



Arkansas Department of Agriculture



Arkansas Research and Promotion Boards  
2024 Annual Report (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)

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Respectfully Submitted to:

The Honorable Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor

Chair, House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development

Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development

Submitted in accordance with A.C.A 25-38-203 (13)

# Arkansas Research and Promotion Boards

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Act 712 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Arkansas General Assembly transferred the following six agriculture commodity boards to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department):

- Arkansas Beef Council
- Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board
- Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board
- Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board
- Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
- Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board

Act 712 also revised the membership categories for the boards and directed the Department to provide administrative support to the boards.

Fiscal year 2024 was the first full fiscal year for the Department to administer the boards. The Department made significant progress in increasing public awareness and participation in board meetings by ensuring a virtual option was available for each meeting where logistically possible. Awareness of funding opportunities provided by the boards was also enhanced by ensuring timely notice to media, universities, agriculture organizations, and other industry partners. Meeting documents and projects funded by the boards can now be found on the Department's website at [agriculture.arkansas.gov/boards-commissions/](https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/boards-commissions/).

The Department also ensured that each board received ethics training, including a review of Freedom of Information Act compliance in fiscal year 2024. Substantial improvement was made in streamlining the financial reporting, invoicing, and payment processes, including processes to aid grantees in applying and tracking payments. The Department's marketing and communications team has absorbed a portion of the Arkansas Beef Council's marketing efforts that had previously been contracted to a third party, which has resulted in significant cost savings for the board. The Department continues to work with each board to determine avenues for cost savings.

A summary of the boards' responsibilities, members, and recent activities for fiscal year 2024 is provided in the following report.

## Arkansas Beef Council

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The Arkansas Beef Council was created to promote the growth and development of the beef cattle industry in Arkansas by research, promotion, and market development. The board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Arkansas State Senate. The membership includes four cattle producers from each of the four congressional districts, two cattle producers from the state at large, and one active Arkansas livestock market operator representing the state at large. The members are appointed for three-year terms.

Board activities are funded by an assessment of \$1.00 per head on all cattle sold in the state, with 50 cents remitted to the federal Cattlemen’s Beef Board and the remainder retained by the state.

### Board Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Term</b>
Jerry Christie	Nashville	2023
Sam Cecil	Russellville	2024
Chase Groves	Garland	2024
Terry Laster	Strong	2024
Robert Campbell	Witt Springs	2025
Sharon Kay Casey	Malvern	2025
Caleb Plyer, Chairman	Hope	2025

\*Michael Lee of Conway was appointed to the board in October 2024, replacing Chase Groves. His term will expire on June 30, 2027.

\*Michael McMillan of Hot Springs Village was appointed to the board in September 2024, replacing Terry Laster. His term will expire on March 30, 2026.

### Meetings

#### July 29, 2023

- The council met and received updates from Donette Spann, the previous council administrator, regarding the financial report.
- The council heard updates from entities that received funding, including progress reports on the impact of the funds.
- The council finalized the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Officers for the next fiscal year were elected:
  - Caleb Plyer was elected Chairman.
  - Sam Cecil was elected Vice-Chair.
  - Sharon Kay Casey was elected Secretary/Treasurer.
  - Sam Cecil was elected as the United States Meat Export Federation Representative.
  - Jerry Christie was elected as the Federation of State Beef Councils Representative.

### **December 7, 2023**

- The council met and heard updates from representatives of the following organizations:
  - Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association
  - Arkansas Cattlewomen’s Association
  - University of Arkansas
  - Arkansas Department of Agriculture
- This was the first meeting with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture acting as the administrator for the council.
- The Department’s Chief Financial Officer, Inoussa Zaki, provided an update on the council's financials.
- Livestock and Poultry Director, Patrick Fisk, gave an update on the collections of the Beef Checkoff.

### **February 27, 2024**

- The council met in Hope, Arkansas, at the University of Arkansas research facility.
- The council discussed events, decisions, and provided insights into the activities from the winter business meeting held in Orlando, Florida.
- Updates were given by various entities that had received funding from the council.
- The council voted to appoint Tillman Treat as the new administrator for the council.

### **May 29, 2024**

- The Arkansas Beef Council met at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Proposals were heard from the following organizations:
  - Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association
  - Arkansas Cattlewomen’s Association
  - University of Arkansas
  - Arkansas Tech University
  - Arkansas Farm Bureau
- Updates were provided on activities attended by representatives from the Arkansas Department of Agriculture to include industry meetings and conferences, trainings, collegiate events, and sporting events.
- A proposal was heard from Tillman Treat and Amy Lyman, representatives from the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, to replace "Rock City Burger Week" with a statewide "Arkansas’ Best Burger" contest.
- The council set a tentative budget for the following fiscal year and voted on funding for various proposed projects.
- This budget was later finalized at the following council meeting in July of 2024 and can be found below.

