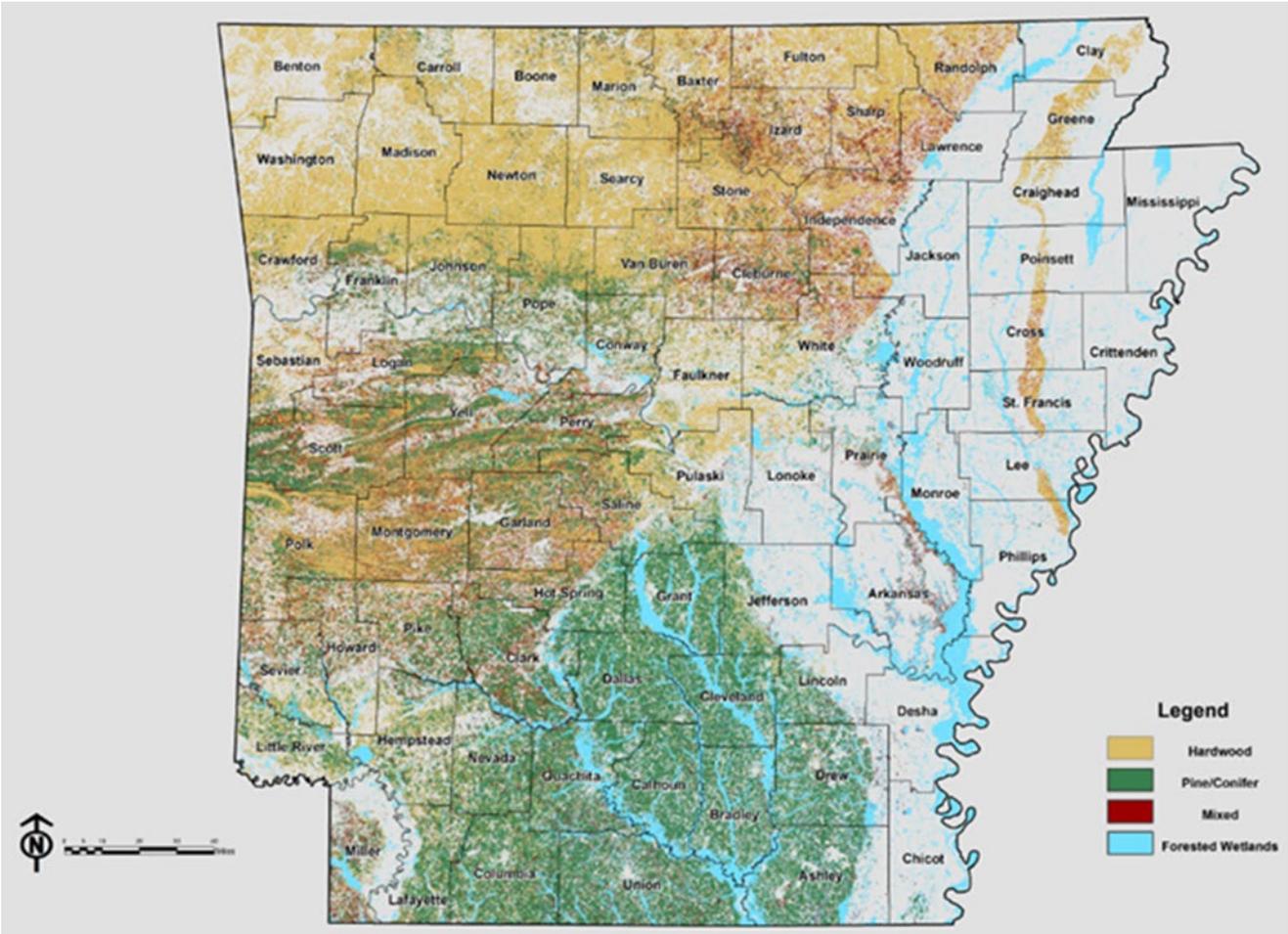
Accomplishments

The Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF) Section staff's major accomplishments were as follows:

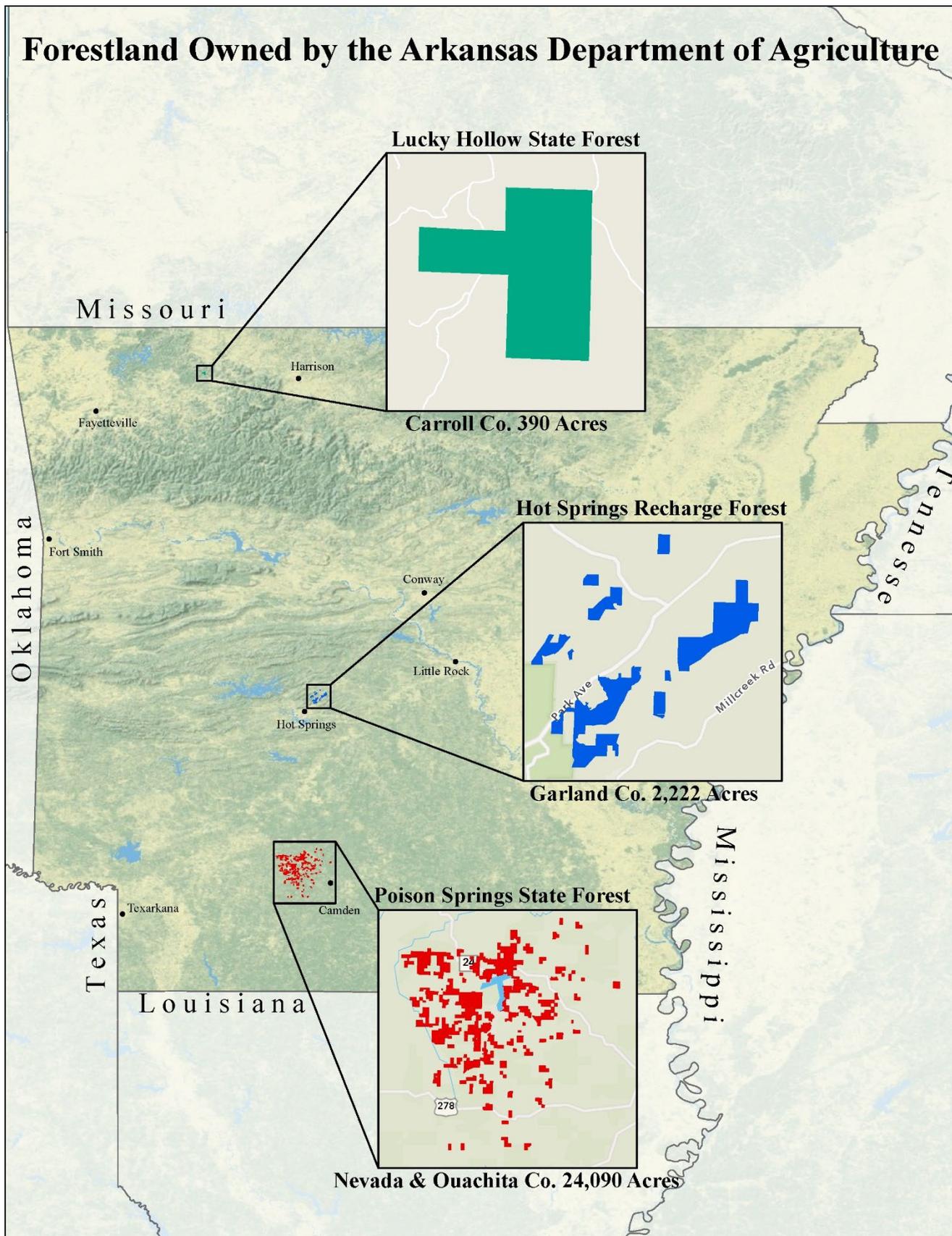
- PSSF staff implemented a fixed location plot inventory system. 527 plots were allocated across four major forest types. Once allocated the plots were installed and inventoried. This data was compiled to generate baseline numbers for standing timber on PSSF. 20% of the plots will be revisited and measured each year generating a total forest inventory every 5 years. In addition to updating standing inventory, growth data is being collected and will be used for growth projections and modeling the forest data.
- PSSF staff performed hazard reduction burns on 1,291 acres. In addition, 188 acres of final harvested land was site prepped burned to aid with planting.
- PSSF crew hauled and spread 536 loads of clay gravel. The work was done to raise road levels, cap sand beds, and repair multiple sections of the roads. Approximately 1 and 1/2 miles of roads were rebuilt.
- PSSF crew repaired and maintained over 80 primitive campsites to ensure safety and usability for public recreation.
- PSSF crew seeded and/or maintained 20 pollinator habitat plots, these total 32 acres. In addition, 8 acres of Quail habitat demonstration area was maintained using controlled burns.
- PSSF crew caught and disposed of 53 feral hogs and 6 beavers.
- PSSF co-hosted a water bar installation training for District 4 employees. PSSF with the Forestry Division's BMP Coordinator and the Arkansas Timber Producers Association to host a professional logger BMP training at our Camden office and in the field on May 26, 2022, with a total of 30 attendees.

Timber Revenue from Poison Springs State Forest, FY2022	
Product	Volume
Pine Sawtimber	14,436 tons
Pine Chip and Saw	1,094 tons
Pine Pulpwood	4,633 tons
Hardwood Sawtimber	0 tons
Hardwood Pulpwood	511 tons
Misc. and Salvage	334.64 tons
Total Revenue	\$596,854

Arkansas State Forestry Map



Forestland Owned by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture



Arkansas is a national leader in the production of Poultry, Livestock, and Catfish.



BROILERS
#3 IN NATION

TURKEY (raised)
#3 IN NATION

BEEF CATTLE
#11 IN NATION

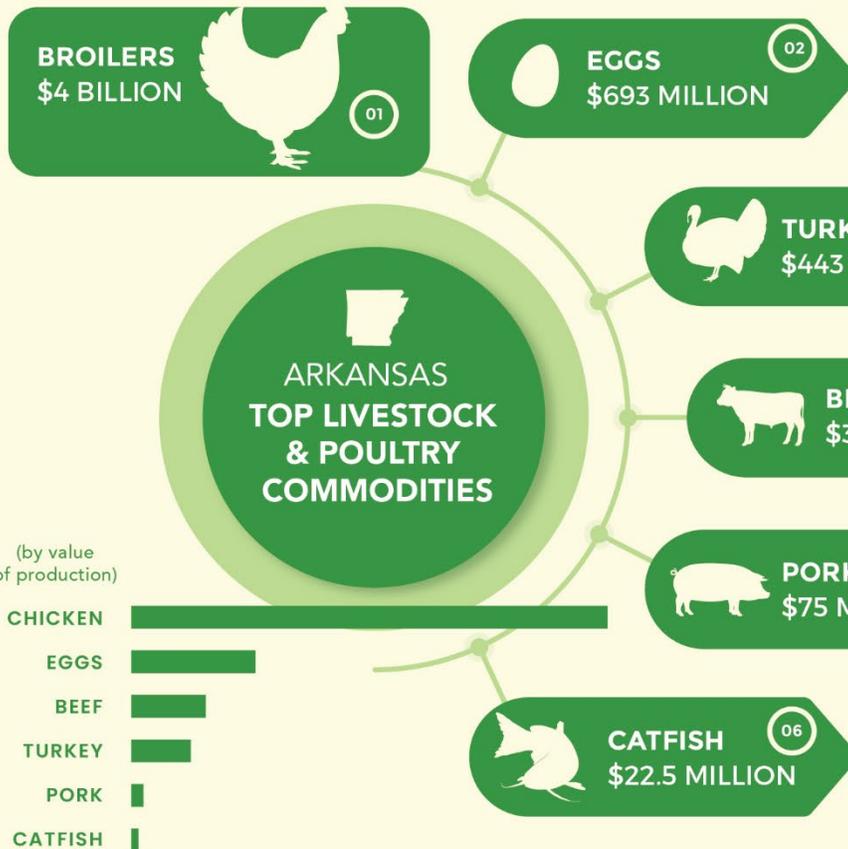
CATFISH
#4 IN NATION

\$ 5.8 BILLION
EACH YEAR

Poultry, Livestock, and Catfish related agricultural products combined provide more than **\$5.8 Billion** in revenue each year

ARKANSAS MEATS

- 1.5 BILLION pounds of chicken meat inspected
- 958 MILLION pounds of turkey meat inspected
- 24.5 THOUSAND pounds of rabbit meat inspected



30,207
Health Certificates
Processed

2,150
Hours Worked at
Livestock Events

26,735
Calfhood
Vaccinations

111,000
Cattle Tagged
for disease traceability

825
Animal Movement
Permits Issued

33,903
Equine Infectious Anemia
(EIA) tests performed



9,094
Certified Flocks in the
National Poultry
Improvement Plan (NPIP)

EGG GRADING
1.69 Billion Eggs
graded annually

**AR TOP COMMODITIES
RANKED NATIONALLY**

- #3 in Broilers
- #3 in Turkeys Raised
- #4 in Catfish
- #8 in Eggs
- #11 in Beef Cattle
- #17 in Cattle/Calves
- #26 in Hogs & Pigs

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

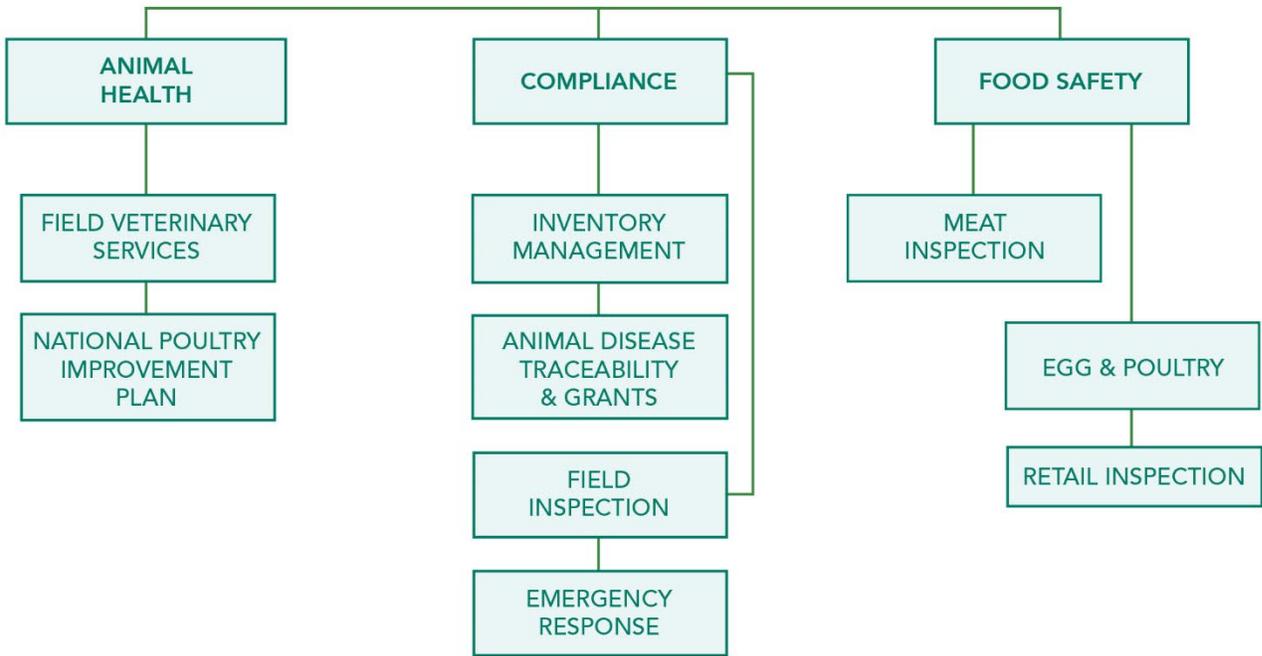
Information provided by the Livestock and Poultry Division 2022

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



**LIVESTOCK AND
POULTRY DIVISION**

**DIRECTOR
PATRICK FISK**



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 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.



**Livestock and Poultry Division
Director
Patrick Fisk**

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.

The Livestock and Poultry Division 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 of 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 swine, garbage feeding and fairs.

The Division worked closely with USDA, industry veterinarians, stakeholders, and other state agencies across the country during the 2022 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak that affected 39 states. From February through the end of the fiscal year, the Division participated in daily calls and meetings and worked with industry partners to protect Arkansas's poultry sector. Division staff worked diligently to be proactive during the outbreak in other states and established testing protocols, emergency action responses, and worked with the Arkansas Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory to monitor and screen potential suspects to assure a quick response to any potential HPAI positive cases. In addition, the Division proposed an emergency rule to the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission that prohibited poultry exhibits, required birds exposed or poetically exposed to wild birds to be under cover, and a restricted movement area if a positive case were reported. The emergency rule was approved by the Livestock and Poultry Commission in March.

