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Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for August 2019

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw:

Per Section 33 of Act 544 of the 2019 General Session, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for August 2019.

August was a busy month for the AFC. First, the AFC is partnering with a new Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) contractor. The new partner, Henry Aviation, was ready to assist with wildland fire suppression on August 15th. Since then, the SEATs have responded to two fires and trained with one Fire Department.

Second, the AFC was able to help our neighbor state of Texas by sending three current firefighters and one retired firefighter to assist with wildland fires in their state. This deployment is not only to help the state of Texas, but also allows AFC employees a great opportunity to train in real time fire situations.

As one can see, the AFC takes great pleasure in working with new and existing partners to build and strengthen our protection of Arkansas's Forests.

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



**Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division
August 2019 Activity and Fiscal Report**

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During August a total of 35 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 162 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of August is 135.36 wildfires with 1896.09 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: A crew in Newton County assisted in searching for a 16-year-old autistic child. The child was found safe.

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists fire departments (FDs) with organization, training and equipment. RFP provides interest-free loans, secures firefighting and emergency service equipment from the federal government, and administers a federal grant to assist approximately 1,000 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance to property destined for FD's and repairs Forestry Division equipment as well.

August 2019

- Four Wildland fire training classes were conducted with 31-FDs represented (81 firefighters) and four forestry personnel in attendance.
- The following was issued to FDs; one Freightliner (valued at \$164,760.00), four generators (valued at \$110,051.00) and a boat, motor, and trailer (valued at \$9,720.00)
- RFP received 454 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$36,801.54). Including wheel track chocks, blankets, and 11x20 pneumatic tires for redistribution to FDs.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on seven forestry vehicles and equipment as well as one DOD vehicle destined for a FD.
- RFP provided two interest free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund.
 - Ozone Johnson Co. #5 FD \$12,664.41 2,000 gal. tank paint D-6 Johnson Co.
 - Cooterneck FD \$11,250.00 2,500 gal tank, paint D-5 Dallas Co.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant: The FY18 VFA Grant is ready to close, state match has been met, the final drawdown and report has been submitted to the U.S. Forest Service. The FY19 VFA Grant is now being used for state match. The Wildland Suppression Kit application period for Fire Departments is open from September 2 through October 4. We are in the process of gathering quotes on grant kit items and placing a personal protective equipment (PPE) order to get the process started.

- 2019 Rural Fire Show: 30 vendors have pre-registered; we are expecting seven more at this time. We are also receiving RSVP's from several fire departments. A few door prizes have been secured already.
- Attended the Arkansas Emergency Medical Technician Conference August 2-3.
- Attended the Arkansas Emergency Management Association Conference Aug. 28-30.
- Met with Holly Grove new Fire Chief and Mayor to explain the opportunities available.

Firewise: Firewise staff and district personnel work with fire departments and civic organizations to make communities safer from the threat of wildfire through mitigation projects and community education initiatives. Arkansas leads the nation with 82 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in **August**:

- Conducted Firewise risk assessment training to one fire department
- Met with three fire departments interested in re-entering program; answering all questions and concerns.
- Hosted informational booths at Arkansas EMT Association Conference as well as Arkansas Emergency Management Association Conference.

Law Enforcement: AAD has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but primarily on unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and forestry equipment theft and focuses vandalism. AAD aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. AAD Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened three dumping, two fire related and six timber theft cases. They closed one dumping, three timber theft and one Agency assist case.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: AFC works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect, and enhance Arkansas's forests. The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is an opportunity for non-industrial private forest landowners who are interested in managing their property for wildlife, recreation, soil and water conservation, agro-forestry and/or for timber production to get a comprehensive multiple use forest management plan that is prepared by private consulting or AFC foresters, private consulting or AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 415,746 acres of private land actively enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Certified Forest Stewards. There are 1,263 Forest Stewards owning 283,369 acres in the State.

For August, five FSP plans were prepared on 575 acres. In addition, AFC personnel provide technical assistance through the rural forestry program to landowners that are enrolled in USDA tree planting and forest management programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), and AFC Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. AFC foresters prepared 119

forest management practice plans on 7,227 acres. AFC personnel conducted 10 prescribed burns on 305 acres.

