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Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

November 29, 2023

Senator Terry Rice, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council

Dear Senator Rice and Representative Wardlaw:


Attached is the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's report for November 2023 on the promulgation status of rules pursuant to A.C.A. 25-15-216.

The Department has determined that rules are not necessary under three of the 2023 Acts and is requesting that these be excluded from the monthly reporting requirements of A.C.A. 25-15-216(3)-(5). Below is additional information from the report about the basis of the exclusion request for each Act:

- Act 588 amends the law regarding catfish processors and commercial bait and ornamental fish, and transfers the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the State Plant Board regarding catfish processors and commercial bait and ornamental fish to the Department of Agriculture. The authority to promulgate rules regarding catfish processors refers to rules that already exist and were transferred to the Department. No additional rulemaking is required.
- Act 594 amends the law regarding livestock running at large, amends the law regarding fencing, and repeals the law regarding fencing districts. No rulemaking is necessary as the procedure referenced in the law is the reporting website created for animals at large. The reporting website has been established by the Department.
- Act 691 transferred rulemaking authority to various boards or commissions under the Department. The duty to promulgate rules under §159 of Act 691 regarding the supervision of veterinary technicians/technologists refers to rules that already exist and were transferred to the Livestock and Poultry Commission. The duty to promulgate rules under §125 and §137 of Act 691 regarding water well construction refers to rules that already exist and were transferred to the Natural Resources Commission. No additional rulemaking is required.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Respectfully,


Wesley W. Ward
Secretary of Agriculture
State of Arkansas