



Arkansas Department of Agriculture

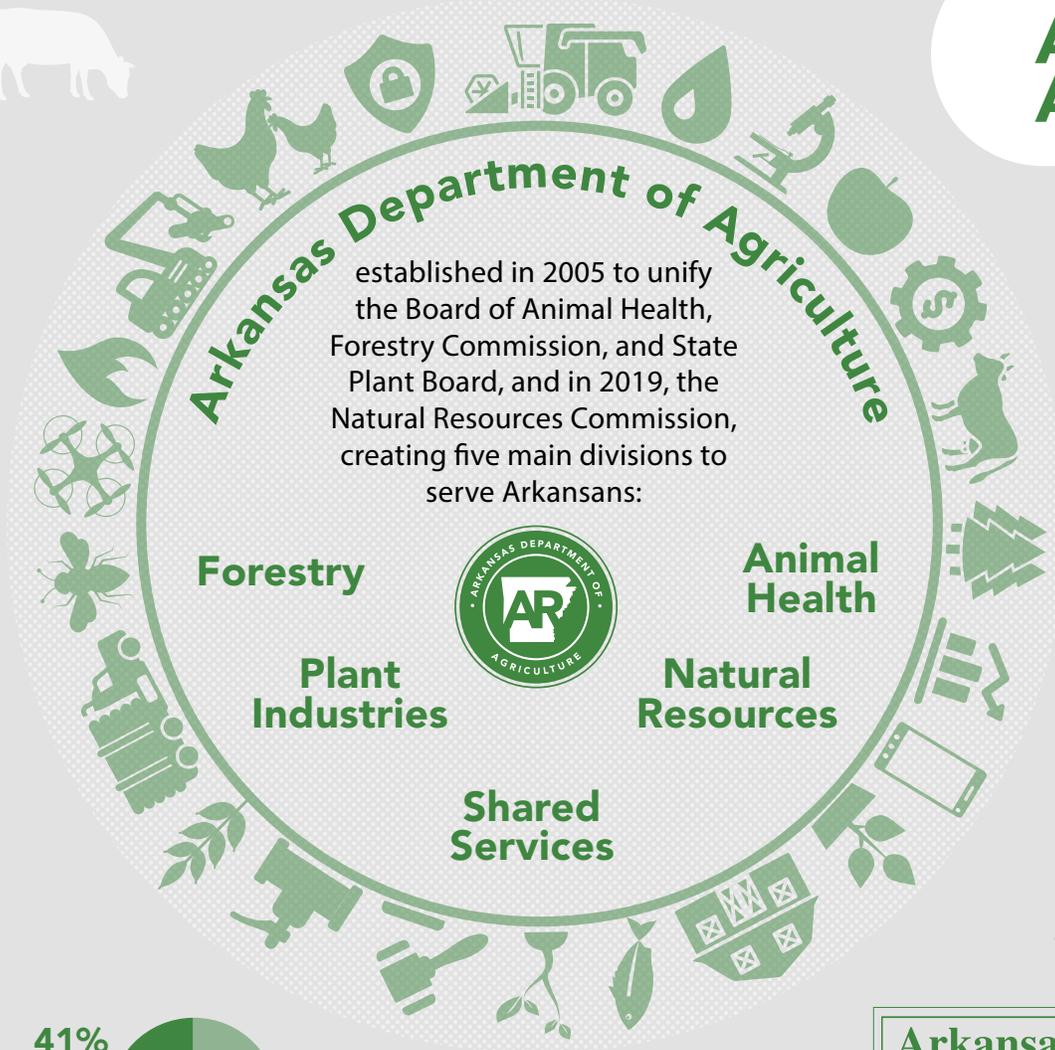
Annual Report 2025
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



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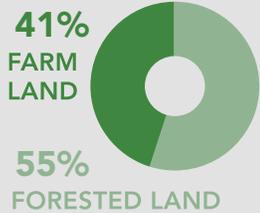
Arkansas Agriculture



Arkansas is home to **37,200** farms on **13.6 million acres**



Arkansas rice accounts for nearly **50%** of total U.S. rice production and over **50%** of long grain production



248,000 JOBS in Arkansas created by the agriculture industry



AR TOP COMMODITIES RANKED NATIONALLY

- #1 in Rice
- #3 in Broilers
- #3 in Catfish
- #3 in Cotton
- #3 in Cottonseed
- #4 in Turkeys Raised
- #7 in Peanuts
- #10 in Soybeans
- #9 in Eggs
- #11 in Beef Cows

Ranked **#1** in rice production, valued at **\$1.5 billion** annually

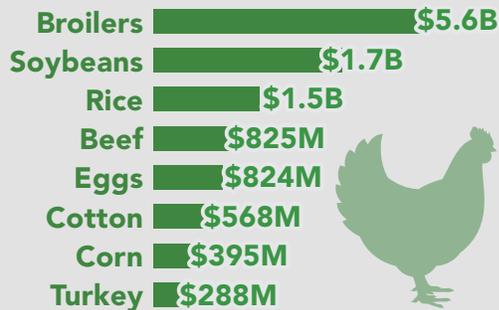


Ranked in top **25** nationally in **13** different agricultural commodities

Arkansas is a major producer of

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| Chicken | Beef |
| Rice | Pork |
| Soybeans | Catfish |
| Corn | Rabbit |
| Cotton | Timber |
| Cottonseed | Hay |
| Catfish | Wheat |
| Peanuts | Oats |
| Turkey | Honey |

(by value of production)



Agriculture is our largest industry, contributing more than **\$25.6 billion** annually to Arkansas's economy.