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

- Continued the development and implementation of a new state meat inspection program pursuant to Act 418, including the hiring of a program manager and submitting the state's plan, rules, and program procedures to USDA
- The Commission passed an Avian Influenza Emergency Rule to protect Arkansas's poultry industry against the 2022 nationwide high path avian influenza outbreak.
- Submitted eight rules for review pursuant to Act 1076
- Worked with USDA's international export division on hatching eggs entering the state from other countries
- Convened a working group with industry and USDA to implement a new radio frequency identification (RFID) tagging system
- Contributed to Researching and the development of large animal veterinarian shortages in Arkansas
- Conducted inspections for sanitation and employee safety on Arkansas' livestock markets
- Collaborated with USDA/APHIS on African swine fever surveillance cases reported in Puerto Rico and developed a plan of action for Arkansas
- Developed a health advisory group made up of poultry veterinarians to work on poultry disease issues like infectious laryngotracheitis
- Assisted the State Fair with implementing a new tagging program using radio frequency identification tags
- Developed a new fair reporting system that includes continuing education requirements for fair board membership and financial reporting
- Assisted the Bureau of Land Management with wild horse and burrow sale
- Approved an Arkansas rabbit processing and research facility to start a program to study vaccines and the effects of rabbit hemorrhagic disease (RHD2)
- Approved the use of a detection kit as a poultry disease screening tool
- Set policy and procedures for quarantining and inspections of equine during a localized outbreak of Eastern Equine Encephalitis
- Provided staff assistance to the North Little Rock Veteran's Cemetery
- Continued to work with the Arkansas Department of Health by maintaining a database for its Food Freedom Act
- Assisted the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's research station in Hope and provided free radio frequency tags for the station's cattle program
- Collaborated with the Little Rock Zoo on animals entering the state

A summary of the Livestock and Poultry Division's accomplishments by area of responsibility follows:

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.

Administration of Arkansas's National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is also within the Animal Health Section. NPIP is a voluntary state–federal cooperative testing and certification program for poultry breeding flocks, baby chicks, poults, hatching eggs, hatcheries, and dealers. The objective of the NPIP is to provide a cooperative State–Federal program through which new technology can effectively be applied to the improvement of poultry and poultry products by establishing standards for the evaluation (testing) of poultry breeding stock, baby chicks, poults, and hatching eggs with respect to freedom from certain diseases.

Accomplishments

The Animal Health Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Participation in OneHealth programs in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Participation in weekly conferences with USDA, state animal health officials, and industry partners on regular HPAI updates and HPAI monitoring
- Served on several committees of the United States Animal Health Association and Southern Animal Health Association
- Served as a participating member of the National Alliance of State Animal Health Officials
- Served as a voting member on the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs
- 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 response planning for African Swine Fever and Foot-and-Mouth Disease
- Implementing 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 and Veterinary Services Grant Program
- Provided management and reporting for USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Service Cooperative Agreement grants
- Communicated regularly with Arkansas's veterinary practitioners
- Participated in and provided section leadership for the Poultry Health Advisory Committee and the Arkansas Poultry Veterinarian Association
- Maintain surveillance testing during the Highly Pathological Avian Influenza incursion
- Submitted grants for increased field-testing capabilities and pet-sheltering equipment
- Successfully managed an equine neurological disease outbreak
- Expanded state emergency response network to include the Arkansas Highway Patrol in foreign

- animal disease responses requiring a livestock standstill
- Approved 6,466 VS9-3 shipping forms for eggs, chicks, and poult
- Inspected 17 poultry companies for NPIP/Lab approvals
- Conducted 25 Commercial Poultry Biosecurity Audits for compliance with NPIP Biosecurity Principles
- Audited three NPIP Laboratories for compliance with NPIP standards
- Screened 95 poultry flocks for Salmonella status determination
- Certified 9,094 poultry flocks as NPIP program disease-free for trade certification partners
- Recorded 180,159 tests for Avian Influenza conducted by NPIP laboratories in Arkansas
- Conducted in-person Salmonella pullorum and typhoid (P/T) schools for commercial and private testers
- Created maps to track High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) to help industry partners
- Attended the 45th NPIP Biennial Conference
- Contributed to Poultry Health Advisory Committee meetings

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 1.48 billion pounds of chicken and chicken products, 958 million pounds of turkey and turkey products, and 24,500 pounds of rabbit and rabbit products
- Performed 10 audits on manufacturers producing Child Nutrition Labeled Products, and graded and certified 1,497,980 pounds of Child Nutrition Labeled products
- Conducted 41 Food Defense audits on manufacturers and off-site storage facilities
- Graded and certified 4,694,884 cases (30 dozen per case) of shell eggs; 1.69 billion total eggs graded
- Inspected 53 processing locations and inspected 1,205,390 dozen (14,464,680 total) shell eggs
- Issued 348 Egg Handler Permits and inspected 187,424 dozen (2.2 million total) shell eggs at retail locations with 445 dozen shell eggs (5,340 total) placed on stop sale and returned to the processor for rework or destruction

Regulatory Compliance Section

The Regulatory Compliance section has 25 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:

- 367 new USDA Premise IDs were issued for a total of 12,616 in the Premise Identification Number (PIN) program
- A total of 111,000 head of cattle were identified and entered in the Animal Disease Traceability Database by Livestock Inspectors
- Certified 22 new Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) verifiers for a total of 3,269 verifiers
- Processed 33,903 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) tests
- Issued 825 animal entry permits
- Registered 63 new cattle brands and renewed 78 brands
- Processed 30,207 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection
- 2,150 hours of service contributed by Livestock inspectors contributed at Arkansas fairs
- Charted over 594,836 cattle sold, 2,886 horses sold, and 84,941 head of sheep and goats sold at markets across Arkansas
- Livestock Inspectors vaccinated 26,735 calves for Brucellosis.
- Provided Livestock Market News reporting services 10 Arkansas livestock markets
- Performed 2 foaming exercises in preparation for disease outbreaks
- Performed a mobile lab exercise with ARVDL
- Partnered with JBS to train Livestock Inspectors and receive continuing education on swine testing and necropsy for disease outbreaks and preparation for African Swine Fever.
- Partnered with USDA and Cooperative Extension Service to train Livestock Inspectors and receive continuing education on poultry testing and necropsy for disease outbreaks and preparation for Avian Influenza.
- Trained and conducted exercise on biosecurity and personal protective equipment

- Livestock Inspector Supervisor participated in the 7th International Symposium on Animal Mortality Management
- Trained all Livestock Inspectors on the use of new equipment received to read radio frequency tags.
- Utilized new electronic tag reading and weighing equipment to assist producers on their farm and provide resources if utilizing the free RFID tags from USDA.
- Utilized the new electronic tag reading and weighing equipment to assist fairs with validation and projects.
- Livestock Inspectors presented to 4 FFA chapters on Animal Disease Traceability and electronic tag technology
- Received additional grant funds to purchase more electronic tag readers that can be made available to accredited veterinarians, teachers, extension agents, and fairs.
- Distributed 4,419 free RFID tags to producers for replacement cattle
- Participated in a 2-day FBI Agri Terrorism training with multiple departments and industry
- Participated in all nine Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association’s area spring conferences
- Hosted a booth and conducted outreach at the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association annual conference.
- Hosted a booth and conducted outreach at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Annual meeting.
- Participated in the Livestock Marketing Association’s annual conference

The Poultry industry is Arkansas’s largest agricultural sector.

3rd

Arkansas is currently the **3rd largest producer** of Broilers as well as Turkeys (raised) in the U.S.



1.1 Billion

1.1 Billion Broilers raised and processed annually

27 Million

27 Million Turkeys raised annually



BENTON COUNTY is the number one poultry-producing county in the state



6,500+

There are more than 6,500 farms in Arkansas currently producing some type of poultry

180,159
More than 180,159 tests performed for Avian Influenza



POULTRY

The Natural Resources Division manages and conserves Arkansas's land and water resources.

ARKANSAS DAMS

32 Dams Inspected.
Inspected **26** High Hazard Dams,
4 Significant Hazard Dams, and
2 Low Hazard Dams



FLOOD TRAINING

Provided in-person and virtual technical training and support on flood risk reduction and mitigation to **1,200** community officials - representing **425** towns, cities, and counties

COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

\$167 MILLION

Worked with **24** communities on water, wastewater, and solid waste projects totaling more than **\$167 Million**

WATER

+

WASTEWATER

+

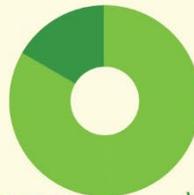
SOLID WASTE



13,688

Documented the removal of **13,688** feral swine in Arkansas by members of the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force during fiscal year 2022

Provided federal funds and technical assistance to **57** projects associated with the abatement/reduction or control of **Nonpoint Source Pollutants**



85% UNPAVED

Unpaved Roads Grant Program

In FY 2022, six project applications totaling **\$387,849** were received. **85%** of all roads in Arkansas are **Unpaved Roads**

Processed and approved **18** new **Riparian Tax Credit Projects** for **\$591,000** in eligible project cost



Managed the State's Conservation Tax Credit Program, including approving **61 new projects** and issuing certificates of completion to **21 finished projects**



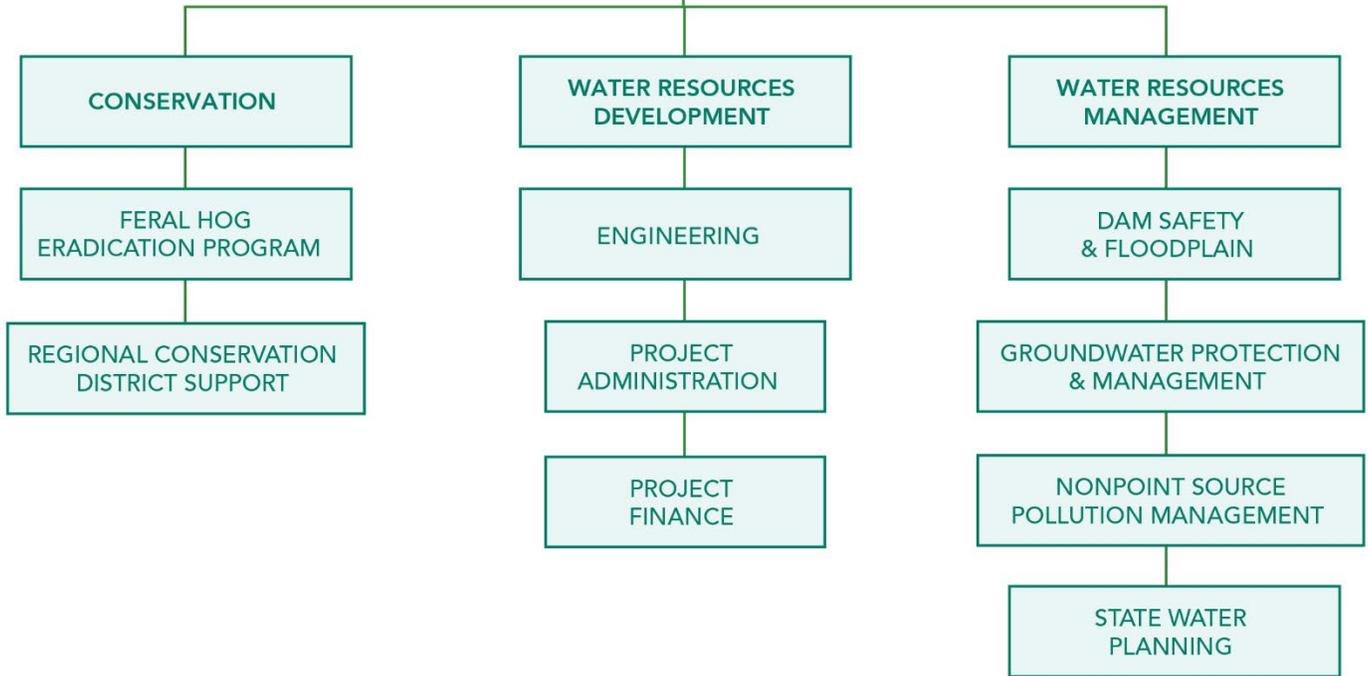
In cooperation with our partners at the U.S. Geological Survey and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, monitored the aquifers of Arkansas through approximately **1,000** wells

NATURAL RESOURCES



**NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION**

**DIRECTOR
CHRIS COLCLASURE**



NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 guided by the Nonpoint Source Management Plan, Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Priority Project Lists, and the Arkansas Water Plan. The Arkansas Water Plan is a long-term strategy to guide the conservation, development, management, and use of water for all citizens. It brings data, science, and public input together to define water demands, water supplies, issues, and potential solutions to meet future needs.



**Natural Resources Division
Director**

Chris Colclasure

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 multi-year term and is reappointed on a staggered schedule.

The Natural Resources Division works closely with a diverse group of stakeholders to include community water and wastewater systems, city and county governments, conservation districts, improvement districts, nongovernmental organizations, and state and federal agencies. These collaborations and partnerships are essential to ensuring proper management of the state's land and water resources.

During the summer of 2021, a water, wastewater, and stormwater needs assessment was conducted to determine the immediate needs of water and wastewater projects across the state in relation to the America Rescue Plan Act Funding. The assessment identified over \$5 billion in needs. The Natural Resources Division has developed an application and scoring process to administer grant funds to communities once an allocation is made for water related infrastructure projects.

The Natural Resources Division invested significant time during fiscal year 2022 preparing to administer more than \$528 million in water and wastewater project funding the state of Arkansas is expected to receive over five years through the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act. The Natural Resources Division will continue to work closely with the US Environmental Protection Agency, Arkansas Department of Health, and Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment to administer the funds through the Arkansas State Revolving Fund to improve community water and wastewater systems, replace lead service lines, and treat emerging contaminants.

The Natural Resources Division conducted a bond sale securing \$40,535,000 in funds for the agency's General Obligation Bond Program. Funds secured through the sale will provide important loan funds to address improvements in irrigation and groundwater sustainability as well as water and wastewater projects.

With the passing of Act 605 of 2021, the Natural Resources Division promulgated rules to provide oversight of regional water providers. Requirements of this legislation include but are not limited to the implementation of regular rate studies and training for water board members. A new position was created to administer the program along with a new webpage. A list of approved rate study providers was published on the Division's website. A training advisory board was formed to develop training criteria for water board members. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission approved \$150,000 from the Water Development Fund to provide 77 training classes. Numerous presentations, articles, post cards and other materials were created and distributed to increase awareness of the new requirements.

Over fiscal year 2022, increased emphasis was placed on a growing awareness of natural resource issues and the Natural Resources Division's programs designed to address them. Staff developed a planning tool and implemented strategic communication efforts. Efforts included presentations, articles, advertisements, media interviews, and agency led trainings. Specific education and outreach activities are included throughout this report.

Examples of collaborations and accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2022 include:

- Worked with 24 communities on water, wastewater, and solid waste projects totaling more than \$167 million in funding
- Funded six county unpaved roads projects totaling \$396,475
- Chaired the Arkansas Conservation Partnership and hosted two partnership meetings
- Participated in meetings of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission, Red River Commission, Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, Red River Compact Commission, and Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission
- Worked closely with the Virginia Tech University, Rural Investments to Protect our Environment (RIPE), Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts, Arkansas Rice, and the Arkansas Agricultural Council to submit a proposal under the USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Program. If funded, it would provide up to \$18 million for landowners to implement climate smart conservation practices
- Hosted a groundwater summit to create better alignment with partners to improve our state's water security in areas of groundwater decline
- Revised the state's Nutrient Reduction Strategy with input from stakeholders

A summary of the Natural Resource Division's accomplishments by area of responsibility follows:

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 separate region 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 designate 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'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 \$146,716 to conservation districts to serve as Technical Service Providers that supply free planning and design services to agricultural producers participating in USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services programs
- Certified nutrient management planners wrote 990 plans
- Provided \$770,000 to conservation districts to hire Nutrient Management Technicians
- Provided \$150,000 in funding to 56 conservation districts for beaver bounties. This resulted in the removal of 19,157 beavers
- Allocated \$918,750 to fund conservation district operations
- Conducted five days of training across the state for conservation district employees and board members on state programs administered by the districts and administrative and fiscal responsibilities

Feral Hog Eradication Program

The Feral Hog Eradication Program provides coordination, leadership, and support to the Department's multiple Divisions on issues related to feral swine. Additionally, the program provides co-chair leadership and expertise to the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force in conjunction with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and 22 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:

- Continued coordination and implementation of USDA-NRCS Feral Swine Eradication and Control Project (FSCP) through the Department to 12 county conservation districts
- Provided \$100,000 in Grants to Districts funds to conservation districts participating in the FSCP for education and outreach activities and materials

- Assisted and coordinated with partners to obtain USDA-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
- Assisted Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Division with issuance of two Aerial Eradication Permits for private landowners in six counties (Independence, Lafayette, Lawrence, Little River, Miller and Sharp) counties to remove 1,104 feral swine comprising approximately 32,000 acres
- Documented the removal of 13,688 feral swine in Arkansas by members of the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force during FY22
- Provided co-chair leadership with AFC to the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force to conduct quarterly meetings, address and resolve topics related to feral hogs within Arkansas
- Coordinate with USDA APHIS to respond to 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 by the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force, and distributed the Arkansas Feral Hog Handbook
- 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
- Assisted USDA-APHIS with securing an additional \$25,000 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 on financial and managerial review of the applicant 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's major accomplishments include:

- Approved water, wastewater, and solid waste project loans and grants for 24 communities totaling \$167,014,943
- Disbursed \$118.3 million to projects including \$102.4 million from the Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds, \$13.8 million from State Programs, and \$2 million from the funding authorized by Executive Order 19-09 for the repair of levees damaged in the May 2019 flood
- Provided \$376,110 in low-interest funding for four projects, implementing conservation best management practices for nonpoint source agricultural water quality impacts on croplands in partnership with local financial institutions in FY 2022. Cumulative funding for the Agriculture Water Quality Loan Program totaled just over \$25 million
- Started construction on 19 projects and completed construction on 14 Commission funded projects
- Staff delivered 28 presentations to over 500 citizens across the state
- Staff produced three articles and one advertisement

Water Resources Development 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 Section's major accomplishments include:

- Inspected 26 high hazard dams, four significant hazard dams, and two low hazard dams
- Partnered with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the first state-wide Dams Sector Communication Drill focused on dam cybersecurity
- Participated in six Emergency Action Plan functional exercises

- Deployed the National Dam Safety Awareness Day social media campaign, promoting community responsibility and awareness

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 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 in-person and virtual technical training and support on flood risk reduction and mitigation to 1,200 community officials - representing 425 towns, cities, and counties
- Responded to 180 requests for technical assistance from residents, mayors, county judges, and other government officials
- Provided outreach and education to a variety of local, state, and national organizations through 20 presentations, both in-person and virtual
- Assisted the Arkansas Department of Commerce in developing a deployment strategy for delivering \$5,500,000 in flood mitigation assistance
- Spearheaded efforts to provide state-of-the-art flood risk analysis and mapping to towns and cities in 25 Arkansas counties
- The Arkansas Flood Mitigation Assistance program is overseeing the ongoing deployment of \$3 million to local communities to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures
- Celebrated Arkansas Flood Insurance Awareness Week, May 2-6, 2022, in cooperation with the Arkansas Floodplain Managers Association, the Arkansas Insurance Department, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In addition, staff sponsored a series of trainings and social media messages to bring awareness to the value of Flood Insurance for Arkansans to protect personal property and their businesses from flood damage
- Staff delivered 22 presentations both in person and via Zoom

Groundwater Protection and Management

The Groundwater Protection and Management section is focused on 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. The Groundwater Protection and Management staff works in partnership with the public and other agencies to accomplish these objectives.

