



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

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

Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

[Arkansas Department of Agriculture](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5/15/2024

Contact: Lys Johnson, (501) 902-5075

alyssa.johnson@agriculture.arkansas.gov

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Releases 2023 Groundwater Protection and Management Report

LITTLE ROCK, AR – The Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Division has released the 2023 Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Report pursuant to the Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Act of 1991, Arkansas Code Annotated 15-22-906. This report provides a summary of the groundwater monitoring efforts, current water levels, protection and conservation programs, and water use reporting during the 2023 calendar year.

“Balancing the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water is critical to meeting the water demands of the state and is one of the key focus areas in the 2024 update of the Arkansas Water Plan,” said Natural Resources Division Director Chris Colclasure. “This report serves as an important resource to help guide the management of the state’s groundwater and will be utilized along with the Arkansas Water Plan for conservation and protection programs.”

This report provides a summary of the groundwater monitoring efforts, current water levels, protection and conservation programs, and water use reporting during the 2023 calendar year. It focuses primarily on the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial and Sparta aquifers in east and south Arkansas, but also includes data from the Nacatoch and Tokio aquifers located in southwest and northeast Arkansas. Some areas with historical water level decline appear to be experiencing recovery in recent years; however, water level declines continue to be observed and are expected to continue in certain areas of the state where groundwater usage rates are high. The state’s groundwater systems will continue to be monitored by the Department and its partners.

Find the full report at agriculture.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023-Groundwater-Report-Final.pdf. A story map version of the report allows the user to look at the maps in greater detail and can be found at bit.ly/2023argroundwaterstorymap.

For more information on the Groundwater Protection and Management Program, visit agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/divisions/water-management/groundwater-protection-and-management-program/. For more information on the 2023 report, contact Corbin Cannon at corbin.g.cannon@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

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