<b>Core Budget Items</b>	
Federation of State Beef Councils	\$ 26,000
US Meat Export Federation	\$ 11,600
Board Travel/Meeting Expense/Forms	\$ 19,000
<b>Cooperator Funding Requests</b>	
Ag Learning Center	\$ 10,000
Cattlemen’s Association – ACLC	\$ 6,000
Cattlemen’s Association	\$ 12,000
<b>University of Arkansas: Information/Education Projects</b>	
Beef Quality Assurance	\$ 4,500
Youth Beef Quiz Bowl	\$ 6,100
Meat Science Quiz Bowl Team	\$ 7,200
Beef Short Course	\$ 9,650
Meats Education	\$ 5,000
<b>University of Arkansas: Research</b>	
Utilization of Dry-Aged Waste Products	\$ 0
Shipping Optimization of Meat E-Commerce	\$ 19,390
Impact of Toxic Fescue on Beef Tenderness	\$ 16,900
Alternative Methods for Finishing Beef Cattle	\$ 23,940
<b>Council Programs</b>	
Retail/Food Service	\$ 21,000
Education/Nutrition	\$ 33,000
Consumer Marketing	\$ 55,200
Public Relations	\$ 41,500
Producer Communications	\$ 30,700

**Financials**

In fiscal year 2024, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) collected \$921,825 in assessments on cattle sold in the state. Of that total, DFA retained \$13,472 in treasury charges and remitted \$434,593 to the Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Board, \$52,545 to Qualified State Beef Boards in other states for out-of-state cattle sold in Arkansas, and \$423,092 to the Arkansas Beef Council.

ARKANSAS BEEF COUNCIL  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
REVENUES	
Beef assessments - gross collections	\$ 921,825
Other Income	\$ 1,877
Less:	
Remittances to the states of origin	\$ 52,545
Remittances to Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board	\$ 434,593
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 436,564
Less: State Treasury service charge	\$ 13,472
NET REVENUES	\$ 423,092
EXPENDITURES	
National Program Investments:	
U.S. Meat Export Federation	\$ 6,401
Federation of State Beef Councils	\$ 19,502
Total National Program Investments	\$ 25,903
Promotion	\$ 69,781
Research	\$ 51,733
Consumer information	\$ 110,533
Industry information	\$ 18,836
Producer communications	\$ 28,826
Administration	\$ 13,604
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 319,216
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$ 103,876
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$ 69,059
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	\$ 172,935

## Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board

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The Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board was established by Act 790 of 1999. It was created to plan and conduct a program of research, extension, market development, and advertising designed to promote the Arkansas catfish industry.

The board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Arkansas State Senate. They must be members of the catfish industry and residents of Arkansas. Each member is appointed for a two-year term.

Activities of the board are funded by an assessment on the sale of catfish feed within Arkansas to commercial catfish producers at a rate not to exceed \$5.00 per ton of catfish feed sold.

### Board Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Term</b>
Kenneth Francis	Corning	2024
Larry Dorman	Montrose	2025
Andrew Mitchell	North Little Rock	2025
Greg Moyers, Secretary/Treasurer	Portland	2025
Dick Baxter, Vice Chairman	Cabot	2026
Brad Graham	Portland	2026
Steve Kueter, Chairman	Paragould	2026

\*Robert Glennon of Lonoke was appointed to the board in September 2024, replacing Kenneth Francis. His term will expire on June 30, 2026.

### Meetings

#### September 19, 2023

- Fred Wiedower from the Department’s fiscal section provided a financial report.
- Promotion project funding was discussed.
- Board expenditures for 2023 were approved.
- Motion carried for the Department to administer the fiscal duties moving forward.
- Meeting scheduled for January 25, 2023, to be held in conjunction with the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas.
- A name was submitted to the Governor’s office for a vacant position on the board.

#### January 25, 2024

- Department administrator Mark Stoll presented the minutes of the previous meeting and gave a financial report.
- Mr. Stoll presented the Legislative Audit that reflected no instances of noncompliance considered reportable.
- Board Member Larry Dorman reported on 2023 promotional activity spending.

- The board approved expenditures for 2024.

### **March 14, 2024**

- Meeting was held to discuss promotion funding.
- The board approved funding the National Championship Chuckwagon Race Fish Fry up to \$4,000 with stipulation that Board Member Brad Graham work with purchasing of the fish.
- The board approved \$1,000 for advertisement in the Arkansas Wildlife Officers magazine.
- The board approved a \$20,000 grant to Catfish Farmers of Arkansas for promotional activities.
- The board approved funding the Lake Fest Catfish Cooking Contest at \$250.

### **Financials**

In fiscal year 2024, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) collected \$22,727 in assessments on the sale of catfish feed in Arkansas. DFA retained \$705 in treasury charges and remitted \$23,745 to the Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board.

ARKANSAS CATFISH PROMOTION BOARD  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
REVENUES	
Catfish Promotion	\$ 22,727
Other Income	\$ 1,722
 TOTAL REVENUES	 \$ 24,449
 Less: State Treasury service charge	 \$ 705
 NET REVENUES	 \$ 23,745
 EXPENDITURES	
Operating expenses	\$ 2,609
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	 \$ 2,609
 NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	 \$ 21,135
 FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	 \$ 101,237
 FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	 \$ 122,373

## Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board

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The Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board was created to plan and conduct a program of research and extension designed to promote the corn and grain sorghum industry in Arkansas. The board consists of seven members who are practical producers of corn or grain sorghum in Arkansas. Each board member is appointed for a two-year term by the Governor and confirmed by the Arkansas State Senate.

Activities of the board are funded through the assessment of one cent per bushel on all corn and grain sorghum grown within Arkansas. The assessment is deducted from the amount paid to the producer at the first point of sale or at the point where the corn or grain sorghum enters the United States Department of Agriculture loan program.

### Board Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Term</b>
Trent Dabbs, Secretary/Treasurer	Stuttgart	2023
Jacob Appleberry	Tillar	2024
Jason Felton, Vice Chairman	Marianna	2024
Matt Gammill	Tyronza	2024
Matt Smith	Blytheville	2025
Tommy Young, Chairman	Tuckerman	2025
Kenny Falwell (Lendol)	Newport	2026

\*William Galloway of Augusta was appointed to the board in September 2024 to fill a previously vacant position. His term will expire on July 1, 2026.

