



ASA HUTCHINSON  
GOVERNOR

# ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

1 NATURAL RESOURCES DRIVE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205 | (501) 225-1598 | AAD.ARKANSAS.GOV



WES WARD  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Bill Sample  
Arkansas Senate  
State Capitol

The Honorable Jim Dotson  
Arkansas House of Representatives  
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for July 2018

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Dotson:

Per Section 42 of Act 841 of the 2017 Regular 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 July 2018.

In July, the AFC took possession of three 2018 fire suppression units. These units consist of John Deere 550K series fire plows and Freightliner transports. The cost of each unit was approximately \$281,000.00.

The three units being replaced are 20-year-old fire plows that have served fire suppression activities in the past and are outdated. The new units are being stationed in:

Lincoln County  
Faulkner County  
Newton County

The new units arrived just in time for AFC's summer fire season. One plow has already responded to two fires since its arrival.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther  
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward





## ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION (AFC) July 2018 Activity and Fiscal Report

### FIRE PROTECTION

**Wildfires:** During July a total of 121 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 955 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of July is 129 wildfires for 1614 acres burned.

**Rural Fire Protection:** Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists rural volunteer fire departments with organization, training and equipment. RFP provides interest-free loans and administers federal grants to assist approximately 1,000 volunteer rural fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance to AFC equipment.

July 2018

- A total of 51 fire departments (FD), (173 firefighters), were provided wildland fire training, five minority departments and five-AFC/Arkansas Agriculture Department (AAD) personnel in attendance.
- RFP received five Freightliners (valued at \$831,115.00), one road grader (valued at \$94,370.00) and nine generators (valued at \$332,695.00).
- There were three Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles and three other pieces of equipment issued to FDs including one Freightliner (valued at \$166,223.00), one firetruck (valued at \$172,170.68), one brush truck (valued at \$15,313.00), two generators (valued at \$50,146.00) and one storage container (valued at \$9,639.50).
- One hundred twenty-one DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to FDs (valued at \$10,413.71), items included anti-vibration gloves and goggles.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on 14 AFC vehicles and five DOD vehicles.
- 2017 Wildfire Volunteer Fire (WFVF) Grant update: All items for the grant kits have been received! Plans are to take a day for each district to coordinate efforts with the District Forester to distribute the kits as quickly as possible. A press release was generated by AAD. The grant kit was mentioned on several news stations and newspapers.
- 2018 Annual Fire Show will be held on October 27 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Vendor letters and vendor packets are being distributed at this time. The official fliers were handed out at events, such as Fire Boat School, conferences, and the Wildland training classes as well as being mailed out along with account statements.



**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 168 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in **July**:

- Delivered two initial program presentations
- Public Information Specialist attended Southern Group of State Foresters Communications Committee Meeting.
- Assisted two communities with renewal paperwork.

**Law Enforcement:** AAD has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but focuses primarily 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 six dumping, 11 fire related, two AFC property and nine timber theft cases. They closed six dumping, one fire related, one equipment theft/vandalism, and seven timber theft 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 private non-industrial 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 foresters, AFC 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 5,116 landowners owning 946,774 acres that have enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,241 Forest Stewards owning 281,441 acres.

For July, ten FSP plans were prepared on 1,198 acres. In addition, AFC personnel provided 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 97 rural forestry management plans on 6,084 acres. AFC personnel conducted three prescribed burns on 102 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.

July 2018

- Accepted 8 applications for the Urban & Community Forestry pass-through grant program and began application review process
- Began planning for statewide Advanced Master Gardener Training workshop on tree care
- Selected and notified 10 elementary schools to receive Shade Tree on Playgrounds (S.T.O.P) program and made preparations for a teachers' workshop in conjunction with the program
- Assisted the City of Newport with an assessment of trees in a large city park and made tree care recommendations

**Reforestation:** AFC's tree improvement program strives to provide landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One method AFC employs to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. AFC 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:** AFC's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Seedling sales began on July 15

- Through July 31, there were
  - o 149 on line orders and 44 traditional orders
  - o Total sales of 382,200 pine and 6,072,056 hardwood
- Comparatively, in the same period in FY 18, there were
  - o 136 on line orders and 47 traditional orders
  - o Total sales of 539,825 pine and 2,817,572 hardwood

Baucum Nursery staff completed the following during the month of July

- Fertilized fields 3, 4, 7, and 8 with urea
- Sprayed the following herbicides
  - o Poast-over the top of all hardwoods and pine
  - o Roundup- ends of beds, riser lines
  - o GoalTender-over the top of all pine
- Applied the following herbicides with shielded sprayer to all hardwoods.
  - o Roundup
  - o Resolute 65wg
  - o GoalTender
  - o Pendulum
- Used rakes on shielded sprayer to remove weeds from beds
- Used a system of mopping over the top of seedlings to kill weeds that are above seeding height. This mixture of 1-part Roundup, 1-part crop oil and .25 parts water, is applied with a specialized device that pumps this high concentration of herbicide into a four-foot-wide mop. The mop is raised and lowered based the height of the crop in order to avoid contact with leaves of tree seedlings.
- Top pruned all species

### **Tree Improvement:**

During the month of July, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following.

- Fertilized orchards 1720 & 1721 with 2oz ea. of urea and 13-13-13
- Sprayed test site at Hope to kill Johnson grass
- Took F -250 to Greenbrier shop to have exhaust fixed
- Pulled vines off trees in orchards 1720 & 1721
- Cut weeds and bushes out of orchards 1717 & 1718
- Aerial application of Imidan insecticide was applied to all production orchards.
- Fixed Rome disc gangs
- Sprayed Roundup on production orchard rows one way to cut down on bush hogging



- Pulled weeds in and around greenhouses
- Bush hogged production orchards

**Forest Inventory and Analysis:** 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' natural resource trends through time.

