



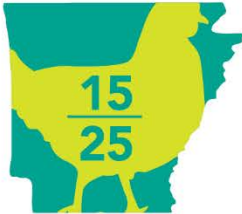
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



AGRICULTURE

An overview of Arkansas's leading agricultural products



Arkansas ranks in the **TOP 25** nationally in the production of **15** different agricultural commodities



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



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



Arkansas boasts **42%** of land comprised of farms **56%** comprised of forestland

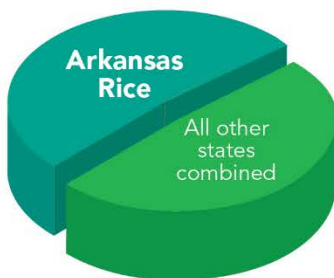


Arkansas's top agricultural commodities in terms of 2019 cash receipts (Millions)

268,950 JOBS
PROVIDED BY AGRICULTURE
IN ARKANSAS

7.4 BILLION
POUNDS OF BROILERS
PRODUCED IN 2019

2,610,000
ACRES OF SOYBEANS
HARVESTED IN 2019



Arkansas rice accounts for **46%** of total U.S. Rice Production and **56%** of U.S. Long Grain Production



TOP ARKANSAS COMMODITIES
ranked nationally

- #1 IN RICE
- #2 IN BROILERS
- #3 IN CATFISH
- #4 IN COTTON LINT
- #4 IN COTTONSEED
- #5 IN TURKEY
- #7 IN PEANUTS
- #10 IN BEEF COWS
- #11 IN SOYBEANS
- #11 IN EGGS

Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY Wes Ward	4
Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019 Overview	5
New Official Identifying Brand	6
Organizational Chart	7
FORESTRY DIVISION	8
Emergency Services Section	9
Forest Management Section	10
Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF)	11
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DIVISION	13
Animal Health Section	14
Food Safety / Egg and Poultry Section	15
Regulatory Compliance Section	16
NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION	19
Conservation Section	20
Water Resources Development Section	21
Water Resources Management Section	22
PLANT INDUSTRIES DIVISION	27
Bureau of Standards Section	28
Inspector Services Section	30
Pesticide Section	31
Quality Control and Compliance Section	32
Regulatory Services Section	35
SHARED SERVICES DIVISION	37
Feral Hog Eradication Program Section	38
Fiscal Section	39
Human Resources Section	40
Information Technology Section	40
Legal Section	41
Laboratory Services Section	42
Law Enforcement Section	45
Marketing and Communications Section	46
Trade / Economics Section	49
Arkansas Land Cover Categories	50
Department and Division FY 2020 Adjusted Budget and Expenditures	51
Boards, Commissions, and Committees	52
Arkansas Watersheds	62
Branding Programs	64
Century Farm Program	65
Future Outlook	68

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY Wes Ward

We are pleased to provide you with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2020 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, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Agriculture contributes more than \$21 billion to Arkansas's economy annually and provides more than 269,000, or one out of every six, jobs in the state. Arkansas continues to lead the nation in the production of rice, and the state ranks in the top 25 in 15 different agricultural commodities.

The 2020 fiscal year was an exciting year of transformation for the Department as Governor Hutchinson's Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019 went into effect on July 1, 2019. This legislation officially changed the name of the Department from the Arkansas Agriculture Department to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and added 10 new boards, commissions, and programs under the administration of the Department.

Over the past year Department staff across all divisions spent a significant amount of time working together to identify additional ways to improve the Department's efficiency and effectiveness, both internally and externally. That effort continued despite the significant challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. While some Department employees began working remotely, many others continued to report onsite daily. The statistics in this report demonstrate how well our employees continued to provide critical services to the industry during extremely challenging circumstances.

I am incredibly proud of the professionalism and dedication of our Arkansas Department of Agriculture employees, and I am grateful for their service. Our goal for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is to be the strong and effective resource and partner that Arkansas's 42,300 farm families, the many agribusinesses, and rural communities deserve and expect. It is an honor to serve our state's largest industry.

Respectfully,



Wesley W. Ward
Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture



Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019

Overview

The Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019 (Transformation Act) was signed by Governor Hutchinson on April 11, 2019 and became effective July 1, 2019. The Transformation Act reduced the number of Cabinet-level departments from 42 to 15. It also changed the name of the Arkansas Agriculture Department to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and designated it as one of the 15 new departments.

The Transformation Act increased the number of entities under the administration of the new Department from 9 to 19, and it specified that all personnel are employees of the Department. New additions to the Department are indicated by an * in the list below:

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

The Department is organized into the following five divisions:

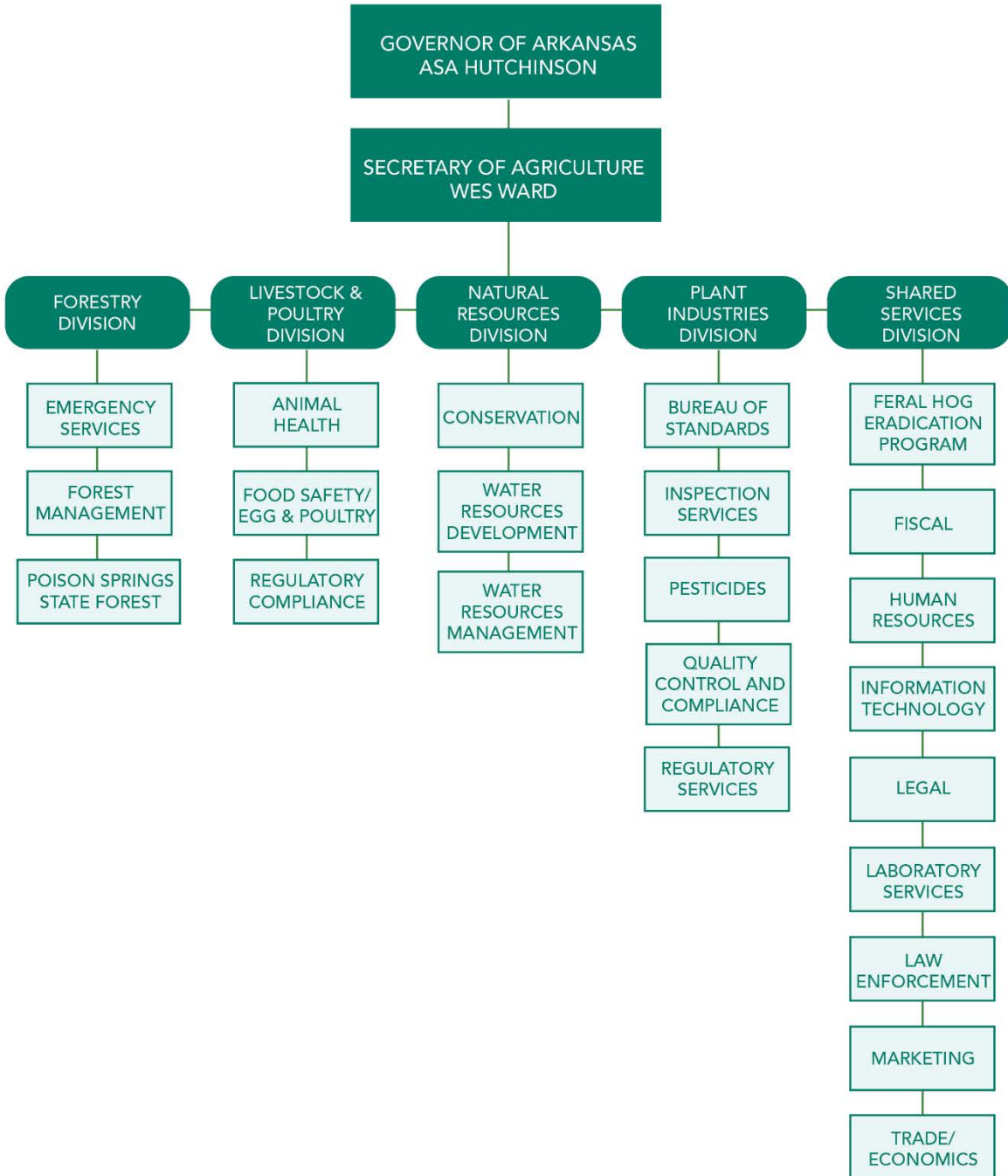
- Forestry Division
- Livestock and Poultry Division
- Natural Resources Division
- Plant Industries Division
- Shared Services Division

Department BRANDING

On July 1, 2019, the Arkansas Agriculture Department was renamed the Arkansas Department of Agriculture. A new official identifying brand was developed to reflect the Department's new name and organizational structure. The new brand for the Department and each of our divisions allows for a consistent identity for the Department and increases public recognition of our wide range of services.



Department of AGRICULTURE



FORESTRY

Forest Management, Emergency Services, Poison Springs State Forest



44 Million tons of forestry-related products and timber produced



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



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



More than **56%** of the entire land mass of the State of Arkansas is forested

1,234

volunteer firefighters trained

15,189

total volunteer firefighters across the state

103

Firewise communities in Arkansas

573 WILDFIRES burned over **10,390 acres!**



Trucks and equipment valued at **\$4.75 Million** distributed to rural fire departments

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

BAUCUM NURSERY

7,341,125 SEEDLINGS SOLD BY BAUCUM NURSERY (hardwood & pine)



4,420

landowner assists (supporting forest management plans and general forestry needs)



FORESTRY DIVISION

The Forestry Division aerially surveyed nearly 10 Million acres for insect, disease, or storm damage; over **41,000** damaged acres found

41

TREE CITIES

impacting more than **837,836** Arkansas residents



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

Information provided by the Forestry Division 2020

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

FORESTRY DIVISION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of the Forestry Division is to protect Arkansas's forests, and those who enjoy them, from wildland fire and natural hazards while promoting rural and urban forest health, stewardship, development, and conservation for all generations of Arkansans. Through forest management and forest protection, the Division is a vital organization for the health and safety of Arkansas residents and natural resources.

To accomplish the Forestry Division's mission, responsibilities are arranged in three general areas:

- Emergency Services
- Forest Management
- Poison Springs State Forest

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.

Emergency Services Section

The Forestry Division is responsible for the protection of more than 16 million acres of non-federal forestland in Arkansas. Foresters and forest rangers divided among seven forestry districts are involved daily in one or more of the four key activities of wildfire protection: prevention, pre-suppression, detection, and suppression.

This year, 573 wildfires burned 10,390 acres in Arkansas. Overall, wildfires were slightly larger in FY 2020 with an average size of 18.2 acres compared to a ten-year average of 15.7 acres. The highest wildfire frequency months were September 2019 and March 2020, with 118 fires burning 1,038 acres in September and 145 fires on 5,098 acres in March.

The Division has a total of 105 firefighting units, each comprised of a bulldozer and transport truck. Bulldozers are used to create firebreaks that stop an ongoing fire. Of those units, 97 are equipped with environmental cabs that provide added protection for the operator.

Accomplishments

The Emergency Services Section staff's major accomplishments were as follows:

- 573 wildfires were suppressed on 10,390 acres in Arkansas;
- The Division maintained 53 Very High Frequency (VHF) repeaters throughout the state;
- Division pilots recorded 566 flight hours while detecting wildfires, timber damage, and other forestry-related issues;
- The Division made available 6,196 firefighting equipment items to fire departments, valued at \$4.75 million through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) and Firefighter Property

- Program (FFP); and
- Due to the Division’s strong community outreach, Arkansas added 17 nationally recognized Firewise communities and is now home to 103 sites across the State.

Forest Management Section

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

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

The Forest Management section also administers the Water Quality Program, the Forest Health Program, the Urban and Community Forestry Program, and the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program. The Water Quality 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 Inventory and Analysis program provides statewide annual surveys about the growth, mortality, and health of Arkansas’s timberlands.

Accomplishments

The Forest Management Section staff’s major accomplishments include:

- Forestry Division foresters and rangers provided technical assistance to 4,345 landowners impacting 402,005 acres across the State;
 - 166 Forest Stewardship Management Plans were written or revised
 - 195 Tree Farm plans were prepared
 - 862 practice plans were developed for landowners enrolled in NRCS programs
 - 495 acres in Garland County were submitted for a Forest Legacy grant with the intent to protect the recharge of the thermal springs at Hot Springs from future development. By June 30, 2020, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture had purchased and protected 1,263 acres in this recharge area;
- Arkansas’s Urban and Community Forestry Program now supports 40 official Tree City USA communities, four Tree Campus USAs, and one Tree Line USA Utility Company. The first Tree Campus USA K-12 is expected in FY 2021;
- The Division’s Forest Inventory team collected data from 956 (20 percent) of the total Forest

Inventory and Analysis research plots;

- Baucum Nursery produced 6,178,125 hardwood seedlings and 741,475 pine seedlings for Arkansas landowners. The nursery produced 25 percent of all hardwoods in the 12 southern states;
- The Division’s Tree Improvement program staff harvested 855 bushels of genetically improved pinecones for seed;
- Division staff aerially surveyed a total of 9,958,130 acres during FY 2020 forest health flights and mapped 41,430 acres of forest disturbances, such as defoliation or pine bark beetles;
- The Division’s Best Management Practices (BMP) Program delivered eight BMP training sessions for 221 attendees and responded to 16 water quality logging complaints. Additionally, 18 courtesy examinations were completed on timber harvests; and
- Information about private land forestry programs was provided to 235 minority landowners (12,509 acres total) and 556 women landowners (37,826 acres total).

Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF)

PSSF is a demonstration forest located in western Ouachita and eastern Nevada counties. PSSF provides the Forestry Division with yearly revenue while demonstrating different forest management techniques to private nonindustrial landowners.

