



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

B.3

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Breanne Davis
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jim Wooten
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division’s monthly activity report for March 2021

Dear Senator Davis and Representative Wooten:

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 March 2021.

On March 11, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced that the Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division was offering Oak seedlings to the public to plant in memory of loved ones lost to COVID – 19. This offer of free, memorial seedlings was to end on March 24th; however, seedling requests continue to be accepted.

The Forestry Division offered up to 10,000 Nutall Oak seedlings to be delivered from twelve locations throughout the state.

The two-week period ended with approximately 2,400 memorial seedlings delivered to the public to honor loved ones. The remaining seedlings will find a new home through efforts of our Urban and Community Forestry Program.

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
March 2021 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During March a total of 192 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 5,190 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of March is 216 wildfires 5,171 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: ADA Forestry Division crew in Faulkner County assisted with a search and rescue at the Mallet town bridge for a possible person in the water. No body or victim was found. ADA Forestry Division crew in Newton County assisted on a search and rescue south of Jasper for retired district judge Tommy Martin. Mr. Martin was found deceased early the next morning.

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.

March 2021

- There were eight Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with fifty-four FDs (one hundred fifteen firefighters), including seven Forestry personnel in attendance.
- One brush truck, one boat/motor, one generator and two trailers were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$135,371.00).
- RFP received six tires from the Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) (o.a.c. \$3,213.00).
- RFP received two truck tractors, three brush trucks, three generators and one trailer (o.a.c. \$642,276.35).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on six Forestry vehicles and one FD vehicle (labor savings of \$6,345.00).
- RFP provided one interest-free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund:

- Rea Valley FD (D8, Marion Co.) - \$15,000.00 –2021 Dodge 3500 Tradesman 4WD Crew Cab
- Provided information to Hot Spring County concerning a municipality contracting with a fire department. (City of Rockport contracting with Rockport Rural Fire Department)

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 96 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in **March**:

- Delivered one initial program presentation.
- Partnered with local Master Gardeners chapter to provide materials for annual meeting.
- Coordinated with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) about upcoming 5, 10, and 15-year program participation awards and how they will be distributed.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: three grant presentations, sixteen Fire Chief Visits, five Fire Prevention Presentations to Schools and/or Civic Groups, 32 Literature Distributions, four Landowner Assists and eight Media Releases/Media Relations events.

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 five fire cases, five timber cases, five dumping cases, and one property case. They closed two dumping cases, three fire cases and five timber cases.

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 293,301 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 1,275 Forest Stewards owning 286,554 acres in the State.

During the month of March, seven Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 603 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 75 forest management practice plans on 5,296 acres and conducted 55 prescribed burns on 2,381 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.

- A Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) Ceremony/Tree Planting was held at Ruth Doyle Middle School in Conway. Due to COVID restrictions, ceremonies this school year were held via Zoom or were limited in scope, but all trees were successfully planted, and students participated in curriculum about skin cancer prevention and the benefits of planting and maintaining community trees.
- Urban & Community Forestry began a new “Free Tree Fridays” campaign of statewide drive-through seedling giveaways to be held on Fridays in April, culminating on National Arbor Day. 16 giveaways are currently scheduled across the state.
- The 2nd annual #SelfieTree contest kicked off the last week of March. Sponsored by Arkansas Urban Forestry Council and the Forestry Division, the contest awards a free tree weekly to the person whose Facebook post of a selfie in front of a tree garners the most likes.
- Krissy Kimbro, Harold Fisher, Regine Skelton and John Cook assisted via a Zoom meeting with Hot Springs Village community leaders regarding forest management and their efforts to become a Tree City USA community.
- Krissy Kimbro gave a presentation on managing community trees to maximize their benefits to the community during the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council (AUFC) Spring Workshop Series.
- Harold Fisher assisted Faulkner County crew with cleaning up an historic African American cemetery that predates the Civil War.

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: Division’s Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16. 953 total orders with total sales of 887,425 pine and 4,167,825 hardwood. Comparatively last year there were 639 total orders with total sales of 764,975 pine and 6,153,100 hardwood.

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

- Replaced old AFC sign with new Department of Agriculture sign.
- Finished lifting Pine and Hardwood.
- Lifted and packed the following:
 - 755,625 pine
 - 4,730,400 hardwood
 - 66,100 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 100,775 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine
 - Total seedlings packed = 5,652,900
- Shipped the following:
 - 764,350 pine
 - 3,998,275 hardwood
 - 55,500 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 92,900 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine
- Applied pre-emergence herbicide to all planted beds.
- Began setting up irrigation on planted fields.
- Began field preparation for soil fumigation treatment.

Tree Improvement: The Division's tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed.