Message from Secretary Wes Ward

We are pleased to present the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report. This report highlights our divisions, programs, and accomplishments in serving Arkansas agriculture, our state's largest industry, from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

The Department is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Agriculture contributes more than \$25.6 billion annually to our state's economy and provides one in every seven jobs. Arkansas continues to lead the nation in rice production and ranks in the top 25 for 13 different agricultural commodities.



We proudly served as President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, hosting its annual meeting in Northwest Arkansas and sharing our agricultural perspective with all 50 states and four U.S. territories. In FY 2025, we also began serving as Vice President of the Southern U.S. Trade Association, expanding our role in promoting Arkansas agriculture and supporting trade opportunities across the region.

This year, we were honored to work closely with Governor Sanders, the Arkansas General Assembly, and Arkansas's many agricultural organizations. Our state is fortunate to have leaders who understand the importance of agriculture and who continue to support and strengthen this vital industry.

I am incredibly proud of the professionalism and dedication of our Department employees and grateful for their service. Our goal remains to be the strong, effective resource and partner that Arkansas's 37,200 farm families, agribusinesses, and rural communities deserve. It is an honor to serve our state's largest industry.

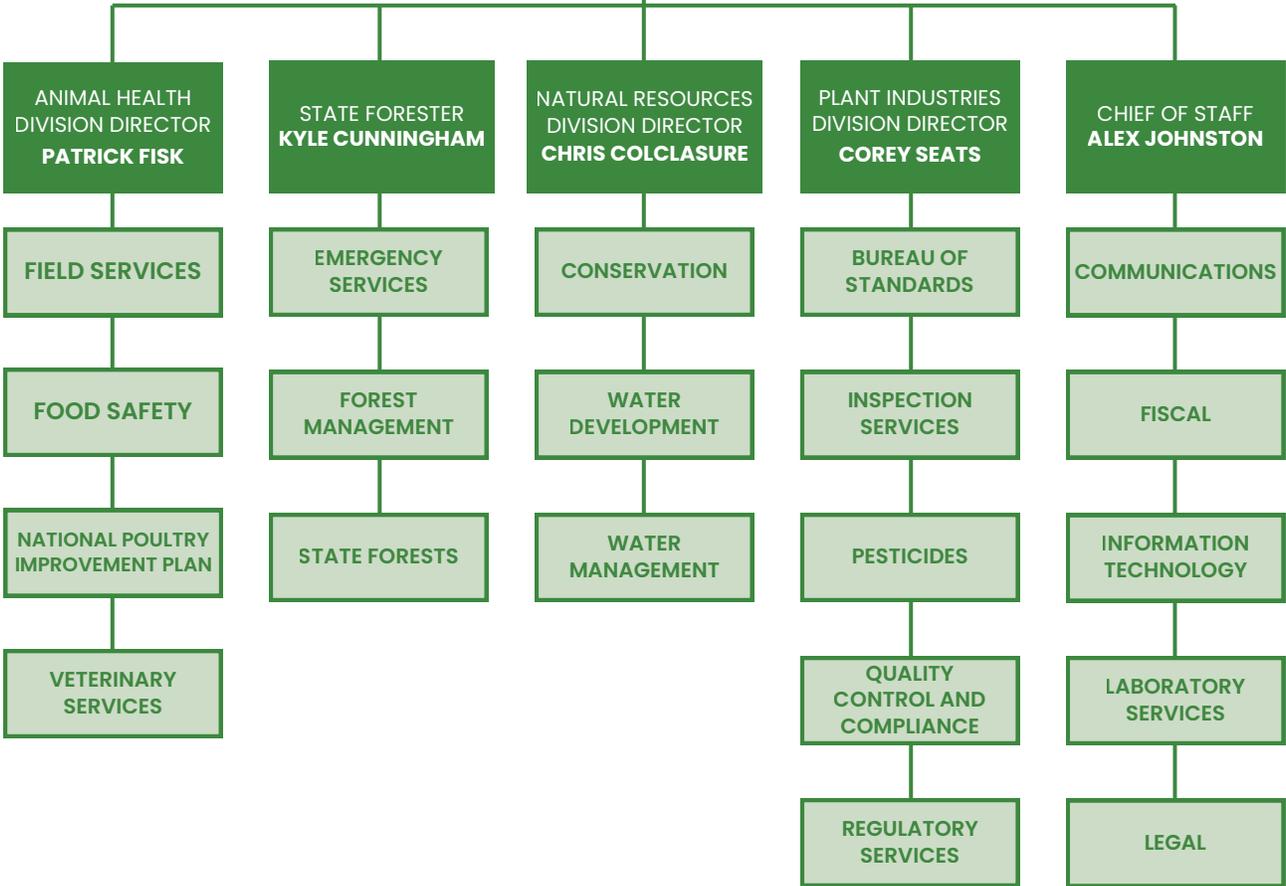
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wesley W. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Wesley W. Ward
Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture



