



Arkansas Department of Agriculture

Annual Report 2023



FRESH!

Arkansas Agriculture

Arkansas Department of Agriculture

established in 2005 to unify the Forestry Commission, Livestock and Poultry Commission, and State Plant Board, and in 2019, the Natural Resources Commission, creating five main Divisions to serve Arkansans:

Forestry

Livestock and Poultry

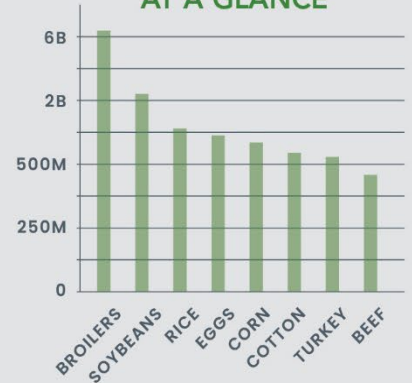
Plant Industries

Natural Resources

Shared Services



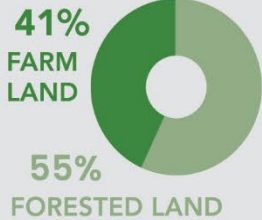
TOP PRODUCERS AT A GLANCE



Arkansas rice accounts for **50%** of total U.S. rice production and **56%** of long grain production



Arkansas GROWN



235,193 JOBS

in Arkansas created by the agriculture industry

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
- #10 in Soybeans
- #11 in Beef Cattle

Ranked **#1** in rice production, valued at **\$1.4 billion** annually

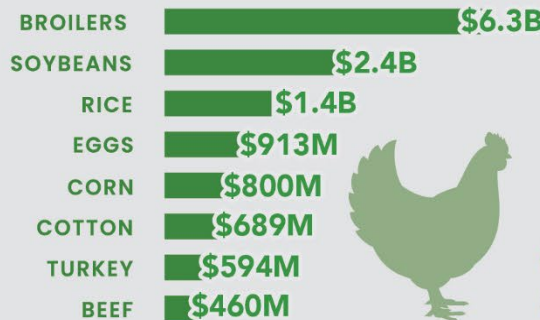


Ranked in top **24** nationally in **15** different agricultural commodities

Arkansas is a major producer of

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| Chicken | Beef |
| Rice | Pork |
| Soybeans | Catfish |
| Corn | Rabbit |
| Cotton | Timber |
| Cottonseed | Hay |
| Catfish | Wheat |
| Peanuts | Oats |
| Turkey | Honey |

(by value of production)



Agriculture is our largest industry, contributing more than **\$20.9 billion** annually to Arkansas's economy.



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MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY Wes Ward

We are pleased to provide you with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2023 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, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

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 \$20.9 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 24 in 15 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 second vice president and bring our agricultural perspective to all 50 states and the four U.S. territories.

During this fiscal year we were honored to work with Governor Sanders, the Arkansas General Assembly, and our state's many agricultural organizations during the 2023 regular session. Arkansas is blessed to have many leaders who 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 41,900 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
KYLE CUNNINGHAM**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

FOREST MANAGEMENT

POISON SPRINGS STATE FOREST



LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DIVISION

**DIRECTOR
PATRICK FISK**

ANIMAL HEALTH

FOOD SAFETY/
EGG & POULTRY

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 AND COMPLIANCE

REGULATORY SERVICES



SHARED SERVICES DIVISION

**DEPUTY SECRETARY
CYNTHIA EDWARDS**

FERAL HOG ERADICATION PROGRAM

FISCAL

HUMAN RESOURCES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

LABORATORY SERVICES

LAW ENFORCEMENT

LEGAL

MARKETING

TRADE/
ECONOMICS

Forestry

1,084 WILDFIRES

Suppressed more than 1,084 wildfires on 17,470 acres

1,739

volunteer firefighters trained

13,791

total volunteer firefighters statewide

77

Firewise communities in Arkansas



SEEDLINGS

5.6 million seedlings grown and sold by Baucum Nursery (Hardwood and Pine)

1,252 Flight Hours

Recorded 1,252 flight hours detecting wildfires, timber damage, and other forestry-related issues

\$ 5.5 BILLION EACH YEAR

Arkansas forest industries state economic contributions total **\$5.5 BILLION**



\$ 5.6 MILLION in trucks and equipment distributed to rural fire departments



ARKANSAS TIMBER



53 MILLION TONS annual timber growth

28 MILLION TONS annual harvest

29 MILLION TONS surplus annual growth



4,117 ASSISTS

provided to Arkansas landowners for management plans and forestry needs

19 MILLION ACRES

Arkansas has over 19 million acres of forests with over 12 billion trees

51 TREE CITIES

impacting more than 1,100,000 Arkansas residents

Arkansas's economy is the most forestry dependent of all the southern states.



FORESTRY DIVISION

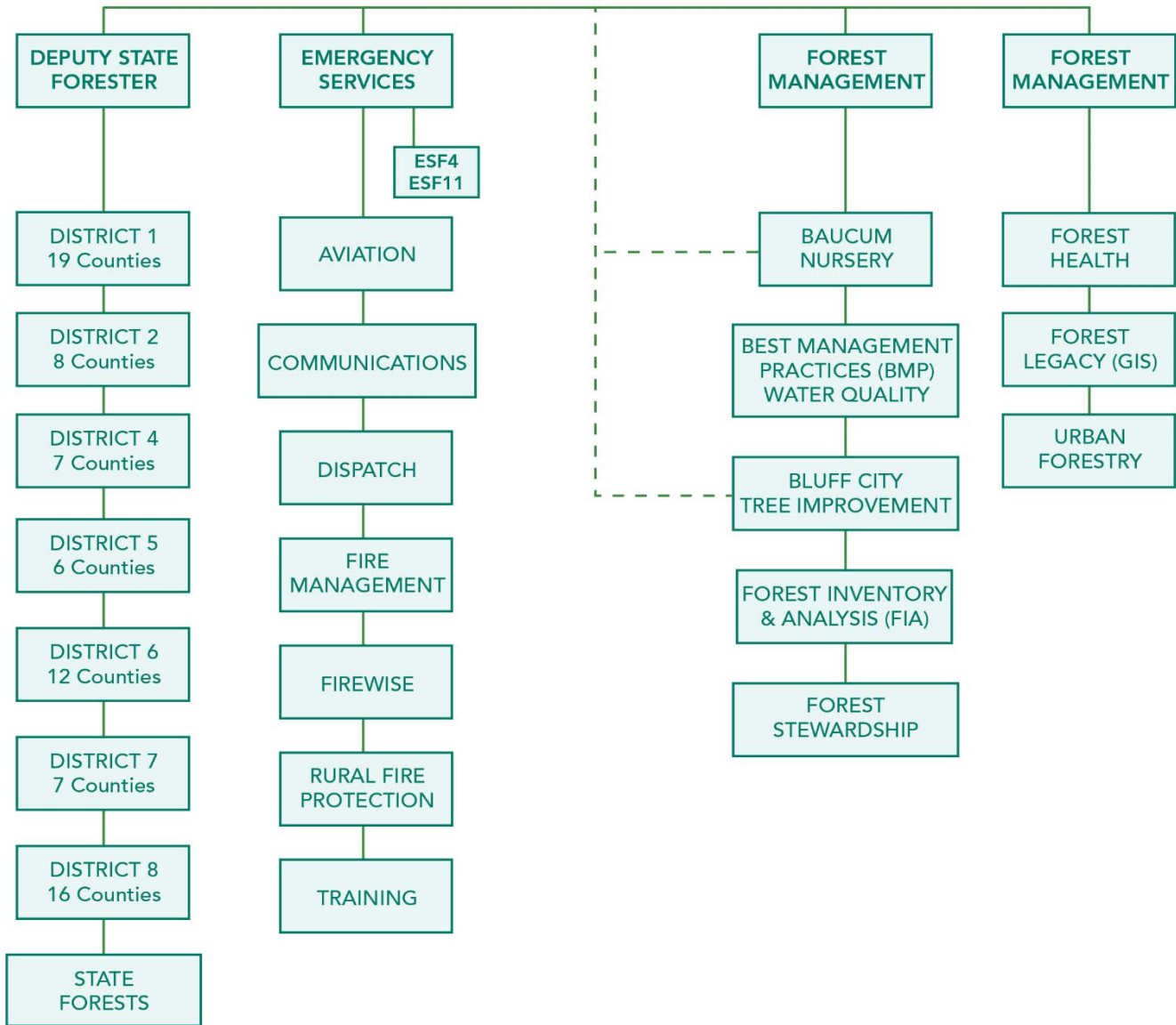
Data provided by the Forestry Division 2023

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



FORESTRY DIVISION

**STATE FORESTER
KYLE CUNNINGHAM**



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.

The Forestry Division assists the Arkansas Forestry Commission in accomplishing its mission to promote forest resources, health, conservation, protection, 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. Each congressional district must be represented, and three of the nine members are required to be tree farmers owning 250 acres or less of timber. Act 691 of the 2023 legislative session added a new requirement that three members be registered foresters. Act 691 also abolished the Board of Registration for Foresters, required the Forestry Commission to assume responsibilities for the former board's duties, and created a committee to make recommendations to the Forestry Commission on matters formerly under the jurisdiction of the Board of Registration for Foresters.

Governor Sanders appointed Kyle Cunningham as the new State Forester in June 2023, replacing Joe Fox who retired at the end of the fiscal year. Cunningham previously worked in several capacities at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture (UADA) over the last 19 years, including as an associate professor of forestry.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2023, the Forestry Division worked with its many longstanding partners and collaborators at the federal, state, and local level, including the United States Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), volunteer fire departments, Central Arkansas Water, University of Arkansas at 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 partners work together.



**Forestry Division
State Forester**
Kyle Cunningham

Examples of collaborations and accomplishments in fiscal year 2023 include:

- Construction of a new District 6 office in Clarksville that should be completed early FY 2024
- Served on the U.S. Forest Service’s Forest Stewardship Program Guidance Committee
- Provided educational support, including Smokey Bear visits and tree seedling giveaways, to the Mid America Museum in Hot Springs for elementary age children
- Completed baseline forest inventory measurements were on the new forest inventory grid at Poison Springs State Forest
- Worked with The Nature Conservancy to upgrade the irrigation system at Baucum Nursery
- Selected Kyle Pomes as the second recipient of the “Foresters for the Future” scholarship at the University of Arkansas at Monticello
- Created the Pea Ridge Battlefield staff ride in partnership with Oklahoma for wildland fire fighting command training

A summary of the Forestry Division’s accomplishments by area of responsibility include:

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 2023, 1,084 wildfires burned 17,470 acres in Arkansas. Overall, wildfires were slightly larger in 2023 with an average size of 16.1 acres compared to a ten-year average of 15.7 acres. The highest wildfire frequency months were July 2022 in which 248 fires burned 2,708 acres and October 2022 when 250 fires burned 4,955 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, 103 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 training on dozer operations, basic fire suppression, and chainsaw safety.

Accomplishments

The Emergency Services Section’s major accomplishments include:

- Suppression of 1,084 wildfires on 17,470 acres in Arkansas
- Maintained 53 Very High Frequency repeaters around the state
- Recorded 1,252 flight hours while detecting wildfires, timber damage, and other forestry-related issues
- Made available 11,130 items of firefighting equipment, valued at \$5,600,608, to Arkansas fire departments through the Federal Excess Property Program and Firefighter Property Program
- Worked with 77 nationally recognized Firewise communities across the state

- Hosted 58 participants at the Arkansas River Valley Wildland Fire Academy, 15 participants at dozer operations training, and 19 participants at basic fire training
- Developed the Leadership and Decision-Making Staff Ride Training using the Civil War Battle of Pea Ridge as the backdrop

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 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's major accomplishments include:

- Forestry Division foresters and rangers provided technical assistance to 4,117 landowners impacting 355,050 acres across the state:
 - 142 Forest Stewardship Management Plans written
 - 438 practice plans developed for landowners enrolled in NRCS programs

- Assisted with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s purchase of 801 acres of the Hot Springs Recharge Area (HSRA) in Garland County and 129 acres in Nevada County for Poison Springs State Forest
- Supported 51 official Tree City USA communities, four Tree Campus Higher Education campuses, and one Tree Line USA Utility Company through the Arkansas Urban and Community Forestry Program
- Distributed 10,000 hardwood seedlings to 3,000 attendees at 28 events between Arkansas Arbor Day in March and National Arbor Day in April during the third annual “Free Tree Friday” events
- Collected data from 811 (20 percent) of the total Forest Inventory and Analysis research plots
- Sold 5,213,684 hardwood seedlings and 383,899 pine seedlings for Arkansas landowners through the Baucum Nursery
- Harvested 163 bushels of Advance Generation Shortleaf pinecones for seed and established a new seed orchard comprised of tree species popular for urban plantings through the Tree Improvement Program
- Delivered 10 training sessions for 169 attendees and responded to 16 water quality logging complaints through the Best Management Practices program
- Completed 12 courtesy examinations at timber harvest sites

Poison Springs State Forest

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

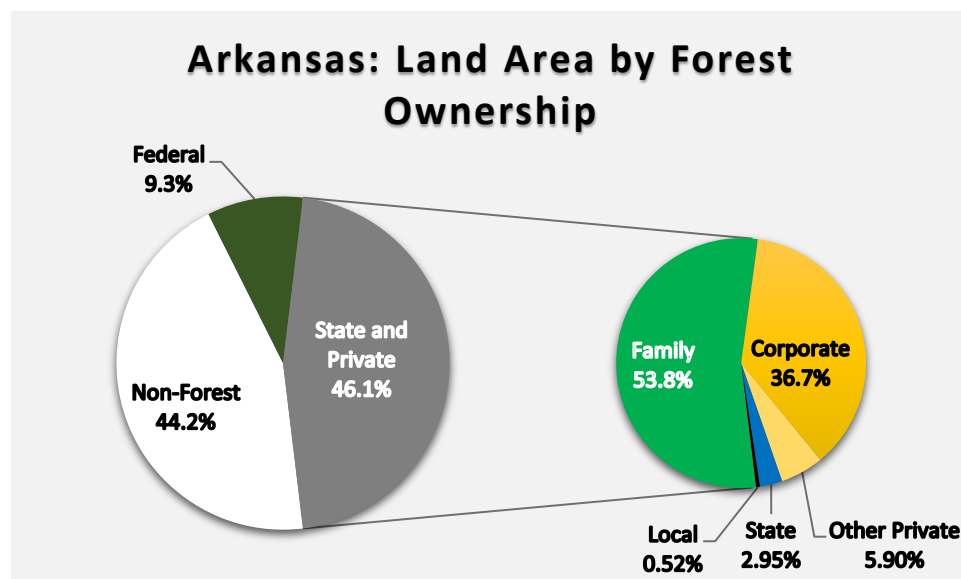
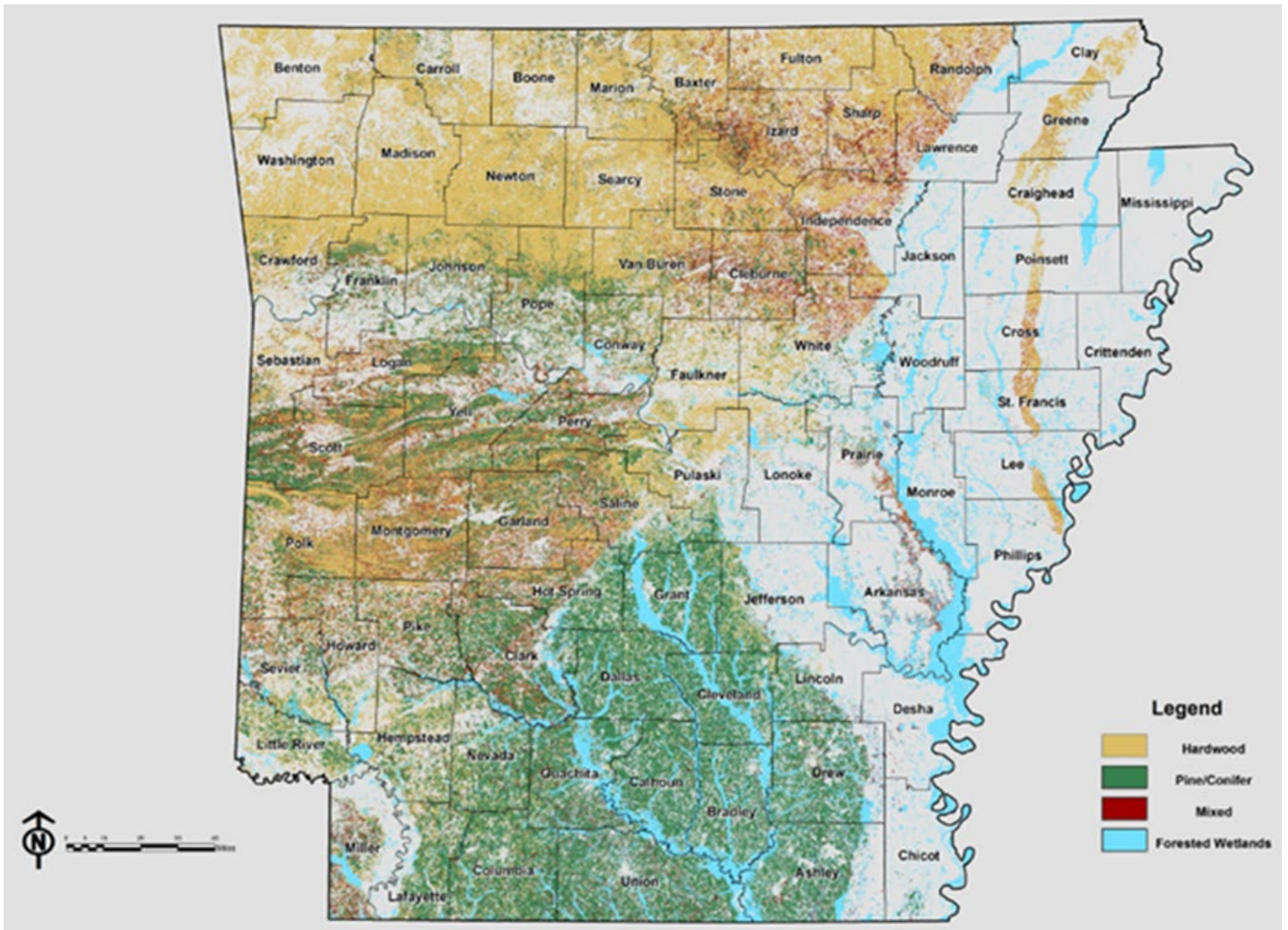
PSSF Section’s major accomplishments include:

- Collected inventory data from 126 fixed location plots to update the forest’s overall inventory numbers
- Collected growth data to predict sustainable harvest levels in the forest
- Performed hazard reduction burns on 1,061 acres and site-prepped 40 acres of final harvested land for planting
- Hauled and spread 499 loads of clay gravel to raise a levee on the Buster Green Road by four feet
- Repaired and maintained over 90 primitive campsites to ensure safety and usability for public recreation
- Seeded and/or maintained 20 pollinator habitat plots, totaling 32 acres
- Maintained eight acres of a quail habitat demonstration area using controlled burns
- Treated 66 acres of PSSF property with an understory removal in conjunction with the National Wild Turkey Federation towards creating a Shortleaf Pine dominated grassland
- Caught and removed 19 beavers