Accomplishments

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

- Collected groundwater level data and produced the annual Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Report 2021 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 1,000 wells
- Managed the State's Conservation Tax Credit Program, including approving 61 new projects and issuing certificates of completion to 21 finished projects
- Managed Arkansas's Water-Use Registration Program, which includes 20,000 surface water sites and 60,000 groundwater sites
- Collected water quality data from five wells in five different aquifers as a part of our Arkansas Masterwell Program

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 Section's major accomplishments include:

- Held Annual Stakeholder Meeting with over 70 partners in attendance
- Completed and submitted the 2021 Nonpoint Source Pollution Annual Report to EPA Region 6
- Provided federal funds and technical assistance to 57 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
- Completed Soil Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model for the Little Red River and held the Watershed Management Plan kickoff meeting
- Initiated Soil Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model and Watershed Management Plan update for the Illinois River
- Completed series of four stakeholder meetings for the Bayou Meto Watershed Management Plan
- Received 18 workplan proposals totaling \$5.5 million in requests and were able to approve 14 of those totaling \$3.3 million of new projects for FY23
- Completed fifteen Best Management Program cost share project inspections
- Approved five water quality agriculture loans related to nonpoint source pollution that totaled \$406,111

- Disbursed \$2,695,023 in federal funding to support 57 total projects
- Riparian Zone Tax Credit Program staff processed and approved 18 new riparian zone tax credit projects; conducted 18 project inspections totaling \$621,000 in eligible project costs; conducted five final project inspections and monitored 24 projects
- Two new public members appointed to the Private Wetland and Riparian Tax Credit Committee
- Completed stakeholder meetings and public comment period, finalized the 2022 Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy update
- Data Quality Assurance/Quality Control Program staff conducted four project manager coordination meetings; monitored 24 ongoing projects with existing Quality Assurance Project Plans (“QAPPs”) and approved 12 new QAPPs

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. It is estimated that eighty-five percent (85%) of Arkansas’s roads are unpaved. The Nonpoint Source Management Section of the Department’s Natural Resources Division is responsible for working with local entities to implement projects.

The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Grant Program receives \$300,000 annually from the Department of Energy and Environment’s Solid Waste collection fees. In FY 2022, six project applications totaling \$387,849 were received.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program’s major accomplishments include:

- Funded six projects as follows:

○ Calhoun	\$75,000
○ Jefferson	\$75,000
○ Johnson	\$87,849
○ Independence	\$52,905
○ Lincoln	\$36,371
○ Perry	\$60,724
Total	\$396,475
- Utilized \$87,849 from the federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program to supplement the available Unpaved Roads Program funding so all six projects could be fully funded
- Staff conducted 14 presentations and released 4 articles and social media releases

State Water Planning

The Natural Resources Division is guided by the Arkansas Water Plan (AWP), a long-term strategy for 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 major accomplishments include:

- Issued one new permit for the non-riparian withdrawal of surface water
- Issued 11 water plan compliance determinations and determined that 80 projects were exempt from water plan compliance
- The Technical Review Staff processed and conducted technical reviews on 25 projects

Act 605 of 2021 – Oversight of Retail Water Providers

Act 605 of 2021 tasked retail water providers with additional responsibilities in managing and operating their water systems. These responsibilities include preparation of a rate study every five years or before any major development project. In addition, the passing of Act 605 of 2021 required the creation of Rules to implement the Act, an Advisory Training Board to develop training protocol and resulted in the addition of an audit coordinator position in the Water Resources Management Section to assume the duties delegated to the Division under the Act.

Accomplishments

Major accomplishments regarding Act 605 include:

- Approved 11 rate study providers to perform the required rate studies for Water Service Providers
- Finalized a curriculum and contracted a training provider for board training. Currently, three training providers are approved to provide the required training for water service provider boards.
- Scheduled trainings for retail service provider boards and posted information on trainings on the NRD website and social media platforms
- Mailed postcards on Act 605 requirements to 675 retail service providers

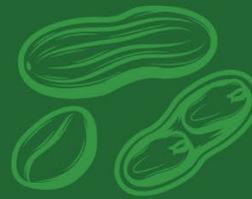
Arkansas Watersheds

Listed Alphabetically and Largest to Smallest

Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically		Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically		Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically	
	Acres		Acres		Acres
Bayou Bartholomew	982,089	Lake Conway-Point Remove	728,758	Lower White	870,807
Bayou D'Arbonne	279,409	Lake O' The Cherokees	14,151	Lower White-Bayou Des Arc	726,668
Bayou Macon	365,300	L'Anguille	611,537	McKinney-Posten Bayous	513,395
Bayou Meto	641,115	Little Missouri	1,342,695	Middle White	943,985
Beaver Reservoir	1,389,297	Little Red	1,152,281	Mountain Fork	157,615
Big	606,271	Little River Ditches	311,094	North Fork White	282,504
Bodcau Bayou	299,428	Loggy Bayou	406,407	Ouachita Headwaters	990,183
Boeuf	494,351	Lower Arkansas	441,454	Pecan-Waterhole	143,071
Buffalo	856,963	Lower Arkansas-Maumelle	702,540	Petit Jean	702,924
Bull Shoals Lake	703,335	Lower Black	450,829	Poteau	356,235
Cache	1,251,642	Lower Little Arkansas, Oklahoma	1,147,191	Robert S. Kerr Reservoir	211,235
Cadron	484,309	Lower Mississippi-Greenville	121,509	Spring	470,590
Cross Bayou	54,340	Lower Mississippi-Helena	173,630	Strawberry	486,616
Current	67,589	Lower Mississippi-Memphis	95,821	Upper Black	116,830
Dardanelle Reservoir	1,192,772	Lower Neosho	91,980	Upper Ouachita	1,121,157
Eleven Point	113,439	Lower Ouachita-Bayou De Loutre	442,135	Upper Saline	1,097,047
Elk	141,459	Lower Ouachita-Smackover	1,153,694	Upper White-Village	473,908
Fourche La Fave	712,912	Lower Saline	971,689		
Frog-Mulberry	822,578	Lower St. Francis	1,936,408	Grand Total	34,023,623
Illinois	484,548	Lower Sulpher	119,908		

Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Largest to Smallest		Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Largest to Smallest		Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Largest to Smallest	
	Acres		Acres		Acres
Lower St. Francis	1,936,408	Bull Shoals Lake	703,335	Bodcau Bayou	299,428
Beaver Reservoir	1,389,297	Petit Jean	702,924	North Fork White	282,504
Little Missouri	1,342,695	Lower Arkansas-Maumelle	702,540	Bayou D'Arbonne	279,409
Cache	1,251,642	Bayou Meto	641,115	Robert S. Kerr Reservoir	211,235
Dardanelle Reservoir	1,192,772	L'Anguille	611,537	Lower Mississippi-Helena	173,630
Lower Ouachita-Smackover	1,153,694	Big	606,271	Mountain Fork	157,615
Little Red	1,152,281	McKinney-Posten Bayous	513,395	Pecan-Waterhole	143,071
Lower Little Arkansas, Oklahoma	1,147,191	Boeuf	494,351	Elk	141,459
Upper Ouachita	1,121,157	Strawberry	486,616	Lower Mississippi-Greenville	121,509
Upper Saline	1,097,047	Illinois	484,548	Lower Sulpher	119,908
Ouachita Headwaters	990,183	Cadron	484,309	Upper Black	116,830
Bayou Bartholomew	982,089	Upper White-Village	473,908	Eleven Point	113,439
Lower Saline	971,689	Spring	470,590	Lower Mississippi-Memphis	95,821
Middle White	943,985	Lower Black	450,829	Lower Neosho	91,980
Lower White	870,807	Lower Ouachita-Bayou De Loutre	442,135	Current	67,589
Buffalo	856,963	Lower Arkansas	441,454	Cross Bayou	54,340
Frog-Mulberry	822,578	Loggy Bayou	406,407	Lake O' The Cherokees	14,151
Lake Conway-Point Remove	728,758	Bayou Macon	365,300		
Lower White-Bayou Des Arc	726,668	Poteau	356,235	Grand Total	34,023,623
Fourche La Fave	712,912	Little River Ditches	311,094		

Ensuring quality products and services through education and regulatory enforcement.



139,645 TONS

RICE
#1 IN NATION

COTTON
#3 IN NATION

PEANUTS
#7 IN NATION

of Arkansas peanuts
graded annually

In FY2022, **522,400** pounds of Arkansas grown fruits and vegetables were inspected for food safety



3,739 TESTS

More than 3,739 quality assurance tests on seeds for more than 100 different crop varieties

14,000
pesticides registered and monitored

1,538
exports certified free of pests, weeds, and disease

1,738
N.P.K. Tests performed on 452,115 tons of fertilizer

5.4 MILLION
Disposed of 5.4 Million lbs of unwanted pesticides since 2015



BUREAU OF STANDARDS

2,909
fuel dispensers tested

4,000
retail business inspections

3,296
scale inspections

SOYBEANS
\$2 BILLION

01

RICE
\$1.3 BILLION

02

CORN
\$825 MILLION

03

COTTON & COTTONSEED
\$543 MILLION

04

HAY
\$301 MILLION

05

WHEAT
\$55.1 MILLION

06

PEANUTS
\$42 MILLION

07

OATS
\$2.2 MILLION

08



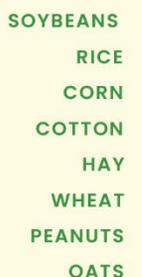
60,627
Registered Bee Colonies
3,787
Beekeepers

INVASIVE PEST QUARANTINE
FIRE ANT: 43 counties
EMERALD: 75 counties
ASH BORER

AR TOP COMMODITIES RANKED NATIONALLY

- #1 in Rice
- #3 in Cotton
- #3 in Cottonseed
- #7 in Peanuts
- #17 in Corn
- #17 in Hay
- #21 in Oats
- #24 in Wheat

(by value of production)



Information provided by the Plant Industries 2022

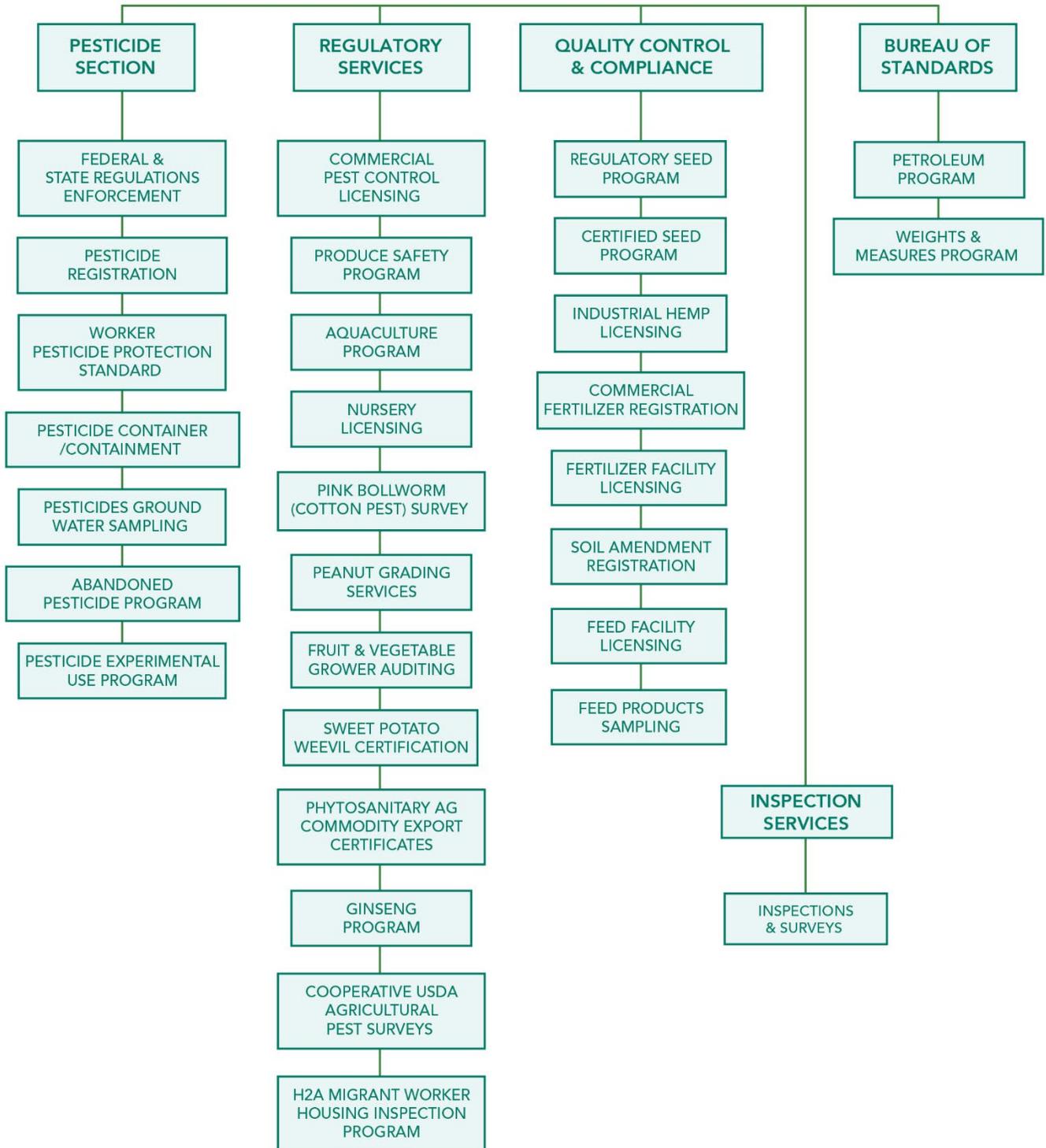
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PLANT INDUSTRIES



**PLANT INDUSTRIES
DIVISION**

**DIRECTOR
SCOTT BRAY**



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 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 with approximately 98 full-time employees and 89 seasonal employees. 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.

The Plant Industries Division administers the rules promulgated by the State Plant Board. 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 continues to grow and experience new challenges. The Division's peanut grading program continues to grow and accommodate the industry's significant and rapid growth over the past several years. Due to the success and excellent reputation of its grading program, the Division was asked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide grading services and training at a new peanut buying point in Missouri.

In early 2021 the Division partnered with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services and Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing to assist with H2A migrant and seasonal farmworker program. The partnership led to a MOA which was signed by all Departments in June 2022. The Division's role in the program is providing onsite inspection of migrant worker housing. The Division is utilizing our Inspector Services Section to conduct the inspections and the Regulatory Services Section to manage the records and data related to the farmer applications for labor. In 2022 the program received inspected and managed data associated with 174 applications for migrant labor.

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 and conducted surveys to identify any additional locations. No new locations have been discovered in 2022 however



**Plant Industries Division
Director
Scott Bray**

new growth at the original site was observed in the spring. The area has been retreated with herbicides by Department staff and will be closely monitored for the foreseeable future. Surveying the surrounding area and throughout other areas of the state is ongoing.

