



Asa Hutchinson  
Governor

# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205  
agriculture.arkansas.gov  
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward  
Secretary of Agriculture

H.3

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe  
Arkansas Senate  
State Capitol

The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw  
Arkansas House of Representatives  
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for August 2020

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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 August 2020.

August started out with little rainfall, low humidity and increased fire danger for the State of Arkansas. Crews suppressed 52 wildfires that burned 563 acres. Two of these wildfires were larger than 100 acres, Ouachita County with 109 acres and Saline County with 109 acres also.

Crews went from fire suppression to storm damage clean up when tropical storm Laura entered Arkansas on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Crews from Lafayette and Cleburne Counties were tasked with clearing roads of fallen trees so emergency and electrical crews could gain access to areas in need.

Forestry is diverse in tasks we are called upon to perform. Field crews as well as administrative staff take on these tasks willingly and with pride.

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  
August 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Wildfires:** During August a total of 52 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 563 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of August is 137 wildfires with 1,933 acres burned.

**Search and Rescue Assistance:** A Forestry Division crew in Cleburne County assisted in a search and rescue for a missing person from a boating accident on Greers Ferry Lake close to Old Hwy 25. The adult male was found safe. (8/23/20)

**Storm Damage Assistance:** Forestry Division crews in Lafayette County assisted in storm damage clean up in the area of County Road 21 south of Stamps and in the area of County Road 114. Forestry Division crews in Cleburne County assisted in storm damage clean up in the area of 5599 Wilburn Road.

**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.

August 2020:

- There were eleven Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with sixty-one FD's (one hundred sixty firefighters), including twelve Forestry personnel and three Minority departments in attendance.
- Two tankers and one generator/trailer were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$262,321.00).
- RFP received five hundred thirty-five items from the Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) to include tourniquets, tarps, towels, structural turnouts and boots and an aircraft maintenance platform (o.a.c. \$32,467.53).
- RFP received three brush trucks (o.a.c. \$381,237.00) and three service trucks (o.a.c. \$68,753.00).

- The RFP shop completed maintenance on four Forestry vehicles and five FD vehicles (labor savings of \$27,455.00).
- FY20 Federal Inventory has been cleared by the United States Forest Service (USFS). FY21 Federal Inventory is ongoing and cleared for thirty-two counties plus Aviation and Baucum.
- Sent Volunteer Firefighter Assistance (VFA) guidelines and applications to districts to prepare for 2020 grant. Grant opened August 17 and deadline to apply is October 2, 2020.
- Received completion letter for Arkansas Workman's Compensation Commission-Rule 32 program.
- Attended a fire chief's meeting in Searcy County to answer questions concerning the Cooperative Agreement and to promote the VFA Grant.
- The drivers made several trips to include California, Georgia, Kansas, Virginia, Texas and North Carolina to pick up Federal Excess Equipment.

**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 **August**:

- Delivered Smokey materials to Districts 2, 4, and 5.
- Delivered an initial program presentation to an interested department.
- Assisted a fire department with Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: one Landowner Assist, three Fire Department Meetings Attended, 71 Fire Chief Visits, four Wildland Firefighting Trainings Attended, one Grant Presented, two Paperwork Assists, two Educational Curriculum Developments and 13 Literature Distributions.

**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 one Forestry Division Equipment Case (Jefferson County), nine timber theft cases, three dumping cases and one fire case. They closed one timber theft 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 (NRCS) soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 395,175 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 1,265 Forest Stewards owning 285,284 acres in the State.

During the month of August, seven Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 757 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 172 forest management practice plans on 13,092 acres and conducted 13 prescribed burns on 1,439 acres.

### **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.

- Forestry Division personnel received webinar training on Asian longhorned beetle. This invasive threat is not found in Arkansas, but it was recently found established in South Carolina. Monitoring protocol will be established to watch for this pest in Arkansas.
- Personnel collected almost 300 gypsy moth traps across the state, and the results are being submitted to Plant Industry Division and APHIS-PPQ.

**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.

- The Urban & Community Forestry Grant application period ran during August, so staff provided multiple advisements to potential applicants calling or emailing with questions and requests for assistance and are now scoring the applications to select grant recipients.
- Harold Fisher attended virtual meeting of Faulkner County Cooperative Extension Service Horticulture Program Committee.
- Urban Forestry staff attended online training on planting containerized and ball and burlap trees in the manner that bare root seedlings are planted, on designing urban rights of way to prevent damage to tree roots, ARCGIS Pro (mapping/urban tree inventories),

- Technical assistance was provided to the communities of Benton (downtown streetscape), Conway (urban tree inventories in multiple locations), Arkadelphia (Ouachita Baptist University), and Greenbrier (Matthews Park), and to residents in Benton and Morrilton.
- Krissy Kimbro Thomason provided urban forestry and education assistance to the Arkansas Environmental Education Association in developing a resource guide for teachers and schools concerning the utilization of outdoor learning opportunities as schools start back up under conditions mandated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**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. Year to date through August 31, there were 237 online orders and 43 paper orders. Total sales of 667,000 pine and 5,052,194 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY20, there were 138 online orders and 79 paper orders. Total sales of 551,550 pine and 5,896,175 hardwood

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

- Continued to remove and burn downed trees in cherrybark oak progeny test.
- Began field inventory.
- Bush hogged production orchards and grounds.
- Bush hogged and began disking cover crops in field 2 and field 8.
- Used road grader to clean out ditches.
- Disked field 3 and field 4 to prepare for methyl bromide application.
- The following cultural practices were completed for growing of the FY21 crop:
  - Top pruned all crops on a weekly basis as needed.
  - Applied urea fertilizer on a weekly basis as needed.
  - Plowed between beds in all planted fields to aerate soil and stabilize beds on a weekly basis as needed.
  - Applied herbicide to buffer areas around fields on a weekly basis as needed.
  - Applied Poast herbicide and elite supreme crop oil to hardwood species on a weekly basis as needed.
  - Applied Poast and Goal Tender herbicides to pine on a weekly basis as needed.

