



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

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Bill Sample
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable David L. Branscum
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for October 2017

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Branscum:

Per Act 59 of the 89th General Assembly, Fiscal Session, 2014, Section 48, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for October 2017.

Each year in October, the AFC hosts a Rural Fire Show. The Fire Show is held to give AFC's appreciation for the awesome support from Arkansas Volunteer Fire Departments. The show presents equipment and supplies from vendors and AFC that are available to the rural fire departments.

This year, attendance was:

- 558 registered guests
- 141 Volunteer Fire Departments represented
- 35 Vendors with 46 representatives
- 40 AFC personnel and helpers

For a Grand Total of 644 attendees.

The annual fire show continues to strengthen working relationships with Volunteer Fire Departments and AFC personnel.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward





ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

October 2017 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During October a total of 172 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,613 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of October is 125 wildfires for 1,476 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: An AFC crew assisted in a search and rescue for a missing woman at Hawk's Bill Craig in Newton County. She was found safe.

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.

October, 2017

- 46 rural fire departments (119 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Five AFC personnel attended.
- RFP received five freightliners (valued at \$437,805.00) and four cargo trucks (valued at \$108,968.00).
- There were four Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles and other equipment issued to VFDs including two freightliners (valued at \$141,664.00), one Stewart & Stevenson Brush Truck (valued at \$104,626.00), one Chevy Dually (valued at \$16,902.00), one Libby generator on trailer (valued at \$31,596.00) and two Portable Foam Applicator Units (valued at \$14,830.00).
- 253 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFD's (Valued at \$25,664.09) including, Men's safety boots, pinch bar, combination tool, cooling vests, flashlights, spine boards, cargo containers, highway reflector set, and oil sorbent.
- Provided one-interest free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund in October 2017.
 - New DeRoche FD - Hoses, nozzles and other firefighting equipment - \$8,984.43 (Hot Springs Co., D-5)
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on 16 AFC vehicles and, four DOD vehicles.

Five Districts have submitted their completed files, with awarded applications, size forms for PPE and non-awarded applications for the 2017 Wildfire Volunteer Fire (WFVF) Grant. The deadline for submission of applications is November 3, 2017.

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 173 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in October:

- Added 3 new communities bringing the total Firewise Community count to 173
- Attended week - long training with NFPA/National Firewise in Boise, Idaho
- Staff manned a booth at the Fireshow in Greenbrier
- Attended the Saline Co. OEM meeting and spoke about Firewise

Law Enforcement: AFC 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. AFC aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened four dumping, seven fire related and ten timber cases. They closed five fire related, eleven timber, and four dumping cases.

An AFC Law Enforcement Investigator assisted a US Fish and Wildlife Agent with a timber complaint in Woodruff County. Two of the AFC Law Enforcement Investigators completed their required AFC physical fitness tests. Another AFC Law Enforcement Investigator completed the 2-mile pack test in Greenbrier.

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 4,758 landowners owning 869,558 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,299 Forest Stewards owning 280,476 acres.

For October, 12 FSP plans were prepared on 2,780 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 81 rural forestry management plans on 7,457 acres. AFC personnel conducted 15 prescribed burns on 753 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.

In October:

- Urban Forestry staff implemented nine Shade Trees on Playgrounds programs.
- More than 5,500 students assisted with planting 45 trees in playgrounds across the state. Students learned about trees prior to the event through AFC staff trainings and teacher made programs.

Students prepared songs, plays, poems, art, power points, reports and more to present at assemblies across the state.

- Staff attended trainings on GIS and general employee education.
- Staff assisted with Arkansas Tech's first Environmental Education Day, where future college students were shown that forestry is a viable career option.
- Urban staff also assisted with Forest Awareness day in Fayetteville. This consisted of 125 students learning about how trees grow and the different parts of a leaf.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist, Chandler Barton, assists AFC personnel statewide in efforts to maintain healthy, productive forest ecosystems by preventing, detecting, monitoring, and suppressing damaging insects and diseases. AFC offers technical assistance to landowners who encounter forest health issues.

- The common walkingstick insect caused heavy defoliation of oak trees in several areas of the Ozark National Forest. A previous mild, wet winter helped the population of walkingsticks grow. Fortunately, the insect does not harm trees since they defoliate just before the fall season.
- Chandler visited Mississippi again to observe southern pine beetle control methods. He was accompanied by Dr. Mohammad Bataineh, UAM Professor, and select AFC personnel. Together they are bringing back to Arkansas important knowledge for dealing with this pest.
- Chandler attended the Oak Symposium in Knoxville, TN. Upland oak management techniques and oak decline were topics discussed.