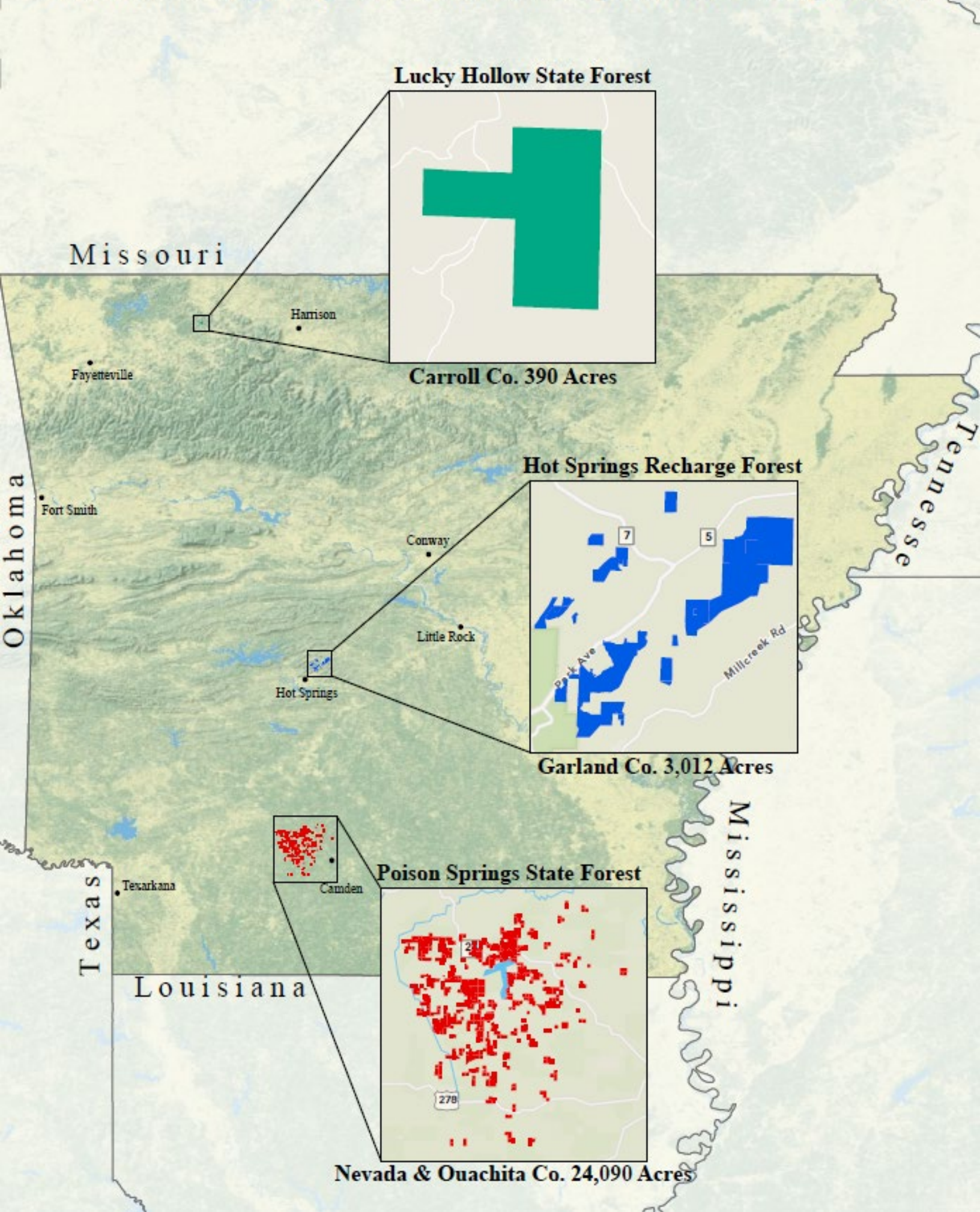
- Assisted and participated in a training video for the Arkansas Timber Producers Association
- Hosted a private landowner Best Management Practices/Timber Stand Improvement training at the Camden office and in the field on May 20, 2023

Timber Revenue from Poison Springs State Forest, FY2023	
Product	Volume
Pine Sawtimber	20,493 tons
Pine Chip and Saw	556 tons
Pine Pulpwood	6,264 tons
Misc. and Salvage	55 tons
Total Revenue	\$671,857

Arkansas State Forestry Map



Forestland Owned by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture



Lucky Hollow State Forest

Missouri

Harrison

Fayetteville

Carroll Co. 390 Acres

Hot Springs Recharge Forest

Fort Smith

Conway

Little Rock

Hot Springs

Garland Co. 3,012 Acres

Poison Springs State Forest

Texarkana

Camden

Louisiana

278

Nevada & Ouachita Co. 24,090 Acres

Texas

Mississippi

Tennessee

Oklahoma

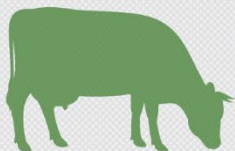
Livestock and Poultry



BROILERS
#3 IN NATION



TURKEY (raised)
#3 IN NATION



BEEF CATTLE
#11 IN NATION



CATFISH
#4 IN NATION

ARKANSAS MEATS

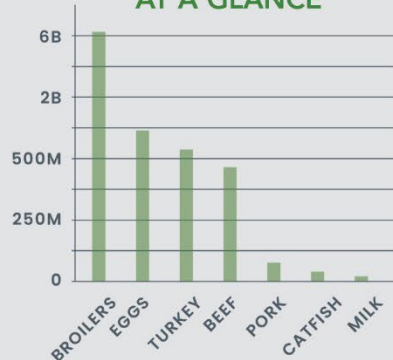
1.23 Billion
pounds of chicken
meat inspected

1.09 Billion
pounds of turkey
meat inspected

12,800
pounds of rabbit
meat inspected



TOP PRODUCERS AT A GLANCE



1.59 Billion Eggs
graded annually

35,695
health certificates
processed

1,408
hours worked at
livestock events

20,960
calfhood
vaccinations

123,804
cattle tagged
for disease traceability

\$ 8.3 BILLION EACH YEAR

Poultry, livestock, and catfish related agricultural products combined provide more than **\$8.3 billion** in revenue each year

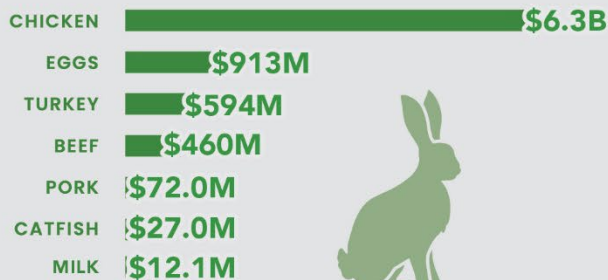
HEALTHY!



1,533
animal entry
permits issued

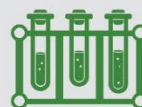
27,224
Equine Infectious Anemia
(EIA) tests performed

(by value
of production)



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



8,885
Certified flocks in the
National Poultry
Improvement Plan (NPIP)



Arkansas is a national leader in the production of poultry, livestock, and catfish.



**LIVESTOCK AND
POULTRY DIVISION**

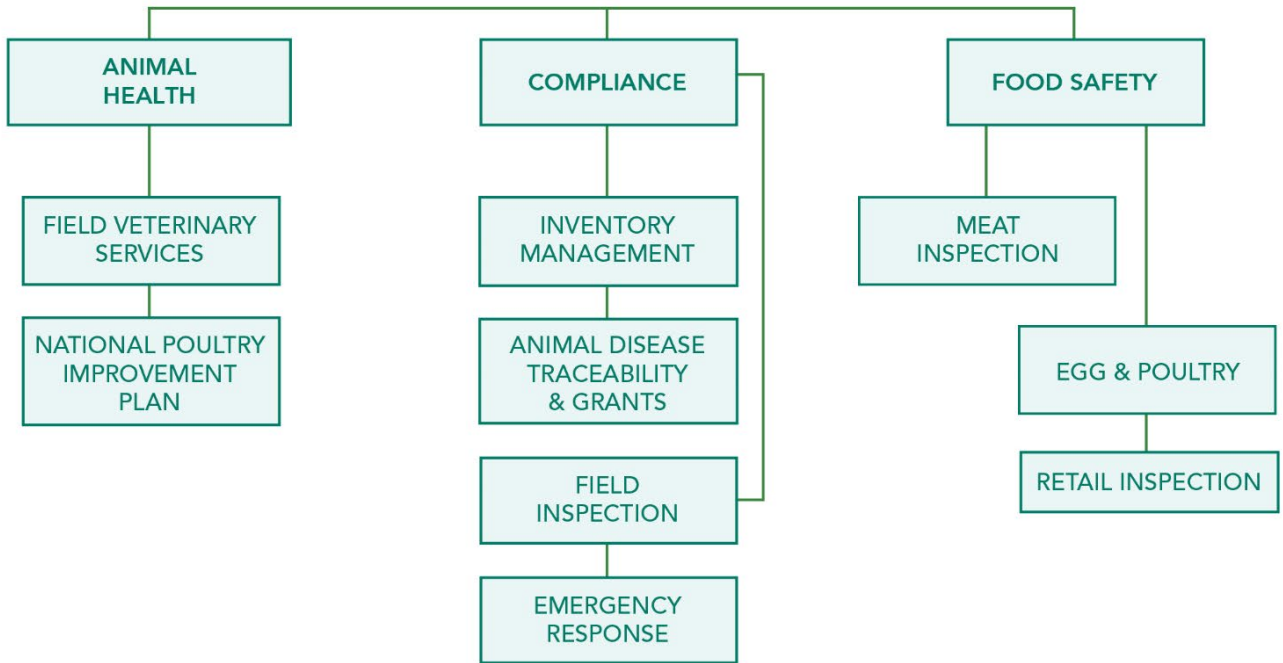
Data provided by the Livestock and Poultry Division 2023

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 Arkansas 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.

Act 691 of the 2023 legislative session expanded the membership of the Commission from seven to nine members to reflect the addition of duties that previously were under the jurisdiction of the Milk Stabilization Board and Veterinary Medical Examining Board, both of which were abolished. At least two members are to be veterinarians, with at least one engaged primarily in large animal or food supply veterinary medicine. The remaining members must be actively engaged in the Arkansas livestock, dairy, or poultry industries. Members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for five-year terms.

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

In October 2022, testing confirmed a case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a poultry operation in Arkansas. The Division worked closely with USDA, industry veterinarians, stakeholders, and other state agencies to control and manage the outbreak by establishing testing protocols, providing emergency response, and working closely with the Arkansas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to monitor and screen potential HPAI positive cases. In addition, the Division imposed an emergency rule 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.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2023, the Livestock and Poultry Division worked with industry partners to update and streamline the poultry program rules and repealed three rules that were out of date and not reflective of today's industry. The Division also began implementing new programs and



**Livestock and Poultry Division
Director**
Patrick Fisk

responsibilities authorized during the 2023 legislative session. These included the transfer of the administration of the Liquid Animal Waste Management Systems from the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, administration of the Poultry Feeding Operation Registration Program, a new Animal at Large reporting process, changes to the Egg Marketing Act, administration of the Arkansas Beef Council, and others.

A summary of the Livestock and Poultry Division’s major accomplishments include:

- Continued developing and implementing the new state meat inspection program, including hiring a program manager and two inspectors to serve state inspected facilities and custom exempt facilities
- Repealed three poultry rules and passed the Poultry Disease and Flock Condemnation Rule to protect Arkansas’s poultry industry from the threat of HPAI
- Worked with USDA’s international export division on hatching eggs entering the state from other countries
- Convened a working group with industry and other partners to work on new programs like the Liquid Animal Waste Management Systems
- Contributed to research on the development of large animal veterinarian shortages in Arkansas
- Conducted inspections for sanitation and employee safety on Arkansas’s livestock markets
- Collaborated with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (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 Arkansas State Fair with implementing the tagging program using radio frequency identification tags
- Assisted the Bureau of Land Management with wild horse and burrow sale
- Revised policy and procedures for quarantining and inspections of equine during a localized outbreak of Eastern Equine Encephalitis
- Continued to work with the Arkansas Department of Health by maintaining a database for its Food Freedom Act
- Assisted the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture 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 include:

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’s major accomplishments include:

- Participated in OneHealth programs in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Participated in weekly conferences with USDA, state animal health officials, and industry partners on regular HPAI updates and 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
- Implemented 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
- Maintained surveillance testing during the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) 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 6,500 shipping forms for eggs, chicks, and poults
- Inspected 15 poultry companies for NPIP/Lab approvals
- Inspected 23 commercial hatcheries
- Conducted eight Commercial Poultry Biosecurity Audits for compliance with NPIP Biosecurity Principles
- Audited three NPIP laboratories for compliance with NPIP standards
- Screened 107 poultry flocks for Salmonella status determination
- Certified 8,885 poultry flocks as NPIP program disease-free for trade certification partners
- Recorded 193,219 tests for HPAI conducted by NPIP laboratories in Arkansas

- Conducted six in-person Pullorum-Typhoid (P/T) schools for commercial and private testers
- Attended the Live Bird Marketing System Working Group meeting
- Attended the NPIP Official State Agency (OSA) Meeting

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 32 employees (graders and inspectors) 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's major accomplishments include:

- Graded and certified 1.23 billion pounds of chicken and chicken products, 1.09 billion pounds of turkey and turkey products, and 12,800 pounds of rabbit and rabbit products
- Performed eight audits on manufacturers producing Child Nutrition Program labeled products and graded 2,608,400 pounds of Child Nutrition Program labeled products
- Conducted 41 Food Defense Program audits on manufacturers and off-site storage facilities
- Graded and certified 4,423,206 cases (30 dozen per case) of shell eggs; 1.59 billion total eggs graded
- Inspected 42 processing locations and hatcheries and inspected 2,168,722 dozen (26,024,664 total) shell eggs
- Issued 252 egg handler permits and inspected 475,080 dozen (5.7 million total) shell eggs at retail locations with 507 dozen shell eggs (6,084 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 (NPIP) 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.

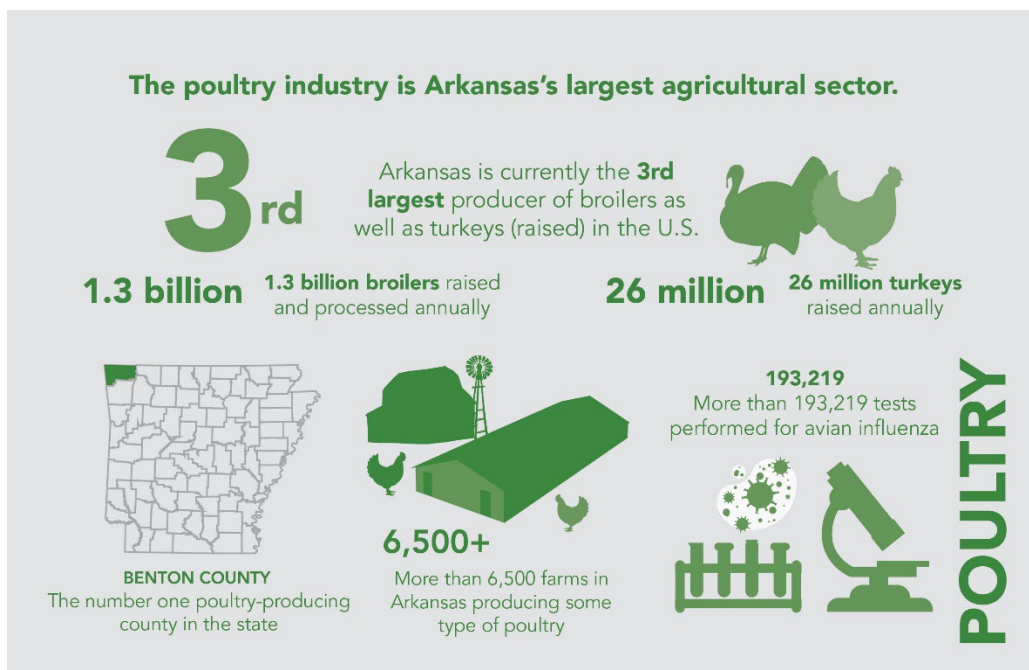
Inspectors respond to complaints regarding non-compliance with any laws or rules that the Division oversees, including carcass disposal and the state-to-state movement of animals. They provide educational support to producers and partner agencies. Three of the Livestock and Poultry Division inspectors,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

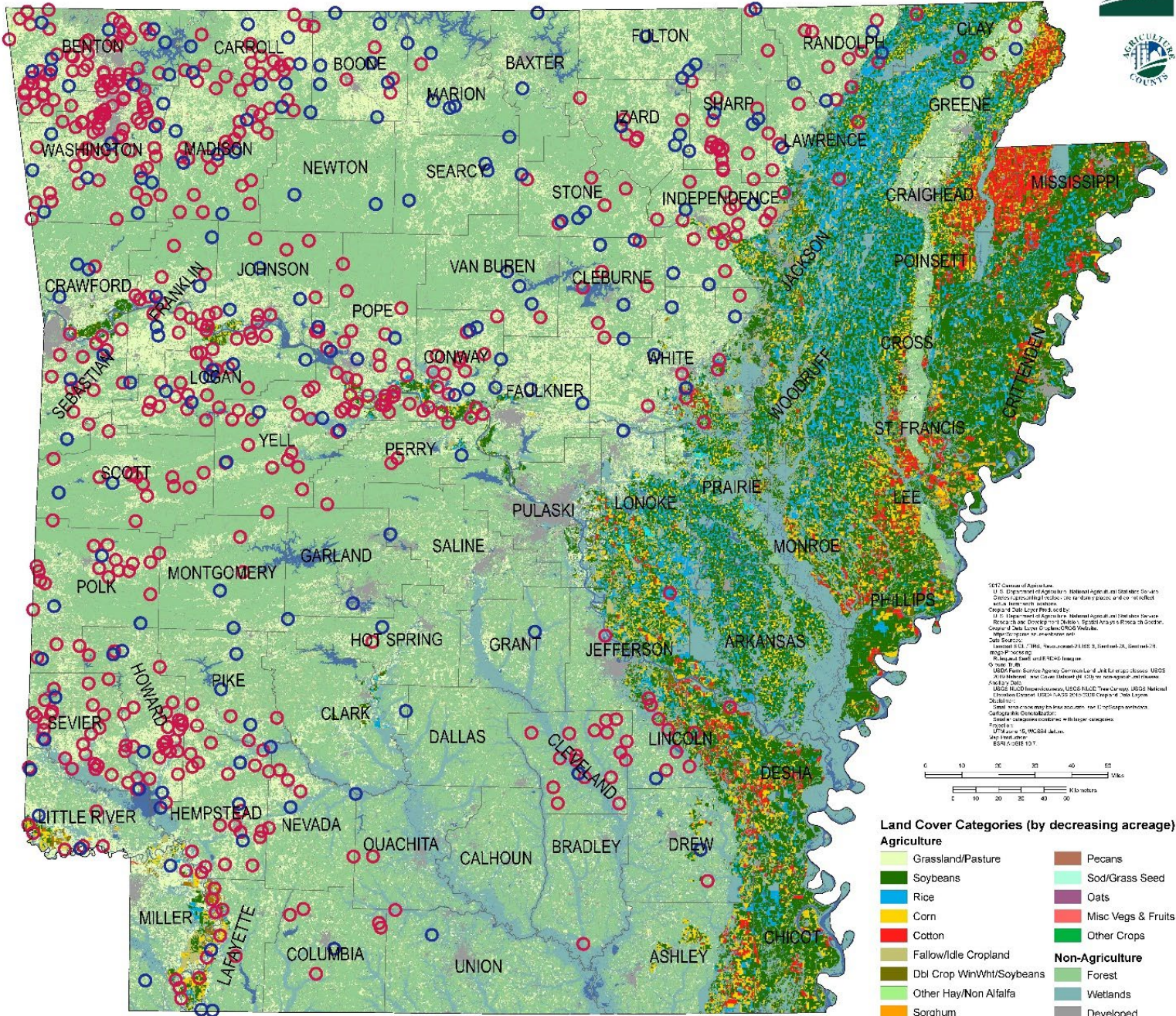
Accomplishments

The Regulatory Compliance Section's major accomplishments include:

