



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

G.5

February 7, 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
January 2020

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 January 2020.

In January, the Forestry Division met to set priorities for 2020. Our leadership team agreed that the priorities for 2020 are as follows:

- Recruitment and Retention
- Quality Training
- IT advances, both hardware and software

In January, the division recognized the retirement of six veteran employees. Those employees represent a total of 185 years of forestry experience walking out the door. Therefore, our priority is recruitment and retention of new staff. Our next priority is to provide quality training to employees, so they have all needed skills to perform their jobs. Lastly, we will open the door for employees to obtain state-of-the-art tools and technology that allows them to perform job duties safely and quickly.

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
Forestry Division
January 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

Emergency Services

Wildfires: During January a total of 32 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 920 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of January is 127 wildfires with 1,954 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 925 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance to property destined for FDs and repairs Department equipment as well.

January 2020

- Six Wildland Fire Suppression training classes were conducted with fifty-seven FDs represented (156 firefighters), including seven Forestry personnel in attendance.
- RFP received the following through the Fire Fighter Program/Federal Excess Property Program (FFP/FEPP) programs: four hydraulic cutters (extrication/forcible entry tools – valued at \$22,698.21).
- The following equipment was issued this month: one drill extinguisher (valued at \$32,500), four generators (valued at \$182,262.50) and four tankers (valued at \$556,123.00).
- Received 42 items in Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) (valued at \$2,171.60) for redistribution to FDs this month to include reflector sets and a ventilation fan.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on two Forestry vehicles (labor savings of \$255.00).
- RFP provided one interest-free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund to Calhoun VFD in the amount of \$15,738.14 to purchase a 2500-gallon poly-tank installed, truck & tank painted red and truck parts.
- Completed several reports for Legislative Research, Transformation Team and internal report on FD laws, etc.
- Completed audit of FEPP and FFP files in preparation for United States Forest Service (USFS) review early 2020.

- Continued our training for the Health & Safety Plan: Pipeline Awareness, Chemical Storage & Awareness, and Fire Extinguisher Training.
- Seventy-four counties have turned in and cleared FFP/FEPP inventory.
- Met with Marketing Division team (Amy & Anna) discussing RFP, the upcoming Fire Show and other marketing events. They are working to combine new Ag logo with old RFP logo. Have also asked for Marketing's assistance in designing a flyer for this year's Fire Show.

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 is one of the top states with 103 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in January:

- Conducted one risk assessment training session.
- Delivered two initial program presentations at two fire chiefs' meetings.
- Personnel attended training on Pipeline Safety, Hazardous Materials, and Fire Extinguishers.
- Coordinator attended Wildland Instructor Adjunct Training.

Law Enforcement: The department 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. The department aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. Department investigators and district law enforcement officers opened two fire related and six timber theft cases. They closed three timber theft and two dumping 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 379,615 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 1,268 Certified Forest Stewards owning 285,666 acres in the State.

During the month of January, six Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 493 acres. In addition, Forestry Division personnel provide technical assistance through the rural forestry program to landowners that are enrolled in United States Department of Agriculture (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 75 forest management practice plans on 3,857 acres and conducted nine prescribed burns on 274 acres.

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

- Five trees were planted at Ouachita Elementary School to complete the 2019 Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) tree plantings.
- Harold Fisher, Urban & Community Forestry Partnership Coordinator, approved ten Tree City USA applications for 2019 recertification, assisted five communities with working toward completion of their 2019 recertifications, and began discussions with one additional city about becoming a new Tree City USA for 2020.
- Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Krissy Thomason began serving on a nationwide committee tasked with providing information to the NASF on updating Tree City USA Growth Award requirements.
- Harold Fisher gave a tree care and maintenance talk to the city of Greenbrier.
- Krissy Thomason participated in a preliminary meeting with representatives from Audubon Arkansas, Little Rock Parks and Recreation, and Arkansas Forestry Association to draft public messaging promoting forestry activities in the Fourche Bottoms.

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.

- Ips pine engraver beetles have contributed to tree mortality in southeastern Arkansas, particularly around Monticello. An aerial survey revealed that the damage was limited only to susceptible stands, most of which were affected by windthrow and saturated soils. Damage in some stands may warrant an early harvesting decision.
- The Forest Health Specialist attended a meeting with the Arkansas Forestry Association Forest Protection Committee to discuss current forest health trends.

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.

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 January 31, there were 508 orders. Total sales of 897,575 pine and 6,643,800 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 718 orders. Total sales of 1,067,275 pine and 5,861,675 hardwood.