### Meetings

#### January 30, 2024

- The board met via Zoom to discuss travel arrangements for the 2024 Commodity Classic Conference in Houston, Texas.
- The board approved the use of Take the Vacation LLC as a travel agent to assist with board member travel and reimbursement documentation. Use of the agency is optional for each member.
- The board approved its travel expenses for 2024, allowing the Department to process approved travel reimbursements throughout the year.
- Trent Dabbs was elected as interim secretary, replacing Jon Carroll.
- Chairman Tommy Young shared insights from his recent U.S. Grain Council mission to Vietnam and Thailand.
- The board discussed the next meeting scheduled for February 21-22, 2024, focused on hearing research and promotion proposals and awarding funding.

## **February 21-22, 2024**

### **February 21, 2024:**

- The board approved the minutes from the January 30, 2024, meeting.
- Inoussa Zaki, the Department's Chief Fiscal Officer, presented the board's financial report.
- The board and Dr. Nathan McKinney discussed a \$400,000 account provided to the University of Arkansas in 2018, which is interest-bearing and allows the university to access the interest for equipment purchases.
- Matt Frostic from the National Corn Growers Association updated the board on trade with Mexico, including resistance to biotech corn measures, and the importance of free trade markets and building relationships in India and China.
- Ellen Zimmerman discussed the U.S. Grain Council's structure, budgeting process, key markets, products, and impact on global trade. She also presented the budget breakdown for their \$71,266 funding request (a 4% increase from the previous year).
- Spencer Parkinson from Decision Innovations Solutions (DIS) provided a history of the firm and discussed their first funding proposal for feed flow analysis in Arkansas's critical livestock and poultry industries.
- David Miller from DIS presented a second proposal on the economic impact study of historical livestock and poultry feed demand in Arkansas.
- A third DIS proposal focused on carbon intensity (CI) implications for Arkansas commodities, including calculating CI scores for Arkansas corn and grain sorghum and estimating CI scores for feed ingredients in broiler and hog production.
- Carson Horn from the Communications Group gave an update on the board's website, addressing challenges, content refreshing, website maintenance, and performance insights, including traffic and user duration.
- Amy Lyman, Marketing and Communications Director, stated that the board's website is linked to the Department's website.
- Dr. McKinney from the University of Arkansas shared a development from the university's research lab that could potentially generate royalties for the board, while emphasizing the need for confidentiality until the patent is filed. More information will be provided at a later date.
- Chairman Young gave a photograph slideshow presentation from his trade mission with the U.S. Grain Council to Vietnam and Thailand.

### **February 22, 2024:**

- Dr. Jason Kelley from the University of Arkansas presented reports and proposals on corn and grain sorghum production in Arkansas.
  - He noted that 2023 was a good year for corn, with about 830,000 acres harvested out of 850,000 acres planted.
  - Grain sorghum had about 12,000 acres planted in Arkansas in 2023.
- The board reviewed and approved funding proposals for research and promotion projects.
- A total of \$1,236,467 was approved for funding:
  - \$1,053,801 was allocated to research projects.
  - \$182,666 was allocated to promotion projects.
- A list of all projects selected for funding can be found in the following pages.

Entity	Project Title	Awarded Amount
<b>New Promotion Projects</b>		
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Export Exchange (Sponsorship)	\$ 15,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	National Corn Grower Association	\$ 28,500.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Jackson County Extension Center Arkansas Grain Building Sign	\$ 49,900.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	The Commissions Group	\$ 8,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	US Grain Council	\$ 71,266.00
<b>Promotion Project Continuation</b>		
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	The Arkansas Irrigation Yield Contest (Year 7)	\$ 10,000.00
<b>New Research Projects</b>		
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Determining Disease Resistance and Susceptibility of Corn and Grain Sorghum Hybrids (New, Year 1 of 3)	\$ 40,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Development and Verification of a Stand Counting Application Using Drone Imagery for Research and Production Decision Support	\$ 19,660.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Economic Analysis of Corn and Grain Sorghum Production and Marketing Practices (New, Year 1 of 1)	\$ 5,777.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Generating a High-Value Wax Material from Sorghum Bran Using an Innovative Green Approach (New, Year 1 of 3)	\$ 42,761.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Improving Nitrogen Management for Arkansas Corn Production (New, Year 1 of 3)	\$ 78,547.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Remote Sensing-Based Mid-Season Corn Nitrogen Fertilizer Rate Recommendations and Web-Tool Extension (New, Year 1 of 3)	\$ 56,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Feed Kits (New, Year 1 of 3)	\$ 2,500.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Use of Corn Protein Concentrate in Plant- Based Diets for Largemouth Bass to Optimize Production Sustainability and Profitability (New, Year 1 of 1)	\$ 50,000.00
<b>Research Project Continuations</b>		
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Arkansas Corn & Grain Sorghum Research Studies Series, An Annual Report and Archival System for All Board-Funded Research (Year 3 of 3)	\$ 4,667.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Arkansas Discovery Farms (Year 3 of 3)	\$ 5,000.00