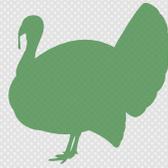
**SECRETARY
WES WARD**



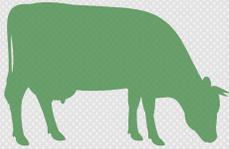
Animal Health



BROILERS
#3 IN NATION



TURKEYS (raised)
#4 IN NATION



BEEF COWS
#11 IN NATION



CATFISH
#3 IN NATION

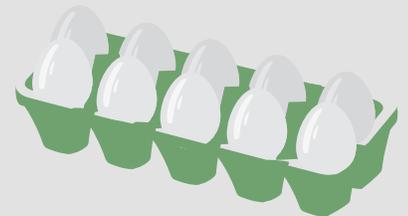
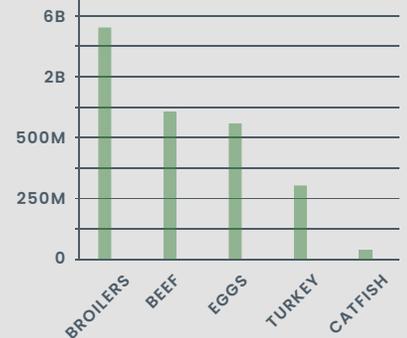
ARKANSAS MEATS

1.60 Billion
pounds of chicken
meat inspected

7.83 Billion
pounds of turkey
meat inspected

16,000
pounds of rabbit
meat inspected

TOP PRODUCERS AT A GLANCE



1.85 Billion Eggs
graded annually

30,711
health certificates
processed

2,453
hours worked at
fairs

15,846
calfhood
vaccinations

92,948
cattle recorded at markets
for disease traceability

STATE MEAT INSPECTION PROGRAM



Oversees 76
custom-exempt facilities



Oversees 8
state-inspected facilities



Inspected 273,704
pounds of product



1,098
animal entry
permits issued

30,245
Equine Infectious Anemia
(EIA) tests performed

AR TOP COMMODITIES RANKED NATIONALLY

#3 in Broilers

#3 in Catfish

#4 in Turkeys Raised

#9 in Eggs

#11 in Beef Cows

#24 in Cattle/Calves



8,008

Certified flocks in the
National Poultry
Improvement Plan (NPIP)

(by value
of production)

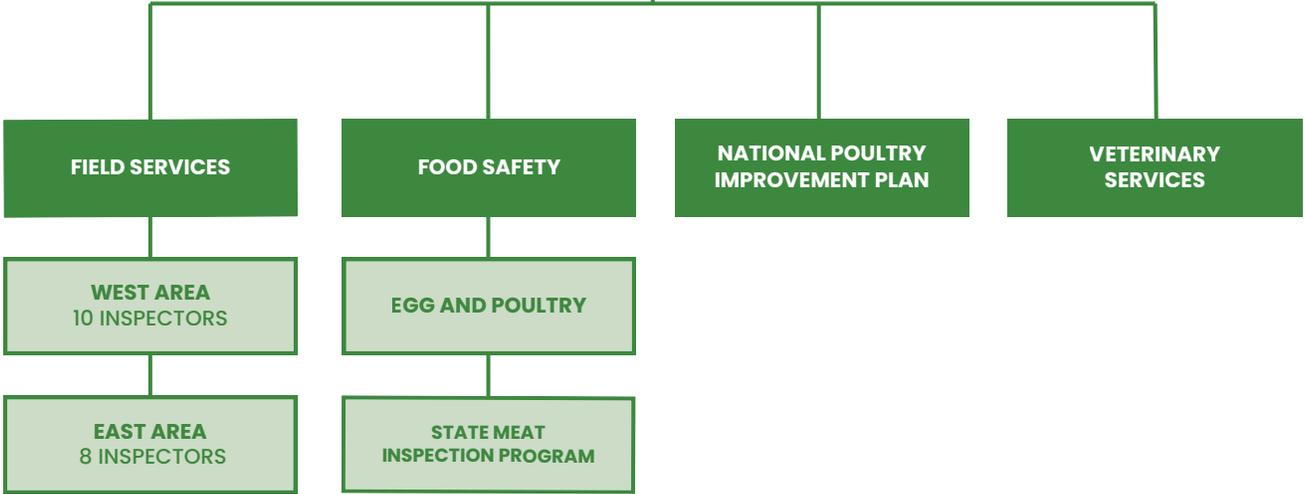


Animal agriculture products provide more than
\$8 billion in revenue each year.





**DIRECTOR
PATRICK FISK**



Animal Health



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division, formerly known as the Livestock and Poultry Division, protects animal and public health through disease surveillance, emergency response, regulatory enforcement, and industry outreach. The Division's work safeguards the livestock and poultry industries while supporting agricultural commerce through modernization of licensing systems, cooperative agreements, and specialized training.

Disease Response and Animal Health Events

- Confirmed first case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in December 2024; additional cases through January 2025 included three commercial operations and six backyard flocks
 - Depopulated a total of 354,262 birds
 - Declared Arkansas HPAI-free in April 2025
- Conducted surveillance and response for Theileria in cattle, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Coggins in horses, and abnormal cases in swine and goats
- Managed animal welfare investigations, including large-scale equine cases
- Monitored emerging animal health threats including New World Screwworm and Equine Coronavirus

Field Services

Conducts livestock inspections, disease surveillance, compliance, emergency response, and outreach.

- Inspected 505,792 cattle, 39,212 goats, 34,881 sheep, 19,364 poultry, 2,774 horses, and 202 swine at livestock markets
- Inspected 23,885 poultry, 22,308 eggs, 4,177 other fowl, 529 goats, 300 swine, and 49 sheep at flea markets
- Issued 966 premises IDs
- Recorded 92,948 cattle in the ADT database and issued 553 quarantines, 2,199 VS 1-27 forms, and 1,098 animal entry permits
- Processed 30,245 Coggins charts and 30,711 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection
- Provided 2,453 hours at fairs, inspecting more than 19,000 animals
- Vaccinated 15,836 heifers for Brucellosis
- Certified 102 lifetime EIA verifiers
- Registered 94 new brands and renewed 95
- Provided market news reporting at 12 livestock markets

Food Safety

Ensures meat, poultry, and eggs meet state and federal safety standards.