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

- Lifted and packed the following:
 - 262,000 pine
 - 2,541,950 hardwood
 - 44,790 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 77,200 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine
 - Total seedlings packed = 2,925,940
- Shipped the following:
 - 146,050 pine
 - 2,679,325 hardwood
 - 6,300 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 43,975 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine
- Collected the following pounds of seed:
 - 37 Improved Cherrybark Oak
 - 65 Improved Nuttall oak
 - 559 Pecan
- Received the following pounds of seed:

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Bitter Pecan | 1,544 |
| Cherrybark Oak | 3,850 |
| Cow Oak | 736 |
| Nuttall Oak | 11,975 |
| Overcup Oak | 2,169 |
| Pecan | 3,631 |
| Pin Oak | 1,700 |
| Shumard Oak | 2,367 |
| Southern Red Oak | 500 |
| Water Oak | 3,105 |
| Willow Oak | 1,313 |

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 January, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Bush-hogged new hardwood orchard site north of orchard 1713.
- Delivered seedlings to Baucum from ArborGen.
- Pruned limbs in orchard 1715.
- Cut bigger rootstock out of orchard 1718 and 1719.
- Began removing trees missed by loggers in orchards 1715 and 1716.
- Began applying gopher bait in all orchards.
- Inventoried orchards 1718 and 1719 for grafting.

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 January:

- Checked four complaints within White, Hot Spring, Cleveland, and Pike Counties.
- Checked Lincoln County complaint.
- Attended Southern Group of State Foresters (S.G.S.F) Water Resource meeting in Auburn, AL.
- Assisted timber contractor with possible use of bridge timbers.
- Worked on 319(h) grant application.
- Closed out Pike County complaint.

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 95 plots for the month of January. We are 99.5% complete with the 2019 inventory and plan to complete the remaining 2019 plots within a week.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

| | Balance |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE | (395,064.35) |
| ** SR (3.0) - Taxes | (395,064.35) |
| 4030002000 ACREAGE TAX | (665,841.20) |
| ** SR (1.5) - Taxes | (665,841.20) |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 4038001000 TIMBER SALES | (40,288.55) |
| 4038003000 SEEDLING SALES | (67,257.25) |
| ** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G | (107,545.80) |
| 4042001000 FINES | (70.00) |
| ** OR - Fines and Penalties | (70.00) |
| 4044002000 FACILITIES RENT | (1,400.00) |
| ** OR - Rents | (1,400.00) |
| 4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS | 0.00 |
| 4047002000 OTHER SALES | (11,803.60) |
| 4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS | (253.00) |
| 4047041000 VOLUME REBATES | (80.37) |
| 4047099000 MISC REVENUE | 0.00 |
| 6200003000 Other Donations | 0.00 |
| ** OR - Miscellaneous | (12,136.97) |
| 4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES | (21,449.60) |
| 4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS | (794.00) |
| 4048019000 RESALES | (21,836.01) |
| 4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV | 0.00 |
| ** OR - Sales of Goods and Services | (44,079.61) |
| 4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB | (0.21) |
| ** OR - Investment Revenue | (0.21) |
| 4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB | (0.20) |
| 4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR | 0.00 |
| ** OR - Grants and Reimbursements | (0.20) |
| 4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE | (180,975.64) |
| 4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev. | 0.00 |
| ** Federal Grants and Reimbursements | (180,975.64) |
| 4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES | 11,851.93 |
| 4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES | 10,788.84 |
| 4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES | 754.70 |
| ** Treasury Charges | 23,395.47 |
| 5010001000 00 Regular Salaries | 1,163,078.58 |
| 5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs. | 0.00 |
| 5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits | 0.00 |

Built 2000 Gallon Tankers

Correction being made, should have went to AG

WEX Rebate

Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane

Trees of AR

Fire Equipment

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal | 14,182.09 |
| 5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries | 93.09 |
| 5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp | 86,015.50 |
| 5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL | 118,860.00 |
| 5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP | 4,083.43 |
| 5010007000 03 Retirement Exp | 177,039.49 |
| 5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp | 1,169.78 |
| 5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp | 17,313.19 |
| 5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All | 0.00 |
| ** Salary Expense | 1,581,835.15 |
| 5020001000 Postage | 1,128.46 |
| 5020002000 Telecomm Wired | 5,096.10 |
| 5020003000 Telecomm Wireless | 9,486.48 |
| 5020004000 Network Services Exp | 1,431.97 |
| 5020005000 Freight | 1,691.27 |
| 5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com | 0.00 |
| ** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi | 18,834.28 |
| 5030001000 Printing | 219.74 |
| 5030002000 Bind Copy Collate | 0.00 |
| 5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc | 910.00 |
| 5030004000 Film Processing | 0.00 |
| 5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv. | 0.00 |
| ** Printing & Advertising | 1,129.74 |
| 5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint | 19,101.13 |
| 5030005100 Pest Control CI 02 | 537.40 |
| 5030006000 Pub Facility M&O | 0.00 |
| 5030008000 Office Equip Maint | 0.00 |
| 5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint | 1,066.02 |
| 5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint | 20,077.29 |
| 5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair | 306.85 |
| 5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint | 12,538.31 |
| 5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint | 20,412.24 |
| 5030017000 Software Maintenance | 0.00 |
| 5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing | 8,680.61 |
| 5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv. | 1,288.98 |

