



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

C.5

March 6, 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 February 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 February 2020.

In February, the Forestry Division began training of an Incident Management Team (IMT). This team will be a resource that will respond to large scale disaster situations. The IMT will be able to respond to events anywhere in Arkansas and team with local resources to efficiently see the events to their end. Such events can be emergency response to wildfires, storms or floods.

Training started with 24 staff members, each with proven experience, and two days of intense training. Each task of the IMT was described and staff were assigned with certain roles (or tasks). Examples of roles are: Incident Commander (IC) is the person responsible for achieving the mission of the event. The IC has many delegates at his/her command, such as the Operations Chief (Ops). Ops is the person that ensures field operations are completed in a safe and efficient manner.

This is just the first step towards achieving an operational IMT for the state of Arkansas. Soon this IMT will be able to respond quickly and efficiently to assist local authorities with larger and difficult emergency events.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division

Joe S. Fox

State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



**Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division
February 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During February a total of 45 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 802 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of February is 150 wildfires with 2,706 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: A Perry County Forestry Division crew responded to a report of student who had run away from school into the woods. The student was found walking home.

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.

February 2020

- Seven Wildland Fire Suppression training classes were conducted with sixty-two FDs represented (156 firefighters), including twenty-seven minority departments in attendance.
- RFP received the following through the Fire Fighter Program/Federal Excess Property Program (FFP/FEPP): riding lawnmower (valued at \$11,950.00), three generators on trailers (valued at \$105,919.00), a '97 Chevy 3500 (valued at \$27,290.00) and a box truck (valued at \$65,273.00).
- The following equipment was issued this month: two John Deere Gators (valued at \$7,000.00), a 5KW Generator (valued at \$12,797.70) and a Freightliner tanker (valued at \$166,223.00).
- Received 388 items in Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) (valued at \$4,248.97) for redistribution to FDs this month to include knit caps and tool kits.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on three Forestry vehicles (labor savings of \$2,720.00).

- RFP provided one interest-free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund to Piney FD (Garland Co. – D5) in the amount of \$14,424.49 to purchase a 2500-gallon poly-tank, paint and service on a 2009 Freightliner (FFP) and a pump/engine.
- Received the last shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the 2019 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Wildfire Suppression Kits and started organizing kits. Delivery time estimated March and April.
- Marketing has created a flyer, postcard and social media post for this year's Rural Fire Show. Will begin distribution to fire departments and vendors soon.
- Updated new Cooperative Agreement and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to reflect Forestry Division. Edits has been approved and forwarded on to United States Forest Service (USFS).
- Marmic Fire & Safety re-certified and re-charged fire extinguishers for Greenbrier and D-7.
- Conducted a Health & Safety Plan training and meeting for the Greenbrier compound and District 7 personnel.
- Seventy-five counties have turned in and cleared FFP/FEPP inventory.
- Sixteen items entered for GSA sale.

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 February:

- Conducted two risk assessment training sessions and one initial program presentation to interested fire departments.
- Visited fire department previously involved in the program and discussed procedure for re-entering.
- Delivered initial program presentation at a county-wide fire chiefs' meeting.
- Personnel attended Incident Management Team training in Mayflower, Defensive Driving, Shop Safety and Vehicle Maintenance training.

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

two fire related and four timber theft cases. They closed one fire related 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 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 February, nine Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 966 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 138 forest management practice plans on 12,607 acres and conducted three prescribed burns on 201 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 Forestry Coordinator Krissy Thomason, Forest Rangers Clint Holston and Patrick Newton from Hempstead County, and Forest Ranger Bob Newton and County Ranger Jeff Partee from Nevada County assisted NRCS staff with their first annual Forestry and Land Judging Competition for area students.
- Kenny Smothers, County Forester, along with Forest Rangers from Independence, Izard, and Sharp counties, helped lead an annual Future Farmers of America (FFA) Forestry Competition near Batesville sponsored by the Independence County Conservation District.
- Two cities completed their TreeCity USA 2019 recertification process, and students from Pottsville, AR, began working toward receiving Arkansas's first Tree Campus K-12 designation.

- The Urban Forestry Coordinator and Partnership Coordinator both participated in the Southern Group of State Foresters' winter meeting of the Urban & Community Forestry Committee.
- Urban Forestry Coordinator Krissy Thomason attended Municipal Forestry Institute training, an intensive week-long leadership and urban forestry training.
- The 2019 Shade Trees on Playgrounds program was completed this month when Ouachita Elementary fifth graders planted six trees on their playground in Hot Spring County. County Forester Regine Skelton and Urban Forestry Coordinator Krissy Thomason assisted students and presented tips on tree planting and tree care.

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.

- Foresters continued to respond to reports of dead pine trees in Cleveland, Bradley, Drew, and Ashley Counties. Ips pine engraver beetles and eastern pine weevil are linked to the observed damages. An aerial survey revealed that the damage was limited only to susceptible stands, most of which were affected by windthrow and/or saturated soils. Damage in some stands may warrant an early harvest decision.
- The Forest Health Specialist and intern attended the National Forest Health Monitoring Workshop. There they learned new methods and technology for identifying forest disturbances with aerial survey, satellite imagery, and drones.
- The Forest Health Specialist met with US Forest Service, Forest Health Protection to discuss collaborations.

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 February 29, there were 593 orders for total sales of 780,650 pine and 6,212,600 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 786 orders for total sales of 1,127,550 pine and 5,627,675 hardwood.