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 is 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:

- 8,152 fuel samples collected
- 4,283 retail stations inspected
- 6,054 storage tanks inspected
- 20,872 laboratory tests performed
- 27 Notice of violations issued
- 68 Stop Sales
- Increased compliance by assisting Weights and Measures 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:

- 552 vehicle scales tested
- 409 platform scales tested
- 658 high volume fuel meters tested
- 15,904 meat packages inspected
- 2,224 packaged commodities inspected
- 2,909 petroleum pumps inspected
- 2,744 small scales inspected
- 76 fish identification inspections
- 2,861 egg labeling inspections
- 21 USDA country of origin labeling inspections
- 195 complaints investigations
- 119 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, H2A housing inspections, and more 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

Pesticide Complaints

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.

- 2010 = 189
- 2011 = 195
- 2012 = 179
- 2013 = 176
- 2014 = 181
- 2015 = 237
- 2016 = 274
- 2017 = 1312
- 2018 = 456
- 2019 = 462
- 2020 = 514
- 2021 = 565
- 2022 = 301

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:

- 1,613 pesticide manufacturers registered
- 15,000 pesticide products registered
- 452 pesticide dealers licensed
- 94 commercial applicators certified and 391 re-certified
- 12 commercial applicator technicians certified and 61 re-certified
- 50 non-commercial applicators certified and 147 re-certified
- 987 private applicators certified and 3571 re-certified
- 26 training and testing sessions attended
- 122 aerial commercial firms licensed; 209 ground commercial firms licensed
- 318 aerial individual commercial applicators licensed; 584 ground individual commercial applicators licensed
- 55 commercial applicator technicians licensed
- 441 non-commercial applicators licensed
- 3,065 five-year private applicators licensed; 270 1-year private applicators licensed
- 0 private applicator with pilot authorization licensed
- 151 custom applicators permitted
- 3 custom applicators permitted for tree injection and similar methods
- 197 custom pilots authorized
- 46 pieces of application equipment inspected
- 670 various inspections and sampling conducted
- 234,211 pounds of abandoned pesticides collected in 10 counties
- 564 requests of investigations
- 69 warning letters issued
- 135 civil complaints issued
- 151 administrative hearings conducted
- 33 civil penalties issued

- 523 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 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:

- 349 seed labelers licenses issued
- 86 seed treater licenses issued
- 1,489 seed labels reviewed
- 18,720 acres inspected and certified
- 18 stop sales issued
- 1,453 GMO rice lots sampled and tested
- 78,759 seed labels printed

Feed Program

The Feed Program works to ensure public safety and a fair marketplace by providing oversight of feed products sold in the state. The program administers and enforces the Feed Laws and Regulations, and the Aflatoxin Act. The program conducts random sampling from retail and distribution points for laboratory testing against label claims. The program assist with product recalls, investigates claims of product contamination and adulteration, inferior quality and unlicensed activity brought to its attention. The program is responsible for the licensing of feed facilities, tracks the distribution of products in the state for statistical purposes and ensures the collection of required fees and tonnage payments.

Accomplishments

Feed Program accomplishments include:

- 1,203 feed facility licenses issued
- 1,840 sample reports received
- 189 penalties issued

Fertilizer, Lime, and Soil Amendment Programs

The Fertilizer, Lime and Soil Amendment Programs work to ensure public safety and a fair marketplace by providing oversight of fertilizer, lime and soil amendment products sold in the state. The programs enforce the Fertilizer, Agricultural Liming Materials Act, Soil Amendment Act, and the 100% Natural Organic Fertilizer Act. These programs review product labels and information before approval of registration, conducts random sampling from retail and distribution sites for laboratory testing against label claims, and investigates consumer complaints of product inferiority and contamination and unlicensed activity.

Accomplishments

Program accomplishments include:

Fertilizer:

- 525 fertilizer companies registered
- 5,512 fertilizer products registered
- 179 Arkansas fertilizer facilities licensed
- 826 fertilizer sample reports received
- 56 penalties issued

Soil Amendments:

- 120 soil companies registered
- 455 soil amendment products registered

Lime:

- 100 lime companies registered
- 149 liming products registered
- 114 lime sample reports received
- 9 lime penalties issued

Industrial Hemp Program

The Department's Industrial Hemp Program staff administers the Arkansas Industrial Hemp Act of 2021, licensing hemp producers and hemp processor/handlers in Arkansas. Arkansas's State Hemp Production Plan was approved by the USDA on December 9th, 2021, creating the AR Hemp Program effective January 1st, 2022. The original AR Hemp Research Program began in 2018. The research program was created under the AR Hemp Research Act of 2017 which allowed Arkansas farmers 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. Currently, research program rules are still in effect until the Department has had the opportunity to propose new hemp rules before the AR State Plant Board.

Accomplishments

The Industrial Hemp Program accomplishments include:

- 70 total licenses approved:
 - 48 licensed growers
 - 22 licenses processors
- 60 fields totaling 590 acres approved
- 44 greenhouses totaling 115,074 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:

- 164 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:

- 37 licenses issued
- 8 audits conducted

The Arkansas Grain Dealer Law

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

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

- 31 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. Arkansas had no registrants under the Arkansas Catfish Processors Fair Practices Act for FY2022.

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.

In addition to his full-time staff, the Regulatory Services Section also hires seasonal employees as needed for survey work, fruit and vegetable inspecting, and peanut grading.

Accomplishments

Regulatory Services Section accomplishments include:

- 303 bio-regulatory permits reviewed
- 1,538 phytosanitary certificates issued
- 891 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
- 875 nursery licenses issued
- Ginseng harvest was 798 pounds dry and 220 pounds green. (Green roots lose about 2/3 of their weight when dry.) We issued certificates for 654 pounds dry and 220 pounds green
- 10,564 apiary colonies inspected
- Collected \$1,375,072.35 on 464,506 acres from 593 producers in the Boll Weevil Eradication program
- Surveyed/trapped and certified 5,391 acres in the Sweet Potato Weevil program
- Surveyed/trapped 29 gins in the Pink Bollworm program
- 14,435.8 aquaculture acres certified in the Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Certification program
- Commercial Pest Control
 - 1,240 licensed operators
 - 2,948 technicians registered
 - 127 applicants certified
 - 244 inspections performed
- 33 growers trained and 3 large farms, 4 small farms, and 3 very small farms inspected through the Produce Safety Program
- Fruit and Vegetable Inspections conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement:
 - Fresh Tomatoes – 137, 400 lbs.
 - Cucumbers – 163,000 lbs.
 - Sweet Peppers – 222,000 lbs.
- 17 audits conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement
 - 11 Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices Audits
 - 3 USDA Harmonized GAP Plus+ Post Harvest Audits
 - 3 USDA Harmonized GAP Plus + Field Harvest Audits
- Peanut Grading
 - The Department provided peanut grading services to two companies: Birdsong and Delta Peanut
 - Producers grew 59,500 acres
 - Department staff graded 139,645 tons

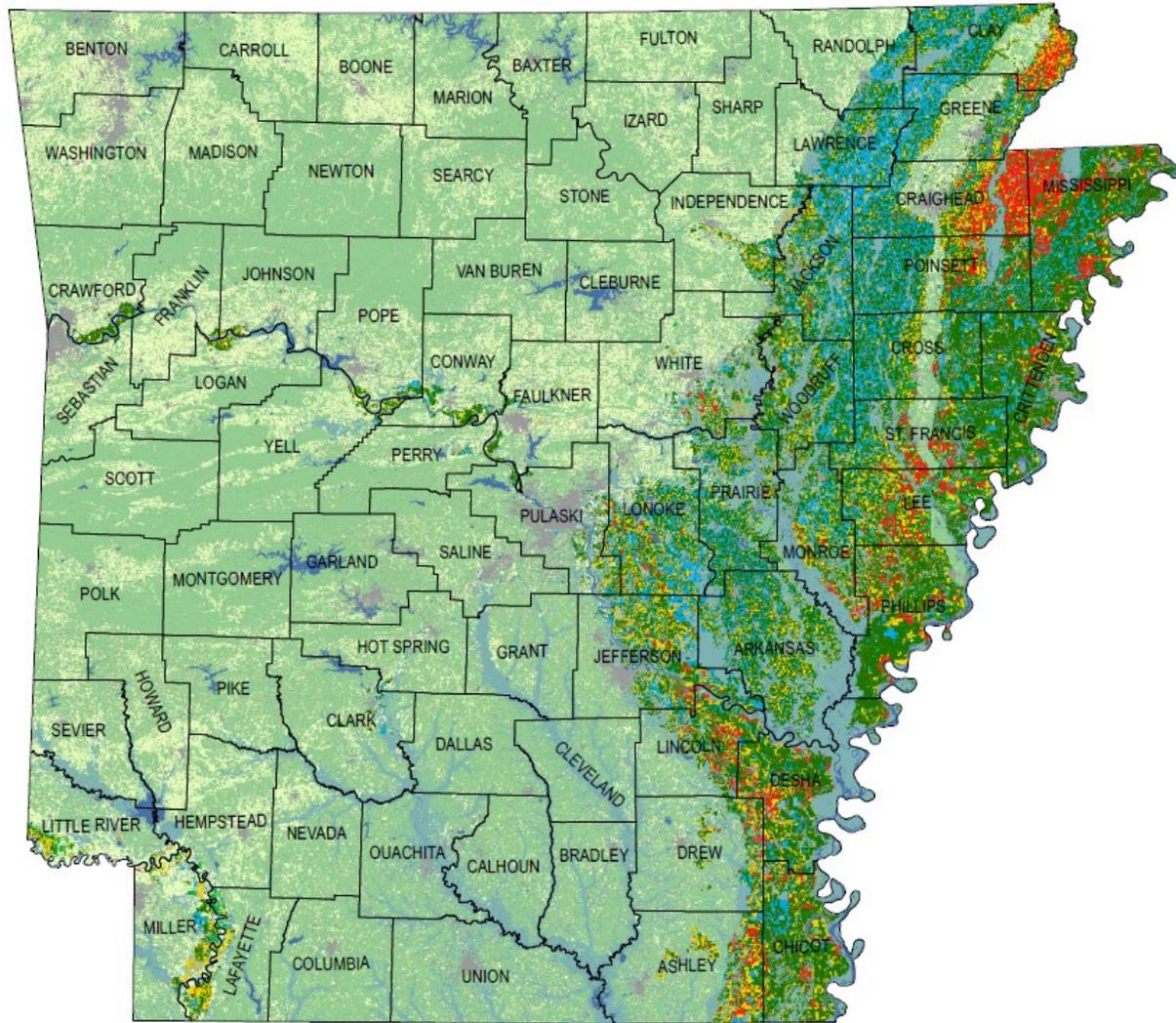
- BRS Inspections
- CAPS
 - 25 surveys conducted in the Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey program

Arkansas Land Cover Categories

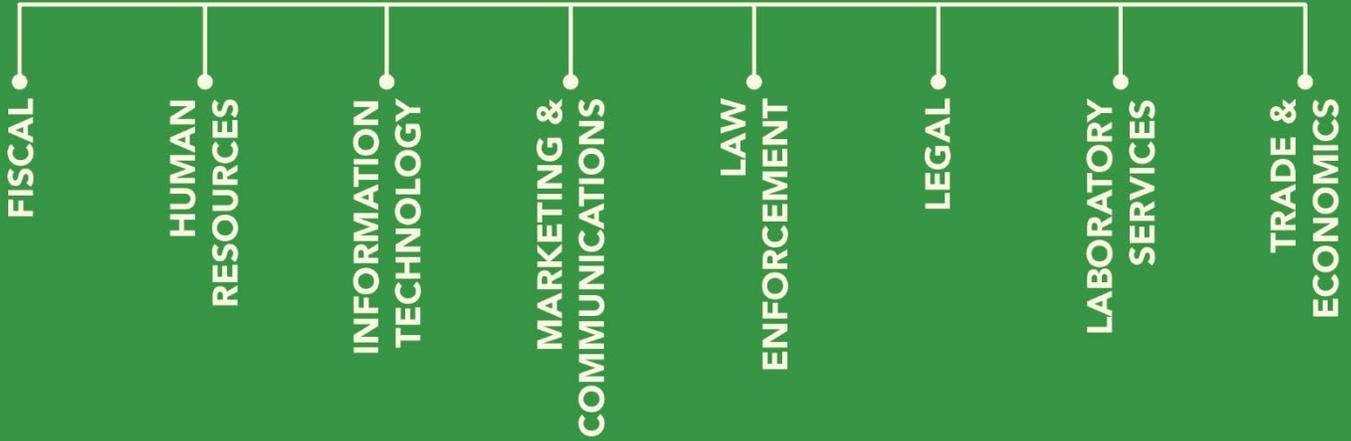
Source: USDA National and Delta Regional Agricultural Statistics Service

Land Cover Categories (by decreasing acreage)

- AGRICULTURE**
- Grassland/Pasture
 - Soybeans
 - Rice
 - Corn
 - Cotton
 - Fallow/Idle Cropland
 - Other Crops
 - DbI Crop WinWht/Soybeans
- NON-AGRICULTURE**
- Forest
 - Wetlands
 - Developed
 - Water
 - Shrubland
 - Barren



Shared Services assists all Divisions as well as public and industry stakeholders.



\$209 MILLION

Fiscal managed a combined operating budget of more than **\$209 MILLION**



12,131

Vendor invoices Processed



\$6,000,000

in Federal Grant aid payments processed



\$15,000,000

Federal Grant aid reimbursement requested



\$531,637

in Restitution returned to land owners



LAW ENFORCEMENT

\$3,630

received in fines

158

law enforcement cases resolved

244

assists performed



170 POSITIONS

Human Resources processed **170** hires and promotions across all divisions



Marketing issued **73** press releases, and promoted **17** state proclamations

NEW RULES

Assisted Department's Boards and Commissions in promulgating **14** new rules



LOAN MEDIATIONS

Coordinated **19** farm loan mediations, with **13** resulting in successful resolutions

SHARED SERVICES

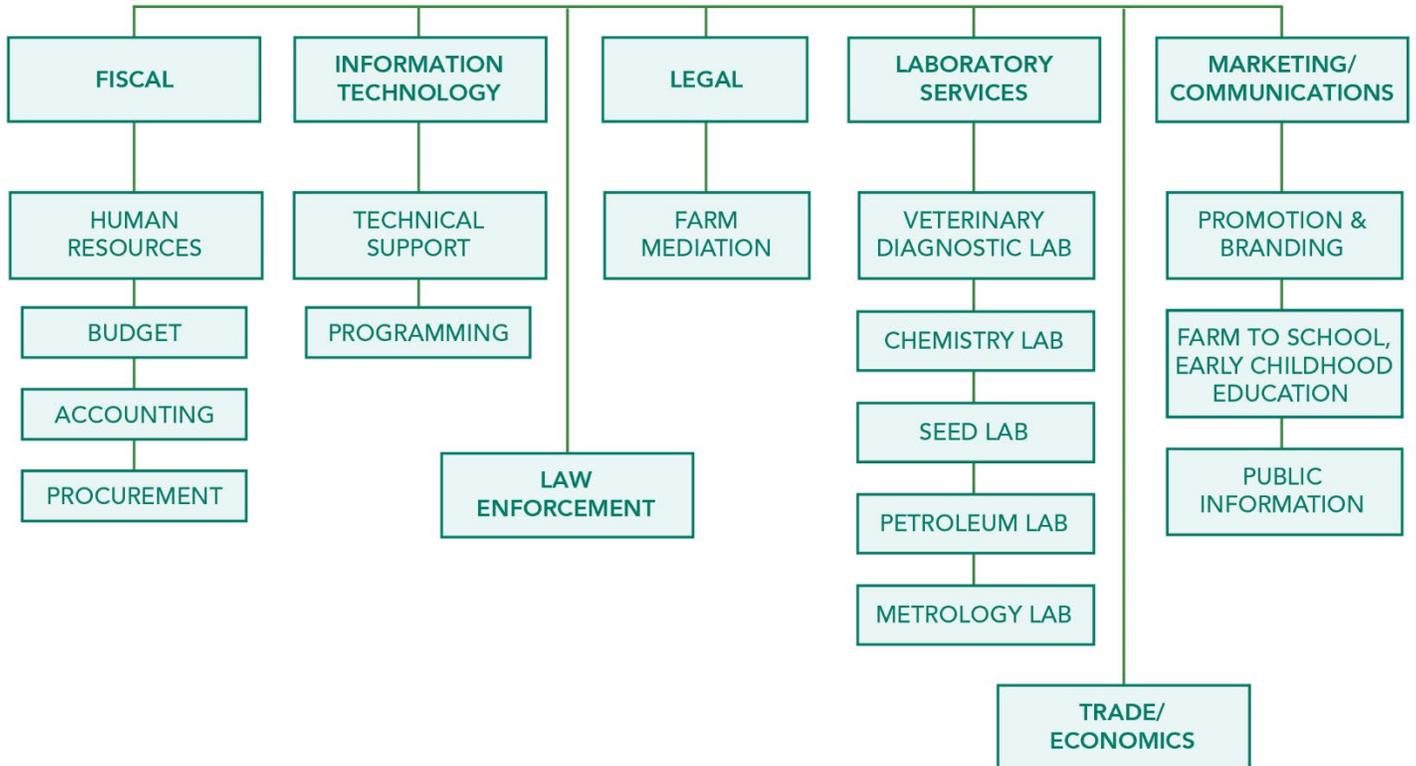
Information provided by the Department of Agriculture 2022

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SHARED SERVICES
DIVISION

DEPUTY SECRETARY
CYNTHIA EDWARDS



SHARED SERVICES DIVISION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 seven sections: (1) Fiscal and Human Resources; (2) Information Technology; (3) Legal; (4) Laboratory Services; (5) Law Enforcement; (6) Marketing and Communications; (7) Trade/Economics.

