



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

G.4

October 9, 2019

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
September 2019

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 September 2019.

The 21st annual prescribed burn school was held in the month of September. The Forestry Division founded the school with several partners. The school is designed to teach fire professionals how and when to perform prescribed burns.

This year the prescribed burn school taught 50 students from 14 different agencies. Nine different agencies provided instructors for the class and a total of 49 instructors were needed to teach this annual class.

The Forestry Division had eleven students and provided seven instructors for the class. Training is a major part of our employees' career. With the help of sister agencies, prescribed fire training is offered and professionally given.

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
September 2019 Activity and Fiscal Report**

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During the month of September a total of 116 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,009 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of September is 119.63 wildfires 1729.36 acres burned.

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 1,000 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance to property destined for FD's and repairs Forestry Division equipment as well.

September 2019:

- Six Wildland Fire training classes were conducted with fifty FDs represented (118 firefighters), one minority department and two Forestry personnel in attendance.
- The following was issued to FDs; Three Freightliners (valued at \$498,669.00), seven generators (valued at \$140,362.70), three ATV's (Valued at \$26,391.00), one brush truck (valued at \$104,626.00), an extinguisher-drill skid unit (valued at \$32,500.00) and a shipping and storage container (valued at \$6,896.49).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on six Forestry vehicles (Labor savings of \$4,670.00) and equipment as well as seven Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles (Labor savings of \$18,020.00) destined for a FD.
- 2019 VFA Grant-The Wildland Suppression Kit application period for Fire Departments was open from September 2 to October 4. We have turned in requisitions on grant kit items as well as training supplies and have placed a PPE order on common sizes.
- 2019 Rural Fire Show: Forty-two vendors pre-registered; A birthday celebration for Smokey Bear's 75th birthday took place at the show, we had cake and Smokey Bear door prizes to hand out to children and adults. Fifty-two departments RSVP'd and a much larger number showing attendance on social media sites. Several door prizes were secured.
- Thirty-three counties have turned in and cleared FFP/FEPP inventory. All districts have received inventory training.

- Attended the Arkansas Rural & Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference September 21-22 as a vendor.

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 leads the nation with 85 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in September:

- Conducted initial program presentation for two fire departments.
- Conducted Firewise risk assessment training to one fire department.
- Met with two fire departments interested in re-entering program; answering all questions and concerns.
- Hosted informational booths at Arkansas Rural & Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference and United States Forest Service (USFS) Go Native! Grow Native! Event.
- Delivered community presentation at local Master Gardener's Association Meeting.
- Staff members completed ATV Safety Training Course.

Law Enforcement: AAD 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. AAD aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. AAD Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened three dumping, two fire related and seven timber theft cases. They closed one dumping, four timber theft and three fire related cases.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: AFC 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 AFC foresters, private consulting or AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 419,320 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 1,263 Forest Stewards owning 283,369 acres in the State.

For September nine FSP plans were prepared on 3,574 acres. In addition, AFC 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 AFC Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. AFC foresters prepared 114 forest management practice plans on 6,435 acres. AFC personnel conducted four prescribed burns on 184 acres.

Urban Forestry Assistance: Urban Forestry Program staff provides assistance and training to communities, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, developers and homeowners on urban tree care, inventory and management.

September Urban & Community Forestry:

- A first of its kind for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, the Urban Forestry staff is developing an Urban Forestry Management Plan with the City of Greenbrier. This project includes a tree inventory for the city and lays the framework for future community assistance projects.
- The Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) Training was organized Sept. 16-18 in Little Rock. A certified instructor from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) conducted the training for 17 participants including 6 Forestry Division staff and municipal tree care staff from the cities of Little Rock, Hot Springs, and Fayetteville. Participants were taught a systematic approach to assessing tree risk to maximize public safety while limiting unnecessary tree removals.

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.

A Science Committee was developed by The Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Program (WGFTIP), in order to plan the future scientific objectives for (WGFTIP). Dave Bowling served as chairman of the Science Subcommittee for Data Processing. Randy O'Neal served on the Breeding and Testing Subcommittee. Those two committees along with a Data Analysis Subcommittee met on day one in College Station Texas. On day two, all three subcommittees met as the full Science Committee to begin implementation recommendations from each subcommittee.

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 September 30, there were 184 online orders and 85 paper orders. Total sales of 2,104,775 pine and 7,173,575 hardwoods.

Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 293 online orders and 74 paper orders. Total sales of 616,175 pine and 5,439,700 hardwoods.