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

- Lifted and packed the following:
 - 236,000 pine
 - 554,200 hardwood
 - Total seedlings packed = 790,200
- Shipped the following:
 - 109,000 pine
 - 1,059,050 hardwood
 - 28,625 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 19,300 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine
- Received the following pounds of seed:

Cedar Elm	1
Cypress	200
Hackberry	15
Nuttall Oak	2773
Bitter Pecan	1150
Water Tupelo	880
Sweet Gum	4
Shumard Oak	144

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

- Finished applying gopher poison in all orchards.
- Finished cutting and dragging trees missed by loggers in orchard 1716.
- Took soil samples from all orchards except 1713.
- Inventoried 2018 potted grafts for planting.
- Inventoried orchards 1720 & 1721 for grafting and planting.
- Collected needle samples from all production orchards.
- Started collecting scion material 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 February 2020:

- Inspected Clark County complaint for repair to Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) following a complete replanting of a tract.

- Attended Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber sale meeting on Ouachita National Forest tract.
- Inspected repair work performed on Pike County tract by USFS.
- Attended Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) meeting and presented BMP report.

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 37 plots for the month of February. The 2019 inventory is complete and work on the 2020 inventory has begun.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(300,787.15)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(300,787.15)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(14,475.65)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(14,475.65)
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(92,141.82)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(8,449.00)
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(100,590.82)
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(600.00)
** OR - Rents	(600.00)
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(63,559.05)
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	23.00
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0.00
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0.00
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00
** OR - Miscellaneous	(63,536.05)

4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(29,248.01)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane Trees of AR Fire Equipment
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(808.75)	
4048019000 RESALES	(18,575.98)	
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(48,632.74)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.20)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.20)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(11.50)	
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(11.50)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(134,857.48)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(134,857.48)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	9,023.61	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	2,584.82	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	386.95	
** Treasury Charges	11,995.38	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	768,506.96	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	11,488.11	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	985.22	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	55,815.77	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,947.78	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	116,522.30	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	3,408.25	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
** Salary Expense	1,079,534.39	
5020001000 Postage	998.35	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	18,503.34	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	10,572.81	

5020004000 Network Services Exp	16,117.12
5020005000 Freight	306.19
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	46,497.81
5030001000 Printing	163.33
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	3,000.00
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00
** Printing & Advertising	3,163.33
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	20,594.16
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	1,002.80
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	1,999.62
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	23,061.59
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	81.12
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	12,809.25
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	1,080.65
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	70.96
5030016500 02 Netwk EquipRepSvc	152.69
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	(199.42)
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,205.84
** Repairing & Servicing	61,859.26
5040001000 Electricity	10,994.51
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,924.71
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	6,376.52
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	1,951.34
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,939.43
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0.00
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	153.32
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	111.68

Business Cards; Poster Lamination

Ads w/ Natural State Media

** Utilities & Rent	23,541.51
5050001000 02 Mileage	682.50
5050003100 02 - Meals	807.78
5050003200 02 - Lodging	3,519.60
5050004100 09 - Meals	468.23
5050004200 09 - Lodging	1,191.52
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	2,309.21
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	0.00
5050010000 09 Ground Transport	0.00
5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	119.58
5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	176.16
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	6.50
5050014000 09 Other Travel Exp	0.00
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	740.00
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	0.00
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	358.68
5050021000 02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00
5050025000 02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00
** Travel & Subsistence	10,379.76
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	14,140.00
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	3,098.23
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	3,777.14
** Professional Services & Fees	21,015.37
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00
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	0.00
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	890.99
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	7,289.96
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	298.12

Stewardship/Forest Legacy

AR Forests and Drinking Water Collaborative Project

AR Women in AG

Baucum Nursery

5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	176.00
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	(8,060.00)
5080027000 Oth Cnt Svcs NonSt	0.00
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	1,803.47
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	510.50
** Other Expenses & Services	2,934.04
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	3,211.97
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0.00
5090004000 Tires	1,537.06
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	21,608.19
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	7,473.57
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	521.48
5090006000 Office Supplies	5,789.87
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	373.51
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	0.00
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0.00
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	38.22
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0.00
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	7,971.09
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	361.08
5090019000 Food Purchases	1,336.16
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	758.81
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,725.05
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	185,718.27
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	3,407.45
5090026000 DP Supps	1,733.09
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	816.00
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	0.00
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	479.08
5090027000 Software/Licenses	1,800.00
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	775.00
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	211.81
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	106,604.83
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	8,569.61

Previous month charged moved to Bldg & Grds Maint.

1996 Pumper; Pump & Engine; Slip-In Unit; Foam Unit

5901070000 LVA Exp Full	8,569.61	Truck camper; Trailer; Shredder; Computer
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	371,390.81	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	93,399.61	
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	
5100010000 04-MunAidHwySe	(88,054.65)	Previous month charged moved to Assist Grants Aid
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	5,344.96	
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	0.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	160.00	
5110014000 04 - Other Refunds	(85.50)	
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	104.98	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	179.48	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	33,421.16	D1 - Vehicle
** Capital Outlay	33,421.16	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	136,970.45	
** Depreciation/Amortization	136,970.45	
6091000000 Revenue FA (Full)	0.00	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	4,312.50	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	4,312.50	
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0.00	
5130030400 Intra fedxout-warr04	2,552.41	
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(820,264.94)	
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(26,742.00)	
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	40,000.00	Funds Transferred to AG - Paying Fund
6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00	
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061006820 Tran Out to CompUnit	2,126.73	
6061008400 Claims Com. Tr. Out	600.00	
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0.00	
** Transfers In/Out	(801,727.80)	

6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00
** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00
*** BALANCE	0.00