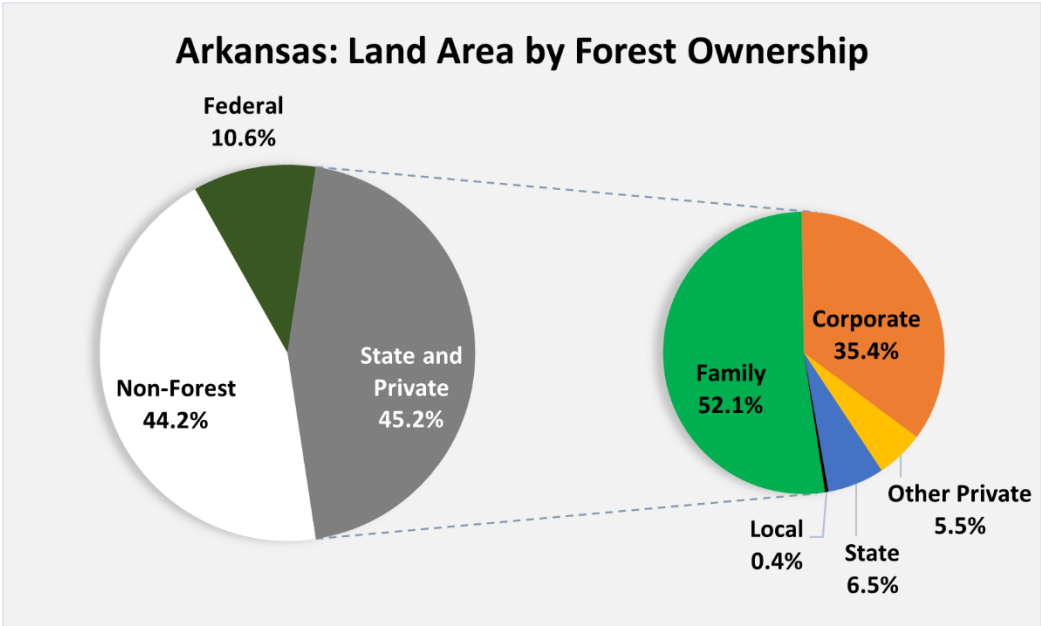
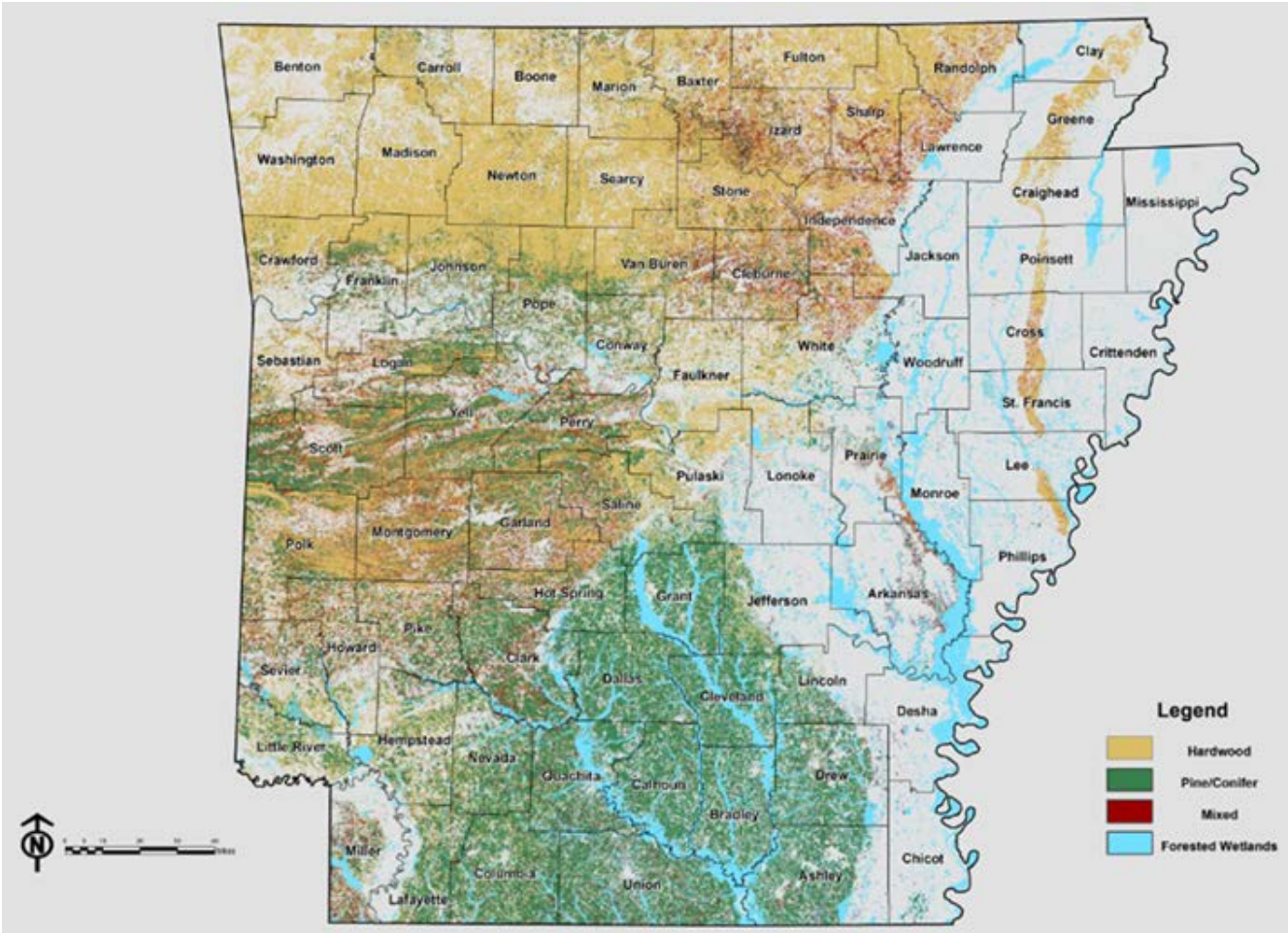
When PSSF was purchased in 1957, the 17,512-acre forest had 20,240,000 board feet of pine sawtimber and 10,303,000 board feet of hardwood sawtimber. The Forestry Division has harvested timber almost every year since 1957. Today PSSF comprises an area of 23,931 acres with over 50,000,000 board feet of pine sawtimber and over 15,000,000 board feet of hardwood sawtimber.

Accomplishments

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

Timber Revenue from Poison Springs State Forest, 2019	
Product	Volume
Pine Sawtimber	11,517 tons
Pine Chip and Saw	222 tons
Pine Pulpwood	7,291 tons
Hardwood Pulpwood	705 tons
Misc. and Salvage	331 tons
Total Revenue	\$447,895

Arkansas State Forestry Map



LIVESTOCK & POULTRY

Food Safety, Regulatory Compliance, Animal Health



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



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



1.57 Billion chicken eggs graded in fiscal year 2020



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

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

24,974

calfhood vaccinations by livestock inspectors

33,237

equine infectious anemia (EIA) tests performed

82,169

cattle tagged for disease traceability

32,302 Health Certificates processed

750 Animal Movement Permits issued

3,626 hours worked at 85 livestock events

672,911 Diagnostic Procedures performed

ARKANSAS MEATS

1.5 BILLION pounds of chicken meat inspected

736 MILLION pounds of turkey meat inspected

1.33 MILLION pounds of rabbit meat inspected

15,487

certified flocks in the National Poultry Improvement Program



The Department assisted the Arkansas Department of Health in the approval of over **130** COVID-19 Ag-related event plans

TOP LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES ranked nationally

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

Information provided by the Livestock and Poultry Division 2020

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

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY DIVISION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Livestock and Poultry Division's primary goal is to protect animal and human health from zoonotic and other communicable animal diseases. The Livestock and Poultry Division has three key sections that monitor, evaluate, and regulate foreign animal diseases that threaten Arkansas animal industries:

- Animal Health
- Food Safety / Egg and Poultry
- Regulatory Compliance

Livestock and Poultry Division personnel administer and implement the provisions of various state and federal laws pertaining to livestock and poultry throughout Arkansas and the rules promulgated by the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission. The Livestock and Poultry Commission has statutory authority for providing control, suppression, and eradication of livestock and poultry diseases and pests, and supervision of livestock and poultry enforcement actions.

The Division partners with several federal agencies through cooperative agreements for livestock and poultry disease control, animal identification for disease traceback, and food safety programs. Our food safety programs protect consumers by providing grading services at meat processing plants and conducting inspections of eggs at retail locations across the state. These programs promote and enhance the marketability of livestock and poultry both nationally and internationally.

Animal Health Section

The Arkansas State Veterinarian manages the Animal Health section. Primary areas of responsibility include the oversight and reporting of several animal health programs throughout the state, assisting in preventing animal illness by providing information and resources, and maintaining and compiling Arkansas Reportable Disease reports. The State Veterinarian relies heavily on the work of the Regulatory Compliance section, administrative staff, and livestock inspectors to fulfill these responsibilities.

Accomplishments

The Animal Health Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Participated in discussions and policy formation for OneHealth programs of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Health;
- Served on subject/topic/program committees of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA);
- Served as a participating member of the National Alliance of State Animal Health Officials (NASAHO);
- Participated in Arkansas Department of Agriculture and commodity advisory group reviews of Arkansas regulations;
- Conducted presentations for continuing education and on-boarding of newly licensed Arkansas

veterinarians;

- Conducted Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) response planning for African Swine Fever (ASF) and Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD);
- Assisted with COVID-19 related disturbances to business continuity, management of illegal animal movement, and meat supply interruption concerns;
- Promoted rural veterinary service availability through the USDA Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program;
- Provided management and reporting for USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Service Cooperative Agreement grants;
- Prepared quarterly newsletters sent to more than 1,300 Arkansas licensed animal health professionals; and
- Participated in and provided section leadership for the Poultry Health Advisory Committee and the Arkansas Poultry Veterinarian Association.

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

- Issued 9,812 various certifications for poultry;
- Inspected 24 hatcheries for compliance with State and Federal guidelines;
- Inspected two poultry companies for NPIP/Lab approvals. COVID-19 concerns prevented visitor access to many facilities in poultry production;
- Screened 33 poultry flocks for Salmonella status determination;
- Certified 6,034 poultry flocks as NPIP program disease-free for trade certification partners;
- Conducted 145,726 test for Avian Influenza; and
- Extended certifications in good standing for individuals that test for pullorum typhoid due to challenges in availability of testing reagent supply and COVID-19 accessibility restrictions.

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

The Food Safety Section strives to protect consumers and the agricultural industry by ensuring that poultry, eggs, and rabbit products offered to the public are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. Graders provide service at processing plants to assure food safety and food quality. Inspectors provide auditing services at retail outlets for regulatory compliance on eggs, ensuring the products are properly graded and labeled according to State and Federal guidelines.

Accomplishments

The Food Safety/Egg and Poultry Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Graded and certified 1.5 billion pounds of chicken and chicken products, 736 million pounds of

- turkey and turkey products, and 1.33 million pounds of rabbit and rabbit products;
- Performed 13 audits on manufacturers producing Child Nutrition Labeled Products, and graded and certified 9,570,158 pounds of Child Nutrition Labeled products;
- Conducted 45 Food Defense audits on manufacturers and off-site storage facilities;
- Graded and certified 4,368,144 cases (30 dozen per case) of shell eggs; 1.57 billion total eggs graded;
- Inspected 47 processing locations and inspected 1,543,170 dozen (18.5 million total) shell eggs;
- Issued 325 Egg Handler Permits and inspected 169,436 dozen shell eggs at retail; 2 million total shell eggs inspected, with 1,422 dozen shell eggs (17,064 total shell eggs) placed on stop sale and returned to the processor for rework or destruction.

Regulatory Compliance Section

The Regulatory Compliance section has 27 inspectors who are responsible for various statewide animal health activities. Inspectors provide testing of swine for brucellosis and pseudorabies, and of poultry for a variety of diseases and for compliance with the National Poultry Improvement Plan certification. Staff is present at livestock markets tagging cattle for disease traceability and at equine events to ensure all animals are current on applicable tests. Inspectors are trained to respond to animal disease outbreaks, including diseases such as Avian Influenza, that could be devastating to the state's poultry industry, the largest sector of Arkansas's agriculture industry.

Employees 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. Inspectors provide educational support to producers and partner agencies.

Accomplishments

The Regulatory Compliance section's major accomplishments include:

- 206 new USDA Premise IDs were issued for a total of 12,134 in the Premise Identification Number (PIN) program;
- A total of 82,169 new animals were identified and entered in the Animal Disease Traceability Database;
- 86 new Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) verifiers were certified this year bringing it to a total of 3,663 verifiers;
- Processed 33,237 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) tests;
- Issued 750 animal entry permits;
- Registered 58 new cattle brands and renewed 115 brands;
- Processed 32,302 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection;
- Livestock inspectors contributed 3,626 hours of service to Arkansas fairs;
- Livestock inspectors charted over 584,239 animals sold at markets across Arkansas; and
- Livestock inspectors vaccinated 24,974 calves for Brucellosis.