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour (Year 3 of 3)	\$ 5,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Assess Management Options for Corn Nematodes in Arkansas (Year 3 of 3)	\$ 55,401.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Assessing Susceptibility of Insect Pests of Corn in Storage to Selected Insecticides (Year 3 of 3)	\$ 41,305.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Corn and Grain Sorghum Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis (Ongoing)	\$ 10,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Corn and Grain Sorghum Research Verification Program (Year 1 of 3)	\$ 130,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Cover Crops in Corn Rotations- What Works and What Doesn't? (Year 2 of 3)	\$ 39,729.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Evaluation of New Herbicides, Premixes, Programs, and Application Methods for Improved Control of Problematic Weeds in Corn (Year 2 of 3)	\$ 87,293.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Fine-Tuning Potassium Recommendations and Investigating Intensive Tissue Analysis for Sustainable Corn Production (Year 3 of 3)	\$ 56,395.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Improving Irrigation Technology for Corn Production in Arkansas (Year 2 of 3)	\$ 185,280.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Optimizing Plant Population and Nitrogen Rate in Corn (Year 3 of 3)	\$ 34,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Performance Crop Insurance as a Risk Management Tool for Corn and Grain Sorghum Producers in Arkansas (Year 3 of 3)	\$ 29,486.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Towards a Comprehensive Aflatoxin Solution: Creating and Integrating Novel Aflatoxin Control Resources for an Effective, Sustainable Management Strategy (Year 2 of 3)	\$ 45,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Use of Gossypol to Inhibit Reproduction in Domestic Hogs as a Model for Feral Hog Control (Year 2 of 3)	\$ 30,000.00
Deane Robinson Seed System	Sequestering Carbon in Corn Production	\$ 18,195.00

#### **April 4, 2024**

- Department Chief Fiscal Officer Inoussa Zaki presented a financial report.
- The board heard a proposal from Rebecca Lochmann of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff regarding her research project, "Use of Corn Protein Concentrate in Plant-Based Diets for Largemouth Bass to Optimize Production Sustainability and Profitability."
  - Chairman Young recapped the previous discussion, highlighting the board's interest in including other fish species in the project.
  - The board voted not to fund the project.
- Deane Robinson Seed Company presented a report on their research project titled "Sequestering Carbon in Corn Production System."

- Chairman Young raised concerns about the company's lack of responsiveness.
  - James Watkins from Deane Robinson Seed Company apologized and expressed the company's desire to continue receiving funding.
  - The board approved \$18,196 for the project.
- The board agreed to continue providing \$10,000 annually to support the Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Producers Building at the Jackson County Extension Center Campus.
- Mr. Falwell provided an overview of the National Corn Growers Association Corn Congress meeting, discussing the contentious issue of mandatory base acre updates for corn growers, which passed as a resolution.
- Mr. Falwell also gave a report on the Commodity Classic Conference held in Houston, Texas.
- Chairman Young provided a brief overview of the Southern States Caucus meeting.

## Financials

In fiscal year 2024, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) collected \$1,295,693 in assessments on corn and grain sorghum grown in Arkansas. DFA retained \$40,521 in treasury charges and remitted \$1,278,016 to the Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board.

ARKANSAS CORN AND GRAIN SORGHUM PROMOTION BOARD  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
REVENUES	
Corn/Sorghum fees	\$ 1,295,693
Other Income	\$ 22,843
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 1,318,536
Less: State Treasury service charge	\$ 40,521
NET REVENUES	\$ 1,278,016
EXPENDITURES	
Program expenses	
Research and promotion	\$ 1,901,298
Total program expenses	\$ 1,901,298
Operating expenses	\$ 67,659
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,968,956
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$ (690,941)
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$ 2,483,014
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	\$ 1,792,074

## Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board

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The Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board was created to plan and conduct a program of research, extension, market development, and advertising designed to promote the rice industry in Arkansas. The board consists of nine Arkansas rice producers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Arkansas State Senate. Four members must be designated representatives of the Arkansas rice merchant and milling industry. Members serve two-year terms.

Board activities are funded through an assessment of 1.35 cents per bushel paid by the buyer at the first point of sale on rice grown within the state or at the point the rice enters into the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan program. Producers also pay an assessment of 1.35 cents per bushel of rice grown. The assessments paid by buyers must be used for market development and promotion. The assessments paid by producers must be used for rice extension and research.

### Board Members

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Term</b>
Joe Christian	Jonesboro	2024
John King	Helena	2024
Roger Pohlner	Fisher	2024
David Gairhan, Vice-Chair	Jonesboro	2025
Scott Matthews	Weiner	2025
Jeff Rutledge, Secretary/Treasurer	Newport	2025
Jim Whitaker, Chair	McGehee	2025
Charles Williams	Crawfordsville	2025
Jay Coker	Stuttgart	2026

\*Becton Bell of Wilson was appointed to the board in September 2024, replacing Joe Christian. His term will expire on June 30, 2026.

\*Carl Phillips of Walnut Ridge was appointed to the board in September 2024, replacing John King. His term will expire June 30, 2026.

\*Paul Schwarz of Jonesboro was appointed to the board in September 2024, replacing Roger Pohlner. His term will expire June 30, 2026.

### Meetings

#### August 2, 2023

- The board elected new officers:
  - Jim Whitaker was elected Chair.
  - David Gairhan was elected Vice-Chair.
  - David Petter was elected Secretary.

- Participated in the Rice Field Day at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture (UADA) on August 3, 2024.

**November 2, 2023**

- The board approved \$2.8 million as the research funding target for 2024.
- The board received research project status reports.

**January 17, 2024**

- Ethics and Freedom of Information Act training was provided to the board by the Arkansas Attorney General’s Office.
- The board approved funding guidelines for research and promotion projects.
- Jeff Rutledge was elected Secretary/Treasurer, replacing former board member David Petter.