- Issued 351 new USDA Premise IDs for a total of 14,356 in the Premise Identification Number (PIN) program
- Identified and entered 123,804 head of cattle in the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) database
- Certified 52 new Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) verifiers for a total of 3,333 verifiers
- Processed 27,224 EIA tests
- Issued 1,533 animal entry permits
- Registered 76 new cattle brands and renewed 100 brands
- Processed 35,695 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection
- 1,408 hours of service contributed by livestock inspectors at Arkansas fairs
- Charted over 625,313 cattle sold, 2,869 horses sold, and 99,469 head of sheep and goats sold at markets across Arkansas
- Livestock inspectors vaccinated 20,960 calves for brucellosis
- Provided Livestock Market News reporting services at 10 Arkansas livestock markets
- Began Livestock Market News reporting at three markets for sheep and goats
- Performed two foaming exercises in preparation for disease outbreaks
- Partnered with USDA and Cooperative Extension Service to train livestock inspectors and provide continuing education on poultry testing and necropsy for disease outbreaks and preparation for Avian Influenza
- Trained and conducted exercises on biosecurity and personal protective equipment
- Trained all livestock inspectors on the use of new equipment received to read radio frequency identification (RFID) 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 two FFA chapters on animal disease traceability and electronic tag technology
- Presented to five county Cattlemen Association's meetings regarding tags, equipment, animal disease traceability, and Livestock Market Reporting

- Presented to Girls Learning and Applying Math and Science program at El Dorado about careers in agriculture and animal disease traceability
- Received additional grant funds to purchase more electronic tag readers that can be made available to accredited veterinarians, teachers, extension agents, and fairs
- Distributed 9,064 free RFID tags to producers for replacement cattle
- 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
- Hosted a booth and participated in the Poultry Symposium in Springdale
- Hosted a booth and conducted outreach at Vital Farm’s producer meeting in Springfield, MO
- Hosted an Incident Command Structure (ICS) 300 and 400 courses for livestock inspectors and Animal Health Section staff
- Trained livestock inspectors on brucellosis, table egg inspection, animal disease traceability, and exhibition
- Performed surveillance testing, logistics, depopulation, and cleaning/disinfecting during the 2022-2023 Avian Influenza outbreak in Arkansas
- Assisted Wynne High School with a trailer and supplies after tornado damage was incurred
- Provided logistics for pet food and crates as emergency response in the Wynne area after the tornado
- Assisted an integrator with depopulation due to storm damage
- Assisted with hosting a department booth and outreach at the FFA State Convention
- Presented at the Arkansas Women in Ag conference
- Hosted a booth and provided outreach at the Arkansas Grazing Lands Coalition annual meeting
- Developed a livestock app for staff use that has reduced mistakes and redundancy and saves time and expenses, such as postage and supplies





2021 Cropland Data Layer
 USDA Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service
 Cropland Data Layer (CDL) is a data product that provides information on the
 location and use of cropland in the United States. The CDL is derived from
 satellite imagery and is updated annually. The CDL is used to estimate
 cropland area and to monitor changes in cropland use over time.
 The CDL is available for the United States and is also available for
 individual states. The CDL is available in a variety of formats, including
 shapefiles, geotiffs, and web services. For more information, visit
 the CDL website at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/cropland/>.



Land Cover Categories (by decreasing acreage)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Agriculture | |
| | Grassland/Pasture |
| | Soybeans |
| | Rice |
| | Corn |
| | Cotton |
| | Fallow/Idle Cropland |
| | Dbl Crop WinWht/Soybeans |
| | Other Hay/Non Alfalfa |
| | Sorghum |
| | Winter Wheat |
| | Peanuts |
| | Aquaculture |
| | Sweet Potatoes |
| | Pecans |
| | Sod/Grass Seed |
| | Oats |
| | Misc Veggies & Fruits |
| | Other Crops |
| Non-Agriculture | |
| | Forest |
| | Wetlands |
| | Developed |
| | Water |
| | Shrubland |
| | Barren |
| | 1 Dot = 2,000,000 Broilers |
| | 1 Dot = 10,000 Cattle & Calves |

**2021 Arkansas Cropland Data Layer
 2017 Broilers and Cattle & Calves**

NATURAL!

WATER
+
WASTEWATER
+
SOLID WASTE

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS:
\$1.1 BILLION**

Worked with **302** communities on water, wastewater, and solid waste projects totaling more than **\$1.1 billion**



Natural Resources



Documented the removal of **12,428** feral swine in Arkansas by members of the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force during FY 2022

State Conservation Tax Credits

Approved **59** new projects and completed **47** finished projects



Provided federal funds and technical assistance to **57** projects associated with the abatement/reduction or control of **nonpoint source pollution**

Unpaved Roads Grant Program

Funded **13** county unpaved roads projects totaling **\$904,510**

ARKANSAS DAMS

Inspected **15** high hazard dams, **18** significant hazard dams, and **12** 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 **424** towns, cities, and counties

Collected water level measurements in Mississippi River Valley Alluvial, Sparta, Tokio, and Nacatoch aquifers



Processed and approved **11** new riparian tax credit projects for **\$440,000** in eligible project cost

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



**NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION**

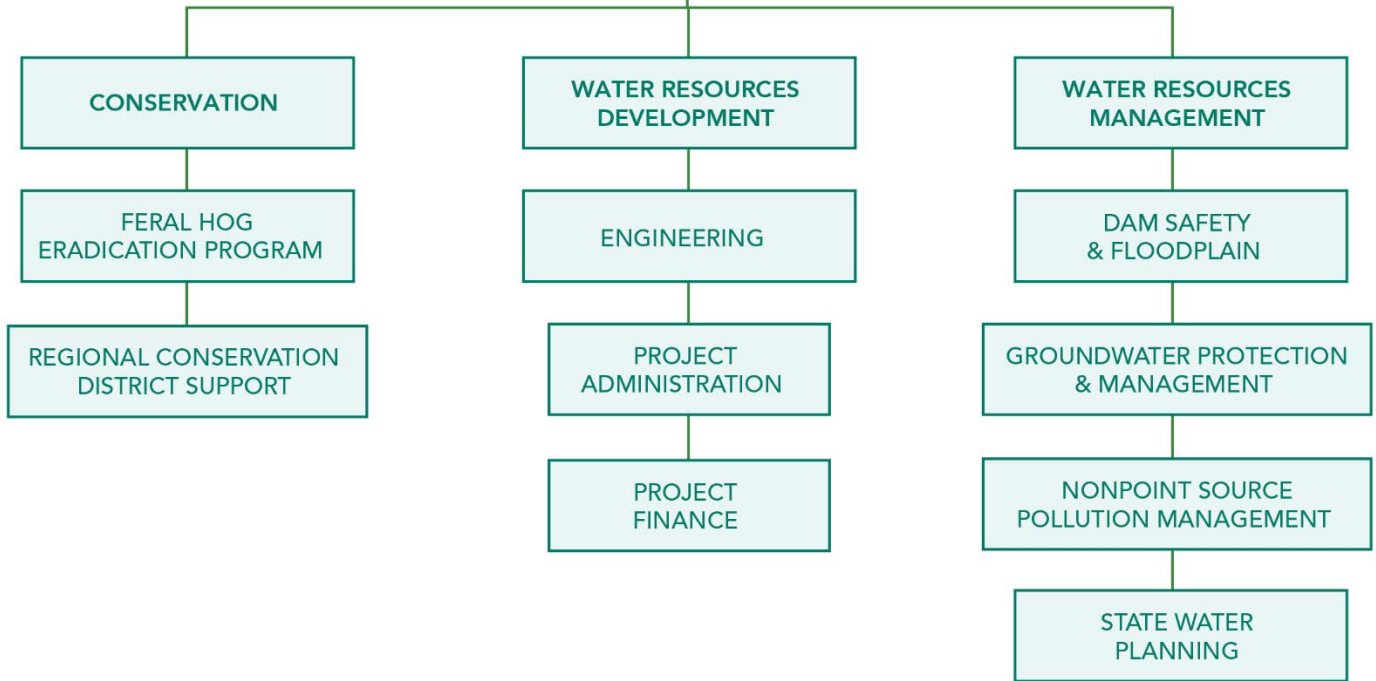
Data provided by the Natural Resources Division 2023

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



**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 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.

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. Act 691 of the 2023 legislative session abolished the Commission on Water Well Construction (CWWC) and revised the membership of the Natural Resources Commission to ensure that at least two of the nine members will be licensed water well contractors. A committee was created to make recommendations to the Natural Resources Commission on matters formerly under the CWWC.

Act 691 also changed the term of service for members of the Natural Resources Commission to five years and directed the Natural Resources Commission to assume the power and duties of the Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers, which was abolished. In addition, the legislation mandated that the Red River Commission will be a committee of the Natural Resources Commission until July 1, 2026, at which time it will be abolished.

The Natural Resources Division received \$280 million in American Rescue Plan funding from the Arkansas General Assembly for water, wastewater, and irrigation projects in fiscal year 2023. An application period was opened, and 882 applications were received requesting \$1.3 billion in funding. A comprehensive review of each application was completed by a team from the Natural Resources Division, Arkansas Department of Health, and Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment’s

Division of Environmental Quality. The Natural Resources Commission approved \$270 million to 157 water and wastewater projects and \$10 million to the Bayou Meto and White River Irrigation Projects. With the inclusion of the American Rescue Plan funding approvals, the Natural Resources Commission achieved a new milestone in fiscal year 2023 by approving more than \$1.1 billion for water-related projects across the state.

A successful bond sale was conducted securing \$43,000,000 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. A second bond sale of \$120 million was initiated for the State Revolving Loan Fund. Once complete, the funds will be used for low interest loans for public water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.

Over fiscal year 2023, continuous emphasis was placed on a growing awareness of natural resource issues and the Natural Resources Division's programs designed to address them. Staff were visible across the state to promote division programs, share success, and educate the public and partners about natural resources concerns and approaches. 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 additional accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2023 include:

- Funded 13 county unpaved roads projects totaling \$904,510 through the Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program
- 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
- Updated rules for the Water Resource Cost Share and the Wetland Riparian Tax Credit Program to increase landowner participation
- Finalized and released the 2022 groundwater summit proceedings and initiated a groundwater economics study with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture to better understand the value of groundwater to east Arkansas

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

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 are assigned to a separate region of the state, Northeast, Northwest, and South, to provide education and information as well as communicate district concerns. Section staff present information to district directors at area meetings, district field days, and youth workshops. The Conservation Section also oversees the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Pilot Program and coordinates activities with the Bayou Meto and Grand Prairie irrigation projects.

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 \$271,270 to conservation districts to serve as technical service providers that supply free planning and design services to agricultural producers participating in the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services (USDA-NRCS) programs
- Certified nutrient management planners wrote 1,206 plans
- Provided \$750,000 to conservation districts for water quality technicians to prepare nutrient management plans
- Provided \$150,000 in funding to 56 conservation districts for beaver bounties resulting in the removal of 16,516 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
- Contracted with an accounting firm to conduct conservation district agreed upon accounting procedures audit for fiscal years 2021 and 2022

Feral Hog Eradication Program

The Feral Hog Eradication Program provides coordination, leadership, and support 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 (AGFC) 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 USDA-NRCS Farm Bill grants related to feral swine control projects.

Accomplishments

Feral Hog Eradication Program's major accomplishments include:

- Continued coordination and implementation of USDA-NRCS Feral Swine Eradication and Control Project (FSCP) 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 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 the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Division with issuance of three aerial eradication permits for private landowners in six counties (Independence, Jackson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Little River, and Miller) to remove 1,104 feral swine comprising approximately 34,000 acres

- Documented the removal of 12,428 feral swine in Arkansas by members of the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force during FY23
- Served as co-chair of the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force to conduct quarterly meetings and address topics related to feral hogs within Arkansas
- Coordinated with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (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
- Continued to collaborate with USDA-APHIS and other Task Force partners with the development of a draft statewide feral hog elimination plan
- Initiated a feral swine removal project in cooperation with USDA-APHIS in Northeast Arkansas (Craighead, Clay, Greene, Mississippi, and Poinsett counties), focused on the elimination of feral swine within individual watershed hydrologic units

Bayou Meto and Grand Prairie Irrigation Projects

The Bayou Meto Water Management Project and Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project are irrigation projects that divert water from the Arkansas River and White River to provide an alternative agricultural water supply other than groundwater. Once constructed, river water will be delivered through newly constructed pumping stations, pipelines, canals, and existing channels to reduce the demand from the alluvial and Sparta aquifers. When operational, the projects will provide surface water for irrigation to approximately 15 percent of the farmed acreage in east Arkansas in areas with groundwater declines.

Accomplishments

- Bayou Meto Water Management District is currently constructing Canal 1000 Phase 3.1 (3.3 miles), and weather permitting, construction is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2023
 - The next phase of canal construction, Canal 1000 Phase 3.2 (3 miles), is 95 percent designed and the contract should be awarded by United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in early 2024
- Bridge construction has started on State Highways 161 and 165 and both bridges should be constructed in 2023
- Approximately nine miles of the Indian Bayou has been cleaned out for water delivery
- Design of the Little Bayou Meto Channel is 35 percent complete; USACE and Arkansas Game Fish Commission (AGFC) have been coordinating on the design and USACE has provided the plans to AGFC for review
- Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project has completed Canal 1000 (two miles) and construction has begun on the first mile of Canal 2000 (seven miles) which is nearly complete (construction of the smaller secondary canals and pipelines is ongoing)
- Phase 1 of the Grand Prairie Project is fully funded and consists of 15 miles of canal (canals 1,000, 2,000, and smaller secondary canals), siphons, pipelines, two state highway bridges, and four county road crossings
 - Once complete, it will provide irrigated water to 50,000 acres (approximately 20 percent of the total project) in the vicinity of DeValls Bluff, Tollville, Hazen, and about halfway to Carlisle; this phase is scheduled to be completed in 2025

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. In addition to traditional funding sources, the section also administers special funding for water related projects. In Fiscal Year 2023, \$280 million in American Rescue Plan funding was approved by the Governor's Office and Arkansas General Assembly for water related projects.

Each program administered by the Section 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 staff.

The primary types of projects funded include:

- 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)
- Irrigation projects

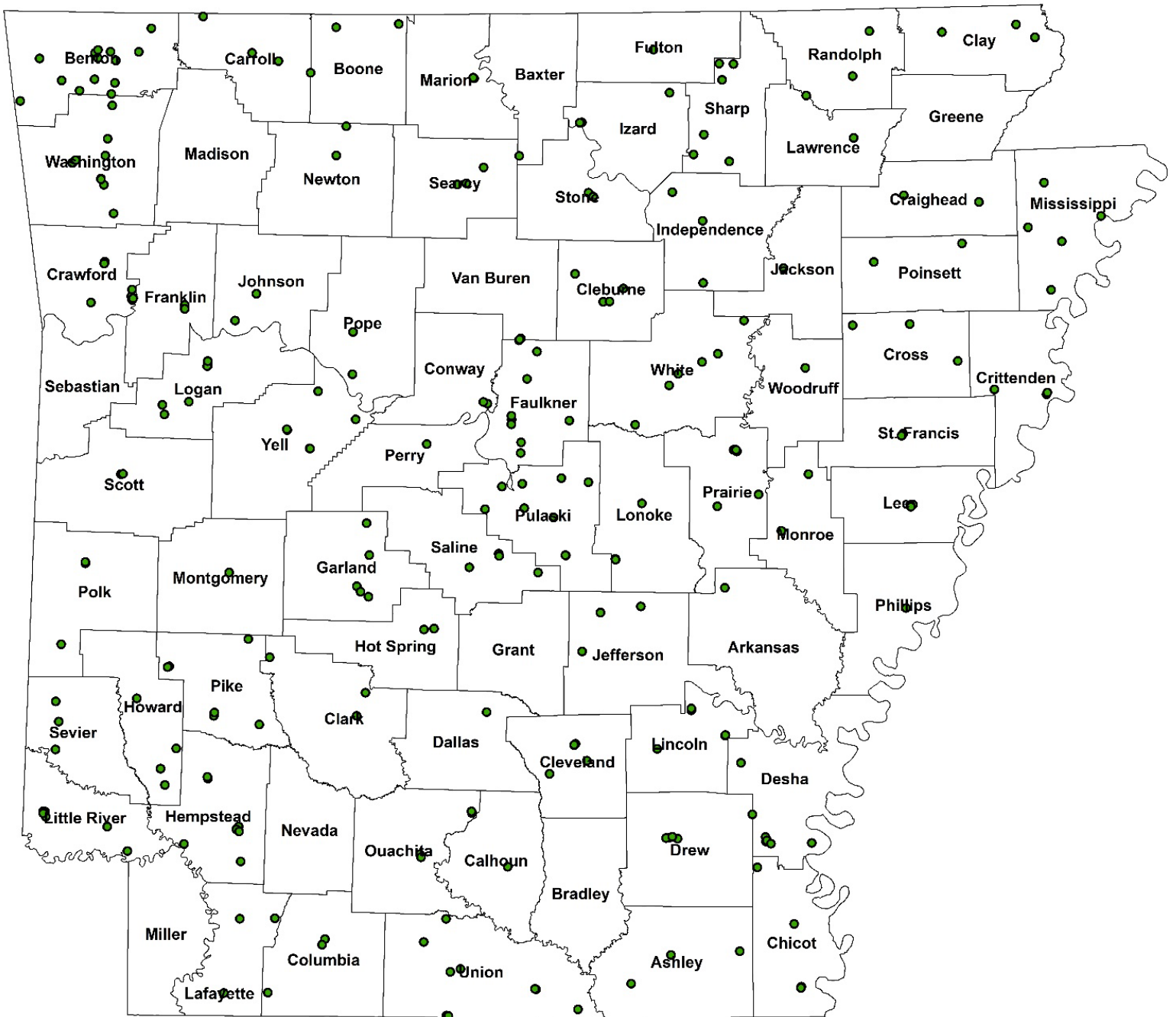
Eligible applicants include cities, towns, counties, rural development authorities, public facility boards, water associations, water authorities, improvement districts, regional water distribution districts, levee and drainage districts, conservation districts, regional solid waste authorities, and 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:

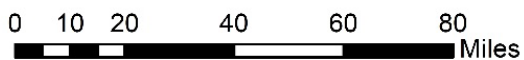
- Administered a record number of requests for funding from all sources totaling more than \$1.1 billion in approved funding for 302 projects across the state
- Disbursed \$106 million to projects including \$71.5 million from the Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds, \$38.8 million from state programs, and \$1 million from the funding authorized by Executive Order 19-09 for the repair of levees damaged in the May 2019 flood
- Provided \$1,380,6613 in low-interest funding for 14 projects, implementing conservation best management practices for nonpoint source agricultural water quality impacts on croplands in partnership with local financial institutions in Fiscal Year 2023
- Started construction on nine projects and completed construction on nine Commission funded projects
- Delivered 28 presentations to over 1,000 citizens across the state
- Produced four articles and five advertisements

Approved Water Development Projects (FY-2023)



Legend

- Commission Approved Projects
- County Boundaries



Water Resources Management Section

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

Dam Safety

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

Accomplishments

The Dam Safety Section's major accomplishments include:

- Inspected 15 high hazard dams, 18 significant hazard dams, and 12 low hazard dams
- Secured \$107,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding via the High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) grant program for Broadmoor Lake Dam to identify options for repair of the structure
- Presented the 2023 Dam Safety Workshop for representatives/owners of 45 dams, providing practical, straightforward information on topics of importance to anyone that owns or operates a dam
- Deployed the National Dam Safety Awareness Day social media campaign, promoting community responsibility and awareness
- Presented at the National Model Levee Program Workshop convened by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, representing agricultural interests in levee safety

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 the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for the state of Arkansas.

