

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (0400)
FISCAL YEAR 2015

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 BUDGET

The total appropriation for the Arkansas Agriculture Department for FY14 is \$63,828,647.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

II) APPROPRIATIONS/CHANGES

- Increase in Operations Appropriation and General Revenue funding of \$1,096,859 each year for the following:
 - Forestry Commission** - \$880,952 each year for -
 - Restore 9 positions for minimum and safe fire readiness and ability (\$341,491 Salary and Match)
 - Operating Expenses (\$214,461)
 - Professional Fees to help cover the cost of Single Engine Air Tankers needed to maintain Statewide Wildfire Protection(\$325,000).
 - Plant Board** - \$58,020 each year for -
 - Regular Salary and Match for one new position - Metrology Laboratory Manager to provide skills needed for obtaining and maintaining recognition by the National Institute for Standards and Technology.
 - Livestock & Poultry** - \$157,887 each year for
 - Regular Salary and Match for positions moved from a federally funded Animal Health appropriation due to a reduction in federal grants (\$113,689)
 - Extra Help for sufficient manpower (\$25,231)
 - Conference & Travel (\$10,967)
 - Buffalo Gnat Program for eradication (\$8,000)

- Increase in **Land Survey** appropriation and general revenue funding of \$17,000 each year.

- **Forestry Commission** - Increase in Special Revenue appropriation for Forestry for the following:
 - Increases for 11 restored firefighting positions and Overtime for manpower.
 - Uniform Allowance of \$55,000 each year.
 - Increase in Operating Expenses to help cover increase operating cost including fuel cost.
 - Increase of \$30,000 to fund the Fire Boat School
 - Professional Fees to help cover the cost of Single Engine Air Tankers needed to maintain Statewide Wildfire Protection(\$325,000).

- **Forestry Commission** - Increase in Federal Funds for the following:
 - Increase for Fire Fighting Equipment of \$15,000 each year for Rural Community Fire Protection.
 - Operating Expenses for increased fuel costs.

- **Forestry Commission** - Increase in Trust Funds for the following:
 - Increase of \$300,000 in FY14 and \$500,000 in FY15 for replacement of fire plows and dozers for emergency fire control measures.
- **Livestock & Poultry Commission** - Increase in Special Revenue appropriations of \$397,000 for Capital Outlay to purchase and/or replace lab and inspection equipment.
- **Plant Board** - Increase in Special Revenue appropriation of \$606,000 in FY14 and \$587,000 in FY15 for Capital Outlay to purchase and/or replace lab equipment, data processing equipment, a weather monitoring system and a vehicle.
- **Plant Board** - Increase in Special Revenue appropriation of \$1,000,000 for construction of additional office space for Agri administrative staff.
- **Plant Board** - Increase in Special Revenue appropriation of \$750,000 to support the disposal of old, unlabeled pesticides.

FY2014 Changes Approved During 2014 Pre-Fiscal Hearings:

Supplemental Appropriation for the following:

- **Plant Board** - Special Revenue appropriation of \$1,000,000 for construction of additional office space for Agri administrative staff.
- **Plant Board** - Special Revenue appropriation of \$750,000 to support the disposal of old, unlabeled pesticides.

III) POSITIONS

Total Positions for FY15: 592

Total Positions for FY14: 592

Total Budgeted Positions for FY13: 572

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

* **BUFFALO GNAT CONTROL PROGRAM** - The Buffalo Gnat Program is to control gnats where needed.

* **EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT** - Funds shall be used to reimburse members of high school 4H clubs, high school FFA clubs and Miss Arkansas Rodeo for expenses incurred at national conferences and events.

* **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.

* ALLOCATION RESTRICTIONS - The Secretary of Agriculture shall at no time designate general revenue allocations to the State Plant Board, Livestock and Poultry and Forestry Commission at a level less than the revenue distribution provided in the Official Forecast of state general revenue in effect for each of those agencies.

Updated - January 2014