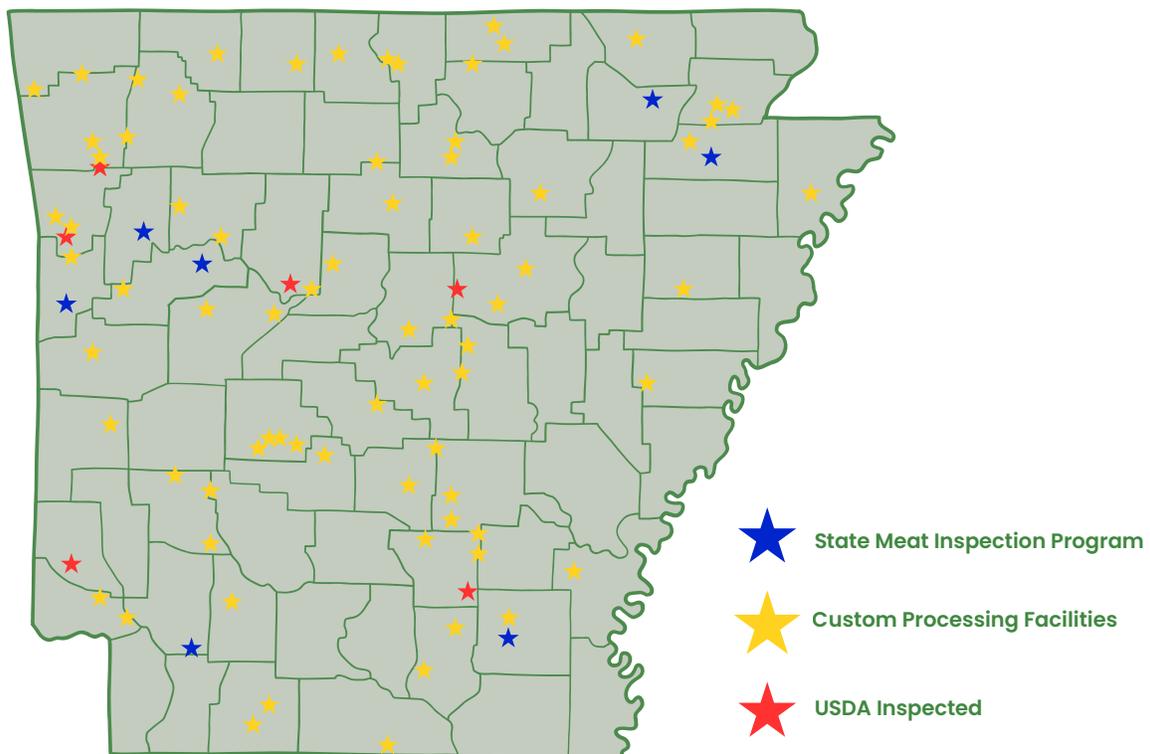
Egg and Poultry

- Graded and certified 1.6 billion pounds of chicken, 7.83 million pounds of turkey, 16,000 pounds of rabbit, and 1.85 billion eggs, or 5,151,818 cases
- Conducted eight Child Nutrition Program audits
- Inspected 57 facilities and 2,503 retail locations
- Issued 220 egg handler permits and placed stop-sales on 475 dozen eggs

State Meat Inspection Program

- Provided regulatory oversight for 76 custom-exempt facilities
- Conducted 11 complaint investigations in coordination with USDA, Arkansas Department of Health, and public reporting channels
- Conducted 82 facility reviews and 19 in-commerce reviews
- Completed USDA FSIS audit – rated “At Least Equal To”
- Facilitated 273,704 pounds of meat entering intrastate commerce
- Added two new ready-to-eat processing establishments, bringing the program to a total of eight facilities producing under the program’s grant of inspection
- Developed *Listeria Monocytogenes* sampling program
- Began kidney inhibition sampling

Meat Processing Facilities in Arkansas



National Poultry Improvement Plan

Supports poultry health certification and biosecurity.

