



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

G.05

December 6, 2019

The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division's monthly activity report for November 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 November 2019.

Urban Forestry is a fast-growing aspect in Arkansas. Forestry Division's Urban Forestry Program conducted ten Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) events for Arkansas Schools. The largest event was at Nelson Wilkes Herron Elementary, Mountain Home, AR, planting ten trees on the playground with 575 students, faculty and friends participating.

Forestry Division has also named a new Urban Forestry Coordinator, Kristine Thomason. "Krissy" is promoting from a County Forester position to the Urban Forestry Coordinator. She is a forester with an extensive background in education. Her background as an educator will aide her as the leader of the Forestry Division's Urban Forestry Program.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



FORESTRY DIVISION

**Arkansas Department of Agriculture (ADA)
Forestry Division
November 2019 Activity and Fiscal Report**

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During November a total of 52 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 668 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of November is 93.81 wildfires and 1,585.36 acres burned.

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 FDs and repairs Department equipment as well.

November 2019

- Six Wildland Fire Suppression training classes were conducted with fifty-four FDs represented (106 firefighters), including ten minority departments and seven Forestry personnel in attendance.
- The following equipment was issued this month; one tanker (valued at \$166,223.00), one brush truck (valued at \$167,746.00) and four ATVs (valued at \$45,460.00).
- Received 215 items in Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) (valued at \$22,478.32) for redistribution to FDs this month to include jackets, bandages and flashlights.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on four Forestry vehicles (labor savings of \$2,975).
- RFP provided one interest free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund, to Swan Lake FD in the amount of \$12,300.00 to purchase a 1991 E-One Pumper truck with a 1,500-gallon tank.

- 2019 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant- All FD applications have been received. The remaining items for the Wildland Suppression Kits have been ordered.
- Fire Fighter Program/Federal Excess Property Program (FFP/FEPP) inventory has been completed and cleared in seventy-two counties.

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 92 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in November:

- Conducted initial program presentation at three fire departments.
- Conducted one risk assessment training presentation.
- Attended one fire association meeting to deliver program overview.

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

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: The Forestry Division 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 Division foresters, private consulting or AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 376,442 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 1,262 Forest Stewards owning 282,992 acres in the State.

During the month of November eight Forest Stewardship Management plans were prepared for 1,334 acres. In addition, Forestry Division 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, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetland Reserve Program, and the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and

Restoration Program. Forestry Division personnel prepared 21 forest management practice plans on 1,106 acres and conducted 30 prescribed burns on 901 acres.

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

Urban staff achieved the following in October:

- Ten Shade Trees on Playgrounds (S.T.O.P.) were conducted in the state for various elementary schools.
- Five schools in Northwest Arkansas participated in a Mini S.T.O.P. program in which each school received training and three trees for their playgrounds.
- Five Arbor Day celebrations were attended by Urban Forestry staff.
- Urban Forestry staff attended The Partners in Community Forestry Conference in Cleveland, OH.

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.

- County Foresters across the state participated in the White Oak Initiative by collecting white oak acorns for genetic research at the University of Kentucky. Protecting our valuable white oak populations in Arkansas is high priority for natural resource professionals.
- Secretary Wes Ward signed the Memorandum of Collaboration with the Arkansas Monarch Conservation Partnership on Nov. 20th. Several employees at AR Department of Agriculture have served on the partnership.

Reforestation: The Forestry Division's tree improvement program strives to provide landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One method The Forestry Division employs to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. The Forestry Division's 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 collected height data from 3-year-old loblolly pine progeny test, with the help of D-4 and height and diameter data from 20-year sweetgum test in Lonoke County, with help from D-3, D-7 and Ty Dillon.

Baucum Nursery: The Forestry Division'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 November 30, there were 287 online orders and 94 paper orders. Total sales of 885,225 pine and 6,909,385 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 434 online orders and 100 paper orders. Total sales of 918,650 pine and 5,477,950 hardwood.

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

- Completed field inventory of the following species:
 - Cow Oak
 - Nuttall Oak
 - Overcup Oak
 - Pin Oak
 - White Oak
 - Hackberry
 - Pecan
 - Persimmon
 - Redbud
 - Red Mulberry
 - Sugarberry
 - Sweet Gum
 - Sycamore
 - Tupelo Gum
- Collected 185 pounds of Improved Cherrybark Oak seed.
- Received the following pounds of seed:
 - 72 Chinquapin Oak
 - 13,941 Cow Oak
 - 8,783 Overcup Oak
 - 4,634 White Oak
- Planted the following pounds of seed:
 - 863 Chinquapin Oak
 - 292 Cow Oak
 - 2,759 White Oak

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

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

- Completed cone harvest.
- Continued pruning and chipping lower limbs in orchard 1714.
- Winterized all irrigation lines.
- Completed mulching underbrush in orchard 1713.
- Delivered cones to processor in Idabel, OK.
- Completed site prep for loblolly pine test at Hope Experiment Station.
- Picked up potting media for rootstock soil mix.
- Picked up Maple Leaf Oak acorns and potted Maple Leaf Oak acorns.