**February 1, 2024**

- The board approved three promotion proposals totaling \$40,000. Two of the approved proposals were from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture for the LeadAR 40th Anniversary Celebration and the AR Future Ag Leaders Tour, and one approved proposal was from the USA Rice Council.
- The board received a report on Col-Rice activities.
- The board received an update from member Jay Coker on the review of the UADA Rice Research and Extension Center’s rice breeding program he attended on behalf of the board.

**February 8, 2024**

- The board approved 29 research funding proposals. A list of all projects selected for funding can be found on the following pages.

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Awarded Amount</b>
<b>New Projects</b>		
Arkansas State University	Developing an Arkansas Rice and Meat Bratwurst	\$ 13,980
University of Arkansas	Incorporating Genetic Tolerance to Reduced Irrigation into the Arkansas Rice Breeding Program	\$ 50,000
University of Arkansas	Revising the Prevalence and Stability of Host Resistance of Rice Blast Races in Arkansas	\$ 97,156
University of Arkansas	Integrating Host Resistance and Fungicides to Control Cercospora in Rice	\$ 48,000

University of Arkansas	Developing Blast-Resistant, Water-Smart Rice Varieties Through Genomic Prediction and Marker-Assisted Selection	\$ 78,000
University of Arkansas	Improving Grain Chalkiness and Grain Yield Traits of Elite Rice Through Targeted Mutagenesis	\$ 39,000
University of Arkansas	Validation of In-Season Tissue Sampling for Rice Nutrient Management	\$ 55,664
<b>Project Continuations</b>		
University of Arkansas	Nitrogen Management Tools for Arkansas Rice Producers	\$ 115,000
University of Arkansas	Rice Insect Management	\$ 135,000
University of Arkansas	A Team Approach to Improved Weed Management in Rice	\$ 255,000
University of Arkansas	Nitrogen Recommendations for New Rice Cultivars	\$ 64,000
University of Arkansas	DD50 Thermal Unit Thresholds and Seeding Date Effects for New Rice Cultivars	\$ 65,000
University of Arkansas	Agronomic Production Practices for Rice	\$ 103,000
University of Arkansas	Economic Analysis of Arkansas Rice Farms	\$ 55,000
University of Arkansas	Rice Breeding and Pathology Tech Support	\$ 160,000
University of Arkansas	Breeding and Development of Improved Long-Grain and Aromatic Rice Varieties	\$ 310,000
University of Arkansas	Breeding and Development of Improved Long-Grain and Aromatic Rice Varieties	\$ 102,000
University of Arkansas	Arkansas Rice Performance Trials	\$ 96,000
University of Arkansas	Breeding Hybrid Rice Varieties for Arkansas and Southern U.S.	\$ 195,000

University of Arkansas	Development of Superior Medium-Grain and Long-Grain Rice Varieties in Arkansas and the Mid-South	\$ 315,000
University of Arkansas	Quality Analysis for Rice Breeding and Genetics	\$ 118,202
University of Arkansas	Puerto Rico Winter Nursery	\$ 73,500
University of Arkansas	Monitoring and Management of Fungicide Resistance of Sheath Blight in Arkansas	\$ 35,500
University of Arkansas	Rice Research Verification Program	\$ 116,639
University of Arkansas	Study of Cultivar Attributes and Their Measurements to Improve Rice Milling and Functional Characteristics	\$ 61,000
University of Arkansas	Analysis of Farm Policy Programs and Competitiveness of Arkansas and U.S. Rice	\$ 20,000
University of Arkansas	Rice Enterprise Budgets and Production Economic Analysis	\$ 7,500
University of Arkansas	Climate Smart 300 Bushel Row Rice on 12 Inches of Automated Irrigation	\$ 85,000
University of Arkansas	Rice Fertilization - Developing Novel Methods to Assess Nutrient Availability to Arkansas Rice	\$ 58,000

**June 26, 2024**

- Several board members toured the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center.
- The board discussed the UADA’s hybrid rice breeding program and voted to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with UADA regarding the program.
- There was a discussion on topics the board would like included in future research projects.

**Financials**

In fiscal year 2024, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) collected \$6,351,503 in assessments on Arkansas grown rice sold or entering the USDA loan program. DFA retained \$196,897 in treasury charges and remitted \$6,154,607 to the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board.

ARKANSAS RICE RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>	
Rice assessments - gross collections	\$ 6,351,503
Producer	\$ 3,174,511
Buyer	\$ 3,174,511
Other Income	\$ 2,482
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 6,351,504</b>
Less: State Treasury service charge	\$ 196,897
<b>NET REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 6,154,607</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
National Program Investments	
USA Rice Council	\$ 3,056,517
Total National Program Investments	\$ 3,056,517
Research & Promotion	\$ 2,517,980
Producer information	\$ 10,000
Administration	\$ 8,094
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 5,592,591</b>
<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 562,016</b>
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$ 503,914
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	<b>\$ 1,065,930</b>

## Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board

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The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board was established to advance the sustainability and profitability of the soybean industry in Arkansas. Comprised of nine experienced soybean producers from across the state, the board operates under appointments made by the Governor and confirmed by the Arkansas State Senate, with each member serving a two-year term. As stewards of soybean checkoff funds established under the 1992 Farm Bill, the board oversees the allocation of one-half of one percent of each bushel's sale value, collected at the point of sale and distributed between state soybean boards and the United Soybean Board (USB). Representing the largest commodity checkoff program in Arkansas, the board strategically invests in initiatives focused on education, research, and promotion efforts to strengthen the state's soybean industry.