The Fiscal, Human Resources, Legal, and Information Technology sections of the Shared Services Division collaborated extensively throughout Fiscal Year 2022 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.



Deputy Secretary
Cynthia Edwards

The Shared Services Division continued working with industry partners and stakeholders in Fiscal Year 2022 to meet the needs of Arkansas's agriculture industry. The Division made progress in upgrading technology, networks, and software across the Department which improves service to the public. The Division's Laboratory Services section increased resiliency of lab operations throughout the Department with the expansion of cross-training of employees and made significant progress towards adding a branch lab under the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab's National Animal Health Laboratory Network participation agreement for diseases of concern to the poultry industry. The Law Enforcement team provided assistance to all sectors of the agricultural industry which resulted in more than \$530,000 in restitution to landowners.

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. The team led the Department's first participation in the National Restaurant Show in Chicago where it represented eight Arkansas companies and showcased their products to more than 60,000 attendees. The Marketing and Communications section also provided valuable internal support within the Department by coordinating a more efficient Department clothing website and completing a standardized photo project for all employees.

The Shared Services Division's collaborations and accomplishments include: (needs updating)

- Implemented new ARCareers to streamline personnel hiring and onboarding
- Broadened databases to capture all required employee training
- Processed over \$6 million in federal grant aid payments to subrecipients

- 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
- Facilitated an improved website and more efficient process for employees to purchase clothing with the Department's official logos
- Leveraged current information technology applications to cover more departments, allowing users better tools for their daily activities
- Designed applications to support field staff inspections and duties through a digital process.
- Assisted Department Boards/commissions with adoption or amendment of 14 administrative rules, including one emergency rule, and the repeal of three rules
- Conducted training for Agriculture Department Staff on a variety of topics, including Freedom of Information laws, 4th Amendment issues, and employment law
- Held 19 agricultural mediations, with 13 agreements reached
- Modernization of metrology enforcement by replacement of all five mass comparators, which were at end of their service life.
- Enhanced resilience of motor fuel flash point testing by adding field portable units and a benchtop unit having unattended, multi-sample capability.
- Continued to provide extensive laboratory testing services, including conducting a combined total of 473,080 tests in the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Chemistry Lab, Petroleum Lab, and the Seed Lab.
- Achieved voting membership in the American Society for Testing and Materials Petroleum Division
- Laboratory Services staff was elected to the board of American Association of Seed Analysts
- 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.
- Expanded the 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 218 Arkansas schools, farmers, agencies, and non-profits.
- Launched the Harvest of the Season promotion program which makes available seasonal food posters highlighting local Arkansas products.
- 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. The fiscal staff also provides fiscal support to all boards and commissions within the Department. In fiscal year 2022, 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

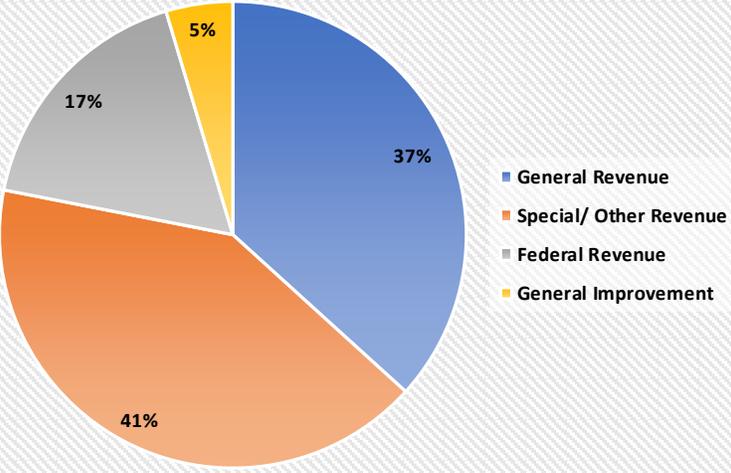
Fiscal Section staff’s major accomplishments include:

- Processed 12,131 vendor invoices in FY 2022
- Processed over \$6 million in federal grant aid payments to subrecipients
- Requested over \$15 million in federal grant reimbursements

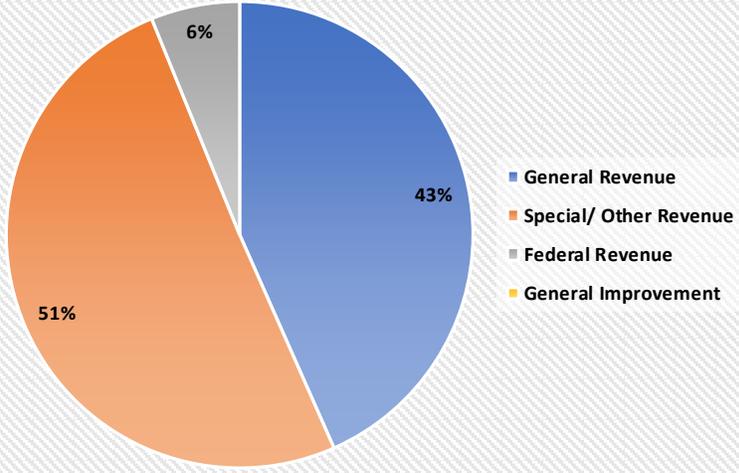
**Department and Division FY 2022
Adjusted Budget and Expenditures**

<u>Department and Division</u>	<u>Adjusted Budget</u>	<u>Capital Improvement Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Forestry Division	\$29,705,843		\$21,894,300
Livestock & Poultry Division	\$19,564,715		\$13,273,203
Natural Resources Division	\$127,781,985		\$28,398,735
Plant Industries Division	\$20,103,925		\$10,491,716
Administration	\$11,870,042		\$8,794,826
Soil Classifiers	\$1,296		\$94
Registration for Foresters	\$55,181		\$17,615
Veterinary Board	\$119,877		\$86,799
Department		\$206,714,932	\$1,145,803
TOTALS	\$209,202,865	\$206,714,932	\$84,103,091

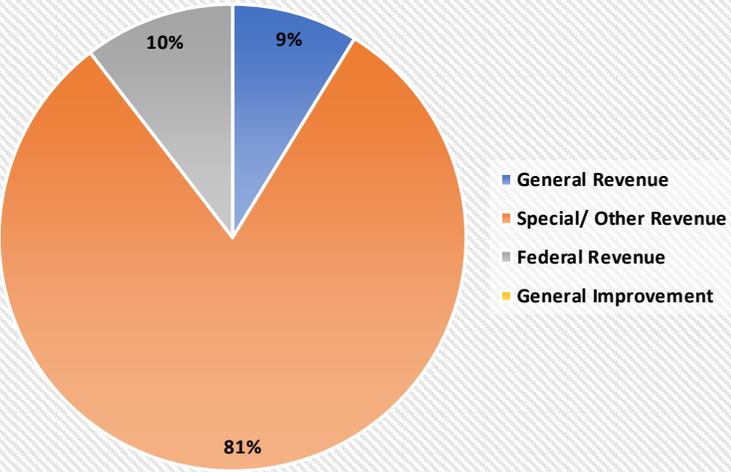
Forestry Division



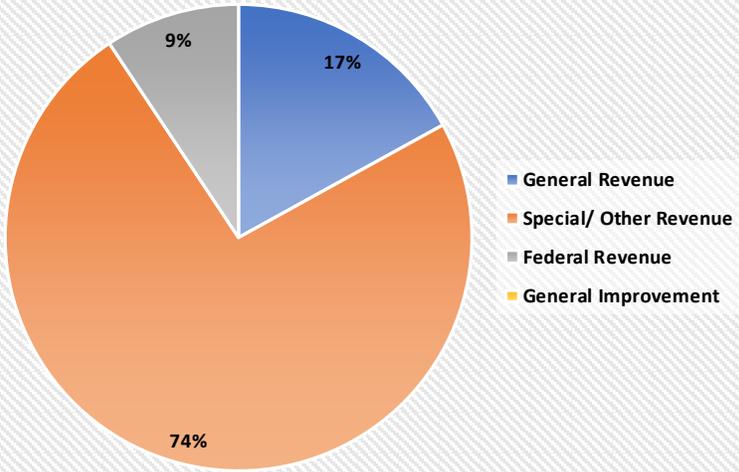
Livestock and Poultry



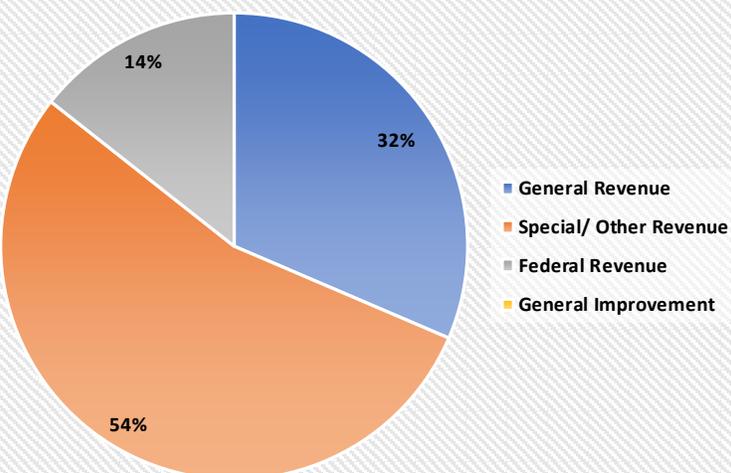
Natural Resources Commission



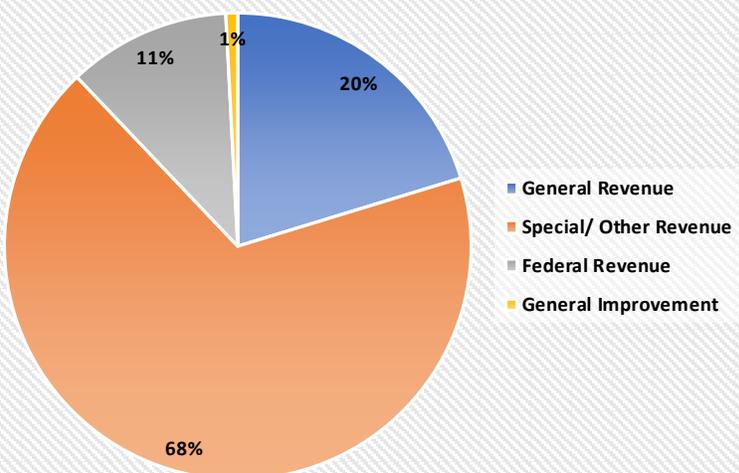
Plant Industries



Administration



Department total



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 170 employee hires and promotions
- Processed 17 retirements
- Processed 88 resignations
- Processed 10 terminations
- Processed 16 transfers
- Continued scanning of personnel files for storage savings
- Created and issued 215 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:

- Leveraged current applications to cover more departments, allowing users better tools for their daily activities.
- Designed a methodology for supporting ZOOM communication at most any venue.
- Designed applications to support field staff inspections and duties through a digital process.
- Improved the Department's local networks and infrastructure to better handle the growing number of employees, including adding new tools to capture customer issues.
- Employed new tools and methods for tracking and monitoring laptops, phones, and other devices.
- Introduced a new application to eliminate multiple pieces of outdated software and bring all the data together in one location

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 Departmental laws and administrative rules. This includes assisting Department in formulating and implementing policies and interpreting law. The Legal Section's attorneys respond to inquiries from the Governor, Attorney General, 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.

The Legal Section provides representation for the following:

- Department of Agriculture
- Agriculture Board
- Plant Board
- Livestock & Poultry Commission
- Forestry Commission
- The Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board
- The Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Committee
- The Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board
- The Arkansas Seed Arbitration Committee
- Feral Hog Task Force
- Arkansas Farm Mediation Office
- Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
- Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters
- Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers
- The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program
- The Commission on Water Well Construction
- The Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee
- The Red River Commission
- The Veterinary Medical Examining Board

While not specifically counsel for these entities, the Legal Section also provides advice and counsel to the Department regarding:

- Buffalo River Conservation Committee
- Illinois Watershed Improvement Plan
- Natural Resources Committee
- The Red River Compact Commission
- Occupational Licensing Advisory Group
- Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission

Accomplishments

The Legal Section's accomplishments include:

- Assisted Department Boards/commissions with adoption or amendment of 14 administrative rules, including one emergency rule, and the repeal of three rules
- Conducted training for Agriculture Department Staff on a variety of topics, including Freedom of Information laws, 4th Amendment issues, and employment law
- Reduced enforcement backlog for pesticide case by approximately 15% through streamlined settlement agreements and expedited settlement offers
- Presented before the Arkansas Fire School regarding prescribed burn liability
- Continued to work with design professionals, Division of Building Authority, ADFA, bond counsel and others in process necessary to move forward with plans for new building construction
- 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
- Represented the Department before multiple legislative committees on issues ranging from rulemaking to occupational licensure

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
- Metrology 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:

- 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
- Continued recognition of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) by the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)
- Renewed infrastructure grant of \$150,000 for FY2023
 - Supplemental infrastructure grant of \$187,200 for FY2022-2023
 - Completed a 2-year competitive Farm Bill grant (\$71,500) for modernization of the VDL's laboratory information management system
 - Maximized biosecurity of the state's poultry production through expanded surveillance for highly pathological avian influenza
- Obtained registration with the Drug Enforcement Administration for testing of industrial hemp.
- Modernization of metrology enforcement by replacement of all five mass comparators, which were at end of their service life
- Enhanced resilience of motor fuel flash point testing by adding field portable units and also a benchtop unit having unattended, multi-sample capability
- Expansion of cross-training has continued to increase the resilience of lab operations throughout the Department
- Recruitment and retention of mixed-practice veterinarians in designated shortage areas continued under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program, with a recipient of this highly competitive program employed in the department's VDL
- Department laboratories also employ recipients of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDOE) Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program
- The Department's Seed Lab supervisor has been elected to the American Association of Seed Analysts (AOSA) executive board

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) in Little Rock supports the diagnosis of livestock, poultry, and aquatic farm animal diseases 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, 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 Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is our first line of defense in monitoring and identifying potential animal disease outbreaks in the field.

The Department's VDL is currently nearing completion of adding the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture's Tollett Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Fayetteville under its NAHLN participation agreement as a branch lab for federal program diseases of concern to the poultry industry. Having a NAHLN branch lab in the northwest quadrant of the state will greatly enhance preparedness for responding to animal disease emergencies with official testing capabilities.

Accomplishments

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

- Performed 473,080 total tests
- Completed 6,676 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) screening tests
- Processed 22,835 fish submitted by 64 aquaculture producers (37 Arkansas and 27 out-of-state) for pathogen screening
- Conducted 16,890 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) procedures
- Performed 53 drug screens for the Arkansas State Fair livestock show.
- Performed 151,847 tests for mycoplasma bacteria
- Performed 5,525 tests on specimens related mostly to pets seen in veterinary clinics
- Performed 6,443 tests in the bacteriology section
- Performed 11,384 tests by the virology section
- Performed 469 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. Arkansas farmers and consumers benefit greatly from having agriculture products that are held to a high standard of label compliance.

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.

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, the Kentucky Hemp Proficiency Testing program, and the CTS 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 17,756 total tests
- Completed 13,751 tests on 1,697 Feed samples
- Completed 2,981 tests on 683 Fertilizer samples
- Completed 134 tests on 96 Limestone samples
- Completed 723 tests on 386 Pesticide samples
- Completed 167 tests on 96 Industrial Hemp samples

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. Testing seed purity and fitness for use plays an essential role in supporting Arkansas's leadership in row crop production.

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.

Seed Lab staff attended SoDak Seed Academy classes including Seed Technology, Seed Biology, and Seed Identification. Continuing education also included Association of Official Seed Analyst (AOSA) webinars and proficiency testing.

Accomplishments

The Seed Laboratory staff's major accomplishments include:

- Analyzed 3,770 seed samples
- Completed 2,395 purity tests
- Completed 3,628 germination tests
- Completed 327 accelerated aging tests
- Completed 210 herbicide tolerance tests
- Completed 700 red rice tests for a total of 2,243 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 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 legal metrology laboratory is committed to the protection of trade and equipping our industry users with the most precise tools and measurement capabilities. 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 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 1,378 large mass standards (25 lb. – 1000 lb.)
- Certified 2,070 small mass standards (0.001 lb. – 10 lbs.)
- Certified 86 volume provers (5 gallon)
- Certified 165 grain moisture meters
- Received Full Recognition from the NIST Office of Weights and Measures for Mass Echelon 3 and Volume Echelon 2 - Volume Transfer

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. Screening motor fuels for quality and consistency not only protects the motoring public but also supports transportation infrastructure and agricultural production.

