

**ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
AGENCY (400) - 2009-11 BIENNIUM**

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

Act 1978 of 2005 created the Agriculture Department. Its mission is to develop and implement policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep them competitive in world markets while ensuring safe food, fiber and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation.

The Agency began operations on August 15, 2005. The Department was charged with administering and coordinating the activities of 3 agencies placed in the Department. These are the Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission and the Arkansas State Plant Board. The office of the State Land surveyor is now housed in the Arkansas Agriculture Department. During the 2007 - 2009 biennium, the Aquaculture program was added to the Agriculture budget.

MISSION - LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMISSION

To safeguard human and animal health, assure food safety and quality and promote Arkansas livestock and poultry industries. Controls interstate and intrastate movement of livestock, ensures compliance with State and Federal disease control regulations by surveying auctions, barns, state lines, livestock dealers, and garbage feeding establishments; also administers Egg and Poultry Inspection Program.

MISSION - PLANT BOARD

The board samples and analyzes agricultural production for quality assurance; performs inspections, testing and grading to protect against harmful insects, plant diseases and noxious weeds; provides enforcement of quarantines and regulations; enforcement of pest control, nursery, and apiary rules and regulations; and checks the accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices.

MISSION - FORESTRY COMMISSION

Protect and develop forest resources, detect and suppress wildfires, monitor forest health, promote reforestation, provide forest management assistance to private landowners, and assist rural fire departments.

TOTAL BIENNIAL BUDGET

The operating budget for the Arkansas Agriculture Department for FY10 is \$85,604,639 and \$75,180,167 for FY11.

FUNDING SOURCE

The operation budget is funded by general revenue, special revenue, cash and federal funds.

II) CHANGES/APPROPRIATIONS

- Appropriation and general revenue funding for a new Director of Marketing position.
- Increase appropriation and general revenue funding of \$10,000 in Capital Outlay for equipment for the Secretary's office.
- Increase appropriation and general revenue or \$20,000 each year for the Plant Board for Operating Expenses.
- Increase appropriation in the L&P Egg Grading Program for a Compliance Inspector position and 3 new Grader positions.
- Increase Extra Help, Overtime, Operating Expenses, Data Processing, and Capital Outlay appropriation for the L&P Egg Grading Program due to increased workload demand.
- Increase appropriation for L&P in Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay for health lab supplies and laboratory equipment.
- Appropriation for 2 Administrative Specialists positions to support the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Avian Influenza Testing and Monitoring Program and to provide administrative support due to the increased level of testing performed in the L&P Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.
- Increase appropriation for Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay for supplies and equipment for the Agency's Diagnostic Laboratory.
- Increased federal appropriation to support the animal health disease control programs.
- Increased appropriation and general revenue funding for the State Lands Office of \$8,130 in FY10 and \$10,130 in FY11 for increased expenses related to setting and refurbishing monuments.
- Increased Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay appropriation for the Plant Board for office and laboratory equipment.
- Increased federal appropriation for the Plant Board from the USDA to support various agricultural products and programs including Farmers Markets and Naturally Arkansas Promotion.
- Increased appropriation for Forestry for Overtime and related Match to compensate crews that are sent out of state to assist surrounding states with wildfire prevention and control.
- Additional appropriation of \$600,064 each year to support the Firewise Communities Program.
- Increased federal appropriation of \$1,150,000 for Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Grants.
- Increased federal appropriation of \$2 million each year to enable the Forestry Commission to acquire conservation easements.
- Increased appropriation and general revenue funding for

Alternative Fuel Grants. The total each year will be \$5,000,000.

The Legislative Recommendation provides for an increase of General Revenue funding above Base of \$3,672,066 in FY10.

III) POSITIONS

Total positions for 2009-11 biennium:623

Total positions for FY 2007:617

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

* FUND TRANSFER - The Livestock and Poultry Director with prior review of the Legislative Council and approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer may transfer funds from the Livestock and Poultry Equine Infectious Anemia Control Fund to the Livestock and Poultry Fund Account.

* BUFFALO GNAT CONTROL PROGRAM - The Buffalo Gnat Program is for Miller, Lafayette, Little River and parts of Hempstead counties.

* TRANSFER PROVISION-PEST ERADICATION - Appropriation may be transferred from the Pest Eradication Program special line item to Reg. Salaries, Extra Help, Overtime, and Pers. Svcs.

Matching if the Board determines that pest eradication efforts require additional personnel expenses, with the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer and review by the Legislative Council.

* EXTRA HELP PROVISION: No Extra Help employee may receive an amount to exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ or 75% of maximum annual salary for comparable position or be employed for more than nine months or 1400 hours in any single fiscal year.