POULTRY



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



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



Benton County is the number one poultry producing county in the state



Poultry is the largest sector of Arkansas agriculture

145,726

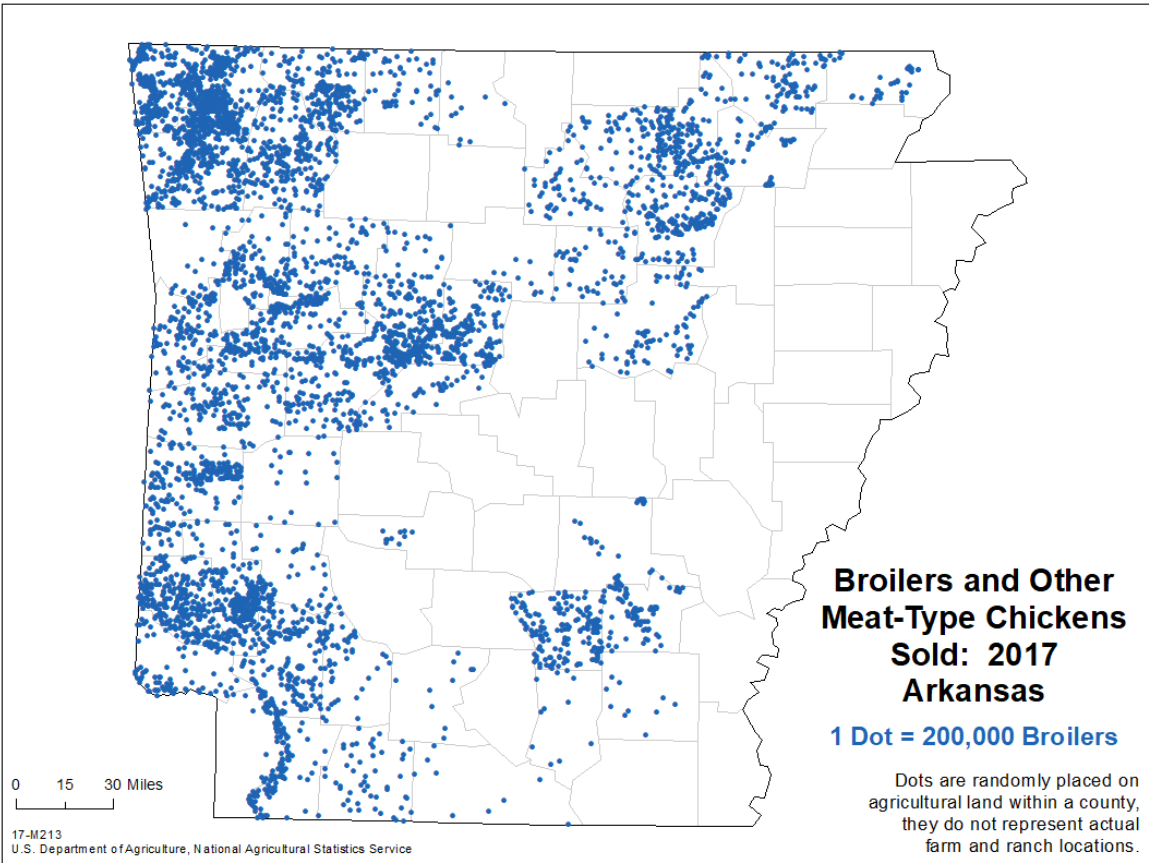
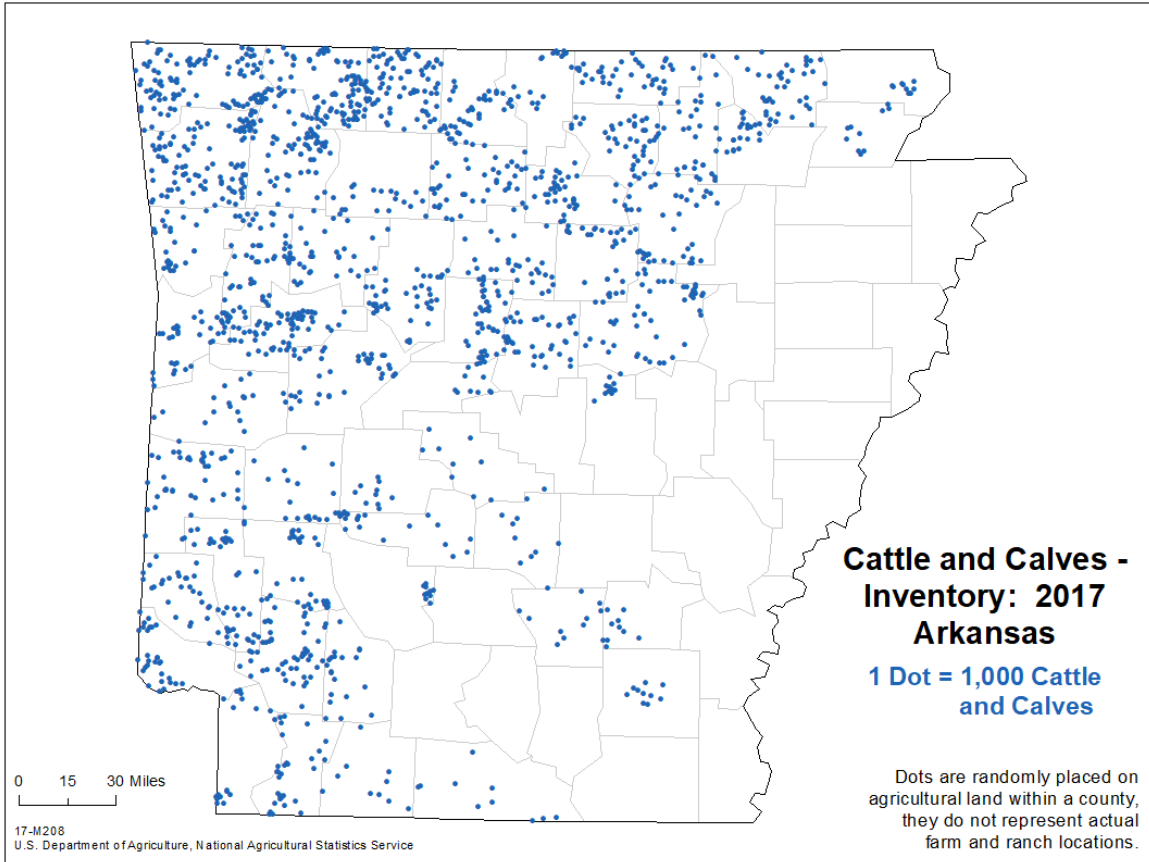
individual tests conducted for avian influenza

1.1 BILLION

broilers were raised and processed for national distribution

6,500+

farms in Arkansas produce some type of poultry



NATURAL RESOURCES

Conservation, Water Resources Development, and Water Resources Management



Funded **6** Unpaved Road Program projects totaling **\$326,222**



Provided **\$2.5 Million** in State and Federal funding to Conservation Districts for district operations and projects



Arkansas Conservation District funding included **\$150,000** for **16,096** beaver tail bounties



Inspected **107** high hazard dams, **56** significant hazard dams, and **106** low hazard dams



53
community water-related projects worth more than **\$157M**

Provided **\$1.9 Million** for 12 projects implementing best management practices for non-point source agricultural water quality impacts on croplands



1505
nutrient management plans developed

Applied for and was awarded **\$3,457,854** through the **USDA Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program**

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



Approved **\$571,500** in eligible project costs under the wetland and riparian zone conservation tax credit program



NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

The Natural Resources Division is responsible for the sustainable conservation, development, and management of Arkansas's waters

Information Provided by Natural Resources Division 2020

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

NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Natural Resources Division, formally known as the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, is responsible for the sustainable conservation, development, and management of Arkansas's waters.

Prior to the Transformation Act, the term "Arkansas Natural Resources Commission" was used interchangeably to refer to both the nine-member body appointed by the Governor to make rules and orders related to water conservation, development, and management as well as to the agency responsible for administering the rules, programs, and orders of the nine-member Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. When the Transformation Act became effective, the agency joined the Arkansas Department of Agriculture as the Natural Resources Division, and the term "Arkansas Natural Resources Commission" now exclusively references the nine-member commission.

The Natural Resources Division is guided by the Arkansas Water Plan ("AWP"), a long-term strategy to guide the conservation, development, management, and use of water for all citizens. The AWP includes all previous updates and is a dynamic framework updated to meet our state's changing needs. The AWP brings data, science, and public input together to define water demands, water supplies, issues, and potential solutions to meet our future needs. The recommendations within the 2014 Arkansas Water Plan Update continue to guide the Division's actions today, including many of the actions taken by the Division in FY 2020.

The Natural Resources Division is composed of three sections: Conservation, Water Resources Development, and Water Resources Management.

Conservation Section

The Conservation Section provides leadership and support for Arkansas's conservation districts in the development, management, and conservation of the state's land and water resources. Three land resource specialists within the Conservation Section are each assigned to a different area of the state, Northeast, Northwest, and South, to provide education and information as well as communicate district concerns to the Section. Every year a third of the state's conservation districts hold an election to elect three directors, and the Section provides instructions, documents, and ballots. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission appoints two of the five directors to each county's conservation district board. The Section also presents information to district directors at area meetings, district field days, and youth workshops.

Accomplishments

The Conservation Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Provided \$250,000 to conservation districts for district priority projects including pollinator projects, irrigation studies, urban garden projects, outdoor classrooms, and conservation field days;
- Approved \$309,172 in additional funding to Arkansas Conservation Districts through a grant

from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for additional district priority projects;

- Provided \$294,948 to Arkansas Conservation Districts to serve as Technical Service Providers that provide free planning and design services to agricultural producers participating in USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services programs;
- Certified nutrient management planners wrote 1505 plans (plan equivalents);
- Applied for and was awarded \$3,457,854 to fund a USDA Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program within 12 Arkansas conservation districts;
- Provided \$150,000 in funding to 55 Arkansas conservation districts for bounties for 16,096 beaver tails under the Beaver Eradication program; and
- Allocated \$914,813 to fund Arkansas conservation district operations.

Water Resources Development Section

The Water Resources Development Section administers two federal and three state programs that provide financial assistance primarily for water and wastewater projects through loans and grants. Each program has different criteria for funding. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission considers the Division's funding recommendations and approves funding at its bimonthly meetings. These recommendations are based upon financial and managerial review of the borrower or grantee and technical review of the project by the section.

The primary types of projects funded include the following:

- Public water supply source development, water treatment systems (water plants), and distribution systems (water lines and water storage tanks);
- Wastewater treatment systems (sewer plants) and sewer collection systems (sewer lines and sewer pump stations);
- Solid waste collection systems and disposal facilities (landfills and recycling facilities);
- Storm water control and treatment; and
- Drainage projects and flood control systems (levee systems).

Eligible applicants include cities, towns, counties, rural development authorities, public facility boards, water associations, water authorities, improvement districts, regional water distribution districts, levee and drainage districts, conservation districts, regional solid waste authorities, and regional wastewater treatment districts. Borrowers pledge water or wastewater system revenue, sales tax revenue, or property tax revenues as collateral for these loans.

Accomplishments

The Water Resources Development Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Disbursed \$94.8 million to projects including \$78.5 from the Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds, \$15.9 from State Programs, and \$378,897 from the funding authorized by Executive Order 19-09 for the repair of levees damaged in the May 2019 flood;
- Provided \$1.9 million in low-interest funding for 12 projects, located in 6 counties, implementing conservation best management practices for nonpoint source agricultural water quality impacts on croplands in partnership with local financial institutions in FY 2020. Cumulative funding for the Agriculture Water Quality Loan Program totaled just over \$21.8 million;

- Closed 33 loans and 4 grants with 32 communities; and
- Started construction on 34 projects in 30 communities and completed construction on 19 projects in 14 communities.

Water Resources Management Section

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

Dam Safety

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

Accomplishments

The Dam Safety staff's major accomplishments include:

- Inspected 107 high hazard dams, 56 significant hazard dams, and 106 low hazard dams;
- Oversaw the completion of six major repairs to high hazard dams;
- Prepared and conducted a dam safety owner's workshop with 69 participants. The workshop exceeded attendance records for all past workshops and similar trainings;
- Attended five Emergency Action Plan ("EAP") tabletop demonstrations and two EAP full-scale drills;
- Provided equipment to allow dam owners to safely maintain and repair their dams;
- Provided technical assistance on numerous repairs, modifications, emergency best practices, reservoir management, new constructions, and deficiencies for dam owners and the general public;
- Sought funding through FEMA's High Hazard Potential Dam Program for critical improvements to three dams;
- Observed the draining of Lake Monticello due to recurring safety concerns related to the dam; and,
- Recorded the decommissioning of Kinion Lake Dam on the Muddy Fork of the Illinois River Watershed, Site No. 1 in Washington County.

Floodplain Management

Floods have been, and continue to be, a destructive natural hazard in terms of economic loss to the citizens of Arkansas. Since 1978, flood insurance policy holders have received over \$154 million in claim payments. The real cost to the State is much more since most of the State's flood-prone property owners do not have flood insurance. To help Arkansas communities reduce the risk of flooding and assist when floods do occur, the Natural Resources Division's Floodplain Management Program administers programs including the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for the state of Arkansas.

Accomplishments

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

- In December 2019, distributed an annual survey (via email and post) to all 424 NFIP participating communities, requesting community input regarding status of local ordinances, maps, current floodplain administrator, technical assistance needs, and training requests;
- Developed updated floodplain development permits, streamlined the permitting process, and incorporated the latest technology and data available from the State and FEMA. These permits were selected by FEMA Region 6 as model documents and distributed to Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Oklahoma for use in their programs;
- In Spring 2020, conducted two full-day floodplain management training workshops in Little Rock and Hot Springs. These workshops reached 27 towns, cities, and counties;
- In Spring 2020, partnered with FEMA and the Arkansas Floodplain Management Association to provide a four-day intensive training course for 42 participants representing 35 communities, agencies, and private firms;
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, re-designed the face-to-face training program for online delivery;
- In May and June, the State presented two one-hour online floodplain management courses to 296 participants including representatives from 78 NFIP communities in Arkansas, FEMA regional and headquarters staff members, local engineers and consultants, and floodplain professionals from Maryland, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Louisiana;
- Developed customizable "boxed" presentations on flood risk and realty;
- In partnership with the Arkansas Floodplain Management Association, the State provided a series of presentations on flood risk and realty to local realtor associations throughout Arkansas, including a presentation to the 120 members of the Northwest Arkansas, Hot Springs, and White County Boards of Realtors;
- During the 2020 Association of State Floodplain Managers Association Virtual Conference, presented to a national audience of nearly 2,000 floodplain professionals on Arkansas's innovative community outreach program educating mayors, judges, and other community leaders on flood risks and hazards and mitigation strategies;
- Led a working group to document state legislative language and authorities adopted to ensure compliance with minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards and the administration of existing floodplain management programs which included representatives from the Governor's Office, the State Building Authority, the Department of Higher Education, the Arkansas Insurance Department, and other relevant organizations;
- Partnered with the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to identify Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) funding recipients for mitigation activities related to the 2019 Arkansas River Flood;

- Presented at the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Federal Emergency Management Administration (“FEMA”) Region VI Community Assistance Program Conference, and the National FEMA Community Assistance Program conference; and
- Coordinated with FEMA to obtain \$5,315,740 for federal flood mitigation assistance grants.

