



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

G.3(b)

January 9, 2020

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
December 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 December 2019.

In December, forestry crews suppressed 59 wildfires that burned 1,167 acres. In all of calendar 2019, forestry crews suppressed 585 wildfires that burned 7,648 acres. Historically, this is the lowest wildfire occurrence and acres in the 84 years of Arkansas wildfire records.

Three of the last twelve years have been the lowest wildfire occurrence years in history. Statistically, Arkansas is overdue for a dry or drought year that would lend itself to far greater wildfire occurrence.

Therefore, recruiting new employees to replace retirees and training of all employees are the Forestry Division's top priorities in 2020.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



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

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During December a total of 59 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,167 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of December is 54 wildfires 664 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.

December 2019

- Three Wildland Fire Suppression training classes were conducted with nineteen FDs represented (59 firefighters), including three Forestry personnel in attendance.
- RFP received the following through the Fire Fighter Program/Federal Excess Property Program (FFP/FEPP) programs: two John Deere Gators (valued at \$7,000.00) and two M915-2WD Freightliners (valued at \$325,936.00).
- The following equipment was issued this month: one drill extinguisher (valued at \$32,500), two generators (valued at \$51,407.00) and one generator set (valued at \$10,700.00).
- Received 260 items in Department of Defense Recycling Control Point (RCP) (valued at \$21,925.10) for redistribution to FDs this month to include fireman's helmets, cold weather shirts and water canteens.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on three Forestry vehicles (labor savings of \$7,735.00) as well as four DOD vehicles (labor savings of \$10,455.00) destined for FDs.
- RFP provided two interest-free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund; one to Scott Fire Protection District in the amount of \$15,000.00 to purchase a 2500-gallon poly-tank

and one to Rector FD in the amount of \$8,061.00 to purchase a water skid unit, light bar, siren, speaker and a switch.

- 2019 Volunteer Firefighter Assistance (VFA) Grant – some items ordered for the Wildland Suppression Kits have been received. Waiting to receive remaining items. Plan to distribute kits in March or April.
- Submitted Health & Safety Plan to Arkansas Workers Compensation Committee (AWCC) for Rule 32 program, recommendations have been filled, and approved by AWCC.
- Received signed FFP/FEPP agreements from the USFS.
- Held first Health & Safety Plan training, covered the Emergency Action Plan for Greenbrier. Will hold future trainings around the 11th of each month until requirements are fulfilled.
- Fire Protection Services Board meeting, main discussion on background checks and credentialing of firefighters. Working on logistics to accomplish. Dates and locations for 2020 meetings have been set.

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

Firewise achieved the following in December:

- Conducted program presentation at a fire department looking to re-enter program.
- Assisted two new communities with gathering information and resources required to apply to program.
- Completed the submission of three final community renewal applications before the December 18th national deadline.

Law Enforcement: ADA 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. ADA aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. ADA Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened two fire related, three timber theft and four dumping cases. Closed one timber theft case and one dumping case.

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 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) private lands wildlife biologists, and United States Department of Agriculture (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 December, five Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 2,680 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 81 forest management practice plans on 7,539 acres and conducted sixteen prescribed burns on 559 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.

- A Tree Care and Pruning Workshop for 24 participants (street crews, Parks & Recreation employees, Care Center Ministries) was held in Baxter County
- A tree health assessment and pruning advice was provided for a historic American elm in Norfolk at the Wolf House.
- An Arbor Day Event (27th annual) was held at Little Rock Air Force Base.

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 “Arkansas Forest Health Highlights for 2019” is available on the Forestry Division website.
- Landowners and forestry professionals are reporting sporadic pine mortality in southeastern Arkansas. Ips pine bark beetles are considered the biggest culprit. Ground

and aerial surveys will be conducted by the Forestry Division in January to assess the damage and any lingering threats.

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.

Dave Bowling, Reforestation Manager, created a new map for thinned progeny test at Ashdown and walked every tree in the test to confirm and record trees that had been removed by thinning.

Baucum Nursery: The Forestry Division's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Year to date through December 31, there were 329 online orders and 99 paper orders. Total sales of 893,025 pine and 6,553,198 hardwood.

Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 498 online orders and 117 paper orders. Total sales of 1,006,925 pine and 5,540,775 hardwood.