Accomplishments

The Floodplain Management's major accomplishments include:

- Provided in-person and virtual technical training and support on flood risk reduction and mitigation to 1,200 community officials representing 424 towns, cities, and counties

- Responded to 130 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 37 presentations, both in-person and virtual
- Assisted the Arkansas Department of Commerce in developing a deployment strategy for delivering \$1,201,812.50 in flood mitigation assistance
- Spearheaded efforts to provide state-of-the-art flood risk analysis and mapping to towns and cities in nine Arkansas counties for a total of 71 of the 75 counties in the state
- Continued 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, March 13 - 17, 2023
- 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
- Resumed community assistance visits with NFIP participating communities; a total of 28 communities received guidance through an audit of the community floodplain program for the year
- Delivered 372 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 Section staff works in partnership with the public and other agencies to accomplish these objectives.

Accomplishments

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

- Produced the annual Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Report pursuant to the Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Act 154 of 1991
- Developed a "story map" interactive web-based version of the Groundwater Protection and Management Report for 2022 data
- In cooperation with partners at the United States Geological Survey and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, collected water level measurements in the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial, Sparta, Tokio, and Nacatoch aquifers
- Managed the state's Conservation Tax Credit Program, including approving 59 new projects and issuing certificates of completion to 47 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 the Arkansas Masterwell Program
- Monitored 25 wells in the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial and Sparta aquifers for chloride, bromide, and other basic water quality parameters as a part of the Groundwater Salinity Program
- Released the 2022 groundwater summit proceedings and initiated a groundwater economics

Water Quality Section

The Water Quality Section encompasses four statewide programs including the Nonpoint Source Pollution Program, Arkansas Unpaved Road Program, Wetland and Riparian Tax Credit Program, and Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy. All programs work to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution results 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, dirt and gravel roads, and eroding streambanks
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock and animal wastes
- Hydromodification

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, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

Accomplishments

The Water Quality Section's major accomplishments include:

- Completed and submitted the 2022 Nonpoint Source Pollution Annual Report to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6
- Disbursed \$2,618,454 in federal funding and provided 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
- Submitted, and had accepted by EPA, watershed management plans for the Poteau River and Bayou Meto
- Completed stakeholder processes and submitted to EPA a watershed management plan for the Little Red River
- Continued ongoing efforts to develop or update watershed management plans for the Illinois River, Beaver Reservoir, Lower Arkansas-Maumelle, Lower Ouachita-Smackover, White Oak Bayou, Upper Saline River, and Lake Conway-Point Remove
- Approved 13 Agriculture Water Quality Loans to improve water quality through implementing nonpoint source conservation practices with loans totaling \$1,153,120
- Completed 13 inspections for best management practices at Title X Cost Share Program projects across four conservation districts
- Reimbursed 44 landowners a total of \$164,809 through participation in Title X Cost Share Program for implementing on-farm conservation practices
- Wetland and Riparian Zone Tax Credit Program staff processed and approved 11 new riparian zone tax credit projects totaling \$440,000 in eligible project costs, conducted 10 final project

inspections, monitored 24 projects, and conducted 14 project inspections

- Participated in the 2022 EPA Clean Water Needs Survey and identified over \$1.1 billion of nonpoint source related needs across cropland agriculture, hydromodification, livestock agriculture, and silviculture practices over the next 20 years
- Partnered with Great Lakes to Gulf Observatory with support from the Walton Family Foundation grant to develop a StoryMap outlining the Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy
 - <https://arkansas.greatlakestogulf.org/#/>
- Conducted over 20 presentations and had 25 social media releases or mentions
- Attended the Pennsylvania Dirt and Gravel Road training seminar, EPA Watershed Management Planning Short course, and EPA Pollution Load Estimation Tool (PLET) training

Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program

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

The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Grant Program receives \$300,000 annually from the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment’s solid waste collection fees. In fiscal year 2023, 15 project applications totaling \$936,208 were received.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program’s major accomplishments include:

- Completed two Environmental Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) trainings for state, county, and interested parties with over 30 counties and 50 individuals participating
- Funded a yearly record of 13 projects (listed below), utilizing 604,410 from the federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program as additional funding for projects meeting eligibility requirements

County	AURP (\$)	319 (\$)	Dollars Requested	Match
Sharp	\$27,192	\$0	\$27,192	\$27,365
Fulton	\$16,729	\$0	\$16,729	\$29,860
Greene	\$28,806	\$0	\$28,806	\$28,806
Hot Spring	\$75,000	\$26,500	\$101,500	\$101,859
Poinsett	\$72,190	\$0	\$72,190	\$71,583
Calhoun	\$75,000	\$14,476	\$89,476	\$170,981
Polk	\$5,083	\$69,917	\$75,000	\$89,587
Benton	-	\$148,023	\$148,023	\$151,100
Washington	-	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Conway	-	\$96,305	\$96,305	\$120,510
Johnson	-	\$97,610	\$97,610	\$92,680
Searcy	-	\$51,056	\$51,056	57,180
Pope	-	\$25,623	\$25,623	\$29,440
TOTAL	\$300,000	\$604,510	\$904,510	\$1,045,951

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 four new permits for the non-riparian withdrawal of surface water and renewed them
- Issued 22 water plan compliance determinations and determined that 251 projects were exempt from water plan compliance
- Processed and conducted technical reviews on 40 projects

Act 605 of 2021 – Oversight of Retail Water Providers

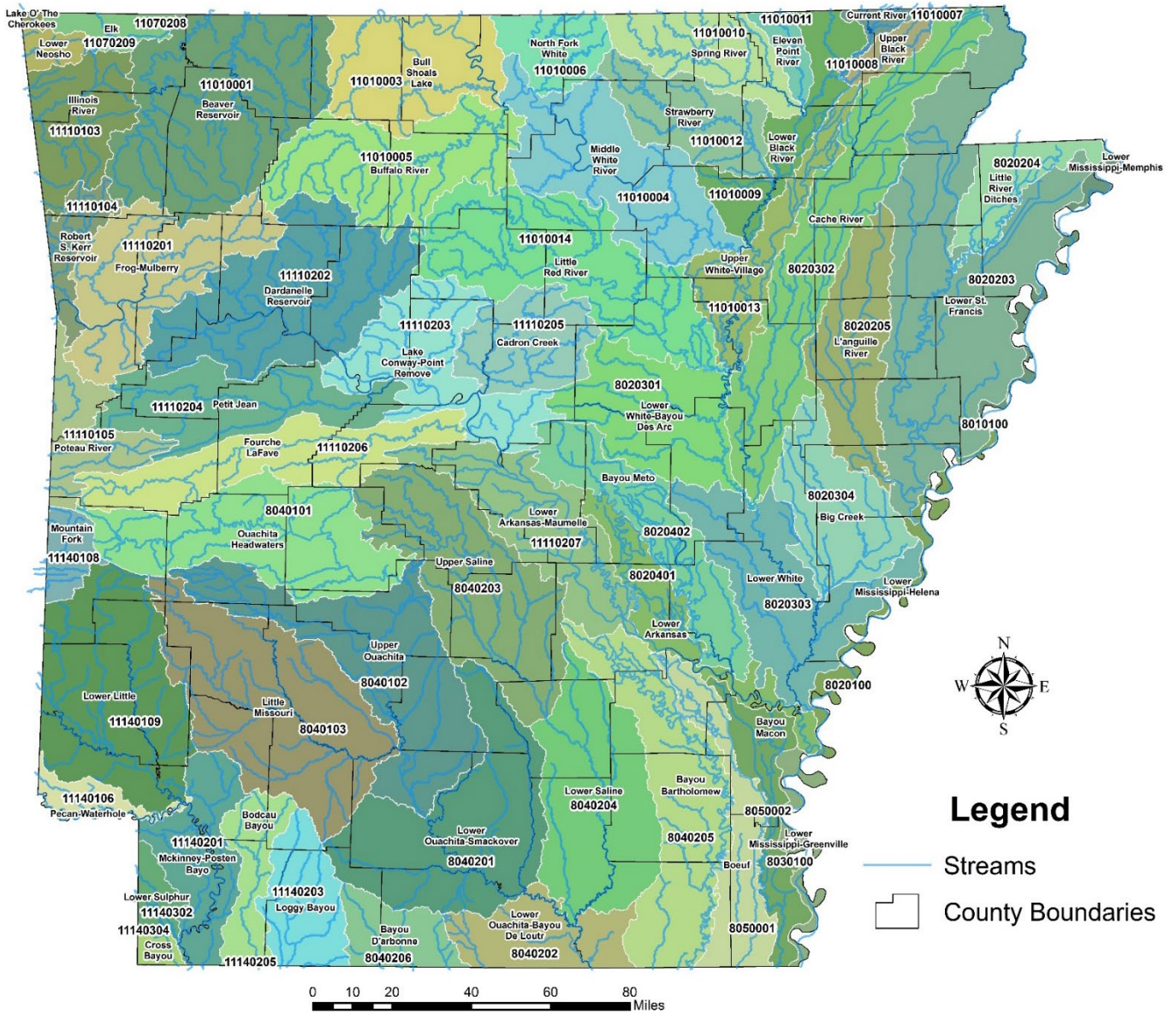
Act 605 of 2021 tasked retail water providers with additional responsibilities in managing and operating their water systems. These responsibilities include preparation of a rate study every five years or before any major development project.

Accomplishments

Major accomplishments regarding oversight of retail water providers include:

- Approved 27 rate study providers to perform the required rate studies for water service providers
- 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 to the website and social media platforms
- Mailed letters on Act 605 requirements to 675 retail service providers

Arkansas Watersheds



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
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Beaver Reservoir	1,389,297	Petit Jean	702,924	North Fork White	282,504
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Lower White	870,807	Lower Ouachita-Bayou De Loutre	442,135	Current	67,589
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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		

Plant Industries



RICE
#1 IN NATION



COTTON
#3 IN NATION



PEANUTS
#7 IN NATION

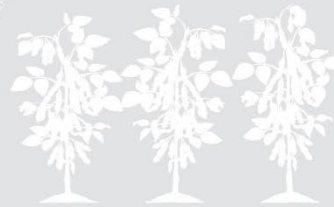
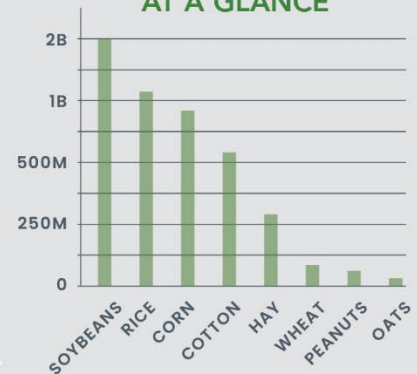


145,000 TONS
of Arkansas peanuts
graded annually



6.4 MILLION
Disposed of 6.4
million pounds of
unwanted pesticides
since 2005

TOP PRODUCERS AT A GLANCE



14,780
pesticides registered
and monitored

1,511
exports certified free of
pests, weeds, and disease

1,062
N.P.K. tests performed
on 473,745 tons of fertilizer



BUREAU OF STANDARDS

5,946
fuel dispensers tested

8,980
retail business inspections

3,809
scale inspections

3,164 TESTS

More than 3,164 quality assurance tests on seeds for more than 100 different crop varieties



AR TOP COMMODITIES RANKED NATIONALLY

- #1 in Rice
- #3 in Cotton
- #3 in Cottonseed
- #7 in Peanuts
- #10 in Soybeans
- #15 in Corn
- #22 in Oats
- #24 in Wheat
- #26 in Hay



62,869
registered bee colonies
4,052
beekeepers



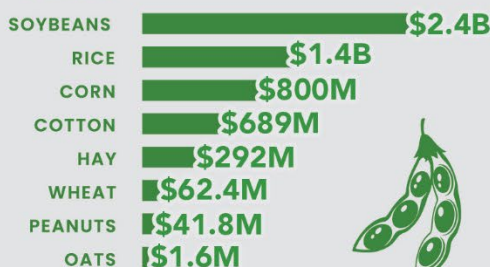
INVASIVE PEST QUARANTINE



FIRE ANT: 43 counties
EMERALD: 75 counties
ASH BORER



(by value of production)



ESSENTIAL!



PLANT INDUSTRIES
DIVISION

Ensuring quality products and services through education and regulatory enforcement.

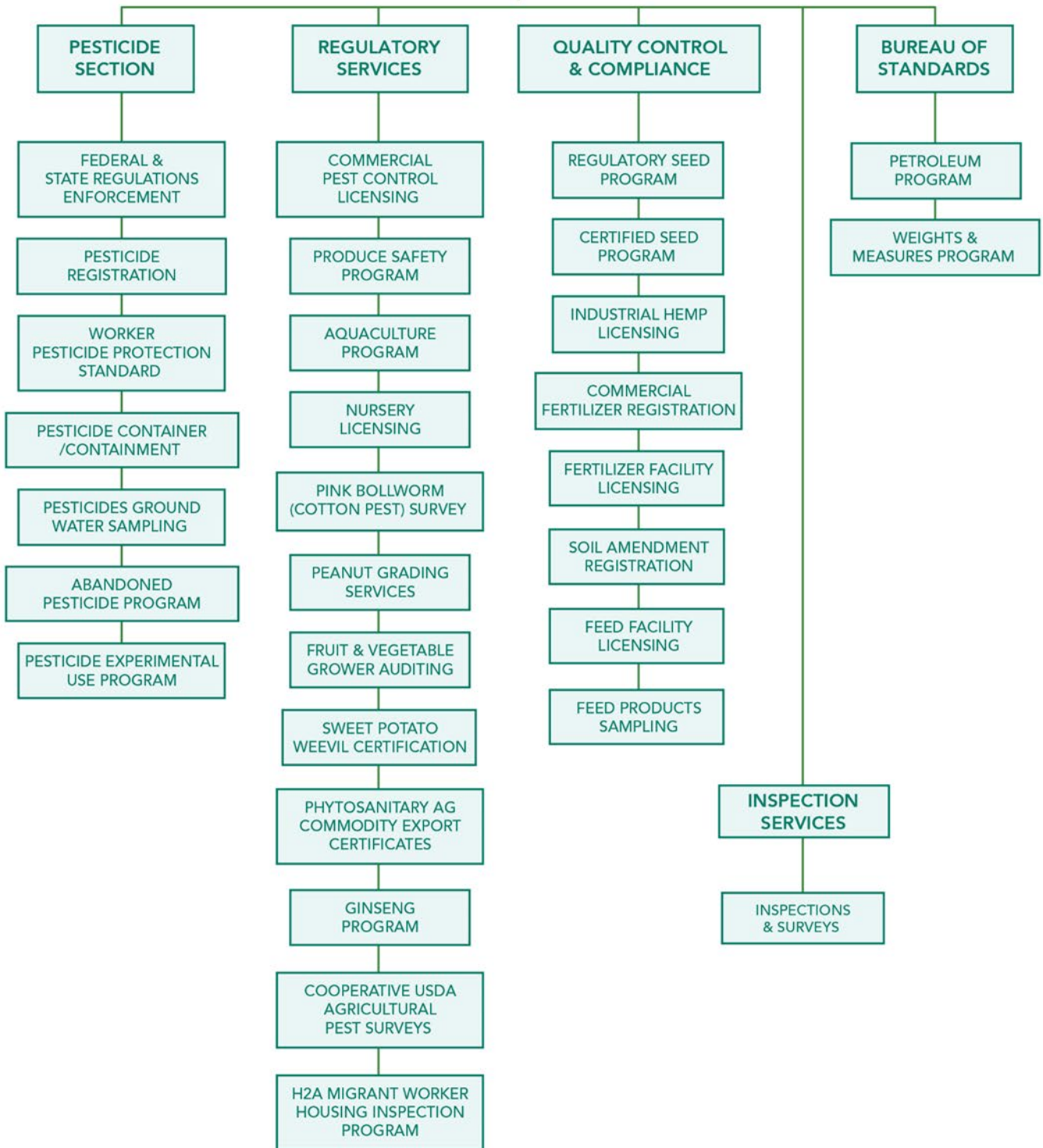
Data provided by the Plant Industries Division 2023

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



**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; and (5) Inspection Services Section.

The Division conducts work activities associated with 58 diverse programs with approximately 120 full-time employees and 78 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.

Throughout fiscal year 2023, the Plant Industries Division continued implementing the memorandum of agreement with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (ADWS) and Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing to assist with the H2A migrant and seasonal farmworker program. The Division provides onsite inspection of migrant worker housing by utilizing the 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. Since the Department began assisting ADWS with the program, Division staff have registered 754 entities that utilize H2A labor and have conducted over 1,000 housing inspections.

In fiscal year 2023, the Plant Industries Division continued to expand services to producers across the state. The Division’s peanut grading program grew to accommodate the industry’s significant and rapid growth over the past several years. The Department’s Peanut Grading program provides grading services to five buying points and one of the highest capacity shelling facilities in the nation.

The Division continued to monitor the site of the state’s first discovery of cogongrass, known as one of the world’s worst invasive species, that was found in eastern Arkansas in 2021. Surveys conducted by staff at the original site in May 2023 found no sign of cogongrass and no new sites have been detected. Staff will continue surveying the surrounding area of the original site.