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 4,000 fuel stations, including retail, wholesale, and distribution points
- Collected 6,208 gasoline samples, 2,011 diesel samples, and 8 biodiesel samples
- Performed 19,323 tests on fuel samples to ensure product reliability
- Responded to 33 complaints, re-sampled 97 stations, and completed 17 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 267 Law Enforcement Cases in FY2022
 - Timber – 108
 - Fire – 59
 - Equipment - 3
 - Dumping – 22
 - ADA property – 6
 - Agency Assistance – 25
 - Livestock and Poultry – 38
- Closed 158 Law Enforcement Cases in FY2022
 - Timber – 72
 - Fire – 21
 - Equipment – 3
 - Dumping – 16
 - ADA property – 1
 - Agency Assistance – 12
 - Livestock and Poultry – 26
- Restitution back-to-land owners: \$531,637.41
- Fine money and suppression fees back to agency: \$3,630.00
- Law Enforcement Agency Assists: 191
- Minority Assists: 53

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, connects with and makes presentations to other agricultural organizations, and through various other outlets.

The Marketing and Communications section distributes information via the following:

- Website and social media channels
- Press releases and newsletters
- 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 but are not limited to the following:

- Agricultural Proclamation signing events with Governor Hutchinson
- Arkansas Farmers Market Promotion Grant
- Arkansas Farmers Market Shopping Bag Program
- Arkansas Century Farm
- 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
- Minority Landowner Programs and Resources

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 accomplishments include:

- Distributed 73 press releases to media partners and partner agencies
- Facilitated 78 interviews to include those provided by the branding programs, Farm to School, and Minority Outreach
- Facilitated 112 media requests
- Developed and distributed 30 bi-monthly online newsletters to industry stakeholders
- Produced 31 videos to include branding programs and Farm to School
- Provided photo coverage, assistance at 34 events
- Developed and distributed the 2022 edition of the *Arkansas Grown* magazine
- Facilitated and hosted 17 proclamation events, participated in 1 industry proclamation event
- Distributed \$360,643 in USDA Specialty Crop grants
- Distributed \$325,980 in USDA Farm and Ranch Stress Network Assistance Grants, received funding of \$128,565 to provide additional support and resources to Arkansas stakeholder industries
- 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
- Awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to 8 students with funding from civil penalties collected by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture
- Provided 9,200 Certificates of Free Sale
- Inducted 32 families into the 2021 Arkansas Century Farm program
- Distributed \$9,000 in grants to 22 Arkansas Farmers Markets through a partnership with Farm Credit
- Provided more than 32,000 shopping bags to Arkansas farmers markets at a greatly reduced rate that results in significant cost savings for the markets through a partnership with Farm Credit
- Delivered 394 creative assets to include booklets, brochures, banners, print ads, publications, signs, and other assets
- Served as the liaison for the MyARInternship interns
- Hosted members of the University of Arkansas Fayetteville MANRRS chapter
- Coordinated and completed the Employee Photo project for all Department employees
- Represented 8 Arkansas companies at the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago, IL
- Maintained 16 digital media outlets to include 7 Facebook pages, 2 Twitter accounts, 2 Instagram accounts, 1 YouTube account, 1 LinkedIn account, 1 Flickr account, and the Department website and Arkansas Grown/Farm to School website
- Improved and maintained the Department clothing website

Arkansas Grown/Arkansas Made/Homegrown by Heroes

The Arkansas Grown branding program promotes the many agricultural products that are grown in the state and supports the farmers, ranchers, and producers who grow them. The Arkansas Made branding program promotes goods and products made in our state by local producers, craftsmen, and artisans. 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. Homegrown By Heroes is administered by the Farmer Veteran Coalition and is offered as a free

program to farmers who have veteran, active duty, National Guard, or Reserve member of the United States Armed Forces status. These three programs help make the critical connection between producers and buyers.

Accomplishments

- Increased membership in Arkansas Grown, Homegrown By Heroes, and Arkansas Made programs by 110 new members
- Secured 7 Arkansas Grown and Arkansas Made supporter members
- Arkansas Grown social media followers increased to:
 - Facebook followers: 9,477 (by 2,562 or 37% since 10/2019)
 - Instagram followers: 1,999
- Received USDA Specialty Crop Block 2021 Grant program funding to develop a statewide Local Food System Supply Chain Infrastructure
- Received \$500,000 from the Walton Personal Philanthropy Group to develop and manage the Arkansas Grown Grant for Northwest Arkansas Farmers Pilot Program, awarding grants of up to \$15,000 to farmers in Northwest Arkansas to increase their capacity to sell wholesale
- Assisted in connecting Arkansas Grown farmers with the Arkansas Department of Human Services for the \$3.7 million Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative grant program funded to the state through USDA
- Promoted Arkansas Grown and Arkansas Made products with a manned booth at the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago, IL
- Launched Arkansas Farm to School website as a multi-site platform with ArkansasGrown.org, the first of its kind in the country
- Worked with the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act team to update the reporting form, conduct a webinar, develop the annual report, and analyze data to be used in support projects and grants
- Participated in designing an Arkansas Food Systems Fellowship hosted by the Wallace Center at Winrock International
- Hosted two virtual Local Conversations marketing events and two in-person regional meetings with a total of 46 attendees
- Coordinated and promoted two Arkansas Farmers Market Week Proclamation Presentations, estimated 84 total attendees
- Delivered presentations at three annual conferences and events
- Manned booths at six statewide and three regional conferences and events
- Attended twelve virtual trainings
- Conducted seven media interviews
- Attended the North American Agriculture Marketing Officers Annual Conference in Starkville, MS
- Launched a cost-share program of up to \$1,000 to Arkansas farmers for Good Agriculture Practices certification funded by the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program
- Managed USDA National Organic Cost Certification Reimbursement Program, providing at total of \$2,208 to seven organic farms around the state
- Managed the Farmers Market Promotion Program providing 32,000 bags to 29 farmers markets and \$9,000 in promotional funds to 22 farmers markets around the state

- Hosted Homegrown By Heroes event honoring scholarship awardees in partnership with MANRRS at the Department

Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program

The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education 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 also expanded in 2021 to include a part-time State Local Procurement Manager and full-time State School Garden Manager.

The Department is recognized as a 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

- Provided technical assistance to 218 schools, farmers, agencies, and non-profits in Arkansas
- Participated in 43 regional and national farm to school meetings
- Hosted and spoke at 18 farm to school educational trainings, webinars, and events with 5,299 attendees
- Visited 20 schools, farms, and organizations to outreach about farm to school
- Facilitated 6 Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative bi-monthly meetings that engaged 18 state agencies and non-profit partners
- Released 7 farm to school press releases
- Participated in 8 farm to school interviews
- Wrote 1 farm to school article
- Released 17 farm to school newsletters
- Released 5 farm to school blogs
- Created 2 webinar recordings
- Launched a new multi-platform website that partners Arkansas Farm to School with Arkansas Grown and features interactive maps of school gardens, local procurement activities, and farms and producers across the state
- Continued to provide updates to the Department website to include pages on Local Procurement, School Gardens, and the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act
- Wrote 5 letters of support for farm to school projects
- Wrote 3 farm to school reports, including the Arkansas Farm to School Annual Report;
- Developed 3 farm to school-related toolkits
- Created 44 farm to school handouts and infographics

- Produced 2 farm to school videos
- Managed and awarded \$7,000 total to 10 winning schools and early childhood education facilities of the 2021 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest
- Managed and awarded \$31,000 total to 62 schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments as part of the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program
- Managed and awarded \$6,500 total to 26 schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments as part of the Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program
- Launched the Harvest of the Season promotional program, which makes available seasonal food posters highlighting local Arkansas products
- Received \$75,705 from the USDA Specialty Crop Block 2021 Grant program, \$97,915 from the USDA Farm to School Grant program, and \$7,500 from Vermont FEED
- Submitted proposals for 3 additional grants and stipends
- 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 (Act) was enacted in 2017 and amended in 2019 to create, strengthen, and expand local farm and food economies throughout the state. The 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
- Gathered contact information for reporting entities
- Updated the Act FAQ handout
- Updated the ACT instructional infographic
- Provided an instructional reporting form webinar
- Developed and distributed the 2021 Local Food, Farms, and Job Act Annual Report

Minority Landowner Programs and Resources

As an organization receiving federal funds, the Department created the Minority Outreach program pursuant to the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to ensure nondiscrimination in its programs and services. Our efforts seek to introduce minority agriculture and forest (woodlands, woods, trees) landowners and their children to the various forestry and agriculture programs and services available to them. The program provides educational opportunities, encourages them to become good stewards of their land, and to explore forestry and/or agriculture related fields as a career.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture has an Outreach Coordinator that leads the agency's outreach efforts. The Outreach Coordinator also assists with scheduling landowner workshops, providing speakers for outreach meetings, local forestry contacts, and more.

Accomplishments

- Moderated second day of Sustainable Forestry & African American (SFLR) Joint State Regional Conference
- Hosted Arkansas Women in Agriculture's first 'Lunch & Learn' session
- Chair of Arkansas Women in Agriculture (AWIA) 2022 Conference

- Appointed President of AWIA
- Participated in the American Forest Foundation’s site visit of the Keeping It In The Family (KIITF) program
- Participated in a new partnership effort with AR/LA Regional Conservation Partnership Program Conservation Delivery Network Team
- Provided informational updates for the Departments Minority Landowner Resources website page
- Recruited minority participation in the KIITF Program, Specialty Crop Block Grant, and Arkansas Century Farm Program
- Assistance and support were provided to 11 KIITF Champion landowners and to landowners residing out-of-state
- Participated in two property site visits with landowners
- Participated in the Crossett High School Career Fair
- Worked with Forestry Division to improve field reporting criteria for outreach efforts
- Provided Department staff with outreach and/or Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act advice for grant opportunities, USDA reporting/compliance
- Participated in meetings and conferences of the following organizations:
 - Arkansas Land & Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) Board, Virtual meetings
 - Arkansas Land & Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Board, Virtual meetings
 - Arkansas Women in Agriculture (AWIA) Board, Conference
 - Sustainable Forestry & African American Retention Program (SFLR)
 - Policy Committee
 - Communications Committee
 - Diversity in AG Conference
 - Conference Planning Committee
 - Arkansas Forestry Association Annual Meeting
 - 5 Keeping it in the Family ‘Champion Landowners’ attended for the first time
 - Conference Planning Committee
 - Keeping it in the Family (KIITF):
 - Peer-to-Peer Training for field staff
 - Virtual Landowner Meetings
 - Admin Team Meetings
 - Attended White House/USDA Equity Commission Stakeholders Briefings (virtual)
 - Was nominated by partnering agency to serve on the USDA Equity Commission
 - Attended National Black Growers Council Annual Meeting
 - Women Owning Woodlands Virtual Conference
 - Participated in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program outreach meeting with KIITF

2025 NASDA Conference

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association which represents the elected and appointed commissioners, secretaries, and directors of the departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. As the current Secretary-Treasurer, Secretary Ward will rotate into the position of President and host the 2025 NASDA Conference. In coordination with NASDA, planning for the 2025 conference has begun, with the Marketing and Communication team providing support and resources for the conference.

2023 Sunbelt Ag Expo Spotlight State

The Sunbelt Ag Expo is an agricultural-based trade show held at Spence Field in Moultrie, Ga. The annual event has more than 1200 exhibitors showcasing the latest in farming technology and attracts both large acreage production farmers and weekend lifestyle farmers.

The Swisher/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year Award is a prestigious honor in the southeast and nation honoring industry leaders for their “excellence in agriculture.” Ten states participate in the program: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, with states rotating yearly as the spotlight state. Arkansas is the 2023 spotlight state.

As an Arkansas Farmer of the Year program partner, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is co-chair of the 2023 Spotlight State event. The Marketing and Communication team is working in coordination with other Arkansas stakeholder partners for the event in October.

National/International Exporting – SUSTA/NASDA

NASDA’s cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is designed to help U.S. food product companies source export opportunities. As a result of the FAS partnership, NASDA produces trade show events in the U.S. to include the National Restaurant Association Show.

The Marketing and Communications team participated in the National Restaurant Show/American Food Fair Pavilion in Chicago, IL, from May 21-24.

Accomplishments

- Recruited Arkansas Grown/Made producers for show
- Designed and produced an exhibit for the show
- Coordination of Arkansas Grown/Made producers for show
- Developed brochures for producers
- Represented Department and producers during the show
- Provided follow up with producers, show contacts shared
- Received notification from one producer regarding sale as result of show contact

Arkansas Century Farm Program

In 2012, the Department launched Arkansas Century Farm as a way to highlight the contributions of farm families to the state’s agriculture industry as well as their overall contributions to their local communities.

In 2021, there were 32 families inducted into the Arkansas Century Farm program. Total program inductees since 2012 are 526.

Grant Management

The Department administers grants for various agricultural industries and audiences to strengthen and grow the agriculture industry in Arkansas. The Marketing and Communications team manages numerous grants.

Grants include:

- Farm and Ranch Stress Grant
- USDA Farm to School Grant
- NWA Arkansas Grown Grant Pilot Program
- Specialty Crop Block Grant 2020
- Specialty Crop Block Grant 2021
- Specialty Crop Block Grant 2021 HR 133 –Farm to School proposal submitted; Branding program proposal submitted
- Specialty Crop Block Grant 2022 - Farm to School proposal submitted; Branding program proposal submitted

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.

The section’s mission is to build relationships and provide information, data, and analysis that:

- Strengthens agriculture, forestry, communities, and families,
- Helps farmers, ranchers, foresters, processors, other agricultural professionals, and supporting infrastructure manage economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially responsible businesses, and
- Promotes a healthy environment, which is vital to maintaining thriving, sustainable farms, and rural communities.

Accomplishments

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

- Weekly Market Summary, a 400-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 policies 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.

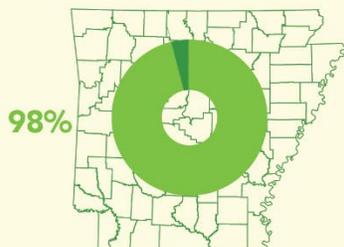
Farmers Markets play a key role in local food systems across Arkansas.



In Arkansas, there are **more than 1,500 farmers** selling directly to consumers through Farmers Markets and other direct marketing channels

112 112 active Farmers Markets in operation in Arkansas

\$9.2 Million in sales generated by direct sales annually



98%

98% of all Arkansas counties have farmer direct-to-consumer sales

Look for the Arkansas Grown™ or Arkansas Made™ logo to ensure products are locally grown or made



Learn more and find locally grown and made goods near you online at

arkansasgrown.org

**FARMERS
MARKETS**

Department Participation in Professional Organizations

Secretary Ward and Department staff are actively involved with their counterparts across the country through various industry organizations. These organizations include the following:

- American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
- Arkansas Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- Association of American Feed Control Officials
- Association of American Plant Food Control Officials
- Association of American Seed Control Officials
- Association of Grain Regulatory Officials
- Association of Official Seed Analysts
- Association of Official Seed Certification Agencies
- Association of State Dam Safety Officials
- Association of State Floodplain Managers
- Association of State Wetland Managers
- Association of Structural Pest Control Officials
- Communications Officers of State Departments of Agriculture
- National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Conference of Standards Laboratories International
- National Conference on Weights and Measures
- National Plant Board
- North American Agricultural Marketing Officials
- Prescribed Fire Council
- Southeast Arson Task Force
- Southern Agriculture & Animal Disaster Response Alliance
- Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture
- Southern Group of State Foresters
- Southern Plant Board
- The Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities
- United States Swine Health Improvement Plan - member, AR voting delegate

Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Fifteen boards and commissions were under the administration of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture in fiscal year 2022. A total of 125 Arkansans serve as members on these boards and commissions.

- Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board
- Arkansas Agriculture Board
- Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Committee
- 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
- Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee
- Red River Commission

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:

- FY 22 Collection events in Scott, Yell, Franklin, Logan, Searcy, Stone, Pope, Johnson, Crawford, Sebastian, Conway, Van Buren, Cross, Sevier, Little River, Howard, Pike, Polk, Montgomery, and Arkansas counties disposed of 234,120 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.