Best Management Practices (BMP): Forestry Division 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 November 2019:

- Referred timber theft complaint to Law Enforcement Division.
- Conducted logger training for 23 loggers.
- Staff attended Arkansas Game and Fish Prescribed burn demonstration.
- Conducted BMP training for 45 loggers.
- Assisted with Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) audit on State Forest.

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA): Forestry Division 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 46 plots for the month of November. We are now 81% complete with the 2019 Inventory.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

November 2019

	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(398117.14)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(398117.14)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(667351.14)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(667351.14)
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(7379.57)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(60485.00)
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(67864.57)
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)

4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(1110.00)
** OR - Rents	(1110.00)
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(9896.09)
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0.00
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0.00
6200003000 Other Donations	(55514.50)
** OR - Miscellaneous	(65410.59)
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(19243.00)
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(282.25)
4048019000 RESALES	(4548.16)
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(24073.41)
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.23)
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.23)
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(148472.88)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(148472.88)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	11,943.51
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	10,199.49
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	738.10
** Treasury Charges	22,881.10
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	774,930.96
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	9,500.76
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	5,364.46
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	56,702.53
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,738.41
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	117,549.62

Municipal-Type Fire Truck

Kenworth Truck (Fed Donation)

Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane

Trees of AR

Fire Equipment

5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	0.00
** Salary Expense	1,086,646.74
5020001000 Postage	962.35
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	11,051.28
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	10,838.47
5020004000 Network Services Exp	6,012.26
5020005000 Freight	394.55
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	29,258.91
5030001000 Printing	946.48
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	126.58
** Printing & Advertising	1,073.06
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	11,743.01
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	395.85
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	10,240.38
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	27,327.15
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	0.00
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	19,414.88
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	5,794.69
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,247.41
** Repairing & Servicing	76,163.37
5040001000 Electricity	7,051.82
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,518.86
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	3,112.27
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	2,001.34
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,298.97

Booklet/Brochure (Travis Haile); Bus. Cards

5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0.00
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	111.32
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	140.19
** Utilities & Rent	15,324.77
5050001000 02 Mileage	181.44
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,119.69
5050003200 02 - Lodging	2,237.63
5050004100 09 - Meals	187.87
5050004200 09 - Lodging	2,823.69
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	489.60
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	0.00
5050010000 09 Ground Transport	0.00
5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	26.16
5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	0.00
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	0.00
5050014000 09 Other Travel Exp	0.00
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	475.00
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	95.00
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00
5050021000 02 NonStateEmp Trav	477.37
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00
5050025000 02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00
** Travel & Subsistence	8,113.45
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	6,540.00
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	4,427.14
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	527.76
** Professional Services & Fees	11,494.90
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	0.00
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	10,741.46
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	454.31
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	68.50

Stewardship; Land Appraiser

NASFA Membership; Sam's Club

5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	22.00
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	0.00
5080027000 Oth Cnt Svcs NonSt	0.00
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	(5558.75)
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	345.25
** Other Expenses & Services	6,072.77
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	4,392.61
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0.00
5090004000 Tires	5,233.90
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	23,864.87
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	7,638.25
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	1,587.00
5090006000 Office Supplies	3,425.03
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	0.00
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	99.00
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0.00
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	923.78
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	12,873.57
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	694.25
5090019000 Food Purchases	824.48
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	620.69
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,322.32
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	114,845.35
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	48,665.31
5090026000 DP Supps	1,159.61
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	166.08
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	0.00
5090027000 Software/Licenses	2,888.00
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	233.12
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	43.23
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	20,012.11
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	0.00
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	0.00

Skid Units and other like equipment and supplies

** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	251,512.56
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	77,489.80
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	77,489.80
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	0.00
5110008000 License & Permits	0.00
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	108.61
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	108.61
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	55,514.50
** Capital Outlay	55,514.50
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	135,122.77
** Depreciation/Amortization	135,122.77
6091000000 Revenue FA (Full)	0.00
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0.00
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	(930000.00)
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(545451.14)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00
6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00
6061006820 Tran Out to CompUnit	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	(1475451.14)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	3,686.40
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	12.78
** Prior Year Adjustment	3,699.18
*** BALANCE	0.00

Kenworth Truck (Fed Donation)