**Plant Industries Division
Director
Scott Bray**

A summary of the Plant Industries Division's accomplishments by area of responsibility include:

Bureau of Standards Section

The Bureau of Standard'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 products and services. The section's regulatory goals are to provide consumers and businesses a fair-trade environment, 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 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 percent 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 State Petroleum Products Program's accomplishments include:

- 8,055 fuel samples collected
- 4,168 retail stations inspected
- 5,788 storage tanks inspected
- 19,038 laboratory tests performed
- 62 notices of violations issued
- 75 stop sales
- Increased compliance by assisting weights and measures staff in checking annual inspection decal requirements

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 American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standards.

The program consists of 16 field inspectors located 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's accomplishments include:

- 574 vehicle scales tested
- 400 platform scales tested
- 2,064 high volume fuel meters tested
- 11,352 meat packages inspected
- 2,004 packaged commodities inspected
- 5,946 petroleum pumps inspected
- 2,835 small scales inspected
- 120 fish identification inspections
- 1,265 egg labeling inspections
- 27 USDA country of origin labeling inspections
- 74 complaints investigations
- 203 notices of violations issued

Inspector Services Section

This section consists of one section manager, four district supervisors, and 25 inspectors located throughout the state. The inspectors provide 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 and Ornamental Certification Program)
- Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) Inspections
- Nursery/Landscape (licensing)
- Pink Bollworm
- Peanut Grading
- Agricultural Food Safety Improvement Program (AFSIP) (Fruit and Vegetables, Federal Audits)
- Sweet Potato Certification
- Phytosanitary Certificates
- Quarantines
- Ginseng
- Pest Survey
- CAPS (Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey – USDA)
- H2A Housing Inspections

Quality Control & Compliance Section

- Regulatory Seed Label Compliance
- Certified Seed Program Compliance
- Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Rice Testing
- Commercial Fertilizer Product Registration
- Fertilizer Facility Licensing
- Soil Amendment Product Registration
- Lime Product Registration
- Feed Facility Licensing
- Collection of Tonnage Fees for Feed, Fertilizer, Lime, and Seed
- Public Grain Warehouse Licensing
- Grain Dealer Licensing
- Grain Grader Certification
- Arkansas Agricultural Consultant Licensing
- Industrial Hemp

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 = 1,312
- 2018 = 456
- 2019 = 462

- 2020 = 514
- 2021 = 565
- 2022 = 418
- 2023 = 227

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, and implements a state ground water protection plan.

Accomplishments

The Pesticide Section's accomplishments include:

- 1,494 pesticide manufacturers registered
- 14,780 pesticide products registered
- 462 pesticide dealers licensed
- 131 commercial applicators certified and 455 re-certified
- 43 commercial applicator technicians certified and 51 re-certified
- 198 non-commercial applicators certified and 183 re-certified
- 1015 private applicators certified and 4435 re-certified
- 34 training and testing sessions attended
- 125 aerial commercial firms licensed; 194 ground commercial firms licensed
- 314 aerial individual commercial applicators licensed; 531 ground individual commercial applicators licensed
- 63 commercial applicator technicians licensed
- 473 non-commercial applicators licensed
- 3,361 five-year private applicators licensed; 269 1-year private applicators licensed
- One private applicator with pilot authorization licensed
- 139 custom applicators permitted
- Four custom applicators permitted tree injection and similar methods
- 182 custom pilots authorized
- 35 pieces of application equipment inspected
- 547 various inspections and sampling conducted
- 365,363 pounds of abandoned pesticides collected in 17 counties
- 502 requests for investigations

- 53 warning letters issued
- 77 civil complaints issued
- 120 administrative hearings conducted
- 24 civil penalties issued
- 216 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 System 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

- 296 seed labelers licenses issued
- 102 seed treater licenses issued
- 719 seed labels reviewed
- 14,000 acres inspected and certified
- 16 stop sales issued
- 1,500 GMO rice lots sampled and tested
- 90,000 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 assists 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

- 1,133 feed facility licenses issued
- 1,442 sample reports received
- 181 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, conduct random sampling from retail and distribution sites for laboratory testing against label claims, and investigate consumer complaints of product inferiority and contamination and unlicensed activity.

Accomplishments

Fertilizer:

- 501 fertilizer companies registered
- 5383 fertilizer products registered
- 244 Arkansas fertilizer facilities licensed
- 433 fertilizer sample reports received
- 42 penalties issued

Soil Amendments:

- 162 soil companies registered
- 585 soil amendment products registered

Lime:

- 100 lime companies registered
- 145 liming products registered
- 75 lime sample reports received
- Six lime penalties issued

Industrial Hemp Program

The 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 9, 2021, creating the Arkansas Hemp Program effective January 1, 2022. The original Arkansas Hemp Research Program began in 2018. The research program was created under the Arkansas 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 updated rules are promulgated.

Accomplishments

- 42 total licenses approved:
 - 28 licensed growers
 - 14 licensed processors
- 35 fields totaling 126.1 acres approved
- 32 greenhouses totaling 70,841 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. Licensed agricultural consultants must complete 20 continuing education hours every two years, 10 hours must be completed in Arkansas. Staff reviews applications and administers a test to each qualified license applicant. Staff verifies continuing education requirements are met using an online application developed by the Department. The application allows staff and consultants to view licenses status, payment history, and accumulated continuing education hours. Hours can be submitted by consultants using a smart phone as classes are completed.

Accomplishments

- 141 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, Grain Dealer Law, and 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.

Public Grain Warehouse Law

Staff auditors are required to audit each licensed grain warehouse at least once annually. 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

- 36 licenses issued
- 27 audits conducted

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

- 29 licenses issued
- 16 audits conducted

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 two-year certificate for individuals who have completed this course of instruction.

Accomplishments

- 36 certificates issued

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 FY2023.

Regulatory Services Section

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

The Regulatory Services Section hosted the 97th National Plant Board meeting from July 30 to August 4. This meeting included attendees from USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine, Customs and Border Protection, and National Plant Board.

The Regulatory Services Section had two staff members trained in shipping point inspections for sweet potatoes. This will allow the Department to better serve the marketing needs of our state and growers.

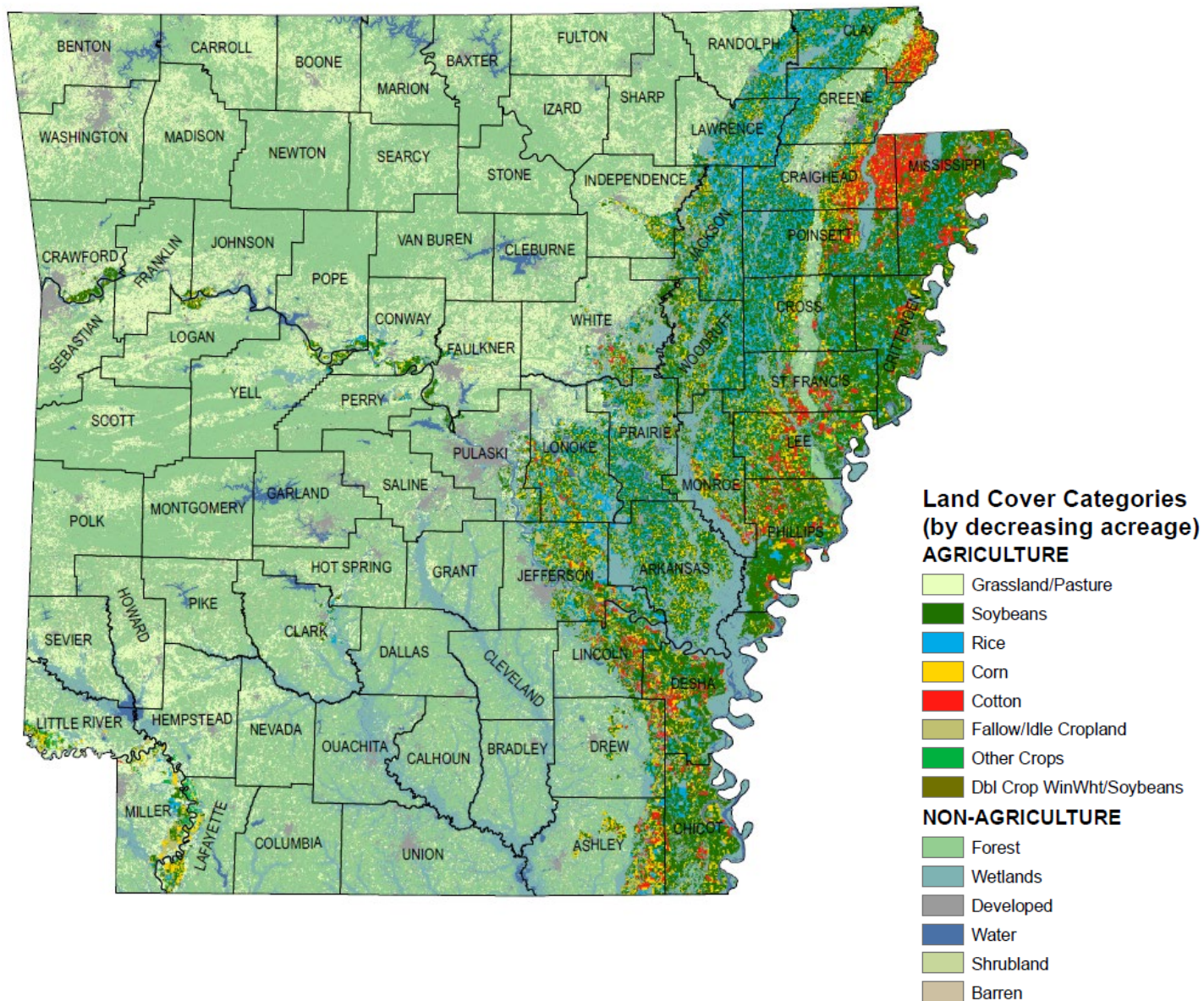
In addition to full-time staff, the Regulatory Services Section also hires seasonal employees as needed for survey work, fruit and vegetable inspecting, and peanut grading.

Accomplishments

- 216 bio-regulatory permits reviewed
- 1,511 phytosanitary certificates issued
- 764 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
- 740 nursery licenses issued
- Issued certificates for harvested ginseng, 455 pounds dry and 38 pounds green
- 4,052 beekeepers registered
- 1,895 apiary colonies inspected
- Collected \$1,833,012.75 on 599,743.5 acres from 701 producers in the Boll Weevil Eradication Program
- Surveyed/trapped and certified 5,436.51 acres in the Sweet Potato Weevil Program
- Surveyed/trapped 29 gins in the Pink Bollworm Program
- 13,740.8 aquaculture acres certified in the Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Certification Program
- Commercial Pest Control
 - 1,205 licensed operators
 - 2,743 technicians registered
 - 75 applicants certified
 - 221 inspections performed
- 14 growers trained and eight large farms, seven small farms, and eight very small farms inspected through the Produce Safety Program
- Fruit and vegetable inspections conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement:
 - Fresh Tomatoes – 6,500 lbs. inspected, which is one percent of the total lot
 - Cucumbers – 2,700 lbs. inspected, which is one percent of the total lot
 - Sweet Peppers – 1,500 lbs. inspected of the total lot
- 21 audits conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement
 - 20 Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices Audits
 - One USDA Harmonized GAP Plus + Field Harvest Audits
- Peanut Grading
 - Provided peanut grading services to two companies: Birdsong and Delta Peanut
 - Producers grew 65,000 acres
 - Department staff graded 145,000 tons
- Biotechnology Regulatory Services inspections- nine completed
- Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey:
 - 25 surveys conducted in the Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey Program
- Over 1,000 H2A Agri labor housing inspections performed

Arkansas Land Cover Categories

Source: USDA National and Delta Regional Agricultural Statistics Service



Shared Services



FISCAL



HUMAN RESOURCES



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



LAW ENFORCEMENT



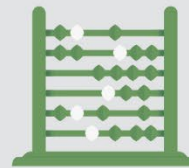
LEGAL



LABORATORY SERVICES



TRADE & ECONOMICS



TEAMS!



\$535 MILLION

Fiscal managed a combined operating budget of more than \$535 million



22,232

vendor invoices processed



\$19,000,000

in federal grant aid payments processed



\$32,000,000

federal grant aid reimbursement requested



\$1,108,049

in restitution returned to land owners



LAW ENFORCEMENT

\$5,704

received in fines

176

law enforcement cases resolved

231

assists performed



149 Positions

Human Resources processed **149** hires and promotions across all divisions



Marketing issued **85** press releases, and promoted **17** state proclamations

NEW RULES

Assisted Department's boards and commissions in promulgating **5** new rules



LOAN MEDIATIONS

Coordinated **6** farm loan mediations, with **2** resulting in successful resolutions



SHARED SERVICES DIVISION

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

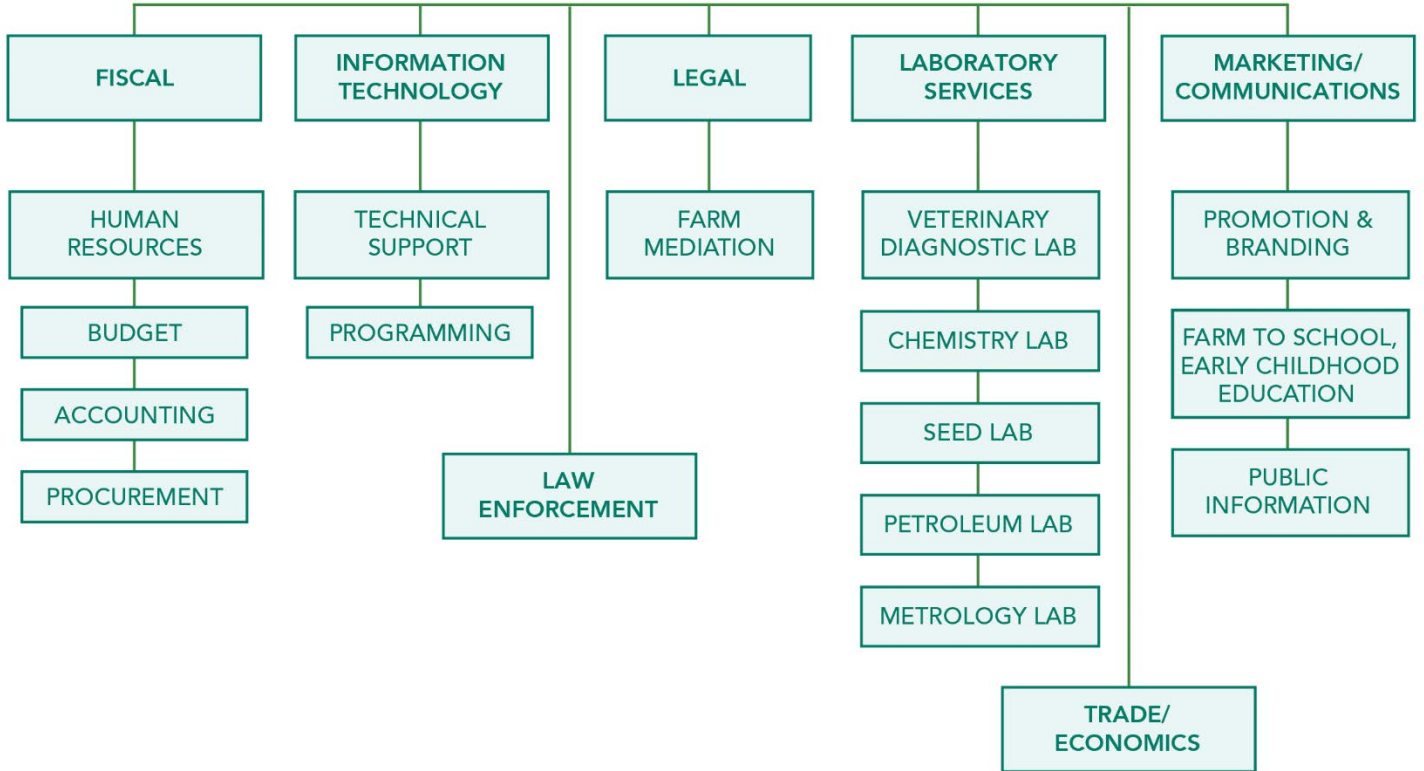
Data provided by the Shared Services Division 2023

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



**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; and (7) Trade/Economics.

All sections within the Shared Services Division collaborated extensively throughout fiscal year 2023 to update and streamline programs and processes to improve workflows and increase efficiencies. These improvements help the Department achieve its goal of providing excellent service to the public and supporting Department staff 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 2023 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 added 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 \$1.1 million 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, agricultural partners, and consumers. The team collaborated with five state associations to host the Arkansas Grown Conference and Expo, the first-ever statewide gathering of producers in the local food system. The event had more than 450 registrations and 70 vendors, exceeding expectations by more than 300 percent. In preparation for the transfer of the agricultural commodity research and promotion boards to the Department, the Marketing and Communications team worked with the previous board administrators and other Department staff to develop transition plans to ensure successful continuation of promotion and outreach activities.