Baucum Nursery: AFC's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

- Seedling sales began on July 15.
- Through October 29, there were
 - 356 on line orders and 94 traditional orders
 - Total sales of 885,525 pine and 4,721,525 hardwood.
- Comparatively, in the same period in FY 17, there were
 - 282 on line orders and 74 traditional orders
 - Total sales of 2,200,850 pine and 4,261,275 hardwood.

During the month of October, Baucum Nursery staff completed the following.

- Nursery Technician Zach Cantlon got his CDL
- Nursery Manager (James Shelton) and Reforestation Foreman (Mike Newman) attended HR Arkansas training class.
- Pulled cottonwood and black willow volunteers out of fields 4 and 7
- Plowed middles in all fields
- Root wrenched pine in order to increase oxygen in water logged soil.
- Collected seed from all orchards at Baucum Nursery
 - 109 lbs. of improved cherrybark
 - 223 lbs. of improved nuttall oak
 - 1417 lbs. of sawtooth oak
 - 100 lbs. of Chinese chestnut.
- Began taking plots for final crop inventory
- Disked and do-all'd(multi task plow) in fields 2,4, and 8 for methyl bromide
- Fields 2, 4, and 8 were fumigated with methyl bromide

- Serviced big cooler
- Nursery Manager (James Shelton) and Reforestation Foreman (Mike Newman) went to UAPB farm near Lonoke to harvest milkweed and prairie grass seed

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

- Harvest of pine cones with a yield of 292 bushels of loblolly cones and 163.75 bushels of shortleaf cones for use by AFC
- Accepted bids for cones for pine families not needed by AFC.
 - IFCO was the winning bidder at \$125 per bushel for loblolly and \$105 per bushel for shortleaf. Winning bidder also pays the harvest contractor for the harvest of the families which they bid on.
 - IFCO purchased 204 bushels of loblolly cones for a total of \$25,500.00
 - IFCO purchased 44.5 bushels of shortleaf cones for a total of \$4,672.50
- Transported crates of AFC cones to Oklahoma State Tree Improvement Center for processing.
- Began pruning and chipping orchard 1716
- Delivered 40, three gal willow oak seedlings to Baucum for distribution for WWI commemorative program.

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.

On October 3-5 Reforestation Manager (Dave Bowling), Nursery Manager (James Shelton) and Administrative Specialist (Krys Newnum) set up and operated a vendor booth at the Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) Annual Meeting in Little Rock. In addition to purchasing a booth at the AFA meeting, AFC supported AFA with a Platinum Sponsorship.

On October 10, Reforestation Manager (Dave Bowling), Nursery Manager (James Shelton) and Reforestation Foreman (Mike Newman), visited the Missouri state nursery for general information about how they operate and specific information on growing milkweed.

Best Management Practices: Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) provides Best Management Practices (BMP's) training to loggers and timber companies, conducts courtesy exams prior or during timber harvest operations and addresses logging complaints.

The BMP coordinator responded to one (1) timber harvesting complaint, through the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The complaint was found not valid. The BMP Coordinator responded to complaint by a site visit and followed up by a report back to the ADEQ.

The BMP Coordinator conducted two technical training sessions. One for Foresters, Loggers, Contractors and Landowners in El Dorado, Arkansas. The workshop was attended by approximately 25 participants. The second training was provided for the Arkansas Forestry Commission Poison Springs State Forest Forester and Technicians at Camden, Arkansas. The workshop was a six-hour course which will meet the SFI certification requirements. All attendees received certificates.

The BMP coordinator continues to work with the Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water Committee and the Forum planning committee. The Committee is planning a south central forum to be held at De Gray Lake Lodge November 7 & 8 2017.

The BMP Coordinator continues the ground surveys and collecting data on approximately 250 logging sites randomly selected. We hope to complete the survey in January 2018, with data analysis and final report published by June 2018.

The BMP Coordinator attended the Arkansas Forestry Association annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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 83 plots for the month of October. We are 68% complete with Inventory 2017.

COMMUNICATIONS

Media Update

- Distributed to statewide media: "Shade Trees on Playgrounds Program to Provide Added Shade on 10 School Playgrounds," 10/3.
- Distributed to statewide media: "Urban and Community Forestry Grants Open for Proposals," 10/11.
- Distributed to statewide media: "Use Local Firewood to Help Protect Arkansas Forest from Invasive Species," 10/16.
- Distributed to Statewide Media: "Arkansas Forest Industry Highlighted During National Forest Products Week," 10/17.
- Distributed to Statewide Media: "Arkansas Forestry Commission Headquarters Moves to Arkansas Agriculture Department Complex," 10/23.
- Distributed to Statewide Media: "Arkansas to Host 2nd Biennial Forum on Forestry and Drinking Water," 10/27.
- Worked with Arkansas Wild magazine for feature story on Stewardship Family of the Year Larry and Shirley Aickman.
- Provided continued social media updates on Burn Bans and Wildfire Danger throughout October.