### Board Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Term</b>
John Freeman, Chairman	Dumas	2023
Joe Thrash, Secretary	Houston	2023
Shannon Davis	Bono	2024
Douglas Hartz, Vice Chairman	Stuttgart	2024
West Higginbothom	Marianna	2024
Russell Smith	Des Arc	2024
Josh Cureton	Cash	2025
Brad Doyle	Weiner	2025
Donald Morton, Jr.	Des Arc	2025

\*Boyce Johnson of Maumelle was appointed to the board in September 2024, replacing Shannon Davis. His term will expire on June 30, 2026.

\*Matthew Roberson of Wynne was appointed to the board in September 2024, replacing Russell Smith. His term will expire on June 30, 2026.

\*BJ Rogers of Ward was appointed to the board in September 2024 to fill a previously vacant position. His term will expire on June 30, 2025.

\*Matt Smith of Blytheville was appointed to the board in September 2024, replacing Douglas Hartz. His term will expire on June 30, 2026.

### United Soybean Board (USB)

Arkansas is represented by three members on the USB:

- Robert Petter – Term expires in December of 2024
- Dustin Henson – Term expires in December of 2025
- AJ Hood – Term expires in December of 2026

The members are nominated by the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service.

USB related activities conducted by the Department's administrators on behalf of the board include:

- Remitted checkoff assessments monthly (.05% of the net market price of soybeans purchased/marketed in our state)
- Provided financial data associated with the USB financial statement audit
- Submitting the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board FY 2024 marketing plan and budget
- Providing data and records documenting the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board's funding proposals received and funding awarded

## Communications Group

The Communications Group (the Group) is a Little Rock based agency that offers brand building and design, public relation, website development, and digital marketing. The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board has maintained a contract with the Group for these service for approximately 14 years. Based on the Department of Finance and Administration rules the annual renewal option for the continuation of the contract expired in September of 2023 requiring the board to acquire a communications service contractor through the state's procurement procedure.

The Department administrators worked with the board through the process to procure a contract with the Communications Group. The contract's estimated value is \$335,275 and is for a period of one year. The contract became effective July 1, 2024, and has an option to be renewed for up to six more years in one-year increments.

Services provided by the Group include social media management, website management, creative production, video production, media placement, event planning and management, public relations, marketing, and content development.

The Group also developed the 2024 Research Annual Report to provide a comprehensive overview of the research investments made by the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board. View the full report at [themiraclebean.com/research/annual-report/](https://themiraclebean.com/research/annual-report/).

## Meetings

### January 25, 2024

- The meeting's purpose was to review and discuss the request for proposal (RFP) for contracting communications and public relations services.
- Members discussed questions regarding the board's new administration under the Department.
- The board considered a proposal from Take the Vacation LLC to assist with board member travel for conferences and related events.

**March 7-8, 2024**

**March 7, 2024**

- The board approved the minutes from the January 25, 2024, meeting.
- Department Chief Fiscal Officer Inoussa Zaki presented the financial report for the period from July 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024:
  - The board started with \$9,347,445 and generated \$4,100,110 in total revenue.
  - Total expenditures for the period were \$1,882,311.
  - \$10,039,591 remained available for future research and promotion projects.
  - Total collections for the reporting period were \$646,901.
- The Communications Group provided a report to the board.
- Dr. Nathan McKinney from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture introduced the university's research, promotion, and education proposal presentations.

**March 8, 2024**

- Chairman Freeman introduced Mr. Hartz, who highlighted an article from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette recognizing University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture researchers Tom Barber, Jason Norsworthy, Tommy Butts, and Nilda Burgos for their contributions to weed science.
  - Mr. Hartz emphasized the significance of their research to Arkansas' agriculture industry and congratulated the researchers for their awards.
- The board heard funding proposals for research and promotion projects.
- The board approved a total of \$3,842,896 in funding:
  - \$3,412,111 allocated to research projects.
  - \$430,785 allocated to promotion projects.
- A list of all projects selected for funding can be found in the following pages.

Entity	Project Title	Awarded Amount
<b>New Promotion Projects</b>		
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	UADA Feed Kit	\$ 2,500.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Lead AR 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	\$ 5,000.00
Clean Fuels Alliance America	Market Expansion Drive	\$ 20,000.00
Clean Fuels Alliance America	OEMs Maintain and Secure Approvals for B20 and Higher Blends	\$ 20,000.00
American Soybean Association (ASA)	2025 ASAAP Annual Membership	\$ 6,000.00
American Soybean Association (ASA)	2025 Awards Celebration Sponsorship	\$ 6,000.00
American Soybean Association (ASA)	2025 Economic Support and Analysis Sponsorship	\$ 5,000.00
American Soybean Association (ASA)	I2M (Innovation to Market) Work Group Annual Membership	\$ 7,500.00