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

- Lifted and packed the following:
 - 3,332,425 hardwood.
 - 7,500 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine.
 - 7,500 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine.
 - Total seedlings packed = 3,339,925.
- Shipped the following:
 - 2,066,200 hardwood.
 - 900 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine.
 - 625 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine.
- Completed field inventory.
- Collected the following pounds of seed:
 - 585 Improved Cherrybark Oak.
 - 287 Improved Nuttall Oak.
 - 12 Maple Leaf Oak.
- Planted the following pounds of seed:
 - 6,500 Black Walnut.
 - 1,994 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 December, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Completed pruning and chipping lower limbs in orchard 1714.
- Packed and shipped cones to Tree Improvement Coop. These cones are used as a barometer to both insect control and ripeness of cones at picking.
- Processed control crosses. Almost no seed yield.
- Planted 1,600 containerized maple leaf oak with seed collected from Baucum orchard.

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 December 2019:

- Sent BMP handbooks to Conway Corp. Watershed project.
- Attended State Implementation Committee meeting and presented BMP report update.
- Logger training for 63 contractors at Evergreen Packaging.
- Logger training for 18 contractors at American Forest Management.
- Logger training for 24 contractors at Weyerhaeuser.
- Received complaints from Cleveland and Pope Counties.

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 64 plots for the month of December. Staff is now 89% complete with the 2019 Inventory.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

December 2019

	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(323,055.62)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(323,055.62)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(536,198.97)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(536,198.97)
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(13,716.85)

4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(10,365.25)
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(24,082.10)
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(800.00)
** OR - Rents	(800.00)
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(22,349.23)
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0.00
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0.00
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00
** OR - Miscellaneous	(22,349.23)
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(26,465.40)
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(687.00)
4048019000 RESALES	(3,816.77)
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(30,969.17)
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.21)
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.21)
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(741.93)
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	(126.16)
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(868.09)
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(73,988.76)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(73,988.76)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	9,691.66
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	8,363.22
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	601.83
** Treasury Charges	18,656.71
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	758,623.18
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	8,528.99
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,361.61
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	55,073.26
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,736.41

Misc. Fire Equipment (radio's and other small item's)

Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
Trees of AR
Fire Equipment

5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	117,238.55
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	0.00
** Salary Expense	1,063,422.00
5020001000 Postage	419.70
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	15,450.61
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	422.01
5020004000 Network Services Exp	7,329.44
5020005000 Freight	54.22
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	23,675.98
5030001000 Printing	0.00
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	130.79
** Printing & Advertising	130.79
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	13,799.24
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	937.06
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	1,440.14
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	19,224.56
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	228.49
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	27,576.15
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	2,065.84
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,289.00
** Repairing & Servicing	66,560.48
5040001000 Electricity	13,596.18
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,430.26
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	4,915.19
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	2,265.29
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	3,196.50
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0.00

5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	493.32	
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	144.87	
** Utilities & Rent	27,131.61	
5050001000 02 Mileage	257.46	
5050003100 02 - Meals	2,281.42	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	5,404.15	
5050004100 09 - Meals	122.94	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	436.80	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	696.00	
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	39.58	
5050010000 09 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	205.01	
5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	0.00	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	60.00	
5050014000 09 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	677.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	335.00	
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	52.92	
5050021000 02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	
5050025000 02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence	10,568.28	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	11,600.00	Stewardship/Forest Legacy; Land Appraiser
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	96.94	
** Professional Services & Fees	11,696.94	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000 Other Insurance	31,171.00	Aircraft Insurance
** Insurance & Bonds	31,171.00	
5080001000 M&R Service Fees	0.00	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	0.00	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	714.21	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	5,407.80	Baucum Nursery
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	88.00	

5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	0.00
5080027000 Oth Cnt Svcs NonSt	0.00
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	4,369.59
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	212.25
** Other Expenses & Services	10,791.85
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	196.55
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	22.94
5090004000 Tires	4,118.59
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	16,868.27
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	11,203.08
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	391.41
5090006000 Office Supplies	3,767.39
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	285.00
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	316.76
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0.00
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	285.35
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	285.35
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	9,891.66
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	2,138.90
5090019000 Food Purchases	453.42
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	702.32
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	966.84
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	54,618.48
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	1,000.00
5090026000 DP Supps	581.64
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	0.00
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	0.00
5090027000 Software/Licenses	999.00
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	3,480.00
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	44.67
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	30,641.55
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	2,199.42
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	2,199.42
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	147,658.01
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	37,217.55

4,000 gallon tank for Freightliner, Refurbished truck
Chain Saws

5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	658.97
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	37,876.52
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	700.00
5110008000 License & Permits	0.00
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	112.22
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	812.22
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	0.00
** Capital Outlay	0.00
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	135,502.24
** Depreciation/Amortization	135,502.24
6091000000 Revenue FA (Full)	0.00
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	18,117.51
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(594,314.09)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(0.75)
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
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	98,910.00
** Transfers In/Out	(477,287.33)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	(12.18)
** Prior Year Adjustment	(12.18)
*** BALANCE	0.00

Arkansas Forestry Assoc/AR Timber Producers Assoc