

**ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (0400)**

**FISCAL YEAR 2018 & 2019**

**Per Executive Recommendation**

**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 APPROPRIATION**

The total appropriation for the Arkansas Agriculture

Department for is \$58,910,678 for FY2018 and \$57,926,644 for FY2019.

### **FUNDING SOURCES**

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

### **II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS (FY2017 CHANGES FROM FY2016 AUTHORIZED)**

#### **AGRI Operations Appropriation:**

- Reduction of 2 Overall Positions.
- Reallocation of \$10,000 each year from Boll Weevil Program to Operating Expenses and Conference and Travel to allow flexibility for the Secretary's Office each fiscal year.
- Reallocation of \$8,000 each year from the Buffalo Gnat Control Program to Operating Expenses to purchase Veterinary Diagnostic Lab testing supplies.

#### **L&P Animal Disease Control & Eradication Program:**

- Increase in Capital Outlay of \$20,000 each year to replace testing equipment and replacement of emergency response equipment.

#### **L&P Egg Grading Program:**

- Increase in Capital Outlay of \$50,000 each year of the biennium to replace office and grading equipment.

#### **L&P Diagnostic Laboratory Testing Program:**

- Increase in Capital Outlay of \$310,000 each year to replace outdated and inferior laboratory testing equipment.
- Reallocation of \$300,000 in Operating Expenses from Small Animal Testing (FC 36M) and \$250,000 in Operating Expenses from Swamp Fever Testing (FC 36S) to more efficiently operate Diagnostic Laboratory testing.

#### **L&P Show Premiums:**

- Increase of \$7,508 in appropriation only to restore to currently authorized levels.

#### **L&P Equine Infectious Anemia Control Program:**

- Increase in Capital Outlay of \$100,000 each year to replace office machines and equipment needed for inspection and enforcement.

#### **Plant Board/Pest Control Program:**

- Reduction of 5 positions.
- Increase in Capital Outlay of \$935,000 in FY18 and \$435,000 in FY19 to replace aging vehicles, laboratory and data processing equipment, and weather monitoring system.
- Reduction in Construction of (\$500,000) in FY18 and (\$1,000,000) in FY19 due to Arkansas State Plant Board not anticipating major construction projects.

**Forestry Operations - Special:**

- The Agency's Change Level Request provides for Capital Outlay of \$743,000 each year of the biennium to replace worn and outdated firefighting aviation equipment and environmental cab dozers.

**Forestry-Urban Forestry Services-Federal:**

- Reallocation of \$45,000 from Grants & Aid to Professional Fees due to a change from providing grants to communities to hiring professional arborists and foresters to provide services to the communities.

**Forestry-State Forestry Trust Program:**

- Increase in Capital Outlay of \$1,000,000 in each year of the biennium to replace worn and outdated firefighting aviation equipment and firefighting environmental cab dozers.

**III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total FY2017 Authorized Positions: 587)**

Total Positions for FY2019: 560

Total Positions for FY2018: 560

Total Base Level Positions: 577

Increase/(Decrease): 3

Extra Help Positions FY2018 and FY2019:171 (Total FY2017 Authorized Extra Help:171)

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

\* Delete Language - no longer needed - appropriation amount has been eliminated. BUFFALO GNAT CONTROL PROGRAM - The Buffalo Gnat Program is to control gnats where needed.

\* EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT - Funds shall be used to pay expenses necessary for members of high school 4H clubs, high school FFA clubs and Miss Arkansas Rodeo for expenses incurred at national conferences and events. Special Language was changes to reflect same amounts as noted in appropriation.

\* 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.

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

\* TRANSFER PROVISION - The State Forestry Commission may transfer from Extra Help or Professional Fees if temporary firefighters, dispatchers or pilots are required to meet demands of a wildfire season.

\* REFUND TO EXPENDITURE - The Arkansas Forestry Commission is authorized to charge fees to federal agencies and other states to reimburse for expenditures made on behalf of these governmental units.

\* REPORTING REQUIREMENTS - Forestry Commission monthly ALC report.

\*PROMOTIONAL ITEMS - Establishes Promotional Items appropriation and acquisition guidelines.

\* Delete Language - FAIR WAIVER - Provides for Livestock & Poultry Commission to waive rules for Three-County Fair to be held before district fair but still receive Premium and Construction funds.

November 2016