Business Cards

AR Grown Magazine

| | |
|--|------------------|
| ** Repairing & Servicing | 84,008.83 |
| 5040001000 Electricity | 9,202.72 |
| 5040003000 Water & Sewage | 1,474.24 |
| 5040004000 Natural Gas Propane | 4,997.54 |
| 5040005000 Rent of Facilities | 7,151.34 |
| 5040006000 Lease Private Land | 90.00 |
| 5040007000 Rent of Office Equip | 3,154.70 |
| 5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip | 134.44 |
| 5040011000 Other Rent & Leases | 1,086.32 |
| 5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren | 119.39 |
| ** Utilities & Rent | 27,410.69 |
| 5050001000 02 Mileage | 590.10 |
| 5050003100 02 - Meals | 2,119.11 |
| 5050003200 02 - Lodging | 4,829.41 |
| 5050004100 09 - Meals | 283.45 |
| 5050004200 09 - Lodging | 636.42 |
| 5050005000 02 Common Carrier | 1,106.31 |
| 5050009000 02 Ground Transport | 0.00 |
| 5050010000 09 Ground Transport | 0.00 |
| 5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL | 93.23 |
| 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 | 880.00 |
| 5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees | 0.00 |
| 5050019100 Board Member Expense | 0.00 |
| 5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage | 0.00 |
| 5050021000 02 NonStateEmp Trav | 0.00 |
| 5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02 | 0.00 |
| 5050025000 02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL | 0.00 |
| ** Travel & Subsistence | 10,538.03 |
| 5060001000 Professional Adm Fee | 10,984.00 |
| 5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP | 0.00 |
| 5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT | 18,096.90 |
| ** Professional Services & Fees | 29,080.90 |
| 5070002000 Vehicle Insurance | 0.00 |

Stewardship/Forest Legacy

CATER TREE PLANTING SERVICE

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 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 | 25.00 |
| 5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat | 600.00 |
| 5080014000 Trash Pickup Service | 1,706.82 |
| 5080016000 Temp Employ Svc | 7,266.04 |
| 5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees | 46.00 |
| 5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK | 44.00 |
| 5080022000 Other Expenses Svc | 8,060.00 |
| 5080027000 Oth Cnt Svcs NonSt | 0.00 |
| 5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs | 1,902.82 |
| 5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost | 464.00 |
| ** Other Expenses & Services | 20,114.68 |
| 5090002000 Natural Res Supps | 611.63 |
| 5090003000 Special Purpose Supp | 0.00 |
| 5090004000 Tires | 5,054.47 |
| 5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH | 16,329.42 |
| 5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH | 11,076.78 |
| 5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL | 1,644.04 |
| 5090006000 Office Supplies | 3,920.74 |
| 5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory | (150.00) |
| 5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats | 709.45 |
| 5090011000 Photo Supps Mats | 581.94 |
| 5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups | 53.95 |
| 5090014000 Drugs & Medicines | 36.17 |
| 5090015000 Health Lab Supps | 122.13 |
| 5090016000 Shop Indust Supps | 5,359.02 |
| 5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs | 2,961.75 |
| 5090019000 Food Purchases | 665.13 |
| 5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item | 968.72 |
| 5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup | 487.13 |
| 5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent | 148,823.40 |
| 5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps | 24,011.05 |

Training, class supplies for Tennessee/Kentucky

Baucum Nursery

The landscaping expense will be moved to Bldg & Grds Maint.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| 5090026000 DP Supps | 214.07 |
| 5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink | 946.64 |
| 5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA | 14.01 |
| 5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr | 473.47 |
| 5090027000 Software/Licenses | 0.00 |
| 5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp | 638.51 |
| 5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup | (1,919.47) |
| 5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles | 27,552.85 |
| 5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified) | 4,602.10 |
| 5901070000 LVA Exp Full | 4,602.10 |
| ** Commodities, Materials & Supplies | 260,391.20 |
| 5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid | 3,072.45 |
| 5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS | 0.00 |
| 5100010000 04-MunAidHwySe | 88,054.65 |
| ** Assistance, Grants & Aids | 91,127.10 |
| 5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim | 1,820.00 |
| 5110008000 License & Permits | 0.00 |
| 5110014000 04 - Other Refunds | 5,858.25 |
| 5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims | 112.25 |
| ** Refunds, Taxes & Claims | 7,790.50 |
| 6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate | 0.00 |
| ** Refunds | 0.00 |
| 5900003000 Capital Outlay | 1,048,111.82 |
| ** Capital Outlay | 1,048,111.82 |
| 5901020000 Depr Expense (Full) | 136,008.06 |
| ** Depreciation/Amortization | 136,008.06 |
| 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 | 0.00 |
| 6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE | 0.00 |
| 6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In | (905,000.00) |
| 6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In | 0.00 |
| 6060007200 M & R Transfers In | (20.25) |

**Battery (8); Refurbish Truck w/ 2500 tank; Rel-Pump-20KH
Impact Air Wrench; Camera; Delayed Ground Ignition Hanc
Launcher**

Land, Vehicle purchase transfer info from DFA

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In | (72,168.00) |
| 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 | 0.00 |
| ** Transfers In/Out | (977,188.25) |
| 6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw | 0.00 |
| 6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel | 0.00 |
| 6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp | (4,104.57) |
| ** Prior Year Adjustment | (4,104.57) |
| *** BALANCE | 0.00 |