American Soybean Association (ASA)	2025 SoyStats (Sponsorship)	\$ 600.00
American Soybean Association (ASA)	2025 Soybean Leadership Academy Sponsorship	\$ 6,000.00
American Soybean Association (ASA)	Young Leader Two-Phase Training Program Tuition	\$ 9,200.00
The World Initiative For Soy in Human Health (WISHH)	The Future of New U.S. Soy Export Sales – Developing & Emerging Markets	\$ 40,000.00
U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC)	2024 USSEC Membership	\$ 10,000.00
U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC)	Utilization of U.S. Soy in the Americas	\$ 15,000.00
Southwest Soybean Council	Soy Promotional Items in the State	\$ 10,000.00
Grow for the Green	Recognizing Soybean Production Excellence by the Continuation of the “Grow for the Green” Yield Challenge Contest	\$ 201,900.00
<b>Promotion Project Continuations</b>		
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour Year 2/3	\$ 5,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Soybean Science Challenge (SSC) Year 1/3	\$ 78,585.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	The Arkansas Irrigation Yield Contest Year 7	\$ 10,000.00
<b>New Research Projects</b>		
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Development of a Turn Row Soybean Vegetative Health Analysis Using UAS Imagery for Production Decision Support	\$ 19,989.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Development of Data Driven Recommendations for Variable Soybean Seeding Rate in Arkansas	\$ 81,876.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Site Specific Assessment of Soybean Response to in Field Variability Using Remote Sensing	\$ 75,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Phenotypic Assisted by Seed-Level Near-Infrared Information	\$ 51,117.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Overcoming Soybean Yield Plateau by Leveraging Physiology-Efficient and Yield-Information Traits	\$ 83,620.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Economics of Soil Health Practices for Soybeans in Arkansas	\$ 57,838.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Screening Arkansas Soybean Cultivars for Protein Quality as a Novel Food Preservative	\$ 50,049.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	Screening Soybean Germplasm and Breeding Soybeans for Food Tolerance	\$ 58,480.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	Development of Functional Ultra-High Stearic Acid Soybean	\$ 7,500.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	Development of Climate-Smart High Yield Practices Associated with High-End Biological	\$ 12,000.00

	Treatments and Soybean Related Microbiome Resiliency	
MidSouth Soybean Board	Spray Application of Double Stranded RNA for Simultaneous Management of Multiple Soybean Fungal and Insect Diseases	\$ 12,060.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	How Cover Crops Impact Soil Water Dynamics and Soybean Production in Louisiana	\$ 5,965.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	Whole Soy Food Acceptability and Market Viability Study	\$ 7,654.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	Spatial and Temporal Variation of Soil Sampling Effect Phosphorus and Potassium Recommendations for Soybean	\$ 7,500.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	Southern Root-Knot Nematode in MG4 Soybean	\$ 18,750.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	Exploitation of Weed Species Extracts as an Effective and Environmentally Friendly Strategy to Control Insects and Deer in Soybeans	\$ 9,881.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	LADDER (Large Agricultural Database that Drives Extension and Research)	\$ 13,907.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	Enhancing the Prospects of Sustainable Weed Management and System Productivity	\$ 8,350.00
MidSouth Soybean Board	Screening and Selection Non-Xtend Soybean Relay Intercropping in the Midsouth	\$ 16,250.00
<b>Research Project Continuations</b>		
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Fertilization of Soybean Year 2/3	\$ 80,641.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Influence of Cover Crops and Soil Health on Soybean Year 2/3	\$ 60,786.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Field-Based Determination of Chloride Tolerance in Soybean Year 2/3	\$ 50,605.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Monitoring the Extend of Potassium Deficiency and Chloride Toxicity in Arkansas Soybean Fields Year 2/3	\$ 36,870.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	The Effects of the Inclusion of Soybean Oil in Beef Heifer Diets on Heifer Development, Reproductive Function, and Calf Growth Performance Year 2/3	\$ 48,940.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Arkansas Discovery Farms Year 3/3	\$ 23,688.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Use of Gossypol to Inhibit Reproduction in Domestic Hogs as a Model for Feral Hog Control Year 2/3	\$ 30,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Investigating Emerging Production Recommendations for Sustainable Soybean Production Year 2/3	\$ 221,278.00

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Improving Technology Transfer for Profitable and Sustainable Soybean Production Year 2/3	\$ 77,846.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Science for Success—Arkansas Support for National Soybean Research and Extension Program Year 2/3	\$ 117,488.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Arkansas Soybean Performance Trials Year 2/3	\$ 40,270.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Development of High-Yielding Soybean Cultivars with Broad Resilience to Stressors Year 2/3	\$ 191,118.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Utilization of Winter Nursery for Soybean Line Development through Backcrossing Year 2/3	\$ 51,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Fast-Tracking MG4 and Early MG5 Cultivars with Southern Root-Knot Nematode Resistance Year 1/3	\$ 50,584.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Soybean Germplasm Enhancement Using Genetic Diversity Year 2/3	\$ 187,679.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Genomic Prediction to Enhance the Efficiency of Soybean Breeding Year 2/3	\$ 102,087.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Economic Analysis of Soybean Production and Marketing Practices Year 2/3	\$ 7,316.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Refining Insect Thresholds in Arkansas Soybean Year 3/3	\$ 69,116.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Impact on Water Quality on Insects Year 1/3	\$ 20,001.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Soybean Enterprise Budgets Year 2/3	\$ 10,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Developing Scouting, Threshold, and Management Practices for Stinkbug Complex in Arkansas Soybean Year 2/3	\$ 49,102.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Irrigation Water Management for Soybeans: Moving the Needle Year 2/3	\$ 205,620.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Comprehensive Disease Screening of Soybean Varieties in Arkansas Year 1/3	\$ 131,863.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Integrated Management of Nematodes in Arkansas Year 2/3	\$ 72,449.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Monitor and Management of Fungicide- Resistant Soybean Diseases in Arkansas Year 3/3	\$ 50,498.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Developing a Satellite-Based Field Scouting Tool Year 2/3	\$ 14,860.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Determining the Value of Fungicide Application on Regional, Whole-Farm, Field Level, and Within-Field Scales Year 2/3	\$ 52,000.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Determining Factors, Associated with Poor Grain Quality Year 3/3	\$ 55,000.00

