



Asa Hutchinson  
Governor

# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward  
Secretary of Agriculture

H.4

November 6, 2020

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 October 2020

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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 October 2020.

The Forestry Division reinstated the annual physical fitness tests in October. Due to COVID 19, these District tests were postponed hoping for a break in the occurrence of COVID 19 and less large group restrictions.

Forestry requires firefighters to pass an annual physical fitness test, walking one mile in 16 minutes, to document that we can work on wildfires safely. In October, all physical fitness tests were scheduled. Eight tests were administered throughout the state. Tests were administered with COVID 19 restrictions in place. Employees performed the tests with no face masks but were socially distant.

One additional physical fitness test is scheduled to allow for individuals that were not able to take the scheduled tests in October.

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  
October 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Wildfires:** During October a total of 28 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 311 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of October is 118 wildfires with 1,392 acres burned.

**Search and Rescue Assistance:** A Forestry Division crew in Searcy County assisted in a search and rescue for an injured horseback rider in Marion County.

**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 and refurbishment to federal property destined for FDs and repairs Department of Agriculture equipment as well.

October 2020:

- There were eight Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with forty-three FDs (ninety-nine firefighters), including seven Forestry personnel in attendance.
- One tanker, one brush truck, two generators and an A-frame gantry crane were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$273,258.91).
- RFP received fifteen hundred forty-two items from the DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) to include jackets, boots, duffel bags, survival blankets, helmets and other firefighting equipment (o.a.c. \$202,449.74).
- RFP received two box trucks, a Mack truck, an International truck and an A-frame gantry crane (o.a.c. \$228,614.91).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on five Forestry vehicles and one FD vehicle (labor savings of \$16,405.00).
- RFP provided two interest-free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund:
  - Ross Van Ness – Welford FD (D1, Chicot Co.) - \$4,191.97 – to repair, paint, light, siren/speaker on M1088 S&S
  - Washington FD (D4, Hempstead Co.) - \$13,946.11 – repair, paint, light, siren/speaker, 2,000-gallon tank on 2007 2WD Freightliner

- FY21 Federal Inventory is ongoing - cleared for seventy-three counties plus Aviation, Baucum, and RFP.
- We tentatively have October 1<sup>st</sup> (set-up day) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (show day) reserved for the 2021 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 staff achieved the following in **October**:

- Delivered one initial program presentation to interested department.
- Delivered two risk assessment training sessions to departments entering the program.
- Delivered masks to two districts for personnel, as well as requests from active fire departments in their districts.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: one grant presentation, 16 Fire Chief Visits, 17 Paperwork Assists, 17 Literature Distributions and four Fire Prevention Presentations to schools.

**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. The Department Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened one timber theft case, four dumping cases and one fire case. They closed six timber theft cases 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 (NRCS) soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 322,890 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 1,264 Forest Stewards owning 285,087 acres in the State.

During the month of October, nine Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 1,703 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 66 forest management practice plans on 8,126 acres and conducted 13 prescribed burns on 357 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.

Urban staff completed the following in October:

- Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator Krissy Kimbro Thomason, County Forester Clint Stockton and County Ranger Kurt Yates presented an educational program to a group of middle school and high school homeschool students in Miller County. Topics covered included careers with the Forestry Division and technical assistance offered to Arkansas communities and landowners.
- An expanded Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) program for the 2020-2021 school year will provide 20% more trees (60) than in previous years by offering large shade trees to 15 school campuses across the state with playgrounds currently lacking shade. 50% more school campuses will be served than in previous years.
- Due to continued social distancing guidelines, the annual STOP training workshop was conducted virtually for the first time. School representatives were able to select from a morning or afternoon session and Urban Forestry District Representatives followed up with school representatives immediately following the training to begin working on tree species selection and planting ceremony date.
- Community Accomplishment Reporting System (CARS) data on Urban & Community technical assistance offered, grants awarded, and communities served in FFY 20 was completed and approved by the regional Program Manager.
- Tree City USA communities began holding Arbor Day ceremonies.

**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:** Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16. Year to date through October 31st, there were 389 online orders and 72 paper orders. Total sales of 1,007,825 pine and 4,918,200 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY20, there were 231 online orders and 93 paper orders. Total sales of 1,165,800 pine and 6,869,600 hardwood

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

- Completed hardwood field inventory of all seedlings except Sawtooth Oak.
- Continued preparing fields and completed methyl bromide treatment.
- Began receiving white oak species seed from vendors.
- Collected soil samples in all fields for FY22 crop.
- Collected 664 lbs. of sawtooth oak acorns.

**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 October, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Moved equipment to old shortleaf orchard site.
- Began working on future block plots at old shortleaf orchard site.
- Continued floating cones for ripeness and scheduled start of harvest.
- Finished cone harvest (628.5 bu. Lob. 103 bu. SL).
- Sprayed Hope test for tip moth.

**Best Management Practices (BMP):** The 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 October:

- Checked a non-valid complaint in Columbia County, sent into Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).
- Sent information to landowner about mill location and information requested by Law Enforcement Department in Lincoln County.
- Checked valid complaints in Garland and Dallas Counties.
- Checked a non-valid complaint in Saline County.

**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 56 plots for the month of October. We are now 81% complete with the 2020 Inventory.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 2020

4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(352,953.88)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(352,953.88)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(244,112.60)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(244,112.60)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(49,941.92)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(24,909.52)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(74,851.44)	
4042001000 FINES	(36.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(36.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(700.00)	
** OR - Rents	(700.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(18,138.08)	Misc Fire Equipment (Radios, Pagers, etc...
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(18,138.08)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(9,847.50)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(549.75)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(5,896.04)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(16,293.29)	

<b>4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB</b>	(0.07)
<b>** OR - Investment Revenue</b>	<b>(0.07)</b>
<b>4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB</b>	(9,221.55)
<b>4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR</b>	0.00
<b>** OR - Grants and Reimbursements</b>	<b>(9,221.55)</b>
<b>4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE</b>	(18,724.32)
<b>4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.</b>	0.00
<b>** Federal Grants and Reimbursements</b>	<b>(18,724.32)</b>
<b>4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES</b>	10,588.62
<b>4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES</b>	4,782.30
<b>4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES</b>	512.36
<b>** Treasury Charges</b>	<b>15,883.28</b>
<b>5010001000 00 Regular Salaries</b>	784,661.81
<b>5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.</b>	0.00
<b>5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits</b>	0.00
<b>5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal</b>	7,840.03
<b>5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries</b>	2,121.41
<b>5010005000 03 FICA &amp; Medic Exp</b>	56,859.31
<b>5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL</b>	121,380.00
<b>5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP</b>	3,947.92
<b>5010007000 03 Retirement Exp</b>	119,268.96
<b>5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp</b>	0.00
<b>5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp</b>	2,459.86
<b>** Salary Expense</b>	<b>1,098,539.30</b>
<b>5020001000 Postage</b>	439.54
<b>5020002000 Telecomm Wired</b>	6,744.88
<b>5020003000 Telecomm Wireless</b>	144.54
<b>5020004000 Network Services Exp</b>	1,695.73
<b>5020005000 Freight</b>	101.15

Booneville Human Development

5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commoditi</b>	<b>9,125.84</b>
5030001000 Printing	(122.46)
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	175.95
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>	<b>53.49</b>
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	10,495.79
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	523.25
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0.00
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	4,716.95
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	17,338.19
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	553.40
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	16,363.29
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	4,634.91
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,424.91
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>	<b>56,050.69</b>
5040001000 Electricity	9,789.87
5040003000 Water & Sewage	4,415.54
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,037.74
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	2,830.00
5040006000 Lease Private Land	750.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,758.27
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	60.29
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	1,086.32
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	67.52
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>	<b>22,795.55</b>
5050001000 02 Mileage	0.00
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,723.47

Error correction from previous month

Will be error corrected

5050003200 02 - Lodging	2,860.02	
5050004100 09 - Meals	92.47	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	217.92	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	9.75	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	25.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	0.00	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	52.92	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>	<b>4,981.55</b>	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	15,908.00	Forest Legacy; Stewardship
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	1,606.32	
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0.00	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	1,400.00	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>	<b>18,914.32</b>	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000 Other Insurance	0.00	
<b>** Insurance &amp; Bonds</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	12,300.00	Southern Forest Nursery Management-Baucum
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080008000 Air Observe Crop Svc	0.00	
5080013000 Security Services	792.95	ADT-D1
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	1,399.62	
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	54.61	
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	(9,719.17)	
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	0.00	
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>	<b>4,828.01</b>	
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	373.00	

<b>5090002000 Natural Res Supps</b>	173.19
<b>5090003000 Special Purpose Supp</b>	0.00
<b>5090004000 Tires</b>	4,349.23
<b>5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH</b>	6,797.81
<b>5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH</b>	170.65
<b>5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL</b>	1,434.05
<b>5090006000 Office Supplies</b>	4,792.30
<b>5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory</b>	0.00
<b>5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats</b>	260.00
<b>5090011000 Photo Supps Mats</b>	0.00
<b>5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup</b>	0.00
<b>5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups</b>	251.70
<b>5090014000 Drugs &amp; Medicines</b>	0.00
<b>5090015000 Health Lab Supps</b>	1,748.87
<b>5090016000 Shop Indust Supps</b>	15,591.96
<b>5090017000 02 Anim/Livest Pur/S</b>	(4,000.00)
<b>5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs</b>	1,354.73
<b>5090019000 Food Purchases</b>	654.52
<b>5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item</b>	1,065.36
<b>5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup</b>	2,032.40
<b>5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent</b>	14,122.48
<b>5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps</b>	9,788.84
<b>5090026000 DP Supps</b>	2,418.03
<b>5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink</b>	504.74
<b>5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA</b>	1,389.09
<b>5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr</b>	0.00
<b>5090027000 Software/Licenses</b>	0.00
<b>5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup</b>	838.69
<b>5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles</b>	3,868.32
<b>5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)</b>	947.21

Computer

5901070000 LVA Exp Full	947.21
5901080000 LVA EXP NBR(F)	0.00
<b>** Commodities, Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>71,874.38</b>
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	10,150.00
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0.00
<b>** Assistance, Grants &amp; Aids</b>	<b>10,150.00</b>
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	4,346.40
<b>** Refunds, Taxes &amp; Claims</b>	<b>4,346.40</b>
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
<b>** Refunds</b>	<b>0.00</b>
5900003000 Capital Outlay	513,845.67
<b>** Capital Outlay</b>	<b>513,845.67</b>
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	142,475.88
<b>** Depreciation/Amortization</b>	<b>142,475.88</b>
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
<b>** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0.00
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	(12,362.07)
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(665,000.00)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(7,125.00)
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	164,349.95
6061004501 InterAgy GR Tran-Out	(670.75)
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00
<b>** Transfers In/Out</b>	<b>(520,807.87)</b>

Land Purchase; Dell EMC PowerEdge Tower

Payments for SEATS, rent, DIS and ETC

<b>6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw</b>	(119.66)
<b>6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel</b>	0.00
<b>6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp</b>	0.00
<b>** Prior Year Adjustment</b>	(119.66)
<b>*** BALANCE</b>	0.00