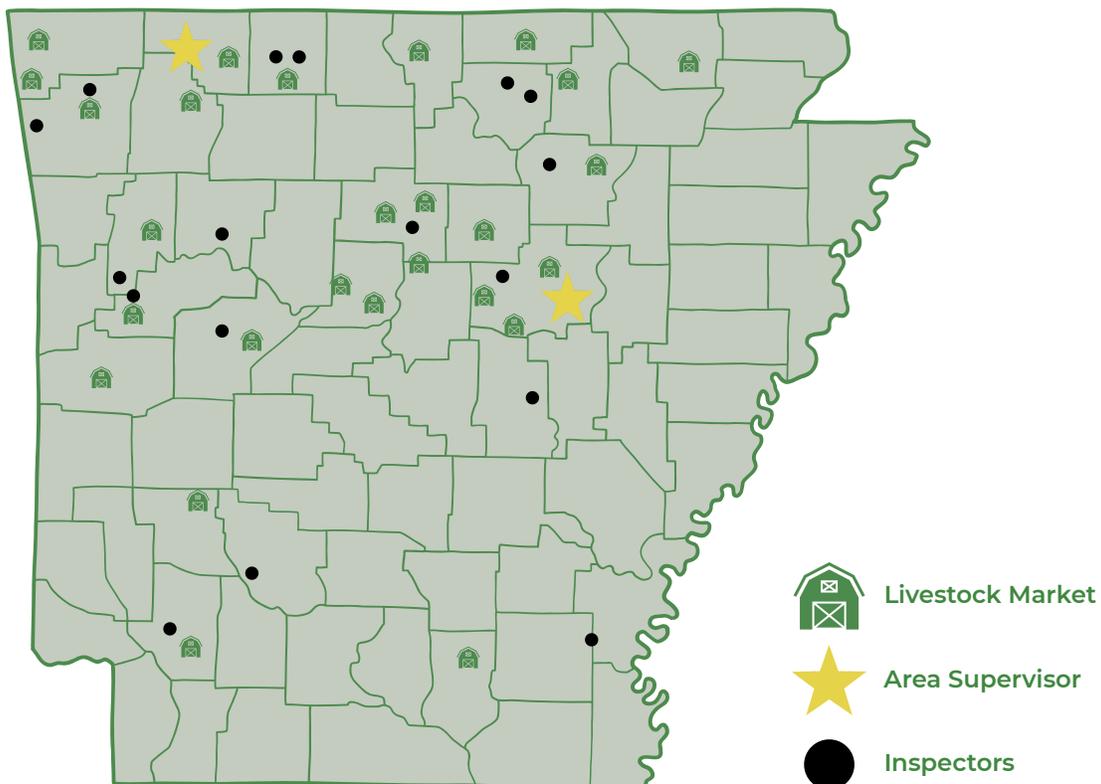
- Approved 7,408 shipping forms for eggs, chicks, and poults
- Inspected 44 poultry companies, 20 commercial hatcheries, and three laboratories
- Conducted 14 commercial poultry biosecurity audits
- Screened 28 poultry flocks for Salmonella status
- Certified 8,008 poultry flocks for trade purposes
- Recorded 132,316 Avian Influenza tests
- Facilitated six in-person Pullorum-Typhoid trainings

Veterinary Services

Provides oversight of veterinary licensing, compliance, and emergency response.

- Processed license renewals for 1,308 veterinarians, 234 veterinary technicians, and 189 corporate practices
- Processed license applications for 111 veterinarians, 37 veterinary technicians, and eight corporate practices
- Reviewed 18 malpractice complaints
- Approved 128 veterinary biological products

Livestock Inspectors and Market Locations



Forestry

1,250 WILDFIRES

Suppressed more than 1,250 wildfires on 27,960 acres

1,528

personnel trained

710

flight hours detecting wildfires, timber damage, and other

68

Firewise communities in Arkansas



SEEDLINGS

6.1 million seedlings grown and sold by Baucum Nursery (Hardwood and Pine)

15,400 seedlings

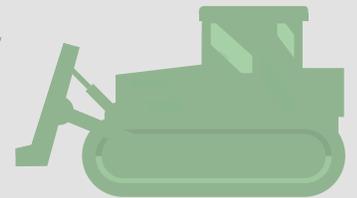
distributed through Free Tree Friday events

\$ 7.3 BILLION EACH YEAR

Arkansas forest industries state economic contributions total **\$7.3 BILLION**



in trucks and equipment distributed to rural fire departments



ARKANSAS TIMBER

53 MILLION TONS
annual timber growth

28 MILLION TONS
annual harvest

25 MILLION TONS
surplus annual growth



3,409 ASSISTS
provided to Arkansas landowners for management plans and forestry needs