**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 August, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Applied fertilizer to production and breeding orchards.
- Sprayed water lines with herbicides in orchards 1717, 1718 & 1719.
- Weeded and sprayed herbicides around buildings and grounds.
- Bush hogged production orchards and grounds.
- Pulled weeds in potted trees.
- Bush hogged and disked old orchard sites 1706 & 1707 for AGFC dove hunting plot.
- Helped Baucum with field inventory of seedlings and prep for methyl bromide.
- Bush hogged, sprayed herbicides and documented plots at Hope site.
- Completed 4th and final aerial insecticide application of all production pine orchards.

**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 **August 2020:**

- Completed exam for Central Arkansas Water on forest road construction in Pulaski County.
- Completed exam for Saline River Watershed Alliance on future logging site in Saline County.
- Completed a support letter for Watershed Group to send to County Committee in Saline County.
- Assisted logger with road mat selection for a haul road.
- Checked older Ouachita County logging complaint for road improvement work.

**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 86 plots for the month of August. The 2020 inventory is now 65% complete.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

.	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(355,484.94)
<b>** SR (3.0) - Taxes</b>	<b>(355,484.94)</b>
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(59,484.75)
<b>** SR (1.5) - Taxes</b>	<b>(59,484.75)</b>
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(6,086.35)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(34,058.50)
<b>** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G</b>	<b>(40,144.85)</b>
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)
<b>** OR - Fines and Penalties</b>	<b>(40.00)</b>
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(1,110.00)
<b>** OR - Rents</b>	<b>(1,110.00)</b>
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(6,750.00)
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0.00
<b>** OR - Miscellaneous</b>	<b>(6,750.00)</b>
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(4,652.50)
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(418.25)
4048019000 RESALES	(20,475.33)
<b>** OR - Sales of Goods and Services</b>	<b>(25,546.08)</b>
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.07)
<b>** OR - Investment Revenue</b>	<b>(0.07)</b>
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00
<b>** OR - Grants and Reimbursements</b>	<b>0.00</b>
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(972,193.71)
<b>** Federal Grants and Reimbursements</b>	<b>(972,193.71)</b>
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	10,664.55
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	1,494.45
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	405.29
<b>** Treasury Charges</b>	<b>12,564.29</b>
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	754,284.23
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	17,130.26
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,022.84
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	55,242.75

Misc Fire Equipment (Radios, Pagers, etc...

Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane  
Trees of AR  
Fire Equipment

5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	121,380.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,867.76
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	115,815.28
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00
<b>** Salary Expense</b>	<b>1,068,743.12</b>
5020001000 Postage	1,089.51
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	5,458.75
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	724.39
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,797.11
5020005000 Freight	56.80
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commoditi</b>	<b>9,126.56</b>
5030001000 Printing	0.00
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>	<b>0.00</b>
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	7,896.70
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	1,402.21
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	4,870.08
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	26,372.30
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	1,881.71
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	34,836.88
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	6,751.51
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	5.44
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	613.72
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>	<b>84,630.55</b>
5040001000 Electricity	12,118.83
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,187.41
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	834.85
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	(275.00)
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,120.48
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	418.64
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	67.54
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>	<b>17,472.75</b>
5050001000 02 Mileage	844.20
5050003100 02 - Meals	2,331.59

Two bills will probably be paid in Sept.

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5050003200 02 - Lodging	4,991.39
5050004100 09 - Meals	52.25
5050004200 09 - Lodging	218.40
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	16.00
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	260.00
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>	<b>8,713.83</b>
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	17,184.00
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	10.50
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>	<b>17,194.50</b>
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00
5070007000 Other Insurance	0.00
<b>** Insurance &amp; Bonds</b>	<b>0.00</b>
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	0.00
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	677.86
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	(30.89)
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0.00
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	4,242.42
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	0.00
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>	<b>4,889.39</b>
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	3,615.32
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	21.51
5090004000 Tires	10,596.01
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	2,891.43
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	0.00
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	2,062.80
5090006000 Office Supplies	4,187.01
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	82.32
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	1,209.35
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	67.41
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	20.41
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	34.36
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0.00
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	19,488.10

Land Survey, Land Appraisal (Forest Legacy); Stewardship

5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	380.00	
5090019000 Food Purchases	1,001.78	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	995.74	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,718.96	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	11,039.16	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	4,914.58	
5090026000 DP Supps	3,584.45	
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	223.45	
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	0.00	
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	0.00	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	50.88	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	838.68	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	18,255.37	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	(369.12)	Tax rebate and tax correction from previous month
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	(369.12)	
<b>** Commodities, Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>86,540.84</b>	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	0.00	
<b>** Assistance, Grants &amp; Aids</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	2,854.00	Online Seedling Sale Refund
<b>** Refunds, Taxes &amp; Claims</b>	<b>2,854.00</b>	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
<b>** Refunds</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	236,841.53	2 Freightliner Trucks; Quantum Superloader
<b>** Capital Outlay</b>	<b>236,841.53</b>	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	140,181.76	
<b>** Depreciation/Amortization</b>	<b>140,181.76</b>	
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	(1,655,782.14)	ANCRC transfer
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(546,000.00)	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(1,043.84)	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	12,451.00	Transfer to PAY9901
<b>** Transfers In/Out</b>	<b>(2,190,374.98)</b>	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	(72.47)	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
<b>** Prior Year Adjustment</b>	<b>(72.47)</b>	
<b>*** BALANCE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	