During the month of March, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Made multiple deliveries of seedlings for Baucum to D-1 and D-2.
- Planted Hope test site with 959 trees.
- Continued collecting scion material on site and from test sites.
- Transported give away trees to Hot Springs for an Urban Forestry program.
- Began grafting pine and hardwood.
- Began the controlled cross pollination process.
- Picked up containerized shortleaf in DeRidder LA for Baucum.

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 March 2021:

- Met with AG&F, Arkansas Natural Resource Commission (ANRC) and Forestry Division on State Forest and White Oak Lake sediment control issue on Mill Creek Watershed.

- Exam/meeting with logging contractor on Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sale site in Perry County.
- Completed 1st Quarter BMP report.
- Met with United States Forest Service (USFS) field crew to review BMP on GNA sale area.

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 108 plots for the month of March. We are currently 27% complete with the 2021 Inventory.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(250,950.05)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(250,950.05)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(23,448.31)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(23,448.31)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(439,708.54)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(508,518.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(948,226.54)	
4042001000 FINES	(30.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(30.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(700.00)	
** OR - Rents	(700.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(30,000.00)	RFP Trucks
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0	
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0	
6200003000 Other Donations	0	

** OR - Miscellaneous	(30,000.00)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(32,341.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(489.50)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(1,381.21)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(34,211.71)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.20)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.20)	
4050002000 GRANTSUBGRANT REFUND	0	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0	
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(112,228.16)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(112,228.16)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	7,528.50	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	8,527.99	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	535.22	
** Treasury Charges	16,591.71	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	774,142.46	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	21,735.43	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	0.63	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	56,356.83	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	130,050.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,550.00	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	121,232.24	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	27,088.48	
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0	
** Salary Expense	1,135,156.07	
5020001000 Postage	(193.50)	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	11,788.53	

5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	215.34	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,371.41	
5020005000 Freight	1,465.76	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0	
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	14,647.54	
5030001000 Printing	153.37	Business Cards; Envelopes
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0	
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	0	
5030004000 Film Processing	0	
** Printing & Advertising	153.37	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	(3,864.37)	Error corrections; Act Exp 8,345.42
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	1,474.21	
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	4,229.18	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	12,145.47	
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	0	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	283.40	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	1,571.09	
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	0	
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	489.10	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	(12,717.85)	
** Repairing & Servicing	3,610.23	
5040001000 Electricity	17,008.32	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,154.75	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	6,896.23	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	1,160.00	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	7,324.52	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,450.48	
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	0	
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	105.75	

** Utilities & Rent	37,100.05
5050001000 02 Mileage	128.52
5050003100 02 - Meals	918.32
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,700.85
5050004100 09 - Meals	37.82
5050004200 09 - Lodging	110.64
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	0
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	200.00
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	0
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	(650.00)
** Travel & Subsistence	2,446.15
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	6,328.00
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0
5060005000 Medical Fees	0
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	337.50
** Professional Services & Fees	6,665.50
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0
5070007000 Other Insurance	0
** Insurance & Bonds	0
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	0
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0
5080008000 Air Observe Crop Svc	0
5080013000 Security Services	0
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	4,033.94
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	2,154.62
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	0
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	0
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(319,883.24)
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	0

Forest Action Plan; Stewardship

Baucum Nursery

** Other Expenses & Services	10,526.82	
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	0	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	0	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0	
5090004000 Tires	2,959.85	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	10,547.62	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	225.05	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	1,363.05	
5090006000 Office Supplies	854.33	
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	0	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	(39.93)	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0	
5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup	0	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0	
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0	
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	5,571.27	
5090017000 02 Anim/Livest Pur/S	0	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	2,577.63	
5090019000 Food Purchases	18.81	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	1,418.81	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	0	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	24,254.03	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	0.00	
5090026000 DP Supps	0	
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	0	
5090026200 02 CD,Dsk,Stor Media	0	
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	0	
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	0	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	0	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	2,668.85	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	612.27	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	45,033.00	RFP Trucks

5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	1,013.30	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	1,013.30	Dell Computer
5901080000 LVA EXP NBR(F)	0	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	100,091.24	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	4,740.24	SPB, Mitigation
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0	
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	4,740.24	
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	16,462.13	Tyler Moore/Camper; Baucum Nursery Refund
5110008000 License & Permits	0	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	11,071.97	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	27,534.10	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	254,692.41	Tower Installation; Land; Ford Pick-Up;
** Capital Outlay	254,692.41	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	146,856.33	
** Depreciation/Amortization	146,856.33	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	149,784.59	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	149,784.59	
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0	
5130030500 Inter X out-warr 04	0	
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0	
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0	
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(675,000.00)	
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(18.75)	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(29,647.00)	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	345,890.42	
6061004501 InterAgy GR Tran-Out	0	
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0	
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0	

** Transfers In/Out	(358,775.33)
6092000000 Ins Settle/Restitute	0
** Insurance Proceeds	0
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	(166.29)
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0
** Prior Year Adjustment	(166.29)
*** BALANCE	0.00