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

- Continued the following cultural practices for the 2020 crop:
 - hand weeding of 1-year old crops.
 - disc layout fields 2, 3, and 7.
 - spread mulch in layout fields 2, 3, and 7.
 - plowed between beds in all planted fields to aerate soil and stabilize beds.
 - top pruned all species as needed.
 - sprayed peters 20-20-20 fertilizer over hardwood and pine as needed.
 - spread mulch in layout field 7.
 - applied 18-46-0 fertilizer to all crops.
- Cleaned and re-worked drainage ditches in field 7.
- Collected 122 lbs. of Chinese Chestnut seed.
- Collected 937 lbs. of Sawtooth Oak acorns.

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

- Made necessary irrigation repairs in orchards 1720 & 1721.
- Completed installation of fence on Dr. Parkes progeny test. Pope County will fasten fence to posts.
- Pruned 2019 grafts in shade house.
- Checked pine cones for ripeness by floating in water (when cones float, they are ready to harvest. Families ripen at different times).
- Sprayed herbicide at Hope test site.
- Began flagging clones for cone harvest.
- Continued flagging clones for harvest.
- Removed cone crates from storage in preparation for harvest.

Best Management Practices (BMP): AFC 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 **September 2019:**

- Talked with Central Arkansas Water on control burning plans in their watersheds.
- Inspected Clark County logging complaint for work progress.
- Checked Little River County past logging complaint for site prep work.
- Checked Nevada County slash removal request by FEMA.
- Attended Drinking Water Forum conference planning meeting.

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA): AFC 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 77 plots for the month of September. Staff is now 68% complete with Inventory 2019.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

September 2019

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 4020014000 | TIMBER SEVERANCE | (405,930.65) | |
| SR (3.0) | - Taxes | (405,930.65) | |
| 4030002000 | ACREAGE TAX | (55,125.10) | |
| SR (1.5) | - Taxes | (55,125.10) | |
| 4038001000 | TIMBER SALES | (1,266.75) | |
| 4038003000 | SEEDLING SALES | (15,168.48) | |
| SR (1.5)- | Sales of Agency Produced Goods | (16,435.23) | |
| 4042001000 | FINES | (30.00) | |
| OR - | Fines and Penalties | (30.00) | |
| 4044002000 | FACILITIES RENT | (1,100.00) | |
| OR - | Rents | (1,100.00) | |
| 4046002000 | NON-OP DONATIONS | (2,098.00) | Fire Show Donations |
| 4047002000 | OTHER SALES | - | |
| 4047041000 | VOLUME REBATES | (480.77) | WEX Rebate |
| OR - | Miscellaneous | (2,578.77) | |
| 4047001600 | PAYMENT FOR SERVICES | (10,847.49) | Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS | (900.00) | Trees of Arkansas |
| 4048019000 RESALES | (38,901.96) | Fire Equipment |
| OR - Sales of Goods and Services | (50,649.45) | |
| 4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB | (0.26) | |
| OR - Investment Revenue | (0.26) | |
| 4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB | - | |
| 4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR | - | |
| OR - Grants and Reimbursements | - | |
| 4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE | (1,250,636.98) | |
| Federal Grants and Reimbursements | (1,250,636.98) | |
| 4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES | 12,177.92 | |
| 4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES | 1,067.54 | |
| 4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES | 441.51 | |
| Treasury Charges | 13,686.97 | |
| 5010001000 00 Regular Salaries | 773,342.63 | |
| 5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal | 17,717.26 | |
| 5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries | 429.66 | |
| 5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp | 56,792.11 | |
| 5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL | 118,860.00 | |
| 5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP | 3,779.21 | |
| 5010007000 03 Retirement Exp | 118,567.68 | |
| 5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp | - | |
| 5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All | 1,200.00 | |
| Salary Expense | 1,090,688.55 | |

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| 5020001000 Postage | 1,302.87 | |
| 5020002000 Telecomm Wired | 13,346.41 | |
| 5020003000 Telecomm Wireless | 9,959.13 | |
| 5020004000 Network Services Exp | 44,457.39 | Includes fee of 29,700 charge for Suddenlink Vendor Construction |
| 5020005000 Freight | 322.36 | |
| Communication & Transp. of Commodities | 69,388.16 | |
| 5030002000 Bind Copy Collate | 76.79 | Educational Supplies |
| 5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc | - | |
| 5030004000 Film Processing | - | |
| 5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv. | 126.58 | |
| Printing & Advertising | 203.37 | |
| 5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint | 12,451.15 | |
| 5030005100 Pest Control CI 02 | 1,279.44 | |
| 5030008000 Office Equip Maint | - | |
| 5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint | 3,783.65 | |
| 5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint | 49,865.95 | |
| 5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair | 77.29 | |
| 5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint | 18,286.38 | |
| 5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint | 981.87 | |
| 5030017000 Software Maintenance | - | |
| 5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv. | 1,183.00 | |
| Repairing & Servicing | 87,908.73 | |
| 5040001000 Electricity | 12,307.23 | |
| 5040003000 Water & Sewage | 2,358.33 | |