The Shared Services Division's accomplishments include:

- Processed 149 employee hires/promotions and 25 employee retirements
- Processed over \$6 million in federal grant aid payments to subrecipients
- Developed several new applications including those for the Livestock and Poultry Division's inspection, quarantine, and egg grading activities
- Developed a new application utilizing the Department's weather stations to assist in pesticide program activities
- Leveraged current information technology applications to cover more departments, including the expansion of the document management system to house more information from all sections
- Assisted Department boards/commissions with adoption or amendment of five administrative rules, including one emergency rule, and the repeal of three rules
- Conducted training for Department staff on a variety of topics, including Freedom of Information laws, 4th Amendment issues, civil rights, and employment law
- Presented before the Arkansas Fire School regarding prescribed burn liability, the Association of Arkansas Counties on employment law and the Freedom of Information Act, and to Arkansas Farm Bureau on various agricultural issues
- Served as chair of the Red River Compact Commission's Legal committee
- Assisted in securing \$1,108,049 in restitution to landowners in agriculture-related theft cases
- Received approval of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's Tollett Veterinary Laboratory as an official NAHLN branch lab of the Department's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL)
- Hosted eight tours of the VDL for agriculture industry partner organizations
- Continued to provide extensive laboratory testing services, including conducting a combined total of 594,881 tests in the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Chemistry Lab, Petroleum Lab, and Seed Lab
- Provided laboratory testing support to other state entities, including Chronic Wasting Disease testing for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Upgraded the navigability and functionality of the weekly market report that includes relevant market information for all sectors of Arkansas agriculture
- Hosted the first-ever Arkansas Grown Conference and Expo that included 450 registrants and 70 vendors, exceeding expectations by over 300 percent
- Increased membership in the Arkansas Grown, Homegrown by Heroes, and Arkansas Made programs by 152 new members, a 19 percent increase over the previous year
- Continued the development and expansion of the Arkansas Farm to School Program and provided technical assistance to 94 Arkansas schools, farmers, agencies, and non-profits
- Maintained 16 social media channels, distributed 85 press releases, facilitated 105 interviews, and produced 52 online newsletters
- Developed and distributed the 2023 edition of the Department's *Arkansas Grown* magazine

Fiscal Section

The fiscal staff provides a full range of fiscal support to all divisions within the Department, including budgeting, procurement, receivables, and federal grant reimbursement and reporting. In fiscal year 2023, 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:

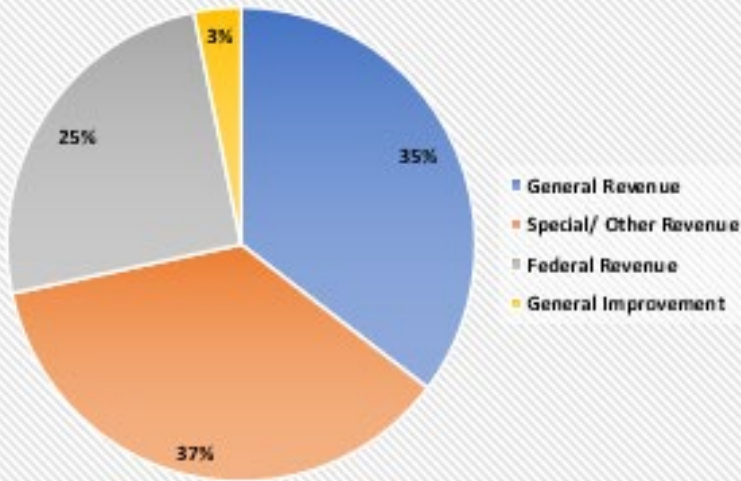
- Processed 22,232 vendor invoices in FY 2023
- Processed over \$19 million in federal grant aid payments to subrecipients
- Requested over \$32 million in federal grant reimbursements

**Department and Division FY 2023
Adjusted Budget and Expenditures**

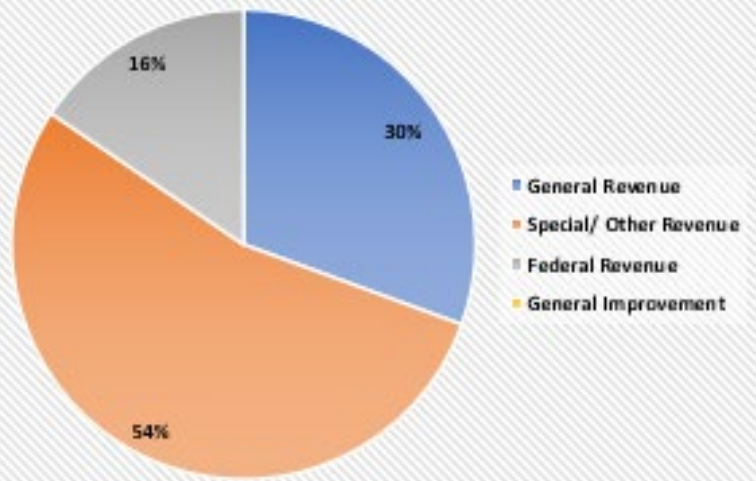
<u>Department and Divi: Adjusted Budget</u>	<u>Capital Improvement Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Forestry Division	\$36,899,677	\$26,320,709
Livestock & Poultry Divisi	\$16,560,677	\$10,548,012
Natural Resources Divisic	\$168,467,111	\$50,935,311
Plant Industries Division	\$20,809,092	\$12,564,447
Administration	\$292,504,665	\$24,569,616
Soil Classifiers	\$1,296	\$52
Registration for Foresters	\$46,160	\$2,696
Veterinary Board	\$132,067	\$101,076
Department	\$123,623,129	\$1,637,166
TOTALS	\$535,420,745	\$126,679,085

FY 2023 Revenue Sources

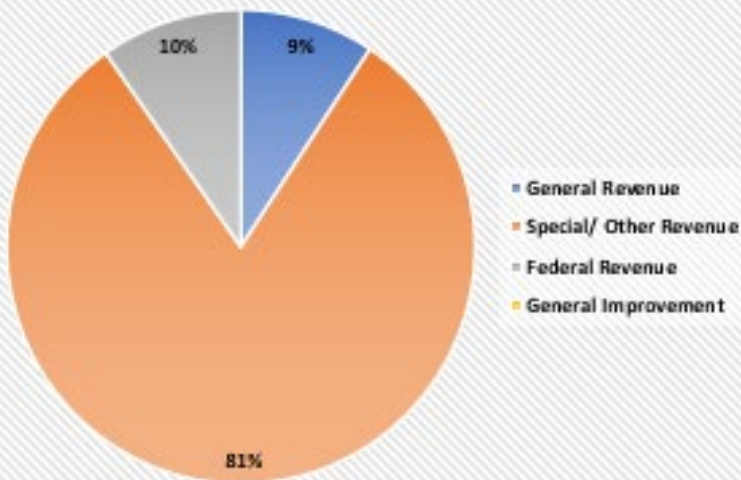
Forestry Division



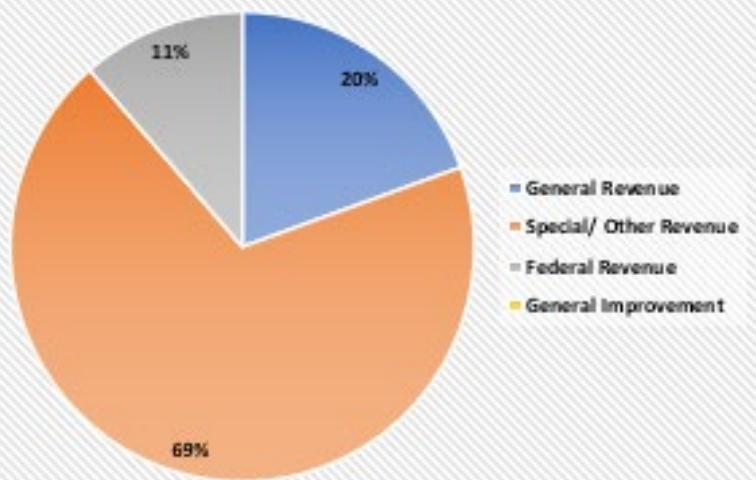
Livestock and Poultry



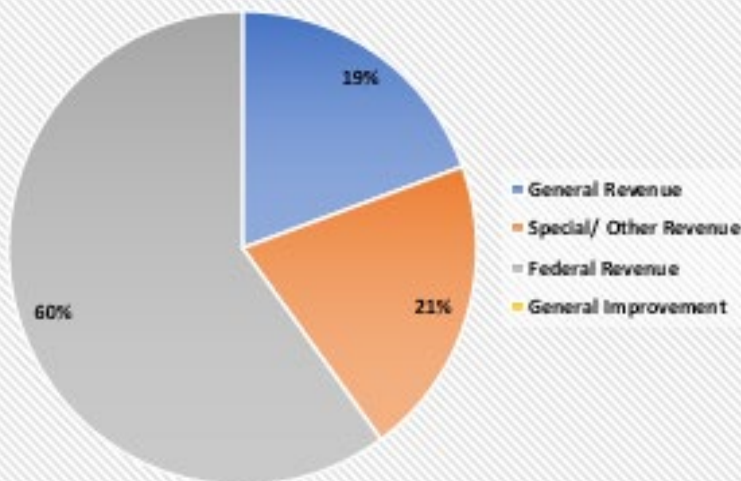
Natural Resources Commission



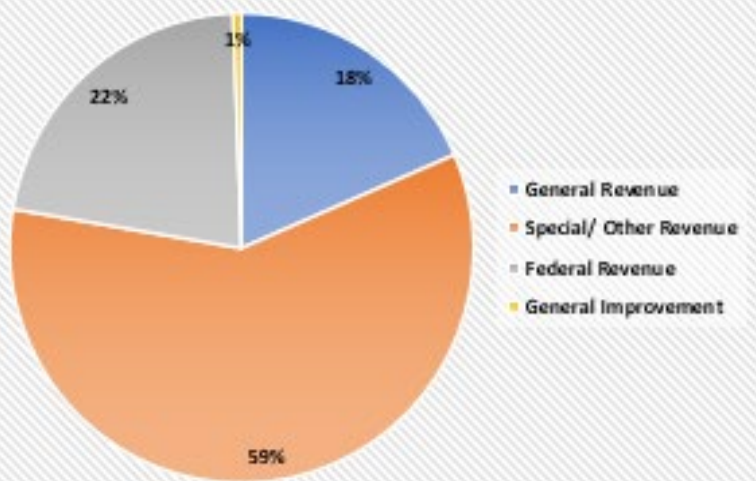
Plant Industries



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's major accomplishments include:

- Continuation of ARCareers system for personnel hiring and onboarding
- Processed 149 employee hires and promotions
- Processed 25 retirements
- Processed 72 resignations
- Processed 13 terminations
- Processed 16 transfers
- Continued scanning of personnel files for storage savings
- Created and issued 203 employee ID badges
- Continuation of tracking required training throughout Department

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:

- Developed an application to manage sale barn inspection activity and animal quarantines that is currently being expanded to capture more data in assisting the Livestock and Poultry Division
- Expanded the document management system to house more information from all departments. Introducing a paper-to-digital transformation to those areas
- Updated and improved the poultry egg application, adding several new features
- Upgraded all user systems to Windows 11
- Implemented a new licensing tool that combines several smaller applications into one eliminating older and obsolete software
- Introduced numerous small applications to assist with employees' daily activities
- Initiated site reviews for external locations to upgrade and enhance the facility with better equipment and tools
- Developed a Weather Application, utilizing our current weather stations, to assist in pesticide inspection

Legal Section

The Legal Section furnishes advice on all legal issues arising during 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 the 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 attorneys interpret new or amended laws to aid the Department in implementing those laws and assist 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, 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.

During fiscal year 2023, the Legal Section provided representation for the following:

- Department of Agriculture
- Agriculture Board
- Plant Board
- Livestock and Poultry Commission
- Forestry Commission
- Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board
- Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Committee
- Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board
- 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
- Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program
- Commission on Water Well Construction
- Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee
- Red River Commission
- Veterinary Medical Examining Board

In addition, while not specifically counsel for these entities, the Legal Section provides advice and counsel to the Department regarding:

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

Personnel:

- Chief Counsel
- Managing Attorney
- Attorney Specialist (2)
- Accountant
- Program Manager
- Administrative Analyst
- Legal Services Specialist

Major Accomplishments

- Assisted Department boards/commissions with adoption or amendment of five administrative rules, including one emergency rule, and the repeal of three rules
- Conducted training for Department Staff on a variety of topics, including Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 4th Amendment issues, and civil rights
- Reduced enforcement backlog for pesticide case by approximately 15 percent through streamlined settlement agreements and expedited settlement offers
- Presented before the Arkansas Fire School regarding prescribed burn liability; the Association of Arkansas Counties on employment law and FOIA; and Arkansas Farm Bureau on various agricultural issues
- 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, including acting as chair of the legal committee for that commission
- Represented the Department before multiple legislative committees on issues ranging from rulemaking to occupational licensure
- Instituted a new document management system within the Legal Section, allowing for more efficient methods of maintaining and retrieving contracts, cooperative agreements, and memoranda of agreement

Farm Mediation Program

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

While it is mandatory that a creditor offers mediation to a farmer to settle credit issues prior to taking any type of legal action, participation in the Farmer/Creditor Mediation Program is completely voluntary. This means that no one is forced to accept mediation, and if mediated, no one is required to

accept a negotiated agreement. The program is open to farmers with secured indebtedness totaling \$20,000 or more.

Accomplishments

The Farm Mediation Program's accomplishments include:

- From July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, 179 case files were established affecting \$76,953,356.10 in loans and collateral with an average loan size being \$430,000
- 12 mediations were requested, but in working with the borrowers and lenders prior to mediation, almost half settled or were withdrawn before mediation could occur
- Six mediations have been held, two agreements have been reached, but not all requested mediations have been completed yet

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
 - Main laboratory in Little Rock
 - Branch laboratory in Fayetteville
- 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 based on 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:

- Continued recognition of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) by the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN):
 - Renewed infrastructure grant of \$287,870 for FY2024
 - Approval of a new NAHLN branch laboratory at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Tollett VDL
- Hosting of the annual aquaculture producers' workshop in Lonoke, AR
- Complete re-tooling of the State Standards Lab mass calibration service area
- Renewal of the Drug Enforcement Administration Schedule I permit for the Industrial Hemp Program

- Lab tours by National Women in Agriculture, Arkansas State University Beebe Veterinary Technician students, Arkansas Cattlemen's Association Arkansas Cattlemen's Leadership Course, Future Farmers of America, Farm Bureau Ag Youth Leadership Seminar, MyARInternship Program, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff AgDiscovery students
- Initiated field testing of fuel transport trucks at point of retail delivery to corroborate results obtained from samples collected at the pump
- Proficiency testing in 55 areas covering all aspects of laboratory services
- Board certification of the VDL's veterinary pathologist by the American College of Veterinary Pathology
- Alignment with the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System through modernization of laboratory equipment
- Planned replacement of the seed lab's case management and reporting software
- Offered a more sensitive and faster diagnostic test for *Tritrichomonas foetus*, a pathogenic microorganism of concern in cattle

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 VDL is our first line of defense in monitoring and identifying potential animal disease outbreaks in the field.

The VDL has completed the addition of 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 Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory's major accomplishments include:

- Completion of 558,146 total tests

- Completion of 4,484 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) screening tests
- Pathogen screening in 23,887 fish submitted by 64 aquaculture producers (37 Arkansas and 27 out-of-state)
- Conducted 16,138 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) procedures
- Conducted 78 drug screens for the Arkansas State Fair livestock show
- Conducted 143,134 tests for mycoplasma bacteria
- Conducted 4,644 tests on specimens related mostly to pets seen in veterinary clinics
- Conducted 9,412 tests in the bacteriology section
- Conducted 11,784 tests by the virology section
- Conducted 504 necropsies
- Conducted 2,566 Avian Influenza (AI PCR) sample analyses, including surveillance zone movement, non-Foreign Animal Disease (non-FAD) sick bird calls, and regulatory samples
- Evaluation of 1,088 AI FAD samples for both FAD investigations and surveillance

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's major accomplishments include:

- Sampled over 4,000 fuel stations, including retail, wholesale, and distribution points
- Collected 5,999 gasoline samples, 2,051 diesel samples, and seven biodiesel samples
- Performed 18,683 tests on fuel samples to ensure product reliability
- Responded to 76 complaints, re-sampling of 78 stations, and completion of 22 requested compliance checks

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 have 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. The samples must be taken by Plant Industries Division 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, seed identification, and genetic technology. Continuing education also included Association of Official Seed Analyst (AOSA) webinars and proficiency testing. One seed analyst attended the Winter Grass Workshop at Oregon State University, and another attended a Purity Short Course at Iowa State University.

The seed lab completed the data base project that replaced the 30-year-old Alpha 5 with LTrack Access. The seed lab is now nearly paperless, and one of the first public labs in the United States to go paperless. Each seed analyst is now issued a surface pro to enter data from their desk to increase efficiency. The seed lab also acquired the first digital microscope (a Targano Company model Trend).

Accomplishments

The Seed Laboratory's major accomplishments include:

- Analysis of 3,164 seed samples
- Completion of 2,174 purity tests
- Completion of 2,931 germination tests
- Completion of 250 accelerated aging tests
- Completion of 206 herbicide tolerance tests
- Completion of 637 red rice tests for a total of 2,053 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.

The metrology laboratory is committed to the protection of trade and equipping the 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's major accomplishments include:

- Certification of 1,422 large mass standards (25 lb. – 1000 lb.)
- Certification of 1,546 small mass standards (0.001 lb. – 10 lbs.)
- Certification of 171 volume provers (5 gallon)
- Certification of 106 grain moisture meters
- Received full recognition from the NIST Office of Weights and Measures for Mass Echelon 3 and Volume Echelon 2 - Volume Transfer

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.

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 Collaborative Testing Services Hemp Proficiency Testing Program. Regulatory analyses are performed in accordance with Association of Official Agricultural Chemists (AOAC) guidelines.

During Fiscal Year 2023, the pesticide residue analysis unit of the chemistry laboratory started working as an independent laboratory section, known as the residue lab. This lab continues to share resources with the chemistry laboratory. The primary reason in carving this lab out as an independent laboratory is to help focus on the need of our agency for trace level analyses in plant, soil, water, and other matrices.

The residue chemistry lab primarily assists the Pesticide and Pest Control Sections of the Plant Industries Division in cases of misuse and off-target applications of pesticides to include plant, soil, animal, and human exposure cases. It also provides chemical testing services to other divisions of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, whenever requested.

The residue lab also conducts a survey of pesticide contamination in groundwater throughout the state. The lab usually receives requests for pesticide residue testing in the following matrices: vegetation, soil, water, swabs, clothing, and bees. Most of the analysis originates in the form of vegetation samples taken by the Pesticide division for case files involving off-target pesticide applications. Soil samples submitted by the Pest Control Section are analyzed to ensure compliance of termiticides applications. The lab also aids Plant Industries Division in monitoring groundwater throughout the state. Over 600 tests were performed on samples under the groundwater program. Continued successful participation in the Wisconsin Pesticide Residue Check Sample Program is indicative of the integrity throughout the residue lab.

Accomplishments

The Chemistry Laboratory's major accomplishments include:

- Performed 11,854 total tests
- Completion of 9,493 tests on 1,526 feed samples
- Completion of 1,668 tests on 427 fertilizer samples
- Completion of 240 tests on 91 limestone samples
- Completion of 231 tests on 125 pesticide samples
- Completion of 109 tests on 58 industrial hemp samples
- Completion of 113 tests on toxicology samples
- Modernization of the chemistry laboratory through the refurbishment of both grinders and the purchase of a new Agilent 1260 UHPLC to replace failing equipment
- Hemp grown in Arkansas is monitored for THC compliance with state and federal guidelines

The Residue Laboratory staff's major accomplishments include:

- Analysis of 222 vegetation samples for various types of pesticides in minute amounts
- Analysis of 79 water samples towards groundwater program and other pesticide residue inquiries
- Analysis of 29 soil samples to aid in pest control and other inspections
- Analysis of nine swabs and two clothing samples in pesticide human exposure inquiries
- Analysis of four honeybee samples to aid our partners in Apiary section
- Analysis of 14 other miscellaneous samples to aid Plant Industries Division and Laboratory Services Section
- Supervisor attended Pittsburg Conference covering the latest advances in analytical chemistry
- Modernization of the residue laboratory through the purchase of sample preparation equipment, including a bead mill homogenizer, nitrogen based solvent evaporator, and more
- The residue laboratory also implemented the following practices to enhance quality control measures: pesticide standard logbook, UPLC mobile phase logbook, fridge/freezer log, etc.
- In collaboration with the Plant Industries Division personnel, the residue lab streamlined groundwater case number assignment and reporting of results.

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. Common investigations include wildfire arson, timber theft, livestock theft, and agricultural and forestry equipment theft or vandalism.