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 meet quarterly and elect officers every two years. Board members appointed by the Governor serve four-year terms and may not serve more than two terms. Members appointed by the boards may serve at the pleasure of their respective board.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
Sam Angel	Lake Village	Rice, Cotton, and Grain Producer Representative	2022
Ryan Anglin	London	Dairy Farming Representative	2022
Brent Butler	Siloam Springs	Poultry Production Representative	2022
Jerry Christie	Nashville	Beef Producer Representative	2022
Ronald Cavenaugh	Walnut Ridge	Rice, Cotton, and Grain Producer Representative	2023
Damon Helton	Lonsdale	Wine, Fruits, or Vegetables Representative	2024
Robin Ralston	Atkins	Grain Processing Representative	2024
Seth Summerside	Little Rock	Aquaculture Representative	2024
Sam Whitaker	Monticello	Rice, Cotton, and Grain Producer Representative	2025
Charles Metz	London	Swine Representative	2025
Jammy Turner	Gillett	Ag Chemical Representative	2025
Davis Bell	Des Arc	Arkansas Rural Development Commission	NA
Will Brewer	Paragould	Natural Resources Commission	NA
Bruce Leggitt	Greenbrier	Natural Resources Commission	NA
Ray Dillon	Little Rock	Forestry Commission	NA
George Dunklin	Stuttgart	Forestry Commission	NA
Sam Stuckey	Claredale	State Plant Board	NA
Travis Senter	Osceola	State Plant Board	NA
Marcus Creasy	Heber Springs	Livestock and Horticulture Producer Rep.	NA
Christopher Kauffman	Searcy	Livestock and Horticulture Producer Rep.	NA

Ex Officio Members	Location	Representing
Dr. Michael Blazier	Monticello	University of Arkansas at Monticello
Dr. Bruce McGowan	Pine Bluff	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Jerry Don Clark	Jonesboro	Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
Chuck Culver	Little Rock	University of Arkansas
Dr. Reza Hakkak	Little Rock	University of Arkansas Medical Sciences
Dr. Marshall Swafford	Russellville	Arkansas Tech University
Dr. Mickey Latour	Jonesboro	Arkansas State University
Dr. Copie Moore	Magnolia	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. Board members are appointed for four-year terms.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
Joe Mencer	Lake Village	Farm Bureau	2022
Pace Hindsley	Marvell	Ag Council	2023
Matt Hyneman	Jonesboro	Ag Council	2023
Scott Bray	Little Rock	Plant Division	2024
Travis Senter	Osceola	Ag Council	2024
Earl Stiles	Marianna	Farm Bureau	2024
Donald Felts	Joiner	Farm Bureau	2025
Gregg Garner	Lake City	Plant Division	2025

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

- Assessed 454,507 acres of cotton at \$3.00 per acre
- Collected 99.621% 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
- The Board of Directors held four meetings

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. Board members are appointed for nine-year terms.

Board Member	Location	Representing Congressional District	Term
Robert Parkes	Dover	District 4	2023
Steven Anthony	Bearden	District 4	2024
John McAlpine	Monticello	District 4	2025
Ray Dillon	Little Rock	District 2	2026
David Cawein	Bella Vista	District 3	2027
Peter Prutzman	Arkadelphia	District 4	2028
Frank Wilson	Rison	District 4	2029
George Dunklin	Stuttgart	District 1	2030
Miles Goggans	Star City	District 4	2031

Accomplishments

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

- Held 4 Arkansas Forestry Commission meetings that included quarterly reports from all programs
- Approved 17 interest-free loans to Arkansas Volunteer Fire Departments totaling \$196,576 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.

Board Member	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	Violet Hill	Cattle Industry	2028

Accomplishments

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

- 4 scheduled meetings and 2 special-called meeting
- Promulgated 3 new or amended rules
- Promulgated 1 emergency rule

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 are appointed for five-year terms.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
Fredric Simon	Conway	Producer	2022
Michael Flagg	Roland	Processor	2023
Van Morely	Benton	Retailer	2024
Jonathan Vaught	Horatio	Consumer	2025
William Anglin	Bentonville	Producer	2026

Accomplishments

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

- Held 6 meetings
- Promulgated the Milk Stabilization Rule pursuant to Act 521 of 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.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
Bruce Leggitt	Greenbrier	District 2	2023
Roy Reaves	Russellville	District 3	2024
James Anderson	Lonoke	District 2	2025
Will Brewer	Paragould	District 1	2025
Eddie Glover	Conway	District 2	2026
Jamie Burr	Farmington	District 3	2026
William Anderson	DeValls Bluff	District 1	2027
JoAnne Bush	Lake Village	District 4	2028
Bill Poynter	Texarkana	District 4	2029

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
- Promulgated 2 new or amended rules

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. Board members are appointed for four-year terms.

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 in 2022

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 licenses to register foresters who meet the statutory requirements, investigating alleged violations of the State Board of Registration for Foresters Act, and administering written examinations to applicants. Arkansas has reciprocity agreements with Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Board is also authorized to promulgate rules.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
Darren Spinks	Quitman	AR Forestry Commission	2022
Jennifer Cook	Greenbrier	Consumer Representative	2022
David Smith	Arkadelphia	Foresters at Large	2023
Scott Meek	Conway	Industry Foresters	2024
Matthew Pelkki	Monticello	UAM-CFANR	2025
Michael Marter	Roland	Consultant Foresters	2026

Accomplishments

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

- Conducting 4 regular meetings
- Providing 4 examination opportunities
- Initial licensing of 19 registered foresters
- Overseeing 404 total licenses
- Sponsoring 1 continuing forestry education workshop

Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers

The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers was created in 1975 and its primary duty is to regulate the profession of soil classifying through the examination and registration of professional soil classifiers and soil classifiers-in-training. Other duties of the board include investigating alleged violations of Act 460 of 1975, issuing penalties and/or punishments if necessary, and promulgating rules.

The Board is comprised of five members appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Arkansas Association of Professional Soil Classifiers and subject to confirmation by the Senate. Three members are registered professional soil classifiers, one member is a member of a conservation district board, and one member represents the public at large. The members serve five-year terms.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
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
Dr. Vern (Steven) Green	Jonesboro	Public at large	2026

Accomplishments

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

- Conducting three (3) regular meetings
- Overseeing thirty-four (34) total registrations

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.

During the 2021 Legislative session Act 361 that amended the makeup of the State Plant Board was passed to address concerns about the constitutionality of positions appointment by private trade associations. The act established the Board at 19 members, including seventeen members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, with eight of those members selected from two nominations submitted by each of the statutorily designated trade associations, and two non-voting members designated by the University of Arkansas Vice President of Agriculture. Members appointed by the Governor were subject to confirmation by the Senate.

- 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 from a list of at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Plant Food Association. (Vacant)
- 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 (Vacant)
- 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 (Vacant)
- 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 (Vacant)
- 1 seed grower appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least names submitted by the Arkansas Seed Growers Association (Vacant)
- 1 member appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Oil Marketers Association (Vacant)
- 1 member appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Crop Protection Association (Vacant)
- 1 member appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least two names submitted by the Arkansas Agri Aviation Association (Vacant)
- 1 member appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate from a list of at least 2 names submitted by the Arkansas Forestry Association (Vacant)
- 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

On June 9, 2022, the Pulaski County Circuit Court ruled that the process for nominating Plant Board members by private industry groups in Ark. Code Ann. 2-16-206 is unconstitutional and declared the nine Plant Board seats filled by private industry group nominations vacant. The ruling was not appealed, leaving the Board with ten active members.

The remaining ten members meet the legal standard of a quorum and continue to conduct business as authorized by Act 361. 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.

Member	Location	Representing	Term
Bruce Alford	Lewisville	Forage Industry	2023
David Gammil	Tyronza	Corn, Peanut, Sorghum, Turf, or Wheat grower	2023
Matthew Marsh	Little Rock	Rice Growers	2023
Reynold Meyer	Eudora	Livestock Industry	2023
Matthew Miles	McGehee	Soybean Grower	2023
Nathan Reed	Marianna	Farmer	2023
Travis Senter	Osceloa	Farmer	2023
Sam Stuckey	Clarkedale	Cotton Grower	2024
Dr. Ken Korth	Fayetteville	Dept. of Entomology & Dept. of Plant Pathology U of A	NA
Nathan Slaton	Fayetteville	Asst. Director AR Agriculture Experiment Station U of A	NA

Accomplishments

The Arkansas State Plant Board’s major accomplishments include:

- Held 3 regular meetings
- Promulgated 1 rule
- Approved 217 enforcement actions

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 Member	Location	Representing	Term
Dr. Norette Underwood	Trumann	Veterinarian	2023
Dr. Paul Turchi	Fayetteville	Veterinarian	2024
Dr. Robert Bonner	Nashville	Veterinarian	2025
Dr. Conley Byrd	Redfield	Veterinarian	2027
Shawna Barber	Jonesboro	Public Member	2027

Accomplishments

The Veterinary Medical Examining Board's major accomplishments include:

- Conducting 4 regular meetings, 1 special-called meeting, and 2 formal hearings
- Initial licensing of 60 veterinarians
- Initial certification of 24 veterinary technicians

- Initial certification of 1 non-veterinarian embryo transfer technician
- Initial certification of 8 corporate practices
- Overseeing 1683 total licenses and certificates
- Approving 41 continuing education programs
- Reviewing 9 complaints
- Promulgated 2 new or amended rules

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. The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate and each member serve a five-year term.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
David Washington	Calico Rock	Ouachita Mountain	2023
David Gilbert	Mena	Ouachita Mountain	2024
Stephen Hunt	Maumelle	HVAC	2025
Mike McDermott	Weiner	Gulf Coast	2025
Steven Ernest Pender	Texarkana	Gulf Coast	2026
Chris Colclasure	Little Rock	Director, AR Natural Resource Division	NA
Lance Jones	Little Rock	AR Department of Health or Designee	NA

Accomplishments

- The Water Well Construction Commission conducts 6 meetings a year; 3 are in person and 3 are by zoom.
- In the 2022 year to date, we have licensed and registered:
 - 156 Contractors (3 are new this year)
 - 286 Drillers and Driller Apprentices (19 are new this year)
 - 290 Pump Installers and Pump Installer Apprentices (30 are new this year)
 - 412 Rig Permits
- Started conducting Criminal Background Checks for Drillers, Driller Apprentices, Pump Installers and Pump Installer Apprentices

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.

Board Member	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
Jim Wise	Little Rock	Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
Darren Spinks	Little Rock	Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry
Josh Duzan	Little Rock	Natural State Stream, LLC
Aaron Thomason	Little Rock	Bell Engineering

Accomplishments

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

- Riparian Zone Tax Credit Program staff processed and approved 18 new riparian zone tax credit projects; conducted 18 project inspections totaling \$621,000 in eligible project costs; conducted 5 final project inspections and monitored 24 projects
- 2 new public members appointed to the Private Wetland and Riparian Tax Credit Committee

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 and subject to confirmation by the Senate, with two members appointed from each of the following counties: Little River, Hempstead, Miller, and Lafayette. Members serve seven-year terms.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
Randy Bobo	Hope	Hempstead County	2023
Bruce Alford	Lewisville	Lafayette County	2024
Gayther Crank	Lewisville	Lafayette County	2025
Kenneth Grounds	Ashdown	Little River County	2026
Dan York	Foreman	Little River County	2027
Robert Sanderson	Texarkana	Miller County	2028
Brandon Wren	Texarkana	Miller County	2028
Henry Struckman	Fulton	Hempstead County	2029

Accomplishments

The Red River Commission's major accomplishments include:

- Held 2 meetings
- Finalize agreements to complete a feasibility study on the extension of navigation on the Red River into Arkansas

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
- Natural Resources Committee
- Arkansas Homeland Security Advisory Group

A 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 or his designee serves 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.

Member	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
Sec. Becky Keogh	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 developed 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

Member	Location	Representing
Lawrence Bengal	Little Rock	State Agency Director
Chris Colclasure	Little Rock	State Agency Director
Joe Fox	Little Rock	State Agency Director
Miles Goggans	Little Rock	District 2
Richard McMullen, PhD	Little Rock	State Agency Designee
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	State Agency Director

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.

Board Member	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.

Member	Location	Representing
Secretary Wes Ward	Little Rock	Department of Agriculture
Secretary Becky Keogh	Little Rock	Department of Energy and Environment
Secretary Stacy Hurst	Little Rock	Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism
Dr. Richard McMullen	Little Rock	Department of Health
Judge Warren Campbell	Newton County	Newton County Judge
Judge Jim Harness	Searcy County	Searcy County Judge

Natural Resources Committee

The Natural Resources Committee is authorized to establish a schedule of minimum fees and royalties as well as terms and conditions for various types of permits and leases for state-owned lands other than lands held in the name of and managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The eight-member Commission is composed of the following members or their designees:

- Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration
- Director of Production and Conservation of the Oil and Gas Commission
- State Geologist
- Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
- Executive Secretary of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission
- Secretary of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism
- Director of the Department of Environmental Quality
- Chair of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Member	Representing
Secretary Larry Walther	Dept. of Finance and Administration
Director Larry Bengel	Production and Conservation of the Oil & Gas Commission
Scott Ausbrooks- Geologist	State Geologist
Secretary Wes Ward	Dept. of Agriculture
Exe. Secretary Landon Aaron	Ar State Game and Fish Commission
Secretary Stacy Hurst	Dept. of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism
Secretary Becky Keogh	Dept. of Energy and Environmental Quality

Arkansas Homeland Security Advisory Group

The Arkansas Homeland Security Advisory Group was created as an advisory body to the Division of Emergency Management to develop and maintain comprehensive guidelines and procedures for implementing statewide mutual aid system. The advisory group consists of representatives of federal, state, and local agencies and professional associations as determined by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management and shall include, at a minimum, representatives of the following:

- Division of Emergency Management
- Arkansas Ambulance Association
- Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police
- Arkansas Association of Fire Chiefs
- Arkansas Citizen Corps Point of Contact
- Division of Environmental Quality
- Department of Health
- Arkansas Emergency Management Association, Inc.
- Arkansas Highway Police Division of the Arkansas Department of Transportation
- Department of Agriculture
- Arkansas Municipal League
- National Guard

- 61st Civil Support Team of the Arkansas National Guard
- Arkansas Sheriffs' Association
- Division of Arkansas State Police
- County Judges Association of Arkansas
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Division of Information Services
- Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Secret Service
- U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas
- U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas

Member

Representing

AJ Gary	AR Dept. of Emergency
Renee Mallory	AR Dept. of Health
Wes Ward	AR Dept. of Agriculture
MG Kendall Penn	AR National Guard
Cindy Gillespie	AR Dept. of Human Services
Col. Bill Bryant	AR State Police
Jonathan Askins	AR Dept. of TSS (DIS)
Steve Eggenesperger	Governor's Office
Glenn "Sonny" Cox - Former County Judge	County Judges Association
Chief Gary Sipes	AR Association of Chiefs of Police
Scott Bradley	AR Sheriffs Association
Randy Garrett	ARVOD
Lucas McDonald	Walmart Corporation
Chad Johnston	DHS, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Joel Eubanks	FBI, Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator
J.T. Coleman	FBI, Special Agent

Arkansas Research and Promotion Boards

The following research and promotion boards are statutorily authorized in Arkansas:

- Arkansas Beef Council
- Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board
- Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
- Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board
- Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
- Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board

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

Arkansas Beef Council

The Arkansas Beef Council was created to promote the growth and development of the beef cattle industry in Arkansas by research, promotion, and market development. The board consists of seven members as follows:

- 3 cattle producers representing the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
- 3 cattle producers representing the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
- 1 active Arkansas livestock market operator representing the state at large

The members are appointed for three-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate following the submission of two nominees for each position from the organizations represented on the board. The Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation provides administrative support for the board.

Board activities are funded by an assessment of \$1.00 per head on all cattle sold in the state, with 50 cents remitted to the federal Cattlemen's Beef Board and the remainder retained by the state.

Member	Representing	Term
Terry Laster	Farm Bureau	2023
Jerry Christie	Cattlemen's Association	2023
Chase Groves	Farm Bureau	2024
Samuel Cecil	Cattlemen's Association	2024
Caleb Plyer	Farm Bureau	2025
Robert Campbell	Cattlemen's Association	2025
Sharon Casey	Livestock Market	2025

Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board

The Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board was created to plan and conduct a program of research, extension, market development, and advertising designed to promote the Arkansas catfish industry. The board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor as follows:

- 4 members from a list of six commercial catfish producers, processors, and feed dealers submitted by the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas, Inc.
- 3 members from a list of six commercial catfish producers submitted by the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation

Each member is appointed for a two-year term. The Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation serves as the executive director of the board.

Activities of the Board are funded by an assessment on the sale of catfish feed within Arkansas to commercial catfish producers at a rate not to exceed \$5.00 per ton of catfish feed sold.

Member	Location	Representing	Term
Terry Kruse	McCrary	Catfish Farmer	2023
David Heikes	Sherwood	Catfish Farmer	2023
Hulon Moyers	Portland	Catfish Farmer	2023
Brad Graham	Portland	Catfish Farmer	2024
Steve Kueter	Paragould	Arkansas Farm Bureau	2024
Kenny Francis	Corning	Arkansas Farm Bureau	2024
Dick Baxter	Cabot	Arkansas Farm Bureau	2024

Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board

The Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board was created to plan and conduct a program of research and extension designed to promote the corn and grain sorghum industry in Arkansas. The Governor appoints the seven-member board from nominees submitted by the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, Riceland Foods, Inc., and the Agricultural Council of Arkansas. Each of the organizations may nominate two practical producers of corn or grain sorghum in Arkansas for each position.

Each board member is appointed for a two-year term. The executive vice president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation or his or her designee serves as the resident agent of the board.

Activities of the board are funded through the assessment of one cent per bushel on all corn and grain sorghum grown within Arkansas. The assessment is deducted from the amount paid to the producer at the first point of sale or at the point where the corn or grain sorghum enters the U. S. Department of Agriculture loan program.