FIA completed 126 plots for the month of July. We are now 40% complete with Inventory 2018.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Media Update**

- Distributed to statewide media partners: "Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force Launches Reporting System and Outreach Campaign," 7/2.
- Answered calls and engaged in social media dialogue through July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday regarding Burn Bans, Wildfire Danger, and smoke-related questions
- Distributed to statewide media partners: "Arkansas Tree Seedlings Now Available from Baucum Nursery for 2019 Planting Season," 7/18.
- Distributed to statewide media partners: "Wildfire Suppression Kits Distributed to Statewide Volunteer Fire Departments through Rural Fire Program," 7/25.
- Distributed to statewide media partners: "11 Arkansas Playgrounds Selected to Participate in Annual Shade Trees on Playgrounds Program," 7/31.
- Followed up with the Sentinel Record (Hot Springs) and the Arkansas Dem Gaz Tri-Lakes edition regarding feature stories on Rusty Cowart, recipient of a 2018 Bronze Smokey Bear Award (national-level award); both newspapers featured Rusty the last week in July

### **Meetings and Events**

- Presented at quarterly Arkansas Forestry Commission Board Meeting, 7/20.
- Publicized photos and updates from Fire Boat Operations Training at Lake Dardanelle, 7/14.

### **General**

- Provided edits to 2018 edition of Best Management Practices for Water Quality report.
- Included forestry updates in the July AAD Newsletter, distributed 7/10.
- Photographed/publicized forestry and other topics and speakers at the Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Seminar tour of the AAD Headquarters office, 7/11.
- Proofed fact sheet for Arkansas Forestry Association newsletter, regarding forestry management practices for summer from AFC County Forester Tabitha Holloway.

### **AFC Social Media Update**

- Facebook – 19,350 Likes
- Twitter – 7,446 Followers

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

July 2018

*	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(361,696.09)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(361,696.09)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(103,334.15)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(103,334.15)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(207,779.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(207,779.00)	
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(1,300.00)	
** OR - Rents	(1,300.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	(200.00)	Fire Show Donations
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(913.50)	Recycle Scrap Metal
6200003000 Other Donations	(94,370.00)	Grader, Motorized 2004 Caterpillar
** OR - Miscellaneous	(95,483.50)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(5,920.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(308.25)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(2,725.00)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(8,953.25)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.22)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.22)	
4050001000 NONFED GRANTS/REIMB	(20,000.00)	NWTF
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	(188.99)	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(20,188.99)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(58,539.35)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(58,539.35)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	10,850.88	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	3,012.98	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	462.13	
** Treasury Charges	14,325.99	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	806,424.94	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	16,223.50	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	935.63	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	58,649.96	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,387.34	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	119,468.73	
** Salary Expense	1,124,950.10	
5020001000 Postage	499.22	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	12,506.08	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	107.93	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	2,478.22	
5020005000 Freight	32.93	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	232.01	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	15,856.39	



5030001000	Printing	528.00	Map
5030004100	NBR Printing & Adv.	1,516.31	Posters
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>		<b>2,044.31</b>	
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	4,338.30	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	3,518.43	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	12,569.26	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	18,111.74	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	1,957.65	
5030017000	Software Maintenance	2,040.94	
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	545.89	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>		<b>43,082.21</b>	
5040001000	Electricity	10,805.82	
5040002000	Electric Special Use	88.06	Wrong GL Code used will be corrected
5040003000	Water & Sewage	3,519.02	
5040003100	02 Water	50.71	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	856.42	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	24,331.66	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,019.01	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	0.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	99.84	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>		<b>41,860.54</b>	
5050001000	02 Mileage	88.62	
5050003100	02 - Meals	995.98	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	2,616.17	
5050004100	09 - Meals	114.59	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	732.60	
5050010000	09 Ground Transport	32.72	
5050012000	09 PRKNG FEES		
TRAVEL		17.44	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,610.00	
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	446.04	
5050024000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 09	93.94	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>		<b>6,748.10</b>	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	4,250.00	Consultants
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	1,207.94	
5060016000	NBR PROSVS & FEES	(2,836.71)	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	3,376.00	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>		<b>5,997.23</b>	
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	1,303.16	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	102,883.00	Once a year fee
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	31,220.13	Once a year fee
<b>** Insurance &amp; Bonds</b>		<b>135,406.29</b>	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	35.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	575.10	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD		
SER		308.93	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	1,382.35	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	2,487.56	Baucum Nursery
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	106.79	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	154.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	3,638.63	

** Other Expenses & Services	8,688.36	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	98.35	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	44.00	
5090004000 Tires	1,762.35	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	20,805.31	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	12,716.60	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	10,492.41	
5090006000 Office Supplies	2,002.63	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	4.32	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	123.14	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	54.05	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	5,269.87	
5090019000 Food Purchases	1,170.44	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	450.54	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	65.71	
5090026000 DP Supps	994.44	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	269.62	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	20,725.73	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	536.54	Chainsaw
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	536.54	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	78,122.59	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	18,415.70	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	18,415.70	
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	93.42	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	93.42	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	242,134.79	6 new small trucks; Donated grader
** Capital Outlay	242,134.79	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	111,739.87	
** Depreciation/Amortization	111,739.87	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	4,927.86	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	4,927.86	
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	3,238.14	
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	(5,107.47)	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(760,460.45)	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(36,116.50)	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(142,932.00)	
** Transfers In/Out	(941,378.28)	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	(58.45)	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	(10,788.09)	
** Prior Year Adjustment	(10,846.54)	
*** BALANCE	0.00	