



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
ASA HUTCHINSON  
GOVERNOR

February 10, 2021

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair  
Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair  
Joint Budget Committee  
Arkansas General Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request the following amendments to SB164, the 2021-2022 Operations Appropriation Bill for the Department of Agriculture.

Please amend the following sections:

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES -- SHARED SERVICES as follows:

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2021-2022
(2)	U072U	<del>SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE</del> <del>DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE</del>	1	GRADE SE02
(3)	U057U	<del>DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE</del> <del>AGRI LABORATORY DIRECTOR</del>	1	GRADE SE01
		MAX. NO. EMPLOYEES	61	

This request will change the titles of two (2) existing positions.

SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES -- OPERATIONS as follows:

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2021-2022
(5)	L106C	VETERINARY SPECIALIST	<del>5</del> <u>6</u>	GRADE MP04

(9) B010C	AGRI DIVISION MANAGER	5	6	GRADE GS11
(31) B077C	MICROBIOLOGIST	<del>10</del>	11	GRADE GS07
(41) X157C	AGRI INSPECTOR II	96	101	GRADE GS05
	MAX. NO. EMPLOYEES	533	541	

This request will add an additional eight (8) positions for the State Meat Inspection Program being established in HB1315 of 2021.

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION – PLANT BOARD – ADMINISTRATION / PEST CONTROL as follows:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR	
	<u>2021-2022</u>	
(04) OVERTIME	50,000	<u>200,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	\$9,081,908	<u>\$9,231,908</u>

This request will allow the Department of Agriculture to expend Overtime pay for peanut inspection and grading services for the expanded peanut industry within the state.

Please insert the following sections and renumber accordingly:

SECTION X. APPROPRIATION – FORESTRY - RURAL FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for operating expenses of the Department of Agriculture – State Forestry Commission - Rural Fire Protection Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the following:

<u>ITEM NO.</u>	<u>FISCAL YEAR</u>
	<u>2021-2022</u>
<u>(01) RURAL FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>

This request will allow the Department of Agriculture to aid communities and fire departments with establishment, development and operation of fire protection districts.

SECTION X. APPROPRIATION - MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the State Meat Inspection Program Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Agriculture – State Meat Inspection Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the following:

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ITEM

FISCAL YEAR NO.

2021-2022

(01) MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM

\$750,000

This request will allow the Department of Agriculture to create a State Meat Inspection Program to perform inspections of slaughterhouses and meat processing facilities, per HB1315 of 2021.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Asa Hutchinson