Accomplishments

The Law Enforcement Section's major accomplishments include:

- Opened 277 Law Enforcement Cases in FY2023
 - Timber – 83

- Fire – 33
- Equipment – One
- Dumping – 19
- ADA property – Five
- Agency assistance – 32
- Livestock and Poultry – 99
- Closed 176 Law Enforcement Cases in FY2023
 - Timber – 60
 - Fire – 11
 - Equipment – One
 - Dumping – 22
 - ADA property – Three
 - Agency assistance – 16
 - Livestock and Poultry – 58
- Restitution to landowners: \$1,108,049.90
- Fine money and suppression fees back to agency: \$5,704.15
- Law enforcement agency assists: 231
- Minority assists: 124

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 provides updates 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 events
- Arkansas Farmers Market Promotion Grant
- Arkansas Farmers Market Shopping Bag Program
- Arkansas Century Farm Program
- Arkansas Department of Agriculture Scholarship Program
- USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant
- USDA National Organic Certification Cost Share Program
- Market Access Programs through the Southern United States Trade Association and National

Association of State Departments of Agriculture

- 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
- Arkansas Grown Conference
- Local Food, Farms, and Job Act
- Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest
- Arkansas School Garden Grant Program
- Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program
- 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's accomplishments include:

- Distributed 85 press releases to media partners and partner agencies, to include 10 media advisories
- Facilitated 127 media requests
- Facilitated 105 interviews to include those provided by the branding programs, Farm to School Program, and minority outreach
- Developed and distributed 52 e-newsletters to stakeholders to include the Department newsletter, Farm to School newsletter, Fire Wire newsletter, and Conservation Corner newsletter
- Provided photo coverage at 19 events
- Developed and distributed the 2023 edition of the *Arkansas Grown* magazine
- Facilitated and hosted 17 proclamation events
- Distributed \$357,000 in USDA Specialty Crop grants
- Provided support and resources to Arkansas stakeholder industries via the USDA Farm and Ranch Stress Network Assistance Grants, received additional funding of \$59,605 to continue support to the Arkansas agricultural community
- 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 eight students with funding from civil penalties collected by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture
- Provided 13,145 Certificates of Free Sale
- Inducted 37 families into the Arkansas Century Farm Program
- Distributed \$9,000 in promotional funds to 25 Arkansas farmers markets through a partnership with Farm Credit

- Provided more than 25,750 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 527 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 and the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff MANRRS chapters
- Completed the employee photo project for all Department employees
- Maintained 16 digital media outlets to include seven Facebook pages, two Twitter accounts, two Instagram accounts, one YouTube account, one LinkedIn account, one Flickr account, the Department website, and the Arkansas Grown/Farm to School website
- Maintained the Department clothing website
- Manned booths at 14 trade shows and/or career expos
- Provided daily media tracking for the Department
- Provided coverage of Department Board and Commission Meetings
- Facilitated the Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest
- Facilitated the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program
- Facilitated the Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program
- Participated on the Southern Group of State Foresters Communications Committee, attending quarterly calls and two annual meetings
- With the transfer of the Agricultural Research and Promotion Boards to the Department, the Marketing and Communications team worked with other Department staff to develop plans for continuing the functions of these boards

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 152 new members (a 19.3 percent increase over FY22)
- Secured 18 Arkansas Grown and Arkansas Made supporter members (an increase of 11 or 157 percent over FY22)
- Arkansas Grown social media followers increased to:
 - Facebook followers: 10,266 (an increase of 789 or 8.3 percent over FY22)
 - Instagram followers: 2,391 (an increase of 392 or 19.6 percent over FY22)
- Received USDA Specialty Crop Block 2021- HR133 Grant Program funding to develop two programs
- Collaborated with five state associations to host the first-ever statewide gathering of producers

in the local food system, the Arkansas Grown Conference & Expo, with over 450 registrations and 70 vendors, exceeding expectations by over 300 percent

- Launched the Arkansas Grown Advertising Campaign, promoting local food and local food producers with advertising: print, television, and radio
- Awarded Round Two of the Arkansas Grown Grant for Northwest Arkansas Farmers Pilot Program, funded by the Walton Personal Philanthropy Group, awarding grants of up to \$15,000 to eight farmers in Northwest Arkansas to increase their capacity to sell wholesale, bringing the total number of grantees in the pilot program to 33 farmers (follow up site visits to 16 farms and annual performance reports for Round One grantees)
- Continued assisting 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
- 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 Local Food Forum panel hosted by the Arkansas Local Food Network.
- Attended bi-monthly Farm to School Collaborative meetings
- Coordinated and promoted the Arkansas Farmers Market Week proclamation presentation, estimated 38 total attendees
- Managed USDA National Organic Cost Certification Reimbursement Program, providing a total of \$1,961.97 to six organic farms around the state
- Managed the Farmers Market Promotion Program providing 25,750 bags to 19 farmers markets and \$9,000 in promotional funds to 25 farmers markets around the state
- Hosted a Homegrown by Heroes event at the Arkansas Grown Conference & Expo
- Awarded a Homegrown by Heroes scholarship to one veteran farmer to attend the Center for Arkansas Farms and Food Farm School
- Delivered presentations at seven conferences and events
- Manned booths at five conferences and events
- Conducted six media interviews
- Coordinated meetings and initiated outreach for stakeholder, industry, and public feedback to prepare the Department's project submittal for the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grant Program

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.

The 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 Program 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 94 schools, farmers, agencies, and non-profits in Arkansas
- Participated in 51 regional and national farm to school meetings
- Hosted and spoke at 21 farm to school educational trainings, webinars, and events with 412 attendees
- Visited 14 schools, farms, and organizations to outreach about farm to school
- Facilitated six Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative bi-monthly meetings that engaged 18 state agencies and non-profit partners
- Released four farm to school press releases
- Participated in one farm to school interview
- Released 12 farm to school newsletters
- Created two webinar recordings
- 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 one letter of support for farm to school projects
- Wrote two farm to school reports, including the Arkansas Farm to School Annual Report
- Created 47 farm to school handouts and infographics
- Produced one farm to school video
- Managed and awarded \$6,000 total to 10 winning schools and early childhood education facilities of the 2022 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest
- Managed and awarded \$23,500 total to 47 schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments as part of the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program
- Managed and awarded \$4,750 total to 19 schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments as part of the Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program
- Worked with the Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act team to develop annual report

Local Food, Farms, and Job Act

The Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act (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 percent 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 2022 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 Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to ensure nondiscrimination in its programs and services. 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

- Outreach coordinator was appointed to President of Arkansas Women in Agriculture (AWIA) Board
 - Chaired regular quarterly meetings and special meetings as called
- Sustainable Forestry & African American Land Retention (SFLR) Network entered its 10th year of providing heir property landowners across the south with educational and technical assistance needed to help with land retention
 - Along with Arkansas *Keeping it in the Family* (KIITF) Program, other states within the SFLR network, including Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, all share in recognition of this monumental milestone
- Outreach assistance and referrals expanded to include more of the Department's programs and services
 - Recruited minority participation in the KIITF Program, Specialty Crop Block Grant, Arkansas Century Farm Program, Produce Safety, Farm to School Program, Arkansas Grown, Egg & Poultry, and Apiary
- SFLR Network Policy Committee members were invited to attend Enviva's first Heir Property Summit in D.C. to provide input into the creation of an Heir Property Fund aimed to help end and prevent heir property losses
 - Priority areas will be to achieve clear title, unlock sustainable value from the land, and advocate for changes in public policy (lobbying); Arkansas is not a part of targeted area (MS, AL, GA, NC, VA), but expected to be added in the next few years
- Coordinated and facilitated interdepartmental/interagency meetings for the Heir Property Prevention/Resolution Grant
- Invited to join the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) State Technical Forestry Subcommittee to represent KIITF and the Department
- Interviews:
 - Black Vitality Magazine on the Department's minority outreach programs
 - KUAR on minority outreach programs
- Presented at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Small Farm Program New & Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Academy on Department programs for beginning farmers
- Met with representatives from Global Ties Arkansas and two of their Young Southeast Asian Leadership Initiative participants
- Facilitated the forest management workshop during the Arkansas Forestry Association's annual meeting

- Participated in the Understanding Heirs Property at the Community Level train-the-trainer and received certification to conduct heirs' property training
- Provided informational updates for the Department's Minority Landowner Resources website page
- Provided assistance and support to 29 landowners (mostly residing out-of-state)
- Worked with Forestry Division to train field staff on reporting criteria for outreach efforts

Keeping it in the Family Field Staff Highlights	Number of Assists	Acres
Educational Curriculum Development	2	
Exhibits/County Fairs/Festivals	2	
Landowner Assists	103	4,842
Management Plans Prepared	5	100
Meetings Attended	12	
Presentations to Civic Groups	2	
	126	4,942

- Participated in meetings and conferences of the following organizations:
 - AR Land & Farm Development Corporation (ALFDC) Board, virtual meetings
 - AR Land & Community Development Corporation (ALCDC) Board, virtual meetings
 - Sustainable Forestry & African American Retention Program (SFLR) Network, virtual meetings:
 - Regional Joint State (AR/TX) Conference
 - Policy Committee meetings
 - Communications Committee meetings
 - Diversity in AG Conference:
 - Conference Planning Committee
 - Facilitated breakout session on heirs' property
 - Arkansas Forestry Association Annual Meeting:
 - Conference Planning Committee
 - Keeping it in the Family (KIITF):
 - Potential partnership meetings
 - Conducted group and one-on-one training for the Department and NRCS field staff
 - Landowner family meetings
 - Workshops
 - Admin team meetings
 - Champion Landowner Retreat
 - Attended the Socially Disadvantaged Center for Farmers & Ranchers Policy Center meeting (virtual)
 - Attended the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Inclusion and Equity Subcommittee Meetings
 - Attended the inaugural Women's Forest Congress
 - Attended USDA IRA Section 22007 Listening Sessions for minority landowners
 - Attended National Heirs Property Conference
 - Participated in Regional Conservation Partnership Program:
 - Steering Committee
 - Program Review meetings

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 Vice President, 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.

National/International Exporting – SUSTA/NASDA – Inbound Trade Mission

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 and Inbound Trade Missions in the U.S.

The Marketing and Communication team is working in coordination with NASDA for an Inbound Trade Mission to be held in October.

Arkansas Century Farm Program

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

In 2022, there were 37 families inducted into the Arkansas Century Farm Program. Total program inductees since 2012 are 568.

2022 Sunbelt Ag Expo Spotlight State

The Sunbelt Ag Expo is an agricultural-based trade show held at Spence Field in Moultrie, Georgia. The annual event has more than 1,200 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 was the 2022 spotlight state.

As an Arkansas Farmer of the Year program partner, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, was co-chair of the 2022 Spotlight State. The Marketing and Communication team worked in coordination with other Arkansas stakeholder partners for the event held in October 2022.

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

- Farm Credit Partnership Funding
- Farm and Ranch Stress Grant
- USDA Farm to School Grant

- NWA Arkansas Grown Grant
- Specialty Crop Block Grant 2020
- Specialty Crop Block Grant 2021
- Specialty Crop Block Grant 2021 HR 133
- Specialty Crop Block Grant 2022
- Specialty Crop Block Grant 2023
- Farm to School Formula Grant
- Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI)

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program

In May, USDA announced funding of the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI), a component of USDA’s framework to transform the food system to benefit consumers, producers, and rural communities by providing more options, increasing access, and creating new, more, and better markets for small and mid-size producers. Through RFSI, Agriculture Marketing Services will enter into cooperative agreements with state agencies, commissions, or departments that are responsible for agriculture in states or U.S. territories. This program is funded through the American Rescue Plan and is intended to provide similar support to that provided in other USDA funding for meat and poultry processing, but for the non-meat and poultry sectors. USDA will work with recipients to competitively subaward funding to projects.

The Marketing and Communications team has begun preparations for the Department’s project submittal.

Promotion and Research Board Transition

During the 2023 Legislative Session, Act 712 transferred six agricultural promotion and research boards to the Department with an effective date of August 1.

Marketing and Communications staff were part of the team set up to prepare for the transition of duties to the Department.

Trade and 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
- Promotes a healthy environment, which is vital to maintaining thriving, sustainable farms, and rural communities

Accomplishments

The Trade and Economics Section's major accomplishments include:

- Produce and release the Weekly Market Summary on Friday's at 4:30 p.m.
- Weekly Market Summary, 400-plus page weekly overview of Arkansas and U.S. livestock and grain sales, market situation and outlook information, charts and data on cattle and beef; lamb and veal; dairy; hogs and pork; broilers; turkeys; eggs; all wheat types; corn, sorghum, and oats; rice; oilseeds; sugar; cotton; peanuts; forestry; aquaculture; fruit movement and prices; and food price outlook. Publication categories include:
 - Arkansas Weekly Livestock Auction Summary including Salem Stockyards Sheep and Goat Sales; Livestock, Poultry, & Grain Highlights; Arkansas Daily Grain Report; National Weekly Rice Summary; Market and USDA Summary Stats
 - Arkansas and U.S. Crop Progress
 - Visualizing Markets and Market Performance
 - Weekly Price Seasonal Report; Deliverable Stocks of Grain Report; Export Inspections Reports; Export Sales Reports; CFTC Reports
 - National Weekly Retail Reports: Chicken; Beef; Shell Egg and Egg Production; Turkey; Pork; Lamb/Veal; Dairy; Specialty Crops
 - Livestock, Poultry, Dairy, Catfish: Monthly and Weekly Price Charts; Livestock Supply and Demand Summary; WASDE Livestock Highlights; Hay, Cattle, Milk Cow, Hog, and Sheep Drought Areas; Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook - Beef/Cattle, Beef/Cattle Trade, Pork/Hogs, Poultry, Poultry Trade, Sheep/Lamb, Dairy; Daily Livestock Report; Arkansas Chicken and Eggs; Arkansas Broiler Hatchery; Arkansas Milk Production; Arkansas Catfish Production; Arkansas Honey
 - Field Crops: Rice; Peanuts; Oilseeds; Feed Grains; Wheat; Cotton; and Sugar
 - Supply and demand; situation and outlook; charts
 - Other Categories: Forestry; Energy; Fruit and Tree Nuts; Hemp; Secretarial Drought Designations; 2022 RMA Crop's Indemnities; USDA Disaster Assistance Programs; FARMERS.GOV; USDA AMS Grain Transportation Report; infographics, other timely topics
- 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

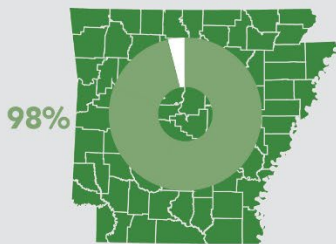
Farmers markets play key roles in local food systems across Arkansas.



112 112 active farmers markets in operation in Arkansas

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

\$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

The Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly held during fiscal year 2023 had a substantial impact on the boards and commissions administered by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department). Act 691, passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Sanders on April 11, 2023, reduced the number of boards and commissions administered by the Department from 16 to four, established subject matter committees within the four remaining boards, and made other changes to correct potential constitutional challenges. Act 691 became effective on July 1, 2023.

The following boards and commissions were abolished by Act 691:

- Milk Stabilization Board
- Arkansas Seed Arbitration Committee
- State Board of Registration for Foresters
- State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers
- Commission on Water Well Construction
- Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee
- Veterinary Medical Examining Board
- Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board
- Arkansas Agriculture Board
- Retail Water Provider Advisory Training Board
- Red River Commission (abolished effective July 1, 2026)

The four remaining boards are the Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, and the State Plant Board.

Act 712, signed on April 11, 2023, and effective on August 1, 2023, transferred the following six agricultural promotion boards to the Department:

- 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

The Department also 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

A summary of each board and commission's responsibilities and accomplishments, along with a list of current members and a summary of the impact of the 2023 legislative session, are provided in the following sections.

Arkansas Forestry Commission

The Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) 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.

The nine-member board is 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. As a result of Act 691 of the 2023 legislative session, three members of the Commission must be registered foresters. Act 691 also abolished the Board of Registration for Foresters, required the Commission to assume responsibilities for the former board’s duties, and created a committee to make recommendations to the Commission on matters formerly under the jurisdiction of the Board of Registration for Foresters.

Each congressional district must be represented on the AFC. Board members are appointed for five-year terms.

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

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Forestry Commission’s major accomplishments include:

- Held four 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 Protection Program’s volunteer fire department loan program

Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission

The mission of the Arkansas 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. Act 691 of the 2023 legislative session expanded the membership of the Commission from seven to nine members to reflect the addition of duties that formerly fell to the Milk Stabilization Board and the Veterinary Medical Examining Board, both of which were abolished. At least two members are to be veterinarians, with at least one engaged primarily in large animal or food supply veterinary medicine. The remaining members must be actively engaged in the Arkansas livestock, dairy, or poultry industries. The Commission members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for five-year terms.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
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 Industry	2027
Tommy Wren	Melbourn	Cattle Industry	2028
Dr. Sara Throne	Bentonville	Food Supply Practice	2028
Chad Chester	Pocahontas	Poultry Industry	2028
Dr. Mike Pallone	Rose Bud	Large Animal Practice	2028
Bruce Maloch	Magnolia	Poultry Industry	2029

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission’s major accomplishments include:

- Held four scheduled meetings and two special-called meetings
- Promulgated three new or amended rules
- Promulgated one emergency rule

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission adopts, modifies, and enforces rules related to water conservation, development, management, and planning.

Act 691 of the 2023 legislative session required the Natural Resources Commission to assume responsibilities that formerly fell to the Commission on Water Well Construction (CWWC), which was abolished, and created a committee to make recommendations to the Natural Resources Commission on matters formerly under the CWWC. Act 691 also revised the membership of the Natural Resources Commission to ensure that at least two of the nine members will be licensed water well contractors. Members are appointed by the Governor and serve five-year terms.

Act 691 also directed the Natural Resources Commission to assume the power and duties of the Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers, which was abolished. The legislation also mandated that the Red River Commission will be a committee of the Natural Resources Commission until July 1, 2026, at which time it will be abolished.

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
Roy Reaves	Russellville	Congressional District 3	2024
James Anderson	Scott	Congressional District 2	2025
Will Brewer	Paragould	Congressional District 1	2025
Eddie Glover	Conway	Congressional District 2	2026
Jamie Burr	Farmington	Congressional District 3	2026
William Anderson	DeValls Bluff	Congressional District 1	2027
JoAnne Bush	Lake Village	Congressional District 4	2028
Bill Poynter	Texarkana	Congressional District 4	2029
Bruce Leggitt	Greenbrier	Congressional District 2	2030

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 one conservation district director emeritus to conservation district boards
- Promulgated two new or amended rules

Arkansas State Plant Board

The mission of the Arkansas State 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.

Act 135 of the 2023 legislative session revised the membership categories of the State Plant Board's 19 members as outlined below. Seventeen members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and two non-voting members are designated by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Vice President. Members serve five-year terms.