Groundwater Protection and Management

The Groundwater Protection and Management section assist the Natural Resources Division and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission in managing and protecting the groundwater resources in Arkansas for human, environmental, and economic benefit. This work is accomplished through monitoring of aquifer water levels and water quality, the implementation of best management practices (BMPs), conservation, enforcement of the proper construction of water wells, and education. Groundwater Protection and Management staff work in partnership with the public and other agencies to accomplish these objectives.

Accomplishments

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

- Collected groundwater level data and produced the annual Groundwater Protection and Management Report pursuant to the Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Act 154 of 1991;
- In cooperation with our partners at the U.S. Geological Survey and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, monitored the aquifers of Arkansas through approximately 1,200 wells;
- Managed the State’s Conservation Tax Credit Program, including promoting water conservation practices on approximately 25,000 acres since 2016; and
- Managed the Arkansas’s Water-Use Registration Program, which includes 20,000 surface water sites and 60,000 groundwater sites.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Management

Nonpoint Source Pollution is pollution resulting from various sources over a large area, in direct contrast to point source pollution which results from a single source. Nonpoint source pollution generally results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, or hydrologic modification and is often deposited into lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and even our underground sources of drinking water.

Potential sources of Nonpoint Source Pollution include:

- Excess fertilizers and chemicals from agricultural lands, residential, and urban areas;
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding streambanks;
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock and animal wastes; and
- Hydro-modification.

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

Accomplishments

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

- Provided federal funds and technical assistance to 36 projects associated with the abatement/reduction or control of nonpoint source pollutants including the implementation of best management practices, demonstrations of effective abatement/reduction techniques, technical assistance, education, and monitoring;
- Began the development of a Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model for the Bayou Meto watershed;
- Developed 15 new project workplans and agreements;
- Completed five Best Management Program cost share project inspections;
- Approved seven water quality agriculture loans related to nonpoint source pollution that totaled \$626,169; and
- Managed 36 nonpoint source pollution projects with a total federal cost over \$7.04 million.

Arkansas Unpaved Roads Program

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

The Arkansas Unpaved Roads Grant Program receives \$300,000 annually for projects. In FY 2020, nine project applications totaling \$551,031 were received.

Accomplishments

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

- Funded five projects as follows:

○ Lincoln County	\$59,994
○ Washington County	\$69,350
○ Independence County	\$74,470
○ Van Buren County	\$75,000
○ Searcy County	<u>\$47,408</u>
○ Total	\$326,222
- \$26,222 was utilized from the federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program to fully fund the five projects selected.

State Water Planning

The Natural Resources Division is guided by the Arkansas Water Plan ("AWP"), a long-term strategy to guide the conservation, development, management, and use of water for all citizens. The AWP includes all previous updates to the Plan and is a dynamic framework, bringing data, science, and public input together to define water demands, water supplies, issues, and potential solutions to meet our future needs.

Accomplishments

State Water Planning staff's major accomplishments include:

- Riparian Zone Tax Credit Program staff processed and approved 15 new riparian zone tax credit projects; conducted 20 project inspections for approval and compliance, approved \$571,500 in

eligible project costs; conducted seven final project inspections and monitored 18 projects scheduled to be completed in the near future;

- The Riparian Zone Tax Credit Program was highlighted in the Washington DC-based nonprofit Pew Charitable Trust's publication and national webinar which highlighted innovative methods to encourage protection and restoration of riparian zones and wetlands to reduce flood risks;
- Data Quality Assurance/Quality Control Program staff conducted four project manager coordination meetings; conducted seven field and two lab project audits; monitored 18 ongoing projects with existing Quality Assurance Project Plans (“QAPPs”); and approved one new project plan;
- Non-Riparian Surface Water Permitting Program staff completed review and annual compliance on 206 existing non-riparian permits; and
- The Technical Review Staff processed and conducted technical reviews on 43 projects.



PLANT INDUSTRIES

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



14,245 pesticides registered and monitored by the Pesticide Section



More than **20,000** pesticide applicators certified statewide in 2020



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



119,917 tons of peanuts graded

1,067

export products certified free of pests, weeds, and diseases

8,620

quality assurance tests on seeds for more than 100 different crops

1105

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



9,656 motor fuel dispensers

BUREAU OF STANDARDS performed inspections and testing at

5,037 retail businesses



3,813 scale inspections

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

ARKANSAS APIARIES

50,304 registered bee colonies

3,357 registered beekeepers



5 MILLION

pounds of unwanted pesticides across Arkansas safely disposed of since 2015



PLANT INDUSTRIES DIVISION

INVASIVE PEST QUARANTINE

FIRE ANT **39** counties

EMERALD STATEWIDE
ASH BORER **75** counties



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

Information Provided by the Plant Industries Division 2020

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

PLANT INDUSTRIES DIVISION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Plant Industries Division mission is to protect and serve the citizens of Arkansas and the agricultural and business sectors by providing information and unbiased enforcement of laws and regulations, with the objective of ensuring quality products and services. Our vision is to maintain a competent, friendly, cooperative, and efficient Division able to promptly serve the agricultural and business communities and the general public in a highly credible, professional manner.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Plant Industries Division is organized into five sections:

- Bureau of Standards
- Inspection Services Section
- Pesticide
- Quality Control and Compliance
- Regulatory Services

General oversight of the Division is provided by the Plant Industries Division Director. Oversight of each of the remaining five sections is provided by a Section Manager.

The Division conducts work activities associated with 58 diverse programs. Staffing levels average 118 total personnel, including approximately 60 field inspectors.

Bureau of Standards Section

The Bureau of Standards' mission is to ensure equity and fairness in the commercial transactions of the marketplace by establishing accuracy and uniformity in the State's commerce through enforcement of laws and regulations, which benefit and protect both buyers and sellers of the products and services. The section's regulatory goals are to provide consumers and businesses a fair-trade environment, to encourage business development, and instill consumer confidence. To achieve these goals, the Division routinely performs unannounced inspections, complaint investigations, and other regulatory activities that involve suppliers, retailers, and distributors.

The Arkansas Bureau of Standards is the only Weights and Measures regulatory agency in the State of Arkansas to provide consumers and the industry with oversight and protection in commercial transactions. It's estimated that Weights and Measures programs and regulations affect approximately 50% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Arkansas.

Petroleum Program

The State Petroleum Products Program is responsible for testing motor fuels such as gasoline, kerosene, diesel, and illuminating and heating oils used in Arkansas commerce. The program provides consumer protection, technical assistance to the petroleum industry, and assures consumers and the petroleum industry that they receive quality petroleum products. Unannounced inspections and

collection of samples from retail fuel stations, terminal storage tanks, pipeline terminals, refineries and wholesale bulk plants are conducted regularly.

Accomplishments

The Petroleum Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- 9,656 fuel samples collected;
- 5,037 retail stations inspected;
- 6,957 storage tanks inspected;
- 21,849 laboratory tests performed;
- 94 notice of violations issued; and
- Increased compliance by assisting with annual decal inspections.

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 service is affected by some form of weighing or measuring. This program enforces the regulations prescribed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbooks 44, 130, 133, and ASTM Standards.

The program consists of sixteen field inspectors, residing strategically throughout the state. They carry out large scale testing and inspections of the standard and random pack products at the wholesale and retail outlets, test gasoline pumps and storage tanks, small and large capacity scales, pawn scales, and airport baggage scales. Inspectors also conduct inspections for catfish and egg labeling compliance and for misleading advertising violations in the news media.

Accomplishments

The Weights and Measures Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- 612 vehicle scales tested;
- 360 platform scales tested;
- 1,589 high volume fuel meters tested;
- 7,155 meat counter inspections;
- 5,286 packaged commodities inspections;
- 41,802 petroleum pumps inspections;
- 2,841 small scales inspections;
- 65 fish identification inspections;
- 645 egg labeling inspections;
- 36 USDA country of origin labeling inspections;
- 42 complaint investigations;
- Assisted in petroleum sampling during COVID-19 pandemic; and
- 129 notice of violations issued.

Inspector Services Section

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

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

Pesticide Section

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

Regulatory Services Section

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

Quality Control & Compliance Section

- Regulatory Seed Label Compliance
- Certified Seed Program Compliance
- Industrial Hemp
- GMO Rice Testing
- Commercial Fertilizer Registration
- Fertilizer Facility Licensing
- Soil Amendment Registration

Pesticide 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; and
- Cooperative agreements with EPA regarding worker protection, endangered species, ground water protection, and container and containment.

The Pesticide Section's major activities involve product registration approval and the issuance of permits and licenses to manufacturers, dealers, and several categories of applicators. The staff works closely with field inspection staff on pesticide complaint cases and develops civil penalty assessments to effect compliance when violations are found. The section also compiles statistical data for use by industry and educational agencies, provides compliance assistance and enforcement of worker protection standards, implements a state ground water protection plan, and is involved in developing a state endangered species plan.

Accomplishments

The Pesticide Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- 1,445 pesticide manufacturers registered 14,245 pesticide products;
- 459 pesticide dealers licensed;
- 86 commercial applicators certified; 498 re-certified;
- 31 commercial applicator technicians certified; 78 re-certified;
- 88 non-commercial applicators certified; 179 re-certified;
- 1,205 private applicators certified; 2,573 re-certified;
- 29 training and testing sessions attended;
- 143 commercial aerial application firms licensed; 232 commercial ground application firms licensed;
- 365 individual aerial commercial applicators licensed; 647 individual ground commercial applicators licensed;
- 107 commercial applicator technicians licensed;
- 548 non-commercial applicators licensed;
- 3,362 five-year private applicators licensed; 622 one-year private applicators licensed;
- One private applicator with pilot authorization licensed;
- 167 custom applicators permitted;
- Four custom applicators permitted for tree injection and similar methods;
- 217 custom applicator pilots authorized;
- 44 pieces of aerial application equipment inspected; 5 pieces of ground application equipment inspected;
- 2,276 various inspections and sampling conducted;
- 582,844 pounds of abandoned pesticides collected in 5 counties (Spring 2020);
- 527 requests for investigations;

- 56 warning letters issued;
- 240 civil complaints issued;
- 364 informal administrative hearings conducted;
- 169 civil penalties issued; and
- 456 case files closed by staff.

Quality Control and Compliance Section

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 required to support the labeling information. The seed laboratory currently conducts testing for more than 60 different crops.

Accomplishments

Seed Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- 457 seed labelers licenses issued;
- 50 seed treater licenses issued;
- 1,219 seed labels reviewed;
- 20,495 seed acres inspected and certified;
- 48 stop sales issued;
- 1,171 GMO rice lots (representing 3.9 million acres) of rice sampled and tested; and
- 113,827 seed labels printed.

Feed and Fertilizer Program

The Feed and Fertilizer program works to ensure public safety and a fair marketplace by providing oversight of feed and fertilizer products sold in the state. The program administers and enforces the Feed and Fertilizer Laws and Regulations, Agricultural Liming Materials Act, Soil Amendment Act, Agricultural Consultants Licensing Act, 100% Natural Organic Fertilizer Act, and the Aflatoxin Act.

The program's oversight duties involve inspection of facilities, reviewing producer labeling practices, and random sampling from retail sites and distribution points for laboratory testing against label claims. The program also investigates all claims of product contamination, inferior quality, and unlicensed activity brought to its attention.

The Feed and Fertilizer program is responsible for product registration approval after label review, and issues permits and licenses to manufacturers, blenders, vendors, grain warehousemen, catfish processors, and consultants. The program also tracks the tonnage of feed and fertilizer products sold in the state, collects required fees, and provides statistical data for use by the agricultural industry.

Accomplishments

Feed and Fertilizer Seed Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- 1,289 licensed feed facility firms;
- 440,740 tons of feed reported sold;
- 1,689 sample reports received; and
- 140 penalties issued.

- Fertilizer
 - 472 fertilizer companies registered;
 - 4,879 fertilizer products registered;
 - 177 Arkansas fertilizer facilities licensed;
 - 1,056,184 tons reported sold;
 - 657 fertilizer sample reports received; and
 - 83 penalties issued.
- Soil Amendments
 - 70 soil amendment companies registered;
 - 202 soil amendment products registered; and
 - 104,759 tons reported sold.
- Lime
 - 54 lime companies registered;
 - 143 liming products registered;
 - 54 lime vendors licenses issued;
 - 90 lime sample reports received; and
 - 5 lime penalties issued.

Industrial Hemp Program

The Industrial Hemp Program staff administers the Arkansas Industrial Hemp Act that was enacted in 2017 and directed the creation of a program to research the feasibility of growing industrial hemp in Arkansas. Rules for the Arkansas Industrial Hemp Research Program became effective in 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.

Existing Plant Industry staff administered the program through Fiscal Year 2018. Due to the number of applications and the associated workload, the Department hired its first full time Industrial Hemp Program coordinator in May 2019.

Accomplishments

The Industrial Hemp Program staff's major accomplishments for 2019 include:

- 147 total licenses approved:
 - 113 grower licenses,
 - 34 processor licenses;
- 205 plots totaling 1,962 acres approved; and
- 112 greenhouses totaling 339,012 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. Functions of a licensed agricultural consultant include providing advice or prescriptions for the control of diseases and infestations, the control of any weed, and the use of fertilizers and soil amendments.

Accomplishments

The Agricultural Consultants Licensing Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- 186 consultant licenses issued.

Grain, Warehouse, and Catfish Processor Program

The Public Grain Warehouse and Catfish Processor Section oversees three regulatory laws: The Public Grain Warehouse Law, The Grain Dealer Law, and The Catfish Processor Fair Practices Act. Each law is designed to give producers a measure of protection against bad business practices of facilities that fall under the jurisdiction of these laws.

The Public Grain Warehouse Law

Staff auditors are required to audit each licensed grain warehouse at least once annually. The Plant Industry Division has a goal of conducting two unannounced audits annually of each licensed warehouse. Audits include measuring the grain in the facility and examining scale tickets, settlements, contracts, warehouse receipts, and any other documents that are needed to ensure compliance.