18.8 MILLION ACRES
Arkansas has over 18.8 million acres of forests with over 11.5 billion trees

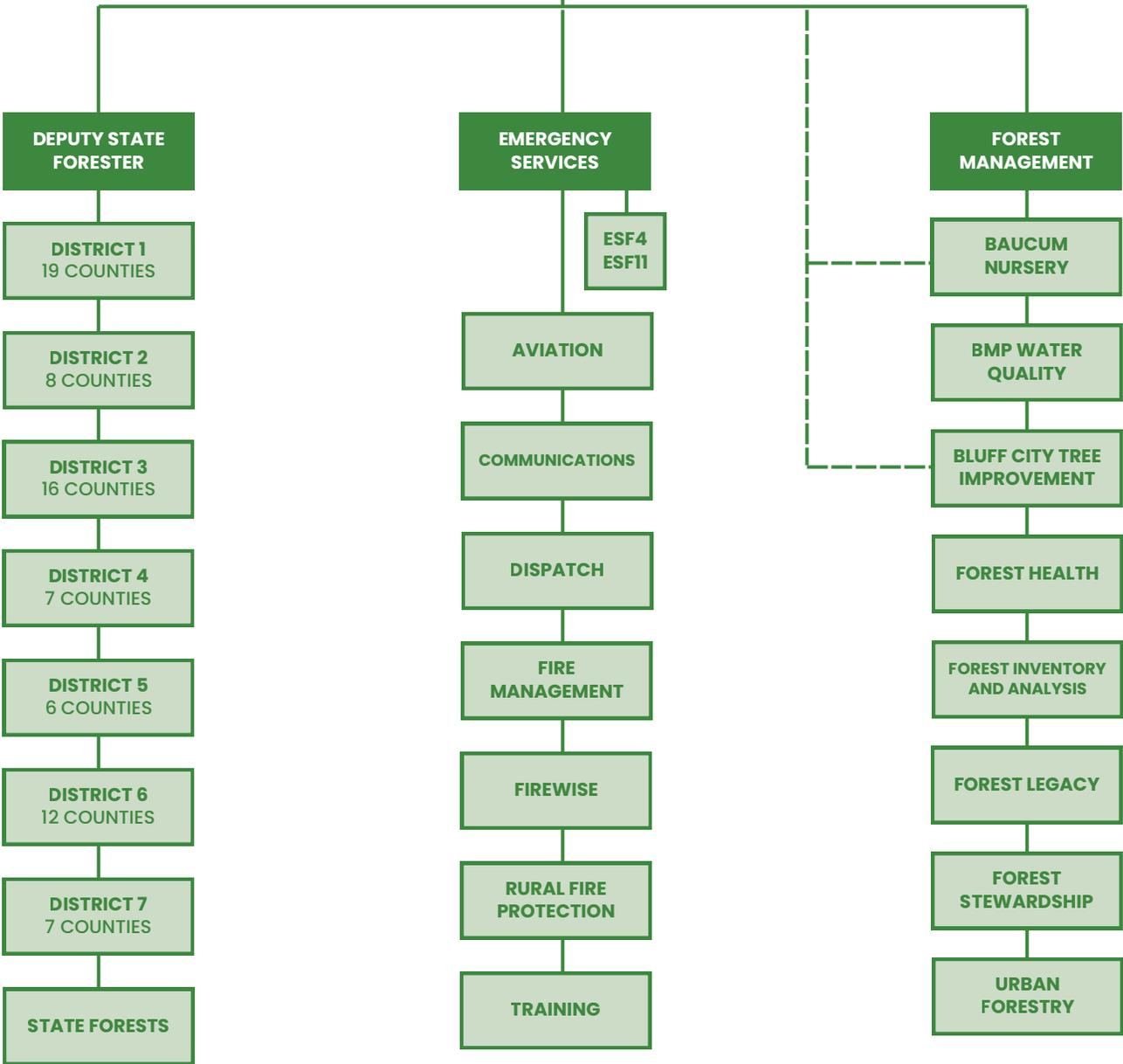
51 TREE CITIES
impacting more than 1,100,000 Arkansas residents



Arkansas's economy is the most forestry dependent of all the southern states.



**STATE FORESTER
KYLE CUNNINGHAM**



Forestry



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division protects Arkansas's forests, and those who enjoy them, from wildland fire and natural hazards while promoting rural and urban forest health, production and markets, stewardship, and conservation of forestlands for all generations of Arkansans. Through technical services provided for forest management and forest protection, the Division plays a vital role for the health and safety of Arkansas residents and natural resources.

Emergency Services

Protects 15 million acres of non-federal forestland through training and wildfire prevention, pre-suppression, detection, and suppression.

- Suppressed 1,258 wildfires on 27,960 acres
- Maintained 107 firefighting units, with 103 equipped with environmental cab protection
- Recorded 710 flight hours for wildfire detection and forest health monitoring
- Responded to a historically significant wildfire season and tornado disasters
- Distributed \$3,147,910 in equipment to local fire departments
- Trained more than 1,528 firefighters, landowners, and staff
- Worked with 68 nationally recognized Firewise communities

Forest Management

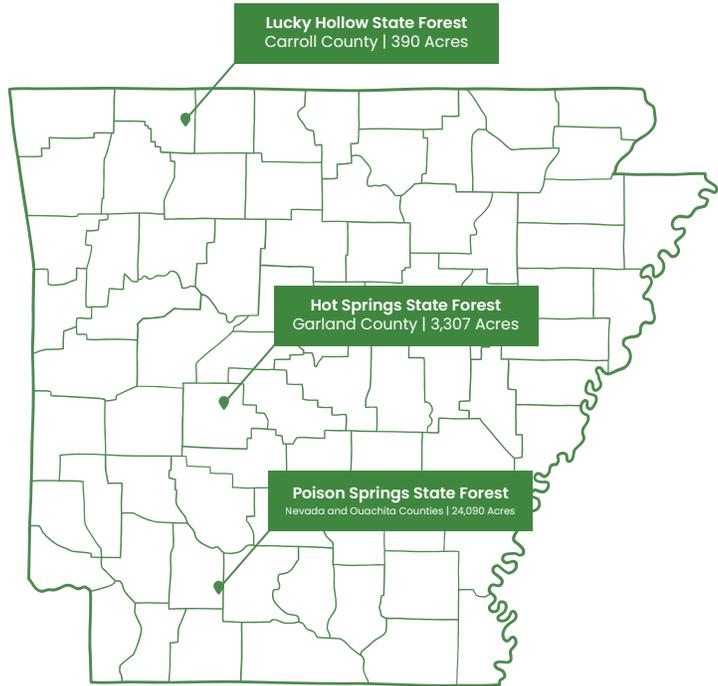
Offers technical assistance and programs to help landowners, communities, and industry effectively manage Arkansas forests.