Urban Forestry Assistance: Urban Forestry Program staff provides assistance and training to communities, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, developers and homeowners on urban tree care, inventory and management.

August Urban & Community Forestry

- Reviewed Urban & Community Forestry Grant applications. Seven high quality applications were received. Recipients will be notified by Sept. 15.
- Conducted a Smokey Birthday Party program at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock on August 3 with 50 participants. Information on fire prevention and safety was presented along with information on the benefits of trees in communities and proper tree care practices.
- Presented a program to 30 participants on “Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives: How to Take Care of Trees So They Can Take Care of Us” at Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville on August 15.
- Wrote an article about how communities can prepare for Emerald Ash Borer infestations for the Arkansas Municipal League City & Town magazine.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist assists Forestry Division personnel statewide in efforts to maintain healthy, productive forest ecosystems by preventing, detecting, monitoring, and suppressing damaging insects and diseases. AR Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division offers technical assistance to landowners who encounter forest health issues.

- The Forest Health Specialist, with other Arkansas Department of Agriculture employees, met with City of Little Rock to discuss a project at Two Rivers Park focused on control of invasive Chinese tallow tree.
- Laurel wilt, an exotic fungus that kills sassafras trees, was confirmed in Jefferson and Chicot Counties. Arkansas now has 10 confirmed counties.
- One aerial survey was conducted over Polk, Scott, and Yell Counties. No notable forest disturbances were detected.

Reforestation: AFC’s tree improvement program strives to provide landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One method AFC employs to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. AFC Baucum Nursery then makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which are the net result of the tree improvement program.

Reforestation Manager, Dave Bowling, Nursery Manager James Shelton and Reforestation Foreman, Randy O’Neal hosted Oklahoma Forestry Services Regeneration Manager, Jeri Irby and four nursery specialists at Baucum Nursery for a collaborative discussion and tour of Baucum.

Baucum Nursery: AFC's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16. Year to date through August 31, there were 138 online orders and 73 paper orders. Total sales of 2,047,550 pine and 7,098,240 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 222 online orders and 61 paper orders. Total sales of 425,600 pine and 5,389,320 hardwood.

During the month of August, Baucum Nursery staff completed the following:

- Rented land mover to load mulch
- Continued to disc layout fields 2, 3, and 7
- Continued to spread mulch in layout fields 2, 3, and 7
- Continued bush hogging as needed
- The following cultural practices were completed for growing of the FY20 crop
 - Top pruned all crops on a weekly basis as needed
 - Applied urea fertilizer on a weekly basis as needed to all species that were off color and/or needed growth
 - Hand weeded in all fields on a weekly basis as needed
 - Plowed between beds in all planted fields to aerate soil and stabilize beds on a weekly basis as needed
 - Applied herbicide to buffer areas around fields on a weekly basis as needed
 - Applied herbicide to riser lines on a weekly basis as needed
 - Applied Poast herbicide to hardwood species on a weekly basis as needed
 - Applied Poast and Goal Tender herbicides to pine on a weekly basis as needed
 - Applied Goal Tender herbicide to all hardwood crops using shielded sprayer
 - Undercut beds to stimulate root growth and produce more height

Tree Improvement: AFC's tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed.

During the month of August, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Fertilized all production orchards at Bluff City with nitrogen
- Finished pruning potted grafts in shade house
- Continued working on fence at Dr. Parkes test site
- Finished pruning rootstock in orchards 1718 and 1719 back to one main trunk for spring top grafting
- Repaired drip irrigation in orchards 1720 and 1721
- Fertilized transplanted grafts in all orchards
- Bush hogged Hope test
- Completed final aerial insecticide application on all production orchards before cone harvest
- Continued bush hogging production orchards and grounds
- Pruned 2019 Grafts

Best Management Practices (BMP): AFC provides BMP training to loggers and timber companies, conducts courtesy exams prior or during timber harvest operations and addresses logging complaints.

BMP achieved the following in **August 2019**:

- Assisted landowner with CRP and Law enforcement information.
- Attended S.I.C meeting and presented.
- Checked a valid complaint in Clark County.
- Logger training for 17 contractors in Jefferson County.
- Attended South West Forest Products Expo and passed out handbooks.