Office staff reviews all documents for new applications, renewal applications, and amended applications. Staff reviews financial statements and ensures proper fees are paid, correct bonding amount is received and on file, and the proper amount of grain insurance is kept by the licensee.

Accomplishments

Under the Public Grain Warehouse Law, the staff's major accomplishments include:

- 33 licenses issued;
- 43 audits conducted; and
- 4 violations found.

The Arkansas Grain Dealer Law

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

Accomplishments

Under the Arkansas Grain Dealer Law, the staff's major accomplishments include:

- 24 licenses issued;
- 28 audits conducted; and
- 33 violations found.

The Arkansas Grain Grading Act

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

Accomplishments

Under the Arkansas Grain Grading Act, the staff's major accomplishments include:

- 38 certificates issued.

The Arkansas Catfish Processors Fair Practices Act

The Arkansas Catfish Processors Fair Practices Act was enacted in 1987 to protect catfish producers from bad business practices of catfish processors in the state of Arkansas. The law classifies all processors who purchase \$50,000 worth of catfish as a Class A registrant and they are required to be registered with the state under this act.

Accomplishments

- Arkansas had no registrants for FY 2020 under the Arkansas Catfish Processors Fair Practices Act.

Regulatory Services Section

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

The Regulatory Services Section consists of 22 full-time employees and utilizes agricultural specialist inspectors on an as-needed basis. The Section also employs seasonal employees which are hired as needed for survey work, fruit and vegetable inspecting, and peanut grading. Seasonal employees average 55 annually.

Accomplishments

Regulatory Services Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- 194 bio-regulatory permits reviewed;
- 1,067 phytosanitary certificates issued;
- 790 entities inspected as part of the Imported Fire Ant Survey;
- Approximately 5,000 traps placed by Department-led team of cooperators for the Gypsy Moth Survey;
- 874 nursery licenses issued;
- Ginseng harvest was 643 pounds dry and 242 pounds green (Green roots lose about 2/3 of their weight when dry). Issued certificates for 589 pounds dry, and 230 pounds green;

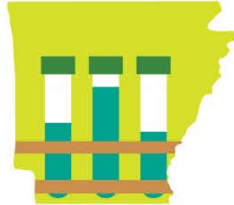
- 3,314 apiary colonies inspected;
- Collected \$1,497,142 from 650 producers in the Boll Weevil Eradication program;
- Surveyed/trapped and certified 4,949 acres in the Sweet Potato Weevil program;
- Surveyed/trapped 17 cotton gins in the Pink Bollworm program;
- 14,291 aquaculture acres certified in the Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Certification program;
- Commercial Pest Control:
 - 1,262 licensed operators,
 - 1,687 technicians registered,
 - 104 applicants certified, and
 - 338 inspections performed;
- 45 growers trained and 8 large farms inspected through the FDA Produce Safety Program:
 - Fruit and Vegetable Inspections conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement,
 - Fresh Tomatoes – 653,180 lbs.,
 - Cucumbers – 176,760 lbs.,
 - Sweet Peppers – 30,075 lbs., and
 - Eggplant – 4,450 lbs.;
- 9 Audits conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement:
 - 4 Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices Audits,
 - 2 USDA Harmonized GAP Plus+ Post Harvest Audits, and
 - 3 USDA Harmonized GAP Plus+ Field Harvest Audits;
- Peanut Grading:
 - 37,692 tons graded at the Birdsong facility located in Portia,
 - 55,004 tons graded at the Delta Peanut facility in Pocahontas,
 - 20,763 tons graded at the Delta Peanut facility in Marianna,
 - 6,458 tons graded at the Delta Peanut facility in Jonesboro,
 - Birdsong had 16,000 acres, and
 - Delta Peanut had 39,000 acres;
- 5 Bioregulatory Services Inspections conducted under USDA Cooperative Agreement; and
- 25 surveys conducted in the Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey program.

SHARED SERVICES

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



Fiscal managed a combined budget of more than **\$198 Million**



493,020 tests performed by the Laboratory Services Section



Marketing issued **39** press releases, and promoted **14** state proclamations



Human Resources filled **129** open positions across all divisions

\$3,526

received in fines and suppression reimbursements



201

law enforcement cases resolved



171

law enforcement assists performed



\$442,773 Restitution

returned to Arkansas land owners



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

FISCAL



24,023

Vendor Invoices Processed

\$4 Million

in Federal Grant aid payments processed

\$11.5 Million

in Federal Grant aid reimbursements requested

LEGAL



Assist Department's boards and commissions in promulgating **20** rules and repealing **4**

Coordinated **23** farm loan mediations, with **18** resulting in successful resolutions

Information Provided by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture 2020

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

SHARED SERVICES DIVISION

Shared Services Division Overview

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 encompasses the following sections:

- Feral Hog Eradication Program
- Fiscal
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Legal
- Laboratory Services
- Law Enforcement
- Marketing and Communications
- Trade/Economics

Feral Hog Eradication Program Section

The feral hog eradication program provides coordination, leadership, and support to the Department's multiple Divisions on issues related to feral swine. Additionally, the feral hog program also provides co-chair leadership and expertise to the Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force in conjunction with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and 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 coordinator assists with development and implementation of USDA Farm Bill programs related to feral swine control projects.

Accomplishments

Feral Hog Eradication Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- Assisted with the development of USDA Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP) proposals for counties across four project areas;
- Coordinated the implementation of the FSCP through individual Conservation Districts;
- Assisted Conservation Districts with coordination and planning needs for the implementation of the FSCP by conducting project area meetings, developing feral swine technician job descriptions, posting job announcements, and conducting interviews;
- Assisted USDA NRCS and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services with providing technical and administrative contacts for grant delivery as well as modifications to approved scopes of work associated with grant proposals;
- Assisted the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture with damage assessments and pre-post survey delivery and implementation associated with the FSCP;

- Assisted Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission with coordination and issuance of Aerial Eradication Permits for private landowners to control feral hogs;
- Assisted Arkansas Game and Fish Commission with developing and testing a GIS-based application tool for reporting feral hog sightings and removals;
- Assisted with the development of the Arkansas Feral Hog Handbook; and
- Collaborated with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services to develop statewide feral swine assistance materials.

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 2020, the fiscal department welcomed the relocation of five fiscal staff from the Natural Resources Division to the Department's headquarters location to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

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 24,023 vendor invoices in FY 2020;
- Processed over \$4 million in federal grant aid payments to subrecipients; and
- Requested over \$11.5 million in federal grant reimbursements.

Human Resources Section

The Human Resources section is responsible for all employment procedures, recruitment, employee benefits, time data entry, payroll processing, worker compensation claims, training, and safety. The three members of the Human Resources section work with Department employees daily on a myriad of personnel needs and processes to facilitate a productive work environment.

Accomplishments

Human Resources Section staff accomplishments include:

- Processed 129 employee hires and promotions;
- Processed 35 retirements;
- Processed 59 resignations;
- Processed 9 terminations;
- Processed 8 transfers;
- Continued scanning of personnel files for storage savings;
- Created and issued employee ID badges; and
- Broadened databases to capture required training.

Information Technology Section

The Information Technology (IT) Section provides critical data, communications, 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, enterprise wide voice and data network supports a wide range of agency operations, including tracking license payments, providing a pathway for the plethora of data analysis in the Department's labs, historical agricultural weather data tracking, and a multitude of laws and regulations surrounding the agricultural industry in the state.

Accomplishments

Information Technology Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Upgraded the Department's core data network to fiber optic that will provide the Department a low latency network experience allowing the successful integration of next generation cloud-based technology;
- Upgraded aging workstations that will allow for a more efficient work environment along with systems that support current industry standards;
- Installed a new firewall that includes Application-centric, scalable, and secure SD-WAN solution with Next Generation Firewall (NGFW) capabilities.
- Completed the installation of building-wide wireless networks, including guest access, as well as 4G extenders for those employees that utilize agency issued mobile devices;
- Completed the deployment of Cylance to every agency endpoint, providing a higher level of cyber security;
- Restructured the IT team to allow for more effective management and efficient operation; and
- Completed the centralization of all Department servers to allow for further efficiency.

Legal Section

The Department's legal section provides legal guidance to all divisions within the Department and advises the boards, commissions, and committees. The Legal section oversees the rule promulgation process within the Department and assists with the drafting and revising of personnel policies.

Accomplishments

The Legal Section staff's major accomplishments include:

- Advised Department of Agriculture staff on a daily basis and advised the Department's Boards and Commissions at all regular and special called public meetings;
- Advised Department Boards and Commission through the promulgation process of twenty rules and the repeal of four rules;
- Advised all Department Divisions on implementation of laws enacted during the 2019 legislative session;
- Drafted new policies and/or revised several agency personnel policies;
- Added the responsibility for oversight of the Department's Farm Mediation program; and

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 staff's major accomplishments include:

- The Farmer Mediation Program transitioned to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture October 1, 2019;
- From October 1 to June 30, 221 case files were established affecting \$120,227,262 in loans;
- 23 mediations were held, and 18 agreements were reached;
- Contacted creditors to provide notification of the change of agencies, address, and coordinator;
- Wrote an article about the Arkansas Farm Mediation Program for the Arkansas Bankers Association publication;
- Assisted with the creation of a Farm Mediation Program brochure; and
- All program forms were updated to reflect the changes caused by the transition.

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. Both the Livestock and Poultry Division and the Plant Industries Division had previously maintained several distinct laboratories, which include a Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, a Chemistry Laboratory, a Seed Laboratory, a Petroleum Laboratory, and a Weights and Measures Laboratory. In October of 2019, these separate laboratories were brought under the shared services model as part of the overall transformation of state government, with a view towards maximizing resource allocation and minimizing duplication of effort.

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

Accomplishments

Significant achievements from lab transformation include:

- First-ever safety audit (internal) of all department laboratories;
- Introduction of non-conformance reporting and controlled documentation in the Seed Lab;
- First-ever ISO-17025 calibration of pipettes in the Chemistry Lab;
- Introduction of formal internal quality audits in the Chemistry Lab;
- Sharing of personnel between Veterinary Lab and Seed Lab;
- Extensive revision of Weights and Measures Lab's Annual Submission to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST);
- Relocation of high-complexity lab instrumentation from the Veterinary Lab to the Chemistry Lab;
- Shared procurement of supplies among various laboratories;
- Increased resiliency in the Weights and Measures Lab's roster of Approved Signatories by NIST certification of Veterinary Lab's Quality Manager;
- Cross-training of Weight and Measures Lab personnel into the grain moisture meter calibration program; and
- Enhanced monitoring of the state's fuel supply by re-tasking of area retail inspectors during Phase I remote work.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL)

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Little Rock diagnoses livestock and poultry diseases in order to support the livestock, poultry, and equine industries, and practicing veterinarians in the achievement of their disease control programs. The VDL strives to provide high quality and legally defensible diagnostic results in a timely, efficient, and professional manner. The laboratory services include post-mortem examinations and bacteriological, chemical, serological, toxicological, and virological tests. Laboratory findings aid animal owners in limiting or eliminating health hazards to their animals.

Timely and accurate test results provided by the VDL have tremendous economic effects on the State's livestock and poultry 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 is Livestock and Poultry Division's source for validation and determining next steps if an outbreak has accrued or if there is a disease issue of concern. The laboratory is also our first line of defense in monitoring and identifying potential animal disease outbreaks in the field.

Accomplishments

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

- Performed 460,810 total tests;
- Completed 5,026 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) screening tests;
- Conducted 20,144 Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) procedures;
- Performed 163 drug tests at the Arkansas State Fair;
- Performed 158,278 tests for mycoplasma bacteria;
- Performed 8,981 tests on specimens related mostly to pets seen in veterinary clinics;
- Performed 8,390 tests in the bacteriology section;
- Performed 10,717 tests by the virology section; and
- Performed 402 necropsies.

Chemistry Laboratory

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

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

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

Accomplishments

The Chemistry Laboratory staff's major accomplishments include:

- Performed 18,682 total tests;
- Completed 13,026 tests on 1,532 feed samples;
- Completed 4,192 tests on 726 fertilizer samples;
- Completed 344 tests on 135 limestone samples;
- Completed 798 tests on 623 pesticide samples;
- Completed 322 tests on 329 industrial hemp samples; and
- Formulated 24 gallons of hand sanitizer according to specifications of the World Health Organization.

Seed Laboratory

The Department's seed laboratory characterizes regulatory seed samples collected by field inspectors. Samples are taken from seed that has already been labeled and in trade. The purpose of regulatory samples is to ensure that the seed has been correctly labeled (consumer protection). Service samples are submitted to the Seed Lab for testing. Information from test results may be used to label seed.

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

Accomplishments

The Seed Laboratory staff's major accomplishments include:

- Analyzed 4,908 seed samples;
- Completed 2,751 purity tests;
- Completed 4,488 germination tests;
- Completed 524 accelerated aging tests; and
- Completed 857 herbicide tolerance tests.

Metrology Laboratory

The Metrology Laboratory performs legal metrology, the science of measurement, by providing accurate and reliable measurements using standards traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The results provided by this lab serve as the basis for ensuring equity in the marketplace and as reference standards for calibration services for state industry.

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

The Metrology Lab has demonstrated measurement proficiency through training and interlaboratory comparisons compliant with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Handbook

143:2019 (ISO/IEC 17025:2017). The laboratory has received Full Recognition from the NIST Office of Weights and Measures to support legal metrology within the state of Arkansas.

Accomplishments

The Metrology Laboratory staff accomplishments include:

- Certified 1,769 large mass standards (25 lb. – 1000 lb.);
- Certified 2,817 small mass standards (0.001 lb. – 10 lbs.);
- Certified 143 volume provers (5 gallon); and
- Obtained Authorized Signatory status from the National Institute of Standards and Technology for additional metrologist.

Petroleum Laboratory

This program administers the fuel quality law through inspection, analysis, and enforcement to help ensure that consumers are purchasing quality motor fuels. Fuel samples are collected by field chemists and submitted for testing. The petroleum laboratory analyzes gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuels, and alternative fuels, including biodiesel and E85 (Flex Fuel), for compliance with applicable state quality and safety standards. Annual samples are collected from gas pumps across the state during routine inspections for analysis. The lab conducts between 18,000 and 20,000 analysis per year. Samples are also collected when consumers file a complaint.