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 5040004000 Natural Gas Propane | 1,135.77 |
| 5040005000 Rent of Facilities | 1,376.34 |
| 5040006000 Lease Private Land | - |
| 5040007000 Rent of Office Equip | 1,814.23 |
| 5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip | - |
| 5040011000 Other Rent & Leases | 111.32 |
| 5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren | 236.03 |
| Utilities & Rent | 19,339.25 |
| 5050001000 02 Mileage | 894.60 |
| 5050003100 02 - Meals | 1,752.63 |
| 5050003200 02 - Lodging | 4,627.97 |
| 5050004100 09 - Meals | 130.18 |
| 5050004200 09 - Lodging | 321.25 |
| 5050005000 02 Common Carrier | 1,270.19 |
| 5050009000 02 Ground Transport | 114.65 |
| 5050010000 09 Ground Transport | - |
| 5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL | 25.00 |
| 5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp | - |
| 5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees | 950.00 |
| 5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees | 5,660.00 |
| 5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage | - |
| 5050025000 02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL | - |
| Travel & Subsistence | 15,746.47 |
| 5060001000 Professional Adm Fee | 6,616.00 |
| 5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP | - |
| 5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT | - |

Stewardship; Land Appraiser

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Professional Services & Fees | 6,616.00 |
| 5070002000 Vehicle Insurance | - |
| 5070003000 Bld Contents Ins | - |
| 5070007000 Other Insurance | - |
| Insurance & Bonds | - |
| 5080001000 M&R Service Fees | - |
| 5080006000 Assoc Member Dues | - |
| 5080014000 Trash Pickup Service | 1,062.60 |
| 5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees | 455.02 |
| 5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK | 66.00 |
| 5080022000 Other Expenses Svc | 44,645.50 |
| 5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs | 4,136.52 |
| 5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost | 718.75 |
| Other Expenses & Services | 51,084.39 |
| 5090002000 Natural Res Supps | 505.87 |
| 5090003000 Special Purpose Supp | 59.94 |
| 5090004000 Tires | 5,106.56 |
| 5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH | 26,886.19 |
| 5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH | 13,160.22 |
| 5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL | 3,508.32 |
| 5090006000 Office Supplies | 3,982.38 |
| 5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory | 437.96 |
| 5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats | 2,086.46 |
| 5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups | 821.72 |
| 5090014000 Drugs & Medicines | - |

Henry's Aerial Service
(will be corrected to professional
services)

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 5090016000 Shop Indust Supps | 11,754.24 |
| 5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs | 933.65 |
| 5090019000 Food Purchases | 1,963.45 |
| 5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item | 2,031.44 |
| 5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup | 1,197.47 |
| 5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent | 836.92 |
| 5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps | 1,373.48 |
| 5090026000 DP Supps | 4,451.00 |
| 5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink | - |
| 5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA | 174.30 |
| 5090027000 Software/Licenses | 4,722.26 |
| 5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup | 43.23 |
| 5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles | 21,563.64 |
| 5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified) | 2,081.38 |
| 5901070000 LVA Exp Full | 2,081.38 |
| Commodities, Materials & Supplies | 111,763.46 |
| 5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid | 23,831.70 |
| Assistance, Grants & Aids | 23,831.70 |
| 5110002000 02 Other Refunds | 150.00 |
| 5110008000 License & Permits | (601.80) |
| 5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims | 108.61 |
| Refunds, Taxes & Claims | (343.19) |
| 6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate | - |

RFP Loans for Tanker,
Skid units and other equipment

Printer, Computer,
Docking Station-Tablet -PC

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Refunds | - |
| 5900003000 Capital Outlay | 58,667.26 |
| Capital Outlay | 58,667.26 |
| 5901020000 Depr Expense (Full) | 134,135.20 |
| Depreciation/Amortization | 134,135.20 |
| 6091000000 Revenue FA (Full) | (150,000.00) |
| 6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full) | 205,455.16 |
| Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets | 55,455.16 |
| 5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04 | 10,322.26 |
| 6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In | (650,000.00) |
| 6060007200 M & R Transfers In | (630.00) |
| 6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In | (55,411.00) |
| 6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER OUT | 57.08 |
| 6061006820 Tran Out to CompUnit | - |
| Transfers In/Out | (695,661.66) |
| 6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel | - |
| 6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp | - |
| Prior Year Adjustment | - |
| BALANCE | - |

Trucks for Law Enforcement (1)
and D1 (1)