Meetings and Events

- Attended Arkansas Forestry Association Annual Meeting in Little Rock, 10/3-10/5.
- Presented at Arkansas Forestry Commission Commissioner's Meeting, 10/13.
- Meeting with Arkansas Forestry Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas Rice Federation, Arkansas Farm Bureau, UAEX to begin efforts for Smoke Management Guidelines for the row crop industry, 10/17.
- Attended Arkansas Legislative Council Meeting on behalf of Arkansas Forestry Commission, 10/20.

- Attended/photographed Rural Fire Show in Greenbrier, 10/28.

General

- Included forestry updates in Arkansas Agriculture Department Newsletter, 10/9.
- Coordinated printing of updated AFC Baucum Nursery Seedling Care Guide and Fire Laws book.
- Organized Southern Group of State Foresters Communications Committee Monthly Call, 10/4.

AFC Social Media Update

- Facebook – 17,523 Likes (up from 17,217 Likes in September)
- Twitter – 7,176 Followers (up from 7,139 Followers in September)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 2017

	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(408,255.72)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(408,255.72)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(227,272.29)	
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(227,272.29)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(39,539.92)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(39,539.92)	
4042001000 FINES	(148.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(148.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(400.00)	
4044003000 OTHER RENT	(100.00)	
** OR - Rents	(500.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	(1,100.00)	Fire Show Donations
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(27,427.24)	Fire Equipment
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0.00	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	(43,500.00)	Donated Truck/Freightliner
** OR - Miscellaneous	(72,027.24)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(20,715.40)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(1,162.52)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(18,063.03)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(39,940.95)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.20)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.20)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(41,385.50)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(41,385.50)	

4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	12,247.68
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	4,002.18
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	541.66
** Treasury Charges	16,791.52
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	795,551.21
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	18,395.73
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,185.61
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	58,034.24
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,341.71
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	115,905.19
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	2,202.54
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	0.00
** Salary Expense	1,114,476.23
5020001000 Postage	1,563.61
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	25,774.77
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,973.78
5020004000 Network Services Exp	3,562.97
5020005000 Freight	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	40,875.13
5030001000 Printing	198.24
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	(815.74)
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	5.44
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00
** Printing & Advertising	(612.06)
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	11,332.54
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	0.00
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	8,472.55
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	24,977.83
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	24,605.12
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	104.89
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	3,681.01
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	511.57
** Repairing & Servicing	73,685.51
5040001000 Electricity	13,863.91
5040003000 Water & Sewage	7,921.41
5040003100 02 Water	132.15
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,670.36
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	6,769.26
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,232.23
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	111.32
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	0.00
** Utilities & Rent	32,790.64
5050001000 02 Mileage	889.94
5050003100 02 - Meals	877.72
5050003200 02 - Lodging	5,530.66
5050004100 09 - Meals	149.37
5050004200 09 - Lodging	360.92

5050005000	02 Common Carrier	433.60	
5050011000	02 PRKNG FEES		
TRAVEL		138.48	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	19.55	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	645.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	229.46	
5050019100	Board Member		
Expense		24.12	
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	441.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		9,739.82	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	5,200.00	Consulting for Stewardship/WAWRP
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE		
EXP		1,211.88	
5060011000	Direct Prov Svcs	0.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	458.76	
** Professional Services & Fees		6,870.64	
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	0.00	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	20,502.00	NASF & Southern Forest Nursery Mgmt
5080009000	Janitorial Service	575.10	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD		
SER		622.14	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	2,119.31	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	17,417.71	Baucum Nursery
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	159.54	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	66.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
** Other Expenses & Services		41,461.80	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	32.03	
5090004000	Tires	3,815.59	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	33,118.13	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL		
PURCH		19,464.20	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	10,912.95	
5090006000	Office Supplies	5,197.90	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	1,129.62	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	195.40	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	10,073.82	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	4,343.87	
5090019000	Food Purchases	2,753.32	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	523.22	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	987.14	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	12,128.81	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	37,595.48	
5090026000	DP Supps	3,881.65	
5090026300	02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	690.32	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	6,456.67	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	9.10	

5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	55,013.65	3 Laptops; 1 Workstation PC
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	2,941.36	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	2,941.36	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	214,205.59	Mitigation/SPB
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	40,450.00	
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	40,450.00	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	0.00	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	0.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	0.00	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	Donated Truck/Freightliner; '93 International Truck
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	43,500.00	
** Capital Outlay	43,500.00	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	101,580.16	
** Depreciation/Amortization	101,580.16	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	3,449.90	
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0.00	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(690,264.56)	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00	
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-Out	0.00	
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0.00	
** Transfers In/Out	(686,814.66)	
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	121.87	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	92.03	
** Prior Year Adjustment	213.90	
*** BALANCE	0.00	

#S on Fire show?
Don