Accomplishments

The Bureau of Standards Petroleum Laboratory staff's major accomplishments were as follows:

- Sampled over 3,000 fuel stations, including retail, wholesale, and distribution points;
- Collected 7,205 gasoline samples and 2,490 diesel samples;
- Performed 28,378 tests on fuel samples to ensure product reliability;
- Responded to 46 complaints and re-sampled 128 stations; and
- Implemented a COVID-19 contingency plan that dramatically *increased* fuel sampling.

Law Enforcement Section

The Department's five law enforcement officers investigate agricultural crimes that affect any part of Arkansas's diverse agricultural industry and help enforce the laws and rules promulgated by the boards and commissions within the Department. Investigators work with state and local law enforcement to investigate crimes and assist with prosecution when necessary. Common investigations include wildfire arson, timber theft, livestock theft, and agricultural and forestry equipment theft or vandalism.

Accomplishments

The Law Enforcement Section staff's major accomplishments were as follows:

- Opened 154 Law Enforcement Cases in FY2020
 - Timber – 62
 - Fire – 20
 - Equipment – 1
 - Dumping – 27

- Department property – 5
- Agency Assistance – 12
- Livestock and Poultry – 27;
- Closed 201 Law Enforcement Cases in FY 2020
 - Timber – 100,
 - Fire – 33,
 - Equipment – 2
 - Dumping – 33
 - ADA property – 8
 - Agency Assistance – 11
 - Livestock and Poultry – 14
- Restitution back-to-land owners: \$442,773;
- Fine money and suppression fees back to agency: \$3,526;
- Law Enforcement Agency Assists: 171; and
- Minority Assists: 78.

Marketing and Communications Section

The Marketing and Communications section is committed to promoting and supporting the many accomplishments and successes of Arkansas’s diverse agricultural industry. The Marketing and Communications team distributes information and updates on news, program opportunities, and laws and rules that affect the agricultural industry through various outreach efforts. The team participates in trade shows and conferences, connects with and makes presentations to other agricultural organizations, and through various other outlets.

The Marketing and Communications section distributes information via the following:

- Website and social media channels;
- Press releases and newsletters; and
- 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 the following:

- Agricultural Proclamation signing events with Governor Hutchinson;
- Arkansas Farmers Market Promotion Grant;
- Arkansas Farmers Market Shopping Bag Program;
- Arkansas Century Farm;
- Arkansas Fair Funding;
- Arkansas Department of Agriculture Scholarship Program;
- USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant;
- USDA National Organic Certification Cost Share Program;
- Market Access Programs/Internships through the Southern United States Trade Association;
- Certificates of Free Sale;
- Veterans4Ag Program in partnership with Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Arkansas Department

of Veterans Affairs;

- Arkansas Grown, Arkansas Made, and Arkansas Grown Homegrown by Heroes Branding Programs;
- Arkansas Grown Homegrown by Heroes Scholarship Program;
- Local Conversation Events;
- Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest; and
- Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program.

The Marketing and Communications section has also increased the Department's ability to produce educational, outreach, and promotional materials in-house.

Accomplishments

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

- Distributed 39 press releases to media partners and partner agencies;
- Facilitated 28 interviews;
- Developed and launched a new Department website;
- Developed and distributed a monthly online newsletter to 3,900 stakeholders;
- Produced 26 videos;
- Developed and distributed the 2020 edition of the *Arkansas Grown* magazine;
- Facilitated and hosted 14 proclamation events with Governor Hutchinson;
- Distributed \$360,643 in Specialty Crop grants to 4 entities;
- Administered the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program;
- Partnered with Southern U.S. Trade Association, who administers the Market Access Program and Agricultural Trade Promotion program, to aid Arkansas companies in meeting qualified foreign buyers and promoting products internationally;
- Awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to six students with funding from civil penalties collected by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture;
- Inducted 46 families into the 2019 Arkansas Century Farm program;
- Distributed \$7,525 in grants to 20 Arkansas Farmers Markets through a partnership with Farm Credit;
- Provided more than 17,000 shopping bags to Arkansas farmers markets at a greatly reduced rate that results in significant cost savings for the markets;
- Produced and provided 32 COVID-19 printable and shareable resources for stakeholders;
- Produced and provided three COVID-19 shareable resources and three videos for the Joint Information Committee (JIC);
- Distributed \$692,809 in funding to Arkansas fairs; and
- Hosted a Veterans4Ag Summit in partnership with Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs;
- In partnership with Arkansas Farm Bureau and the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department hosted a Farmer Veteran Coalition Arkansas State Chapter interest meeting during which a Chapter Organizing Committee was formed. The partnership provided support to the Chapter Organizing Committee and the State Chapter was officially established in May;
- Facilitated and hosted a Local Conversations event with 39 attendees.

Arkansas Grown/Arkansas Made/Homegrown by Heroes

The Arkansas Grown branding program began in 2012 to help promote the many agricultural products that are grown in Arkansas. The program is often used to help make the critical connection between producers and consumers.

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

In 2015, the Department adopted the national Homegrown by Heroes branding program that enables farmer veterans to market their local agricultural products by labeling them as veteran-produced. The program is administered by the Farmer Veteran Coalition.

To participate in this free program, farmers must have veteran, active duty, National Guard or Reserve member of the United States Armed Forces status. In order to apply for Homegrown by Heroes certification, individuals must first belong to the Farmer Veteran Coalition and be certified through the national Homegrown by Heroes program.

Accomplishments

- Awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to two students through the Homegrown by Heroes Scholarship program in partnership with Farm Credit;
- In partnership with the Farm to School and Early Childhood Education program, received \$78,076 from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant program; and
- Partnered with UpLift Arkansas to enable Arkansas Grown, Arkansas Made, and Arkansas Grown Homegrown by Heroes members the option to upload and maintain their information on the UpLift Arkansas website giving them tremendous exposure and easy accessibility.

Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program

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

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

This Farm to School and Early Childhood Education program was created within the Department by the passage of The Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Act in 2019. The Department hired the State's first Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Coordinator in August 2019.

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

Accomplishments

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

- Provided technical assistance to 214 schools, farmers, agencies, and non-profits;
- Participated in 39 regional and national farm to school meetings;
- Hosted 14 farm to school educational trainings, webinars, and events with 551 attendees;
- Developed 10 farm to school resources and videos including the first annual Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Act report;
- Hosted 5 staffed displays;
- Spoke about farm to school at 7 educational programs and invited talks;
- Facilitated 8 Arkansas Farm to School Collaborative meetings that engaged 12 state agencies and non-profit partners;
- Created the Arkansas COVID-19 Food Access Map that listed 1,500 locations to find food;
- Managed and awarded \$3,000 total to the 5 winning schools of the 2019 Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest;
- Partnered with UpLift Arkansas to make available the Food Access Map resource and find Arkansas Grown food available in local areas, as well as schools and organizations offering meals to Arkansas school-aged children;
- Partnered and expanded the Full Circle FarmCorps program, hosted by the St. Joseph Center of Arkansas, that brought on 20 additional AmeriCorps members and 5 new school sites;
- Worked to expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Arkansas to include an online SNAP pilot program in collaboration with legislators, other state agencies, and non-profit partners; and
- In partnership with the Arkansas Grown program, received \$78,076 from the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant program.

Trade / Economics Section

Economist

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

Accomplishments

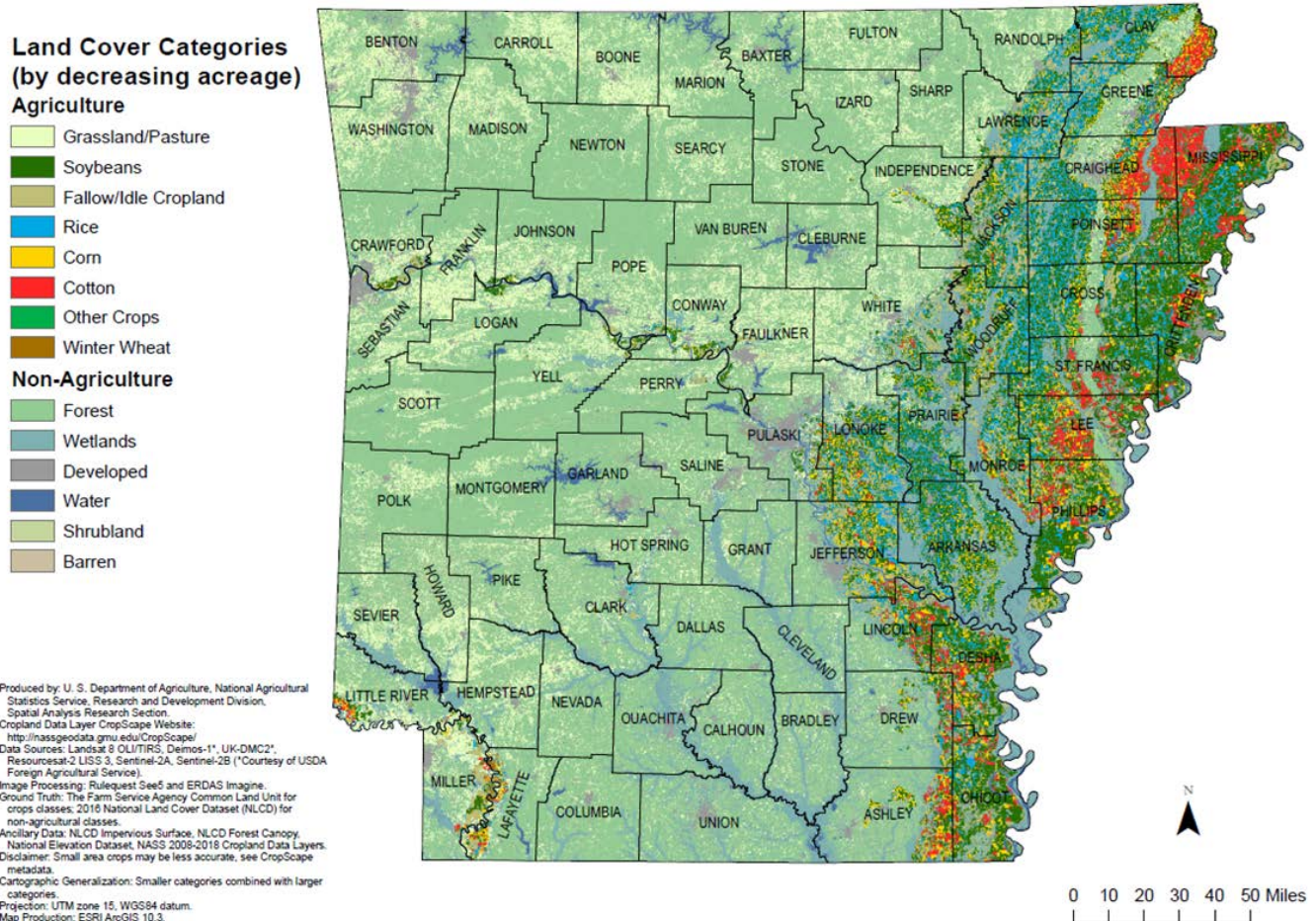
The Trade and Economics Section Program staff's major accomplishments include:

- 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;
- Laid the foundation to provide a "Weekly Market Summary" beginning in July 2020;
- Provided daily technical analysis of rice, grain, and livestock markets;
- Provided daily study of fiscal, monetary, and trade policy's impacting the profitability of Arkansas agriculture, supporting infrastructure, and communities; and
- Special ongoing focus on the following:

- COVID-19's potential impact on supply chain disruptions,
- US-China Phase 1 Trade Deal,
- Global Central Bank's individual and collective monetary policy actions,
- U.S. Federal stimulus legislation,
- Global weather uncertainties, and
- Other global activities that may compromise our producers, ranchers, infrastructure, and communities.

Arkansas Land Cover Categories

Source: USDA National and Delta Regional Agricultural Statistics Service

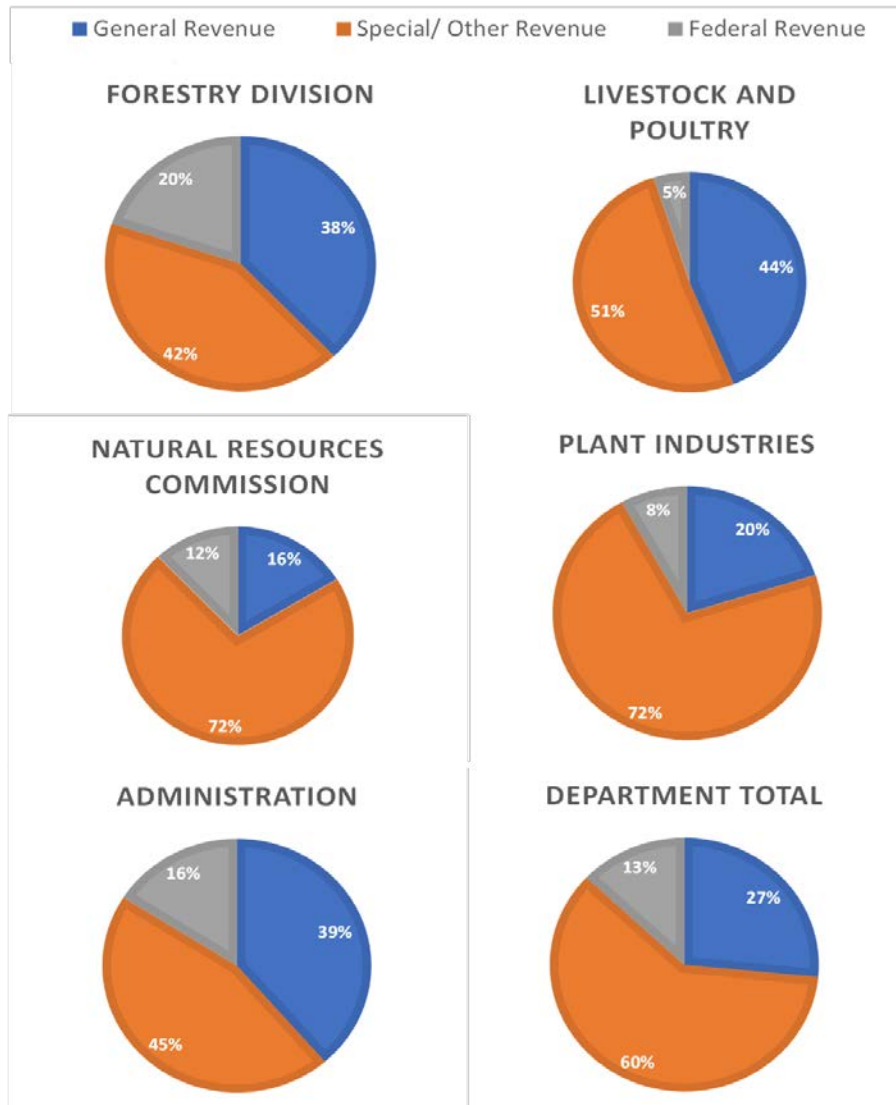


Department and Division FY 2020

Adjusted Budget and Expenditures

Department and Division	Adjusted Budget	Expenditures
Forestry Division	\$30,798,107	\$22,677,653
Livestock & Poultry Division	\$12,110,063	\$9,876,362
Natural Resources Division	\$128,901,311	\$35,657,022
Plant Industries Division	\$20,469,754	\$10,462,489
Shared Services	\$6,177,488	\$4,107,182
Soil Classifiers	\$1,296	\$192
Registration for Foresters	\$20,018	\$12,110
Veterinary Board	\$119,768	\$86,690
Department	\$198,597,805	\$82,879,699

FY 2020 Revenue Sources



Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board

The Abandoned Pesticide Advisory Board selects ten counties per year with a goal of holding at least one collection event in every county in Arkansas. The Advisory Board uses priority watersheds as a guiding principle when selecting counties for pesticide collections.