The 17 members appointed by the Governor are to include:

- One cotton grower representative
- One agricultural fertilizer industry representative
- One rice grower representative
- One horticulturist, nurseryman, ornamental production, or lawn care industries representative
- One corn, peanut, sorghum, turf, or wheat grower representative
- One soybean grower representative
- One licensed pest control operator
- One seed dealer representative
- One seed grower representative
- One retail or wholesale fuel industry representative
- One agricultural pesticide industry representative
- One agricultural aviation industry representative
- One timber and forest products sector representative
- Two corn, cotton, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, turf, or wheat producer representatives
- One livestock producer representative
- One forage grower representative

Board Member	Location	Representing	Term
Bruce Alford	Lewisville	Forage Industry	2023
David Gammill	Tyronza	Corn, Peanut, Sorghum, Turf, or Wheat Grower	2023
Ken Korth	Fayetteville	University of Arkansas, Entomology and Plant Pathology	
Matthew Marsh	Little Rock	Rice Grower	2023
Reynold Meyer	Eudora	Livestock Industry	2023
Matthew Miles	McGehee	Soybean Grower	2023
Nathan Reed	Marianna	Farmer	2023
Travis Senter	Osceola	Farmer	2023
Nathan Slaton	Fayetteville	University of Arkansas, Agriculture Experiment Station	
Sam Stuckey	Clarkedale	Cotton Growers	2024
Sammy Angel	Lake Village	Seed Grower	2028
Kyle Baltz	Pocahontas	Fertilizer	2028
Jon Bierbaum	Lake Village	Timber and Forest Products	2028
George Dunklin	Humphrey	Pesticide Industry	2028
Garrett Frost	Marianna	Agricultural Aviation	2028

Robin Ralston	Atkins	Retail or Wholesale Fuel	2028
Robert Thorne	Marion	Horticulture	2028
Davis Wallace	Crawfordsville	Seed Dealer	2028
VACANT		Pest Control	

Accomplishments

The Arkansas State Plant Board’s major accomplishments include:

- Held three regular meetings
- Promulgated one rule
- Approved 217 enforcement actions

Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board

The Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board is certified by the State Plant Board to carry out Arkansas’s boll weevil eradication program.

Act 691 of the 2023 session designated the Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board as a subcommittee of the Plant Board and modified the membership to include at least five but no more than seven practical cotton growers to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Each of the five boll weevil eradication zones must be represented by one member residing in that zone. The Governor may appoint up to two additional members if it is in the best interest of the State of Arkansas. Members serve five-year terms.

Board Member	Location	Term
Pace Hindsley	Marvell	2023
Earl Stiles	Marianna	2024
Travis Senter	Osceola	2024
Donald Felts	Joiner	2025
Gregg Garner	Lake City	2025
Joe Mencer	Lake Village	2027
Sam Stuckey	Clarkedale	2027

Accomplishments

- The program operated with seven personnel which includes one executive director, one administrative assistant, and five field staff conducting the trapping
- The annual financial audit report was conducted by Hogan Taylor LLP and the foundation received a clean audit report with no internal control weaknesses were found
- 32 cotton producing counties were monitored or trapped
- 485,653 acres recorded
- 2,000 traps deployed
- \$1,456,906 total assessments collected
- Eight non-commercial cotton plots permitted to museums, nature centers, and for research

Arkansas Research and Promotion Boards

Act 712 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly transferred the following six agriculture commodity boards to the Department:

- 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

Act 712 also revised the membership categories for the boards and directed the Department to provide administrative support to the boards. 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 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate as follows:

- Four cattle producers actively and principally engaged in the cattle industry from each of the four congressional districts
- Two cattle producers actively and principally engaged in the cattle industry from the state at large
- One active Arkansas livestock market operator representing the state at large

The members are appointed for three-year terms.

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	Location	Term
Terry Laster	Strong	2023
Jerry Christie	Nashville	2023
Chase Groves	Garland	2024
Samuel Cecil	Russellville	2024
Caleb Plyer	Hope	2025
Robert Campbell	Witt Springs	2025
Sharon Kay Casey	Malvern	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 and confirmed by the Senate. They must be members of the catfish industry and residents of Arkansas. Each member is appointed for a two-year term.

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	Term
Greg Moyers	Portland	2023
Terry Kruse	McCrary	2023
Steve Kueter	Paragould	2024
Kenny Frances	Corning	2024
Brad Graham	Portland	2024
Dick Baxter	Cabot	2024
Larry Dorman	Montrose	2025

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 board consists of seven members who are practical producers of corn or grain sorghum in Arkansas. Each board member is appointed for a two-year term by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

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 United States Department of Agriculture loan program.

Member	Location	Term
Trent Dabbs	Stuttgart	2023
Matt Gammill	Tyronza	2024
Jason Felton	Marianna	2024
Jacob Appleberry	Tillar	2024
Kenny Falwell	Newport	2024
Patrick Matt Smith	Blytheville	2025
Tommy Young	Tuckerman	2025

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 Arkansas rice producers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Four members must be designated representatives of the Arkansas rice merchant and milling industry. Members serve two-year terms.

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 the United States Department of Agriculture's loan program. Producers also pay an assessment of 1.35 cents per bushel of rice grown. The assessments paid by buyers must be used for market development and promotion. The assessments paid by producers must be used for rice extension and research.

Board Member	Location	Term
Jay Coker	Stuttgart	2024
Roger Pohlner	Fisher	2024
John King III	Helena	2024
Joe Christian	Jonesboro	2024
Jim Whitaker	McGehee	2025
Jeff Rutledge	Newport	2025
David Gairhan	Jonesboro	2025
Charles Williams	Crawfordsville	2025
Scott Matthews	Weiner	2025

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 board consists of nine soybean producers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Members serve two-year terms.

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.

Board Member	Location	Term
Joe Thrash	Houston	2023
John Freeman	Dumas	2023
Josh Cureton	Cash	2023
West Higginbotham	Marianna	2024
Douglas Hartz	Stuttgart	2024
Rusty Smith	Des Arc	2024
Shannon Davis	Bono	2024
Donald Morton, Jr	Des Arc	2025
Brad Doyle	Weiner	2025

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 board consists of seven Arkansas wheat producers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Members serve two-year terms.

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 United States Department of Agriculture's loan program.

Member	Location	Term
Tony Schwartz	Weiner	2021
Tim Smith	Clarendon	2022
Kenneth Clark	Newport	2023
Terrance Scott	Cotton Plant	2023
Adam Cloninger	Keo	2023
David Wallace	Crawfordsville	2023
Jack Evans	Carlisle	2024
Dusty Hoskyn	England	2024
Chris Shaefers	Conway	2024

Commissions and Committees with Department Representation

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

- 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
Robert Singletary	Oklahoma Commissioner
Julie Cunningham	Oklahoma Commissioner
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 United States Environmental Protection Agency, and others and is implemented by the Division of Environmental Quality within the Arkansas 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
William "Al" Eckert III	Little Rock	District 2
Richard McMullen, PhD	Little Rock	State Agency Designee
Doug Melton	Bentonville	District 3
Swan 'Rusty' Moss, Jr.	Dermott	District 1
David B. Vandergriff	Little Rock	Pulaski County
Wes Ward	Little Rock	Secretary of Agriculture
Chris Racey	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
Erin Chancellor	Austin, TX	Texas Commissioner
Robin Phillips	Sherman, TX	Texas Commissioner
Edward Knight, P.E.	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 Asa Hutchinson in Executive Order 19-14 in 2019. The established 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 Shane Khoury	Little Rock	Department of Energy and Environment
Secretary Shea Lewis	Little Rock	Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism
Secretary Renee Mallory	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

Jim Hudson	Department of Finance and Administration
Director Larry Bengel	Production and Conservation of the Oil & Gas Commission
Scott Ausbrooks- Geologist	State Geologist
Secretary Wes Ward	Department of Agriculture
Jennifer Sheehan	Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission
Secretary Shea Lewis	Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism
Secretary Shane Khoury	Department 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 a 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 Community Preparedness Coordinator
- Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment
- 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
- 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	Arkansas Division of Emergency Management
Renee Mallory	Arkansas Department of Health
Wes Ward	Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Col Anthony Sanders	Arkansas National Guard
Kristi Putnam	Arkansas Department of Human Services
Col. Mike Hagar	Arkansas State Police
Jonathan Askins	Arkansas Department of TSS (DIS)
Nicholas Ortiz	Governor's Office
Jimmy Hart/Conway County Judge	County Judges Association
Chief Gary Sipes	Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police
Marty Boyd/Scott Bradley	Arkansas Sheriffs Association

Randy Garrett
Shane Khoury
Glenn Moore
Adina Marlatt
Joel Eubanks
J.T. Coleman

ARVOAD
AR Department of Energy & Environment
DHS, Cybersecurity, and Infrastructure Security
Agency
DHS, Office of Intelligence and Analysis
FBI, Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator
FBI, Special Agent/Bomb Technician (SABT)

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

EXPORTS!



AG Exports



SOYBEAN
\$1,278.5



RICE
\$681.9



COTTON
\$627.6



BROILER MEAT
\$530.7



SOYBEAN MEAL
\$227.7



CORN
\$179.1



OTHER POULTRY
\$157.0

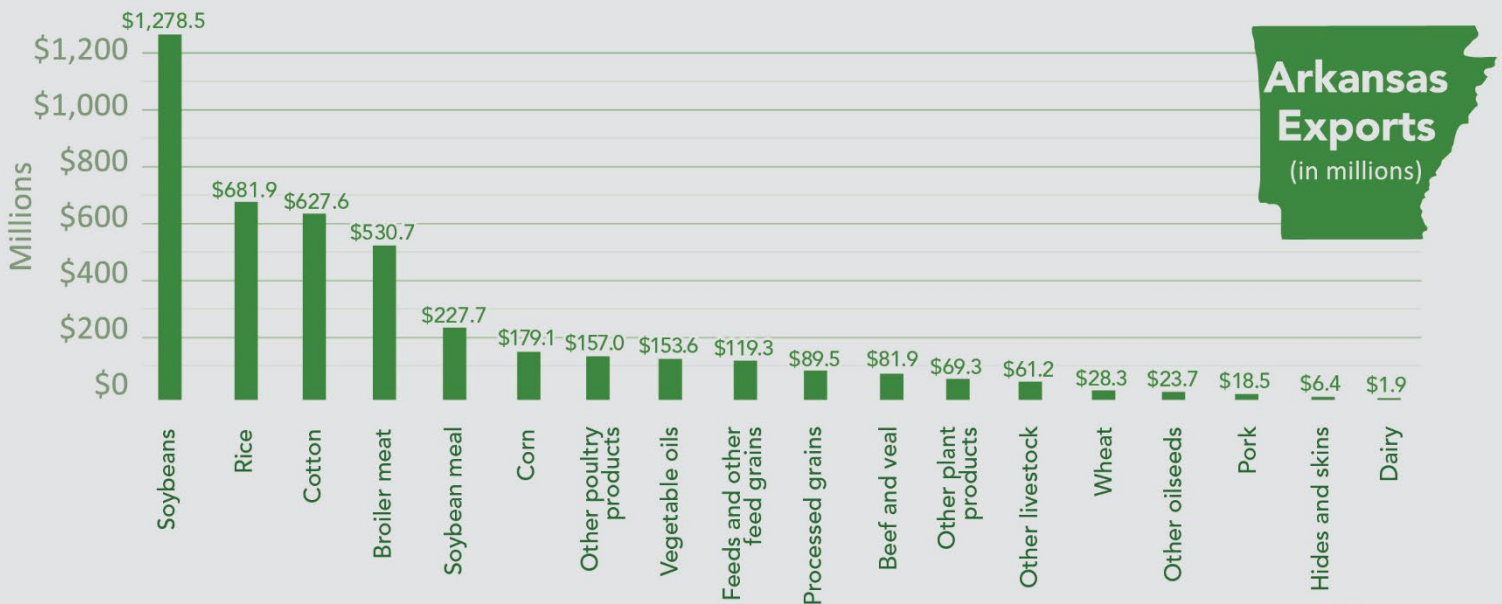


VEGETABLE OIL
\$153.6

(in millions of dollars)

Total Agricultural Exports: **\$4,336,036,778**

Feeds and other feed grains.....	119.3	Wheat.....	28.3
Grain products, processed	89.5	Other oilseeds and products	23.7
Beef and veal	81.9	Pork	18.5
Other plant products	69.3	Hides and skins	6.4
Other livestock products	61.2	Dairy products.....	1.9



Arkansas Exports
(in millions)



Arkansas ranks 1st in the Delta states, 3rd in the Southern Region, and 15th nationally in ag exports.

Data provided by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture 2023

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

Delta States

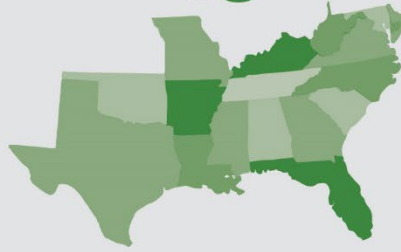
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Arkansas exports rank **Number 1** among the Delta States

Southern Region

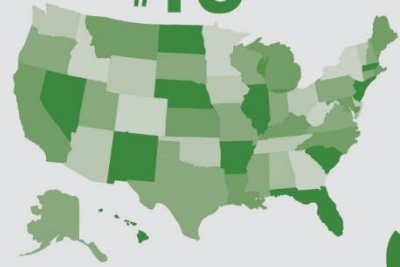
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Arkansas ranks **Number 3** in the Southern Region

Nationally

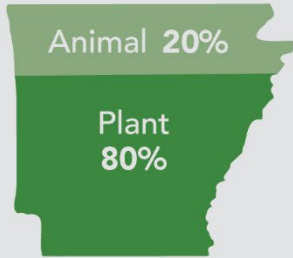
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Arkansas ranks **Number 15** in the nation

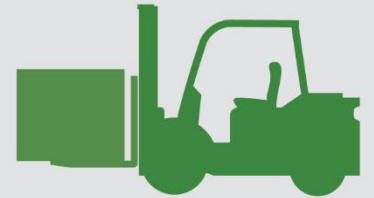
AG EXPORTS

Total Agricultural Exports: **\$4,336,036,778**



Total Animal: **\$857,574,435**

Total Plant: **\$3,478,462,343**



AG EXPORTS

Outlook Update

FACTORS THAT POTENTIALLY CHALLENGE ARKANSAS'S ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Evolving economic, political, market, and weather risks and uncertainties have the potential to be highly transformative to Arkansas's collective business environment and especially our agricultural production, processing, distribution, and retail sectors.

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.

- *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).

United States 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 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 Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the United States 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 which 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; etc.

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

AWARDS!



Schools & Scholarships

\$20,000

AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS

\$23,500

SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT PROGRAM

\$6,000

SCHOOL GARDEN OF THE YEAR

\$1,000

HOMEGROWN BY HEROES

\$55K

\$55K in grant and scholarship funds managed and dispersed to qualified Arkansas residents and organizations



Managed and awarded **\$6,000** total to **10** winning schools and early childhood education facilities as part of the 2022 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest



Managed and awarded **\$23,500** total to **47** schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments as part of the Arkansas School Garden Grant Program



Managed and awarded **\$4,750** total to **19** schools, early childhood education facilities, and alternative learning environments as part of the Arkansas Taste Test Grant Program



Provided farm to school technical assistance to **94** schools, agencies, and non-profits in Arkansas



100 trees were planted on **20** campuses for the Shade Trees on Playgrounds Program



700 pine seedlings were donated to **5** schools for Earth Day/Arbor Day events



LOCAL PROCUREMENT

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

Hosted lab tours for various youth organizations, including the Arkansas State University-Beebe Veterinary Technician Program, Arkansas FFA, Arkansas Farm Bureau Ag Youth Leadership Seminar, MyARInternship Program, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff AgDiscovery Program



Department grants and scholarships reach Arkansas students of all ages.

Data provided by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture 2023

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

Century Farm

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.

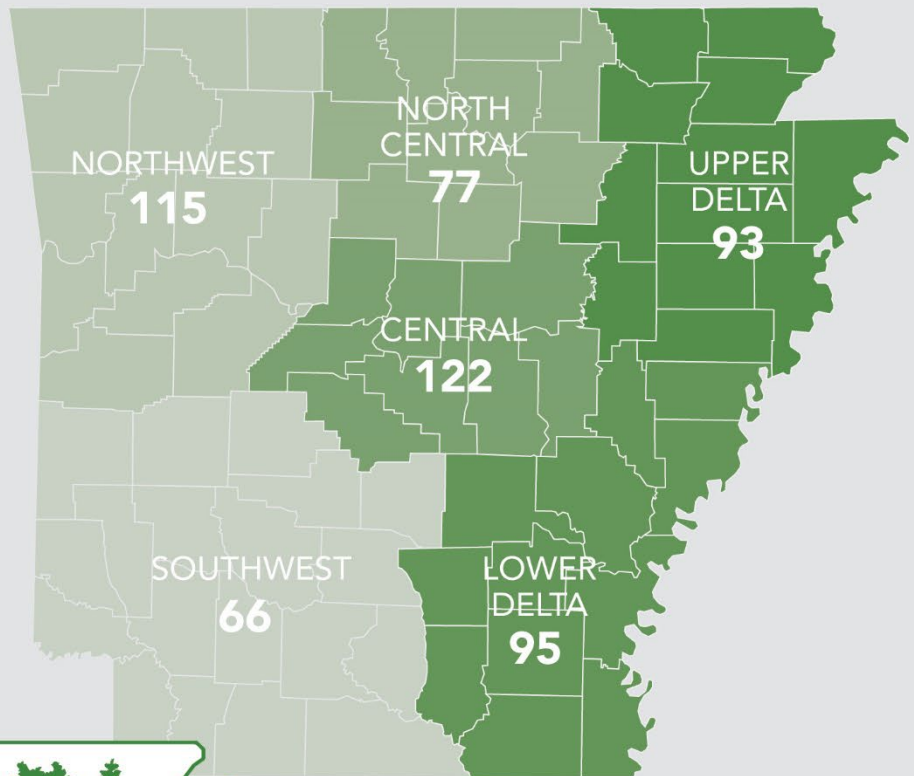
2022 Century Farm Inductees:

- Marshall Farm
- McCauley Family Farms
- Sunset Farms
- Hayes Farm
- Douglas Farm
- Triple A Farms
- Hopkins Family Farm
- Juathina Walden Claspill Farm
- Roger and Vickie Walden Farm
- Smead and Mabel Walden Farm
- Bell Farm
- Bell Family Farm
- The Pruett Farm
- Trafford Farm
- Blalock Family Farm
- JC Farms
- Massery Farm
- Shaw's Family Farms
- Lucky W. Farm
- Brown-Harber-Bales Farms
- Lassiter-Vest Farm
- Cunningham Legacy Farm
- Leslie Rutledge Farms
- Earl Travis Smith Family, LLC Farms
- Cummins Farm
- Garringer Farm
- Lager/Lackey Farm
- Our Green Acre at Steel Creek Farm
- Myers Farm
- Circle S Farms
- Prislovsky Brothers Inc.
- Joseph W. Vestal & Son
- Halstead Homestead
- Younger Farm
- Gillam-Burt Farm
- JC Lankford Farm
- Weatherford Farms

— CELEBRATING —
100
 YEARS
 * OR MORE *

NUMBER OF CENTURY FARMS BY REGION

Over 568 programs have been inducted since 2012



BY REGION

Northwest: 115	Central: 122
North Central: 77	Southwest: 66
Upper Delta: 93	Lower Delta: 95



Recognizing important Arkansas farm families with a century of history.

Data provided by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture 2023

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



Arkansas Department of Agriculture
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