Forest Inventory and Analysis: AFC in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station is responsible for collecting scientific data from permanently established plots located all over the state. The plots, each representing 5,937 acres, are strategically located on a three-mile by three-mile grid. The inventory plots have been generating data since they were established in the 1950's. Natural resource managers use the data to make management decisions and follow Arkansas's natural resource trends through time.

FIA completed 63 plots for the month of August. We are now 59% complete with the 2019 Survey.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

August 2019

.	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(382,023.07)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(382,023.07)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(33,581.26)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(33,581.26)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(33,817.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(33,817.00)	
4042001000 FINES	(100.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(100.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(1,100.00)	
** OR - Rents	(1,100.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	(1,076.20)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(23,914.41)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Miscellaneous	(24,990.61)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(22,187.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(1,335.25)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(17,646.35)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(41,168.60)	

4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.30)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.30)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(244.47)	Verizon Refund
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(244.47)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(188,900.53)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(188,900.53)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	11,460.69	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	1,010.97	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	415.73	
** Treasury Charges	12,887.39	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,200,818.45	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	40,313.85	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	154.01	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	91,093.16	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,894.52	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	181,754.90	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	800.00	
** Salary Expense	1,637,688.89	
5020001000 Postage	2,392.20	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	12,246.02	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,608.62	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	2,399.71	
5020005000 Freight	116.35	
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	26,762.90	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	593.02	National Pen Comp (booth handouts)
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	130.79	
** Printing & Advertising	723.81	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	3,353.80	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	422.83	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	5,866.83	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	33,242.50	
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	303.50	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	19,565.08	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	5,428.79	
5030017000 Software Maintenance	46.12	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,222.45	
** Repairing & Servicing	69,451.90	
5040001000 Electricity	14,179.32	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,820.82	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,245.60	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	1,376.34	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	5,576.32	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,195.38	
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0.00	

5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	106.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	243.91	
** Utilities & Rent		26,743.69	
5050001000	02 Mileage	225.12	
5050003100	02 - Meals	2,178.44	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	4,565.58	
5050004100	09 - Meals	171.66	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	710.21	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	1,102.50	
5050010000	09 Ground Transport	18.87	
5050011000	02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	56.68	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	96.50	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	12,495.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	1,365.00	
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00	
5050025000	02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	14.75	
** Travel & Subsistence		23,000.31	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	11,394.00	Stewardship; Land Appraiser
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	3,325.00	FAR Web Software
** Professional Services & Fees		14,719.00	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00	
5080001000	M&R Service Fees	8.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	862.10	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	42.89	
5080020500	02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	110.00	
5080022000	Other Expenses Svc	201.12	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	4,522.38	
5080031000	02 Empl Screen Cost	722.81	
** Other Expenses & Services		6,469.30	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	1,503.20	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	269.37	
5090004000	Tires	10,628.17	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	37,278.71	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	15,795.21	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	2,701.71	
5090006000	Office Supplies	4,511.26	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	1,319.89	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	314.97	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	11,160.98	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	1,295.31	
5090019000	Food Purchases	1,709.50	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	790.56	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	975.65	

5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	9,635.14	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	1,655.29	
5090026000	DP Supps	2,435.72	
5090026100	02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	222.70	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	44.67	
5090037000	Equip Fire Vehicles	18,822.36	RFP Loans for Tanker, Skid Units, ETC
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	6,584.61	Hot Water Washer; Pipe Top Trailer
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	6,584.61	
**	Commodities, Materials & Supplies	136,239.59	
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	14,350.00	
**	Assistance, Grants & Aids	14,350.00	
5110008000	License & Permits	601.80	
5110015000	NBR Ref Taxes Claims	112.22	
**	Refunds, Taxes & Claims	714.02	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
**	Refunds	0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	43,626.99	Truck; Polaris, Tractor; Riding Mower
**	Capital Outlay	43,626.99	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	133,930.32	
**	Depreciation/Amortization	133,930.32	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	4,437.20	
**	Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	4,437.20	
5130030300	Inter fedxout-warr04	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(613,506.16)	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(10,293.25)	
6060009000	Motor Veh Tfr In	(25,499.00)	
6061006820	Tran Out to CompUnit	100.27	
**	Transfers In/Out	(649,198.14)	
6990002000	Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000	Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
**	Prior Year Adjustment	0.00	
***	BALANCE	0.00	