- Provided technical assistance to 3,409 landowners, impacting 287,753 acres across the state
- Sold 5,347,350 hardwood seedlings and 781,875 pine seedlings through Baucum Nursery
- Expanded Free Tree Fridays, distributing 15,400 seedlings at 35 events
- Collected data from 805 forest inventory plots
- Secured \$2.5 million in federal funding for reforestation efforts in SE Arkansas
- Purchased 766 acres along the headwaters of the White River in Madison County to protect drinking water supply for NE Arkansas residents
- Purchased 34.39 acres in the Hot Springs Recharge Area in Garland County
- Facilitated eight trainings for 189 participants on best management practices for water quality

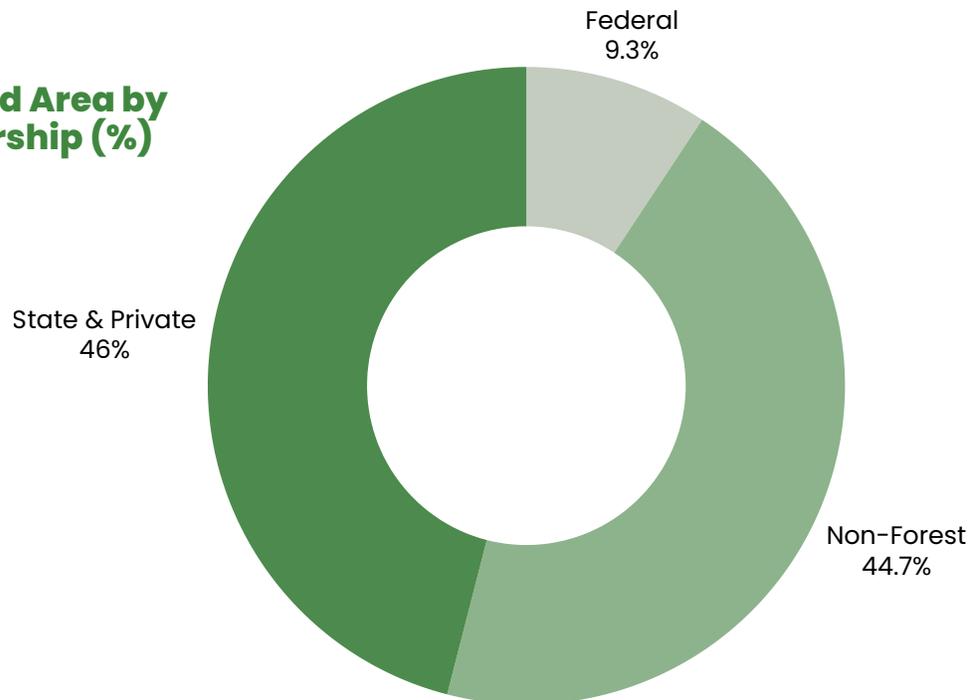
State Forests

Poison Springs, Hot Springs, and Lucky Hollow State Forests serve as demonstration areas for forest management, while providing recreational opportunities and habitat conservation.

- Continued development of demonstration opportunities to include improvement and reforestation harvests totaling over \$1,500,000 in value
- Conducted a silviculture treatment on 896 acres, including a 60-acre prescribed burn, at Poison Springs State Forest
- Repaired and maintained over 90 primitive campsites for public recreation at Poison Springs State Forest
- Seeded and maintained 20 pollinator habitat plots, totaling 32 acres at Poison Springs State Forest
- Began establishment of 100-acre demonstration area at Hot Springs State Forest
- Collaborated with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to open a 1,732-acre Wildlife Management Area at Hot Springs State Forest
- Planned a white oak sustainability demonstration project at Lucky Hollow State Forest



Arkansas Land Area by Forest Ownership (%)



Natural Resources

WATER
+
WASTEWATER
+
SOLID WASTE

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS:
\$278 MILLION**

Worked with communities on **71** water, wastewater, and solid waste projects totaling more than **\$278 million**



Arkansas Water Plan

Completed **Phase I** and initiated **Phase II** of the Arkansas Water Plan update



State Conservation Tax Credits

Approved **77** new projects and completed **45** projects

Unpaved Roads Grant Program

Funded **12** county unpaved roads projects totaling **\$735,005**



Provided federal funds and technical assistance to **58** projects associated with the abatement/reduction or control of **nonpoint source pollution**

ARKANSAS DAMS

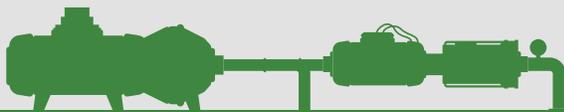
Led condition assessments of **22** high hazard and significant hazard dams



FLOOD TRAINING

Provided in-person and virtual technical training and support on flood risk reduction and mitigation to **369** community officials - representing **260** towns, cities, and counties

Collected water level measurements in Mississippi River Valley Alluvial, Sparta, and Ozark aquifers