The board is composed of up to six members, one member from each of the following: Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the State Plant Board, who serves as the board's chair. Members of the board serve without compensation.

Accomplishments

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

- 10 collection events in Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Drew, Lincoln, Prairie, Arkansas, Lonoke, Jefferson, and Desha counties disposed of 580,062 pounds of unwanted pesticides were held in the Fall of 2019 and Spring of 2020.

Arkansas Agriculture Board

The Arkansas Agriculture Board offers expertise to the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture on all matters concerning agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, and kindred industries.

The Arkansas Agriculture Board is appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson and consists of 20 voting members and 8 nonvoting ex officio members. Each member brings expertise and experience on specific areas of agriculture. The Board elects officers every two years.

Accomplishments

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

- The Arkansas Agriculture Board convened 4-quarterly meetings, where the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Secretary updated the Board on the business of the Department, and the Board provided their broad-based expertise on all matters concerning agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture, and kindred industries.

Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Committee

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

Accomplishments

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

- The Boll Weevil Eradication Program assessed 499,000 acres of cotton at \$3.00 per acre;
- The program’s assessments were 100% collected;
- All of Arkansas cotton acreage was captured within the trapping protocols with no boll weevils detected; and
- The Boll Weevil Eradication Program’s pesticide and managerial efficiency allowed the Boll Weevil Eradication Board to provide a rebate of \$1.00 per acre on grower assessed acreage.

Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board

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

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

Accomplishments

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

- No meetings of the Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board were held in FY 2020.

Arkansas Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission provide oversight guidance to the Forestry Division in pursuing its mission to protect Arkansas’s forests, and those who enjoy them, from wildland fire and natural hazards while promoting rural and urban forest health, stewardship, development, and conservation for all generations of Arkansans.

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

Accomplishments

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

- 4 Arkansas Forestry Commission meetings; and
- In FY 2020 the Commission approved 17 interest free loans to Arkansas Volunteer Fire Departments totaling \$205,637 through the Rural Fire Program's Volunteer Fire Department loan program.

Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission

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

The Livestock and Poultry Commission is composed of seven members who are Arkansas residents and actively engaged in the Arkansas livestock or poultry industries each serving 7-year terms.

Accomplishments

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

- 4 scheduled meetings and 1 special-called meeting;
- The Commission promulgated 1 new rule;
- The Commission revised 3 rules;
- The Commission repealed 4 rules;
- The Commission approved 1 enforcement action; and

Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board

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

The Board consists of five members: two members actively engaged in dairy farming, one Arkansas consumer, one Arkansas milk processor, and one Arkansas retailer.

Accomplishments

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

- The Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board did not meet in FY 2020.

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

The Commission adopts, modifies, and enforces rules related to water conservation, development, management, and planning. The Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. At least two members must reside in each congressional district as those districts existed on August 1, 1985. Commissioners serve seven-year terms.

The Commission is responsible for approving or denying petitions to create, combine, divide, expand, or dissolve conservation districts. The Commission appoints conservation district directors and fills vacancies. It also has the authority to remove directors for neglect of duty and malfeasance in office. The Commission is responsible for adopting the Arkansas Water Plan and amendments to the Plan. The Commission is responsible for making determinations concerning water shortages, implementing allocation plans in times of shortage, and designating critical groundwater areas. The Commission is charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly when a person or entity requests permission to withdraw water from Arkansas for out-of-state usage. The Commission issues orders relating to deficiencies that threaten a dam's integrity and the safety of the lives and structures below the dam.

The Commission approves issuance of general obligation bonds to finance water development projects. The Commission then uses proceeds from the bond programs and additional state and federal funds to make loans and grants, primarily for water, wastewater, and solid waste projects.

The Commission also has authority to appoint a receiver to take charge of a public water or sewer system for failure to adequately oversee its financial operation, managerial operation, or technical operation. Receivers may also be appointed for failure to comply with Department of Health or Department of Energy and Environment rules.

The Commission also has responsibilities for hearing appeals of the Natural Resources Division Director's decisions, including water plan compliance decisions; noncompliance with the Commission's occupational accreditation, certification, and licensing programs; and noncompliance with the Arkansas Soil Nutrient and Poultry Litter Application and Management Act.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission's major accomplishments were as follows:

- The Commission approved water, wastewater, and solid waste project loans and grants for 53 communities totaling \$156,747,405;
- The Commission approved 21 appointments, 39 reappointments, and 1 conservation district director emeritus to conservation district boards.

Arkansas Seed Arbitration Committee

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

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

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Seed Arbitration Committee's major accomplishments were as follows:

- No arbitrations were held.

Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters

The mission of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters is to protect private forest landowners by licensing and registering foresters who are qualified, experienced, and maintain their continuing education.

The Board is comprised of six members appointed by the Governor. Five positions are held by registered foresters selected from various forestry sectors, and one position is held by a consumer representative who is not a registered forester or retired from the forestry profession. Board members are appointed for five-year terms.

The Board's duties include issuing certificates of registration to foresters who meet the statutory requirements, investigating alleged violations of the State Board of Registration for Foresters Act, and administering written examinations for applicants. The Board is also authorized to promulgate rules.

There are 436 registered foresters in Arkansas as of April 2020. Arkansas has reciprocity agreements with Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Accomplishments

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

- 19 new licenses were issued;
- Four examination opportunities were conducted; and
- Sponsored two continuing forestry education webinars with a combined attendance of 103 foresters.

Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers

The Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers was created in 1975 to register professional soil classifiers and soil classifiers-in-training and regulate the profession of soil classification. The Board administers exams and provides for penalties and punishment for violations of Act 460 of 1975.

The Board consists of five members, including three registered professional soil classifiers, one member who is a member of a conservation district board, and one member who represents the public at large.

Accomplishments

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

- One regular meeting was held;
- Board rules were amended to reflect legislative changes in 2019; and
- 35 license renewals were issued.

Arkansas State Plant Board

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

There are 16 voting members and two non-voting members. Members appointed by the Governor serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Members appointed by an association serve at the pleasure of the association.

The eighteen members include:

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

The Board provides guidance and direction as to the implementation of regulatory oversight, enforcement actions, and has the authority to promulgate rules. All enforcement actions are reviewed by and approved for final disposition by the Board.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas State Plant Board's major accomplishments were as follows:

- Held 4 regular meetings and 5 special-called meetings;
- The Board promulgated 4 rules;
- The Board approved 266 enforcement actions; and
- The Board heard 3 petitions for rulemaking.

Veterinary Medical Examining Board

The Veterinary Medical Examining Board ensures that public health, as well as animal health and welfare, is protected against the incompetent, unprofessional, and unlawful practice of veterinary medicine.

Providers of veterinary services are required to obtain a license or certificate from the Board to practice their profession. The Board licenses veterinarians and certifies veterinary technicians or technologists and non-veterinarian embryo transfer technicians. Prior to issuing a license or certificate, the Board will establish that the applicant has met the proper qualifications for licensure or certification and will examine the applicant, when necessary.

Applicants who apply for licensure as a veterinarian must take a written examination given by the Board, unless otherwise approved by the Board for licensure by endorsement or reciprocity. The written examination is conducted by the Board and composed of, but not limited to, the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Practice Act, state and federal laws relating to prescription and controlled drugs, ethics of veterinary medicine and the laws of the Arkansas Livestock & Poultry Commission, and USDA-APHIS and Rabies Control.

In addition to ensuring that applicants meet the qualifications for initial licensure or certification, the Board also sets continuing education standards for the renewal of licenses and certificates. Continuing education is important because it helps licensees and certificate holders stay up to date with the latest developments, skills, and new technologies in their respective professions.

Other ways in which the Board aids in public protection is by investigating consumer complaints, initiating its own investigations, and determining whether disciplinary action will be taken against a licensee, certificate holder, or an individual practicing veterinary medicine without a license. Finally, the Board has the authority to promulgate and enforce rules.

Accomplishments

The Veterinary Medical Examining Board's major accomplishments were as follows:

- Initial licensing of fifty-nine (59) veterinarians;
- Initial certification of twenty-five (25) veterinary technicians;
- Initial certification of thirteen (13) corporate practices;
- Initial certification of one (1) non-veterinarian embryo transfer technician;
- Oversight of one thousand six hundred eighteen (1,618) total licenses and certificates;
- Approval of sixty-six (66) continuing education programs;
- Review of fourteen (14) complaints; and
- Promulgation of seven (7) new or amended rules.

Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission

The Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission regulates water well construction and pump installation. The Commission promulgates rules to provide a framework for proper development of

underground water in an efficient, orderly, sanitary, reasonable, and safe manner. It also licenses water well and pump installer contractors and certifies water well drillers and pump installers.

The Commission is composed of 7 members: the Secretary of the Department of Health, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, a person recommended by the Arkansas Heat Pump Association, the EnviroEnergy Group, or another ground water source industry association, two water well drillers located southeast of the fall line in Arkansas, and two water well drillers located southwest of the fall line.

Accomplishments

The Arkansas Water Well Construction Commission's major accomplishments were as follows:

- Six meetings were conducted;
- One enforcement action was approved with penalties totaling \$750;
- Eleven new driller applicants were approved;
- Nine new pump installer applicants were approved;
- Eleven new apprentice driller applicants were approved;
- Eighteen new pump installer applicants were approved; and
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission on Water Well Construction waived all renewal fees for FY2021 and lowered the number of continuing education credits necessary to maintain licensing from six to three.

Litter Utilization Committee

This committee was created to consider methods of removal, valuation, avenues of distribution, and alternative uses for litter as part of the implementation of the nutrient management laws. Committee members were appointed by the Director of the former Arkansas Soil and Water Commission and provided guidance during the drafting of nutrient management rules.

- The Litter Utilization Committee has not met in more than ten years.

Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee

The Private Wetland and Riparian Zone Creation, Restoration, and Conservation Committee reviews applications for both wetland and riparian zone creation and restoration tax credits and for wetland and riparian zone conservation tax credit. The Committee provides recommendations on whether proposed projects meet eligibility requirements under this program.

The Committee is made up of the directors, or their designees, of the Department of Agriculture Forestry Division, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Department of Finance and Administration, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Division of Environmental Quality of the

Department of Energy and Environment, and two public members appointed by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

Accomplishments

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

- The Committee reviewed and approved new and completed projects and convened several times in FY 2020.
- The Committee met in July and December 2019;
- Approved 15 new projects for tax credit;
- Had 18 approved projects under construction;
- Approved 7 completed projects;
- Inspected 20 projects for approval, completion, or compliance; and,
- Approved and determined \$571,500 in project costs as eligible for a tax credit.

Ouachita River Commission

The Ouachita River Commission cooperates with state and federal agencies to study, plan, and implement needed improvements or projects to and along the main stem of the Ouachita River in Dallas County, Hot Spring County, Clark County, Ouachita County, Calhoun County, Union County, Bradley County, and Ashley County.

The Governor appoints the nine-member Commission, which consists of one member from each of the following eight counties: Clark County, Ouachita County, Calhoun County, Union County, Bradley County, Ashley County, Hot Spring County, and Dallas County. The ninth member appointed by the Governor is the highest-ranking official of the Ouachita River Valley Association and is a resident of Arkansas.

Accomplishments

- The Ouachita River Commission held an annual meeting September 5-6, 2019 in Hot Springs, Arkansas in association with the Ouachita River Valley Association.

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.

Accomplishments

The Red River Compact Commission's major accomplishments were as follows:

- Held the Annual 2020 Red River Compact Commission and Committee meetings on June 29-30, 2020 via internet video conferencing;
- Natural Resources Division staff provided summaries of Arkansas' engineering, environmental, and budget reports during committee meetings and submitted the following reports to the Compact Commission for inclusion into the Red River Compact Annual Report:
 - 2020 Boeuf River Monitoring Report,
 - 2020 State of Arkansas Environmental Report, and
 - 2020 State of Arkansas Commissioner Report.
- Water Planning staff continued investigations into Boeuf River streamflow, instream structures, hydrologic alteration, and historical development within the Boeuf River subbasin. Results from these studies were presented to the Engineering Committee and summarized in the 2020 Boeuf River Monitoring Report. Findings from the report supported Arkansas's position that there were no identifiable patterns in flow data to indicate water diversions in Arkansas significantly or repeatably altered Boeuf River streamflow at the Arkansas-Louisiana state boundary during FY 19-20.

The Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee

The Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee was created to act as a consultant to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission in the development and administration of the wetland mitigation bank program rules, review proposed mitigation bank sites, and participate in site visits for the establishment, evaluation, certification, and compliance of sites.

The committee is made up of the directors or their designees of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; the Arkansas Department of Transportation; the Division of Arkansas Heritage of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism; the Division of Environmental Quality of the Department of Energy and Environment; and two public members with expertise in aquatic resources ecology appointed by the Department of Agriculture's Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

Accomplishments

The Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee's major accomplishments were as follows:

- The Wetlands Technical Advisory Committee exists to provide technical assistance to NRD staff in administering the state-sponsored wetland mitigation banking program. The NRD is currently divesting from this program. Therefore, the Committee did not meet in FY 2019-2020.

Arkansas Watersheds



Arkansas Watersheds

Listed Alphabetically and Largest to Smallest

Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically	Acres	Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically	Acres	Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Listed Alphabetically	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	Acres	Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Largest to Smallest	Acres	Arkansas Watersheds HUC8 Largest to Smallest	Acres
Lower St. Francis	1,936,408	Bull Shoals Lake	703,335	Bodcau Bayou	299,428
Beaver Reservoir	1,389,297	Petit Jean	702,924	North Fork White	282,504
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Bayou Bartholomew	982,089	Upper White-Village	473,908	Eleven Point	113,439
Lower Saline	971,689	Spring	470,590	Lower Mississippi-Memphis	95,821
Middle White	943,985	Lower Black	450,829	Lower Neosho	91,980
Lower White	870,807	Lower Ouachita-Bayou De Loutre	442,135	Current	67,589
Buffalo	856,963	Lower Arkansas	441,454	Cross Bayou	54,340
Frog-Mulberry	822,578	Loggy Bayou	406,407	Lake O' The Cherokees	14,151
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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		

BRANDING PROGRAMS



ARKANSAS GROWN

Arkansas Grown, administered through the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, began in 2012 to help promote the many agricultural products that are grown in Arkansas. The program helps connect the growing number of consumers, who want to know where their food originates, with local producers.



ARKANSAS MADE

Arkansas Made promotes goods and products manufactured in our state by businesses and connects them to potential buyers. Since 2014, Arkansas Made has encouraged the purchase of locally made products by creating a community of suppliers and buyers that call Arkansas home.



HOMEGROWN BY HEROES

When consumers search for an Arkansas Grown or Arkansas Made item and see a Homegrown By Heroes logo, they know the item was produced in Arkansas by an Arkansas veteran. In 2015, the Department adopted the national Homegrown by Heroes branding program that enables farmer veterans to market their agricultural products by labeling them as veteran-produced.

Learn more at ArkansasGrown.org

CENTURY FARM

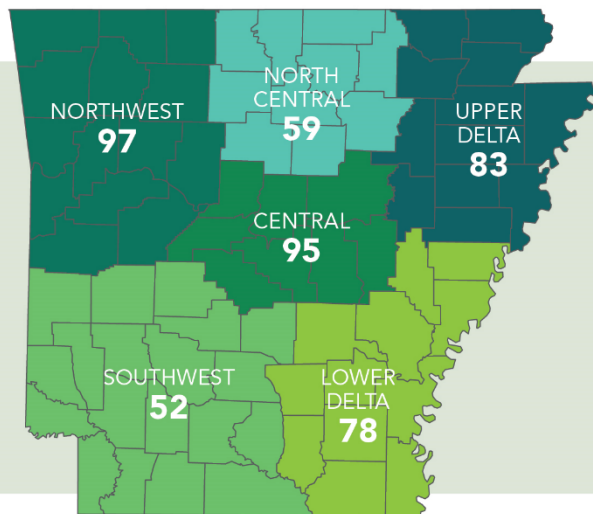
The Arkansas Century Farm Program recognizes Arkansas farm families who have owned and operated an area of 10 acres or more for a least 100 years. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture began the Century Farm program in 2012 as a way to highlight the impact of these families on the agriculture industry as well as their overall contributions to our state.

The Arkansas Century Farm program is open for applications each year from February until May. To get more information about applying, visit: agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-century-farm-program



NUMBER OF CENTURY FARMS BY REGION

Since the program began, over **464** farms have been inducted. In 2019 alone, **46** farms were inducted.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 CENTURY FARM INDUCTEES!

Arch Westmoreland Farm
 Beard Family Farm
 Beauty Old Homeplace
 Bob & Sue Austin Farm
 Chambers Farm
 Chronister Family Farm
 Churchill Holler Farm
 Crigger Farm
 Curtis Farm
 Dickson Farm
 Donovan Farm
 E.M. Brown Farm
 Edward "Eddie" Ahrent Farm
 F. H. Lyons Farm
 Flynn Farms
 Grinder/Taylor Farm

H & D Tucker Farms
 Henry Jones Family Farm
 Henry-Franklin Farm
 Highfill Family Farm
 Hoover Family Farm
 Humphries Hubble Creek Farm
 James B. Whitlow Farm
 JK-M&M Ranch
 Johns Family Farm
 Locke Farm
 Louis Floyd Farm
 Mahony Farm
 Marshall Farm
 Miller Bros/Flying Farmers Farm
 Morris-Taylor Family Farm
 Ragsdell Family Farm

Rauls Family Farm
 Reding Farm
 Ryland Family Farm
 Sehorn Farms
 Sharp County Farm
 Sickel Farms
 Simmons Family Farm
 Sitzer Farm
 Sugar Creek Farm
 Troy & Donna Henson, Gol & Jewell Smith Farm
 Webb Place
 Wiles Family Farm
 Wilks Family Farms
 York Family Farm

AG EXPORTS

(In Millions of Dollars)



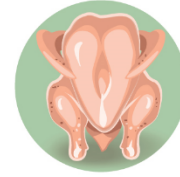
RICE
\$722



SOYBEAN
\$679



COTTON
\$427



BROILER MEAT
\$412



SOYBEAN MEAL
\$160



OTHER POULTRY
\$138



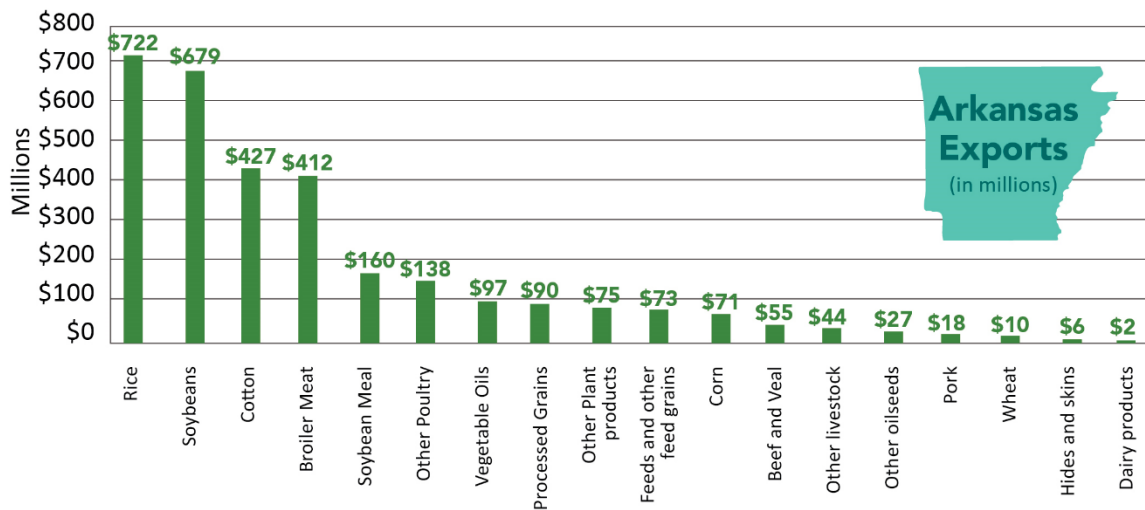
VEGETABLE OIL
\$97



GRAIN PRODUCTS PROCESSED
\$90

Other plant products \$75
 Feed and other feed grain \$73
 Corn \$71
 Beef and veal \$55
 Other livestock products \$44

Other oilseeds and products \$27
 Pork \$18
 Wheat \$10
 Hides and skins \$6
 Dairy products \$2



AG EXPORTS

Delta States



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

Southern States



Arkansas ranks **Number 4** in all the Southern States

Nationally



Arkansas ranks **Number 16** in the nation

Animal 22%

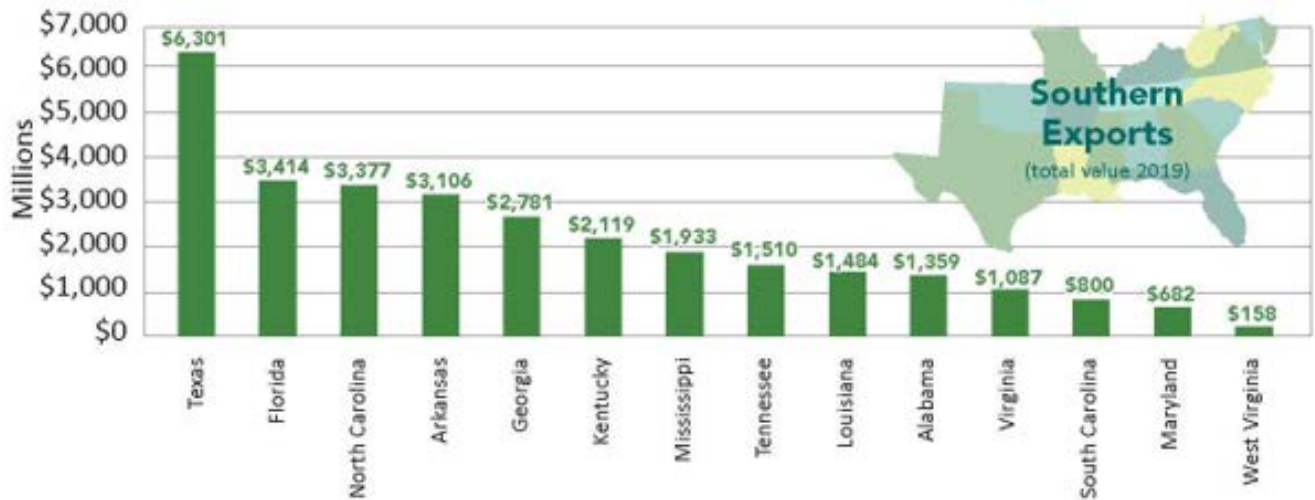
Plant 78%

Total Animal: **\$675,000,000**

Total Plant: **\$2,431,000,000**



Total Agricultural Exports: **\$3,106,000,000**



Future Outlook

FACTORS THAT POTENTIALLY CHALLENGE ARKANSAS'S ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

- **Cashflow Concerns.** Many Arkansas farmers, ranchers, forest landowners and their supporting infrastructure and communities continue facing cashflow challenges due to the historic ongoing market disruptions generated by the sharp domestic and global economic contraction from the global Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic's continuing impact.
- **Pandemic's Impact.** The pandemic's ongoing impact varies by commodity. When the disease disrupts processing facilities, producers, ranchers, and forest landowners may find themselves with a contracting market, further aggravating their cashflow challenges and potentially leading to additional financial hardships for agribusinesses and communities.
- **Technologies Rapid Evolution Replacing Workforce Segments.** The COVID-19 pandemic will have producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, and others focused on the use of technology to minimize human dependency across all levels of production, processing, transportation, distribution, and sales.
- **Local Processing and Food Scarcity.** The pandemic reminded us not to take local food security for granted. A strong realization emerged that producers and communities must have food processing availability contingency plans that are profitable in normal times and provide local food sustainability during times of food scarcity.
- **Sustainability in Times of Change.** In the highly competitive policy driven global marketplace, protectionism and nationalism are increasingly becoming the norm, resulting in lost global marketplace efficiencies. Agricultural and forestry sectors are required to increasingly focus on risk management and the maintenance of a strong farm government program safety net.
- **Consumer Tastes and Preferences.** Rapid shifts in consumer demands associated with quality, convenience, taste, and nutrition due to new technologies and other factors are expected to accelerate with each passing year. This will dictate that farming, ranching, and timber processing and marketing infrastructures become more fluid and responsive.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture.** We continue building on our strong relationship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prioritize regulatory, research, educational, and service needs to assist in solving agricultural, forestry, and societal challenges.
- **Plant and Animal Disease.** Potential animal and plant disease outbreak challenges and other issues could significantly disrupt the profitability and viability of our production sector.
- **Feral Hogs.** Reducing the growing number of the feral hogs and managing the populations to reduce property damage, diseases, and environmental impacts will take collaboration between the public and private sectors.
- **Black Headed Vultures.** Black headed vultures attacking newborn calves present an economic hardship to Arkansas cattle producers each spring and fall.
- **National Security Issues.** Collaborative efforts with USDA and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on national security concerns are essential to help protect agriculture from intentional and accidental acts that might impact Arkansas's and America's food supply or natural resources.

- **Weather Patterns.** Recent weather patterns have produced increased weather intensity, duration, and volatility. Colder winters, periods of excessive rain and flooding, and excessive heat and droughty periods, both domestically and internationally, are potentially disruptive to global food production.
- **Emergency Response.** Periods of excessive heat and prolonged droughty periods increase the probability of a catastrophic fire event. The Department’s Forestry Division maintains continuous monitoring and preparedness activities to ensure emergency response readiness.
- **Disease Awareness and Emergency 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.

FARMERS MARKETS

and other direct to consumer sales



In Arkansas, there are more than **1,500** farmers selling directly to consumers



LOOK FOR:



A farmers market is a place where producers from a local area gather to sell their own product directly to the local consumer



Serving all Arkansans

WHILE PROTECTING AND PROMOTING ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE, FOOD,
FORESTRY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Arkansas Department of Agriculture
1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov

2020 ANNUAL REPORT