Member	Location	Representing	Term
Trent Dabbs	Stuttgart	Farm Bureau	2023
Matt Gammill	Tyronza	Ag Council	2023
Tommy Young	Tuckerman	Riceland	2023
Jon Carroll - Vice Chair	Moro	Farm Bureau	2023
Jason Felton - Chairman	Marianna	Ag Council	2024
Kenny Falwell - Secretary	Newport	Riceland	2024
Jacob Appleberry	McGehee	Farm Bureau	2024

Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board

The Rice Research and Promotion Board was created to plan and conduct a program of research, extension, market development, and advertising designed to promote the rice industry in Arkansas. The board consists of nine producer members as follows:

- 3 members representing the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
- 2 members representing Riceland Foods, Inc.
- 1 member representing the Agricultural Council of Arkansas
- 1 member representing Producers Rice Mill, Inc.
- 1 member representing the Arkansas Rice Council
- 1 member representing the independent mills of Arkansas

The members are appointed for two-year terms by the Governor following the submission of two nominees for each position by the organizations represented on the board. The executive vice president of Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation or his or her designee serves as the resident agent of the board and provides administrative support.

Board activities are funded through an assessment of 1.35 cents per bushel paid by the buyer at the first point of sale on rice grown within the state or at the point the rice enters into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's loan program. Producers also pay an assessment of 1.35 cents per bushel. The assessments paid by buyers must be used for market development and promotion. The assessments paid by buyers must be used for rice extension and research.

Member	Location	Representing	Term
David Gairhan	Jonesboro	Arkansas Farm Bureau	2023
James Whitaker	McGehee	Independent Mills of Arkansas	2023
David Petter	Stuttgart	Arkansas Rice Council	2023
Jeff Rutledge	Newport	Arkansas Farm Bureau	2023
Wayne Wiggins	Jonesboro	Riceland	2023
John King	Helena	Ag Council	2024
Roger Pohlner	Fisher	Riceland	2024
Joe Christian	Jonesboro	Arkansas Farm Bureau	2024
Jay Coker	Stuttgart	Producers' Rice Mill	2024

Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board

The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board was established to conduct plans, projects, or activities to strengthen the soybean industry's position in the marketplace. The nine-member board is appointed by the Governor for a two-year term as follows:

- 3 members from a list of five practical soybean producers submitted by the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
- 2 members from a list of five practical soybean producers submitted by Riceland Foods, Inc.
- 2 members from a list of five practical soybean producers submitted by the Arkansas Soybean Association
- 2 members from a list of five practical soybean producers submitted by the Agricultural Council of Arkansas

The board's activities are paid from an assessment of .25 percent of the market price of all soybeans grown within Arkansas. Assessments are collected by the first purchaser at the point of sale.

Member	Location	Representing	Term
John Freeman	Dumas	Ag Council	2023
Josh Cureton	Cash	Farm Bureau	2023
Richard Helms	Arkadelphia	Soybean Association	2023
Joe Thrash	Houston	Farm Bureau	2023
Donald Morton	Des Arc	Riceland	2023
Rusty Smith	Des Arc	Farm Bureau	2024
Douglas Hartz	Stuttgart	Soybean Association	2024
Stephen Higginbotham	Marianna	Ag Council	2024
Shannon Davis	Bono	Riceland	2024

Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board

The Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board was created to promote the growth and development of the Arkansas wheat industry by research, extension, promotion, and market development. The nine-member board consists of the following:

- 3 members representing the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
- 2 members representing Riceland Foods, Inc.
- 2 members representing the Arkansas Association of Wheat Growers
- 2 members the Agricultural Council of Arkansas

Each member is appointed by the Governor from two nominees submitted for each vacant position by each of the organizations represented on the board. Members are appointed for two-year terms and must be practical producers of wheat in Arkansas. The executive vice president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation or his or her designee is the board's resident agent.

The board's activities are funded by an assessment of one cent per bushel on all wheat grown in Arkansas. The assessment is deducted from the amount paid the producer at the first point of sale or at the point the wheat enters the U.S. Department of Agriculture's loan program.

Member	Location	Representing	Term
John Schwartz	Weiner	Wheat Growers	2021
Tim Smith	Clarendon	Wheat Growers	2022
Kenneth Clark	Newport	Riceland	2023
Terrance Scott	Cotton Plant	Farm Bureau	2023
Adam Cloninger	Keo	Farm Bureau	2023
David Wallace	Crawfordsville	Ag Council	2023
Jack Evans	Carlisle	Riceland	2024
Dusty Hoskyn	England	Ag Council	2024
Chris Shaefers	Conway	Farm Bureau	2024

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

Ranks 1st Delta States, 3rd Southern Region, and 15th Nationally in AG Exports.



SOYBEAN
\$977



RICE
\$742



COTTON
\$489



BROILER MEAT
\$379



SOYBEAN MEAL
\$181



OTHER POULTRY
\$147



VEGETABLE OIL
\$121



GRAIN
PRODUCTS PROCESSED
\$99

(in Millions of dollars)

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

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



EXPORTS

Information provided by the Department of Agriculture 2022

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

Delta States

#1



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

Southern Region

#3



Arkansas ranks **Number 3** in the Southern Region

Nationally

#15



Arkansas ranks **Number 15** in the nation

AG EXPORTS

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

Animal 18%

Plant
82%

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

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



(2021 data available October 26, 2022)

AG EXPORTS

Outlook

FACTORS THAT POTENTIALLY CHALLENGE ARKANSAS'S ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The Covid-19 pandemic, the Russian-Ukraine war, growing geopolitical tensions especially between China and the United States, domestic and foreign fiscal, monetary, trade, and regulatory policy challenges, punishing global weather patterns, are structurally transitioning the global economic landscape, especially the food production, processing, distribution, and retail sectors.

- + Where globalization's efficiencies once dominated the global economic landscape, they now are being replaced by a renewed interest in self-sufficiency through reshoring and regional shoring.*
- + We are transitioning from a world economy accustomed to highly efficient production and just-in-time supply chains to a more pragmatic homeland secure self-sufficient production and supply chain platform.*
- + These transition realities have consequences in the form of elevated inflation, supply chain inefficiencies, compromised trade partnerships, enhanced price volatility, with accompanying cashflow risks and financial uncertainties for our food, agricultural, and forestry sectors and supporting infrastructure and communities.*

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.

- I am deeply proud of the sacrifices of so many in the food, agricultural, and forestry sectors their supporting infrastructure and communities have, continue, and will make to maintain food and economic security, during modern historic uncertain times.*
- Through ongoing strong industry relationships, we are highly committed to the maintenance of food and economic security especially in times of crisis.*

Cashflow Concerns. Arkansas farmers, ranchers, forest landowners and their supporting infrastructure and communities continue facing cashflow challenges due to a punishing increase in input prices, elevated market price volatility, ongoing human, animal, and plant disease pressures especially from COVID-19, the escalating Russian-Ukraine conflict, dangerous geopolitical tensions especially rising tensions between the U.S. and China, and a challenging fiscal, monetary, trade, and regulatory policy environment.

Regional, State, and Local Food Security. The events of the immediate past reinforce the need for regional, state, and local food security. A strong realization emerged, during the COVID shutdown, that during national emergencies both Arkansas rural and urban communities potentially may have dangerous food security challenges. *These challenges require regional, state, and local production, processing, and distribution systems that are profitable in normal times and provide local food sustainability during times of food scarcity.*

Risk Management and the Farm Program Safety Net. In today's highly competitive geopolitical policy driven global marketplace, protectionism and nationalism are rapidly becoming the norm, resulting in lost global marketplace efficiencies. This requires that the Food, Agricultural, and Forestry sectors and their Supporting Infrastructure to increasingly embrace modern risk management strategies and the maintenance of a strong farm government program safety net.

- Business Sustainability in Times of disease, geopolitical, weather, and other risks and uncertainties have now taken on elevated importance.*

Technologies Rapid Evolution Replacing Workforce Segments. The changing economic landscape 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.

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, Poultry, and Dairy Options Rising. Global population growth; human, animal, and plant disease; environmental activism; national and global food security challenges; and simply changes in tastes and preferences are helping fuel the movement for meat, poultry, and dairy substitutes. Plant and cell-based meat, poultry, and dairy options will continue to expand, so the livestock, poultry, and dairy sector must enhance environmental 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 food, 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, the FBI 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. Evolving 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.

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
The Nonpoint Source Management Annual Report	40 CFR 35.115 (a)	40 CFR 35.115 (a)
Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Report 2021	Arkansas Code Annotated 15-22-906	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

Department grants and scholarships reach Arkansas students of all ages.

\$20,000

\$31,000

\$7,000

\$2,000

AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT PROGRAM

SCHOOL GARDEN OF THE YEAR

HOMEGROWN BY HEROES

\$66K

In 2021, more than **\$66K** in grant and scholarship funds were managed and dispersed to qualified Arkansas residents and organizations



Managed and awarded **\$7,000** total to **10** winning schools and early childhood education facilities as part of the 2021 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest



Managed and awarded **\$31,000** total to **62** schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments as part of the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program



Managed and awarded **\$6,500** total to **26** schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments as part of the Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program



Field staff participated in **53** Smokey Bear appearances at schools and events



53 trees were planted on **12** campuses, with over **1,700** students participating in the tree-planting ceremonies of the Shade Trees on Playgrounds program



Seedlings were donated to **6** schools, **2** university campuses, and **1** homeschool group for Earth Day/Arbor Day events



LOCAL PROCUREMENT

31 Arkansas Grown and Arkansas Made members listed at arkansasgrown.org



Presented at the Arkansas Environmental Education Association Environmental Education Expo



Presented at the Project Learning Tree Teacher Conservation Tour

Part-time internships for undergraduate level students; two working in Forest Inventory and Analysis, and one in Forest Health, one legal intern, and three marketing interns via MyARInternship

SCHOOLS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Recognizing important Arkansas farm families with a century of history.

The Arkansas Century Farm Program recognizes Arkansas farm families who have owned and operated a farm 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.



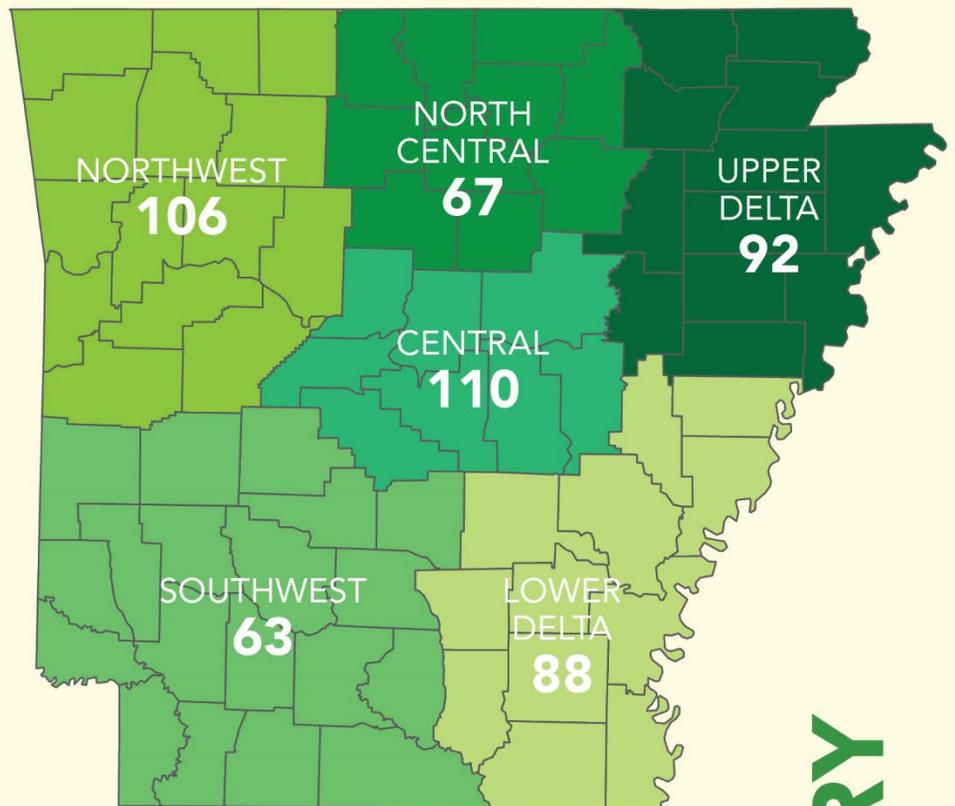
**CONGRATULATIONS 2021
CENTURY FARM INDUCTEES!**

CELEBRATING
100
OR MORE

NUMBER OF CENTURY FARM BY REGION

Since the program began, over **526** farms have been inducted. In 2021, **32** farms were inducted.

- 7 N Farms
- Bennett's River-Cotter Family Farm
- Byrd Ranch
- Churchman Farms
- Crimp & Eddie Knight Legacy Farm
- D.L. Scroggins Family Farm
- Daniel Family Farm
- Douglas Family Farm
- Fisher -Shaffer Family Farm
- Iron Creek Farms
- John Berry Horton Farm
- John Tucker Estate
- Kocourek Family Farm
- Larry Charles and Barbara Ann Rice Farm
- Leeth Family Farm
- Leon Clardy Estate
- M.H. Pipkin Family Farm
- Mahar -Jeffrey Family Farm
- Mann Family Farm
- Martin Tree Farm
- May Family Farm
- McGaughey Farm
- Nixon Farm
- Nutt Farms
- Oak Dale Farm
- Perrin Farm
- Shaw Farm
- Simonis-Thien Farms
- Simpson Farm
- Smith Family Farm LLC
- Valley Farms
- WB&B Ranch



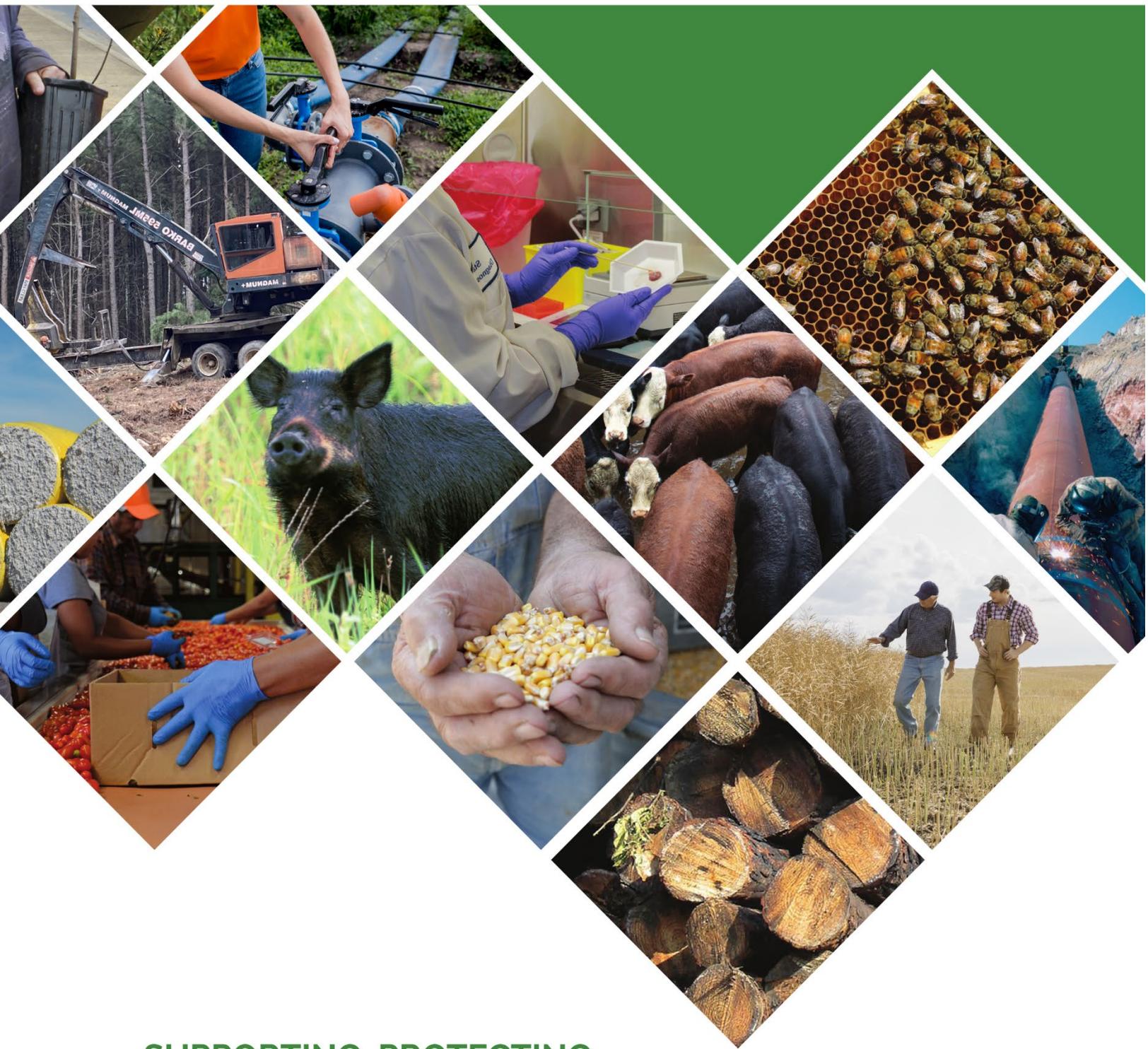
BY REGION

Northwest: 106	Central: 110
North Central: 67	Southwest: 63
Upper Delta: 92	Lower Delta: 88

**CENTURY
FARM**

Information provided by the Department of Agriculture 2022

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



SUPPORTING, PROTECTING, AND GROWING ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY



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