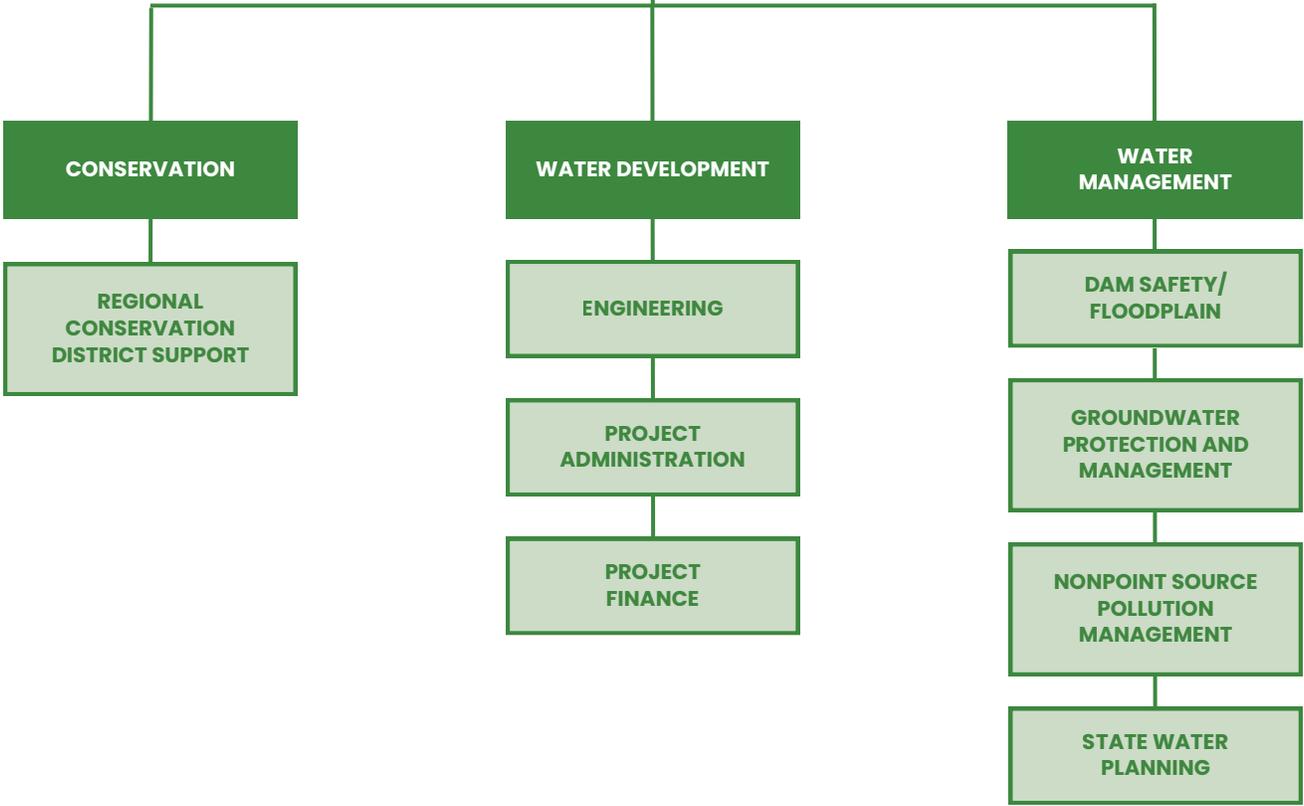
Processed and approved **17** new riparian tax credit projects for **\$638,450** in eligible project cost

Managing and conserving Arkansas's land and water resources.





**DIRECTOR
CHRIS COLCLASURE**



Natural Resources



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Division manages the state's water and land resources through conservation, planning, and development programs. The Division works to ensure sustainable use of Arkansas's natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

Conservation

Supports Arkansas's 75 conservation districts in implementing resource conservation practices, watershed management, and technical assistance for producers.

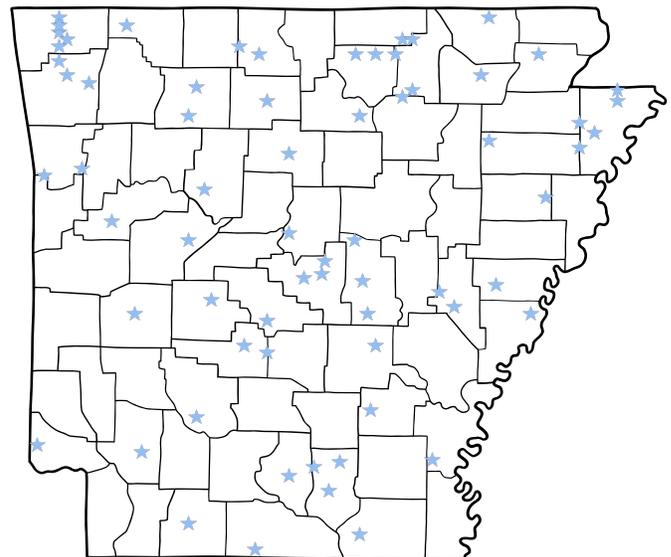
- Awarded \$250,000 for 30 projects across 21 conservation districts through the Conservation District Grant Program
- Provided \$750,000 to fund 20 water quality technicians who completed 984 nutrient management plans
- Launched the Alliance Project with Virginia Tech and six conservation districts, enrolling 302 producers and 49,000 acres in conservation practices
- Allocated \$150,000 for the Beaver Control Program across 56 districts, resulting in 13,289 beavers trapped

Water Development

Provides funding and technical assistance for water, wastewater, and irrigation infrastructure projects statewide.

- Issued \$68.5 million in State Revolving Fund revenue bonds and \$25 million in General Obligation Bonds
- Awarded \$278 million for 71 water and wastewater projects
- Executed 97 funding agreements, with construction initiated on 110 projects and completed on 24 projects
- Ranked second nationally for Clean Water State Revolving Fund pace and third for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund pace
- Springdale regionalization project was nominated and awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2025 Clean Water State Revolving Fund's George F. Ames Performance and Innovation in the SRF Creating Environmental Success Award

Water Projects Approved in FY 2025



Water Management

Oversees statewide water planning, water quality protection, floodplain management, dam safety, and groundwater programs.

- Disbursed \$2,278,944 million in federal nonpoint source funding for 58 water quality projects
- Approved 16 Agriculture Water Quality Loans totaling \$1,639,402 million
- Reimbursed \$75,403 to 21 landowners through the Title X Cost Share Program
- Approved 17 Wetland and Riparian Tax Credit projects totaling \$638,450 and impacting 4,811 linear feet of streambank
- Funded 12 county unpaved road projects totaling \$735,005
- Produced the 2024 Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Report and redesigned the online story map
- Licensