

**ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
AGENCY (400) - 2007-09 BIENNIUM
BUDGET INFORMATION ACCORDING TO ALC/JBC RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 is 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.

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 Agency for FY 2007-08 is \$57,310,363 and \$57,847,791 for FY 2008-09.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

II) CHANGES/APPROPRIATIONS

- A total increase of \$55,000 in the first year of the biennium and \$39,000 in the second year will be used for

Operating Expenses, Professional Fees and Capital Outlay expenses of operating the Agriculture Department.

- Adds 4 additional positions and operating costs for the Livestock and Poultry Commission.
- Provides \$7,923 in appropriation and general revenue funding each year for increases in Rent and Travel expenses for the Plant Board.
- Provides \$300,000 in appropriation and general revenue funding each year for the Forestry Commission to cover increases in fuel costs.

The Executive Recommendation provides for the consolidation of all operations and appropriations of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission, State Forestry Commission, and State Plant Board to the Agriculture Department.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS None

Total positions for 2007-09 biennium:610

Total positions for FY 2007:606

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.

* CARRY FORWARD - Any unexpended appropriations at end of year one, provided in the Brucellosis Program appropriation of the appropriation act, shall be made available for same purpose for the second fiscal year.

* 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.