

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (0400)

FISCAL YEAR 2016

As Enacted by Act 890 of 2015

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

Act 1978 of 2005 created the Agriculture Department. Its mission is to develop and implement policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep them competitive in world markets while ensuring safe food, fiber and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation.

The Agency began operations on August 15, 2005. The Department was charged with administering and coordinating the activities of 3 agencies placed in the Department. These are the Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission and the Arkansas State Plant Board. The office of the State Land surveyor is now housed in the Arkansas Agriculture Department. During the 2007 - 2009 biennium, the Aquaculture program was added to the Agriculture budget.

MISSION - LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMISSION

To safeguard human and animal health, assure food safety and quality and promote Arkansas livestock and poultry industries. Controls interstate and intrastate movement of livestock, ensures compliance with State and Federal disease control regulations by surveying auctions, barns, state lines, livestock dealers, and garbage feeding establishments; also administers Egg and Poultry Inspection Program.

MISSION - PLANT BOARD

The board samples and analyzes agricultural production for quality assurance; performs inspections, testing and grading to protect against harmful insects, plant diseases and noxious weeds; provides enforcement of quarantines and regulations; enforcement of pest control, nursery, and apiary rules and regulations; and checks the accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices.

MISSION - FORESTRY COMMISSION

Protect and develop forest resources, detect and suppress wildfires, monitor forest health, promote reforestation, provide forest management assistance to private landowners, and assist rural fire departments.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

The total appropriation for the Arkansas Agriculture

Department for FY2016 is \$64,205,258.

FUNDING SOURCE

The budget is funded by general revenue, special revenue, cash and federal funds.

II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

- **Agri Office of the Secretary -**

Increase of \$4,200 each year in Operating Expense for the **Operations Appropriation** for increased printing and office supplies.

Cash appropriation of \$60,000 added for operating expenses and promotional items.

- **Plant Board -**

Increase in **Administration/Pest Control Appropriation** Capital Outlay appropriation of \$435,000 for replacing equipment, weather monitoring system and a vehicle each year.

- **Forestry Commission -**

Increase in **Operations Appropriation** Operating Expense appropriation of \$10,000 in FY2016 and \$50,000 in FY2017 for repairs to county offices and expenses associated with hosting the 2017 Southern Group of State Foresters Annual Conference.

Increase in **Forestry Operations Appropriation** special revenue for one new Grants Manager position and restoration of 13 positions.

Increase of \$208,190 in FY2016 and \$136,190 in FY2017 **Forestry Operations Appropriation** in Operating Expenses for equipment, smart phone applications and maintenance and repairs to firefighting equipment.

Increase in **Forestry Operations Appropriation** Capital Outlay of \$560,000 in FY2016 and \$743,000 in FY2017 for firefighting equipment such as dozer units and environmental cabs.

Increase in Capital Outlay **Rural Community Fire Protection Appropriation** of \$330,00 each year for firefighting equipment.

Decrease in Federal Funding for Grants of \$50,000 each year for **Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Forest Health**

Appropriation.

• **Livestock & Poultry Commission -**

Increase in **Operations Appropriation** of \$20,967 in FY2016 and \$17,365 in FY2017 in Salary and Match due to a reduction in Federal grants.

Increase in **Animal Disease Control, Egg Grading, Small Animal Testing, Large Animal Testing, Swamp Fever Testing and Equine Infectious Anemia** Capital Outlay appropriations to purchase and/or replace office, lab testing and inspection equipment.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total FY2015 Authorize Positions: 593)

Total Positions for FY2016: 592

Total Base Level Positions: 578

Increase/(Decrease)Over Base Level: 14

One new Grants Manager position and restoration of 13 positions all in forestry special revenue appropriation. Due to reduction in one position from Plant Board Administration/Pest Control and increase of 14 positions in Forestry Special Operations, there are 13 positions over budgeted but 14 over base.

Veterinary Toxicologist position was added in place of one of the Chemist Supervisor positions. This change will aid the Department in the retention and hiring of a highly qualified doctoral-level employee to lead the Toxicology program. (Per Governor's Letter #27)

Extra Help Positions FY2016: 171 (Total FY2015 Authorized Extra Help: 171)

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

* BUFFALO GNAT CONTROL PROGRAM - The Buffalo Gnat Program is to control gnats where needed.

* EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT - Funds shall be used to pay expenses necessary for members of high school 4H clubs, high school FFA clubs and Miss Arkansas Rodeo for expenses incurred at national conferences and events. Special Language was changes to reflect same amounts as noted in appropriation.

* FUND TRANSFER - The Livestock and Poultry Director with prior review of the Legislative Council and approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer may transfer funds from the Livestock and Poultry Equine Infectious Anemia Control Fund to the Livestock and Poultry Fund Account.

* TRANSFER PROVISION-PEST ERADICATION - Appropriation may be

transferred from the Pest Eradication Program special line item to Reg. Salaries, Extra Help, Overtime, and Pers. Services. Matching if the Board determines that pest eradication efforts require additional personnel expenses, with the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer and review by the Legislative Council.

* EXTRA HELP PROVISION: No Extra Help employee may receive an amount to exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ or 75% of maximum annual salary for comparable position or be employed for more than nine months or 1400 hours in any single fiscal year.

* TRANSFER PROVISION - The State Forestry Commission may transfer from Extra Help or Professional Fees if temporary firefighters, dispatchers or pilots are required to meet demands of a wildfire season.

* REFUND TO EXPENDITURE - The Arkansas Forestry Commission is authorized to charge fees to federal agencies and other states to reimburse for expenditures made on behalf of these governmental units.

* ALLOCATION RESTRICTIONS - The Secretary of Agriculture shall at no time designate general revenue allocations to the State Plant Board, Livestock and Poultry and Forestry Commission at a level less than the revenue distribution provided in the Official Forecast of state general revenue in effect for each of those agencies.

* REPORTING REQUIREMENTS - The Arkansas Forestry Commission shall present activity report each month to ALC or JBC.

* **NEW LANGUAGE** - PROMOTIONAL ITEMS - Establishes process for acquiring promotional items with special appropriation after approval by ALC or JBC.

April 2015