University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Understanding Taproot Decline; A Soybean Disease of Increasing Importance in Arkansas Year 2/3	\$ 39,243.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Assessment of Broiler Dietary Least Cost Protein Supply via Soybean Genotype Amino Acid Selection Improvements Year 3/3	\$ 53,686.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	An Innovative Approach to Generate Porous Soy Proteins with Enhanced Flavor for the Plant-Based Food Industry Year 2/3	\$ 43,955.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Soybean Research Verification Program Year 2/3	\$ 208,168.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	A Team Approach to Weed Management in Soybean Year 2/3	\$ 260,807.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Screening for Soybean Tolerance in Metribuzin Year 3/3	\$ 16,226.00
University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture	Optimization of Fungal Pathogens AF22 and AF24 as Bioherbicides for Palmer Amaranth (Pigweed) Year 2/3	\$ 40,000.00
The Deane Robinson Seed Company	Sequestering Carbon in Soybean Production System Year 2/3	\$ 16,215.00

#### **April 17, 2024**

- The purpose of the meeting was to nominate a delegate and alternate delegate to the United Soybean Board.
  - Robert Petter was nominated as delegate.
  - Drew Flowers was nominated as alternate delegate.
- Chairman Freeman reported on the progress of the request for proposal (RFP) procurement procedures with the state, noting that the process was advancing well despite its complexity.
- Dr. Slaton from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture updated the board on the upcoming Southern Soybean Breeders Tour, scheduled to visit Arkansas in the fall.
  - Organizers were seeking funding for specific stops and meals.
  - The board approved a \$10,000 sponsorship for the event.
- The board confirmed the dates for their annual summer extension research center field tour.

#### **Financials**

In fiscal year 2024, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) collected \$10,373,889 in assessments on Arkansas soybeans sold. DFA retained \$308,581 in treasury charges and remitted \$4,810,696 to the United Soybean Board, \$419,069 to Qualified State Soybean Boards in other states on out-of-state soybeans sold in Arkansas, and \$4,839,204 to the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board.

ARKANSAS SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
REVENUES	
Soybean assessments - first purchasers	\$ 9,951,201
Soybean assessments - other states	\$ 422,688
Other Income	\$ 3,661
Less:	
Remittances to the United Soybean Board	\$ 4,810,696
Remittances to other states	\$ 419,069
	\$ 5,147,785
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 5,147,785
Less: State Treasury service charge	\$ 308,581
	\$ 4,839,204
NET REVENUES	\$ 4,839,204
EXPENDITURES	
Program expenses:	
Research	\$ 3,694,889
Producer communication	\$ 325,761
Market promotions	\$ 89,375
Consumer information	\$ 93,479
Industry information	\$ 37,463
Total program expenses	\$ 4,240,967
Administration	\$ 7,784
	\$ 4,248,751
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 4,248,751
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$ 590,453
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$ 8,350,798
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	\$ 8,941,251

## Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board

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The Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board was created to promote the growth and development of the Arkansas wheat industry by research, extension, promotion, and market development. The board consists of seven Arkansas wheat producers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Arkansas State Senate. Members serve two-year terms.

The board's activities are funded by an assessment of one cent per bushel on all wheat grown in Arkansas. The assessment is deducted from the amount paid the producer at the first point of sale or at the point the wheat enters into the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan program.

### Board Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Term</b>
John Schwartz	Weiner	2021
Tim Smith, Chair	Clarendon	2022
Kenneth Clark, Vice-Chair	Newport	2023
Adam Cloninger	Keo	2023
Terrance Scott	Cotton Plant	2023
David Wallace	Crawfordsville	2023
Jack Evans	Carlisle	2024
Dusty Hoskyn	England	2024
Chris Shaefers	Conway	2024

### Meetings

#### July 25, 2023

- The board received crop and research project updates.
- The board approved three research funding proposals totaling \$50,738.

#### February 20, 2024

- The board received crop and research project updates.
- The board voted to approve paying \$20,000 from leftover wheat research funds at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture (UADA) to the UADA's Foundation Seed Plant in Stuttgart to complete the board's financial commitment to the facility.

### Financials

In fiscal year 2024, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration collected \$115,022 on Arkansas wheat sold or entering the USDA loan program. DFA retained \$3,566 in treasury charges and remitted \$111,456 to the Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board.

ARKANSAS WHEAT PROMOTION BOARD  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>General Fund</u>
REVENUES	
Wheat assessments - gross collections	\$ 115,022
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 115,022
Less: State Treasury service charge	\$ 3,566
NET REVENUES	\$ 111,456
EXPENDITURES	
Program expenses	
Research	\$ 50,738
Administration	\$ 392
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 51,130
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	\$ 60,326
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1	\$ 170,581
FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30	\$ 230,907

## **Moving Forward**

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) will continue to provide training for all research and promotion boards on Freedom of Information Act compliance, board member responsibilities and ethics, and other topics. The Department's fiscal section has made several improvements to streamline the invoicing and payment processes of the boards, including processes to aid grantees in applying and tracking payments. The Department will continue to review processes for efficiency improvements.

The Department will continue to work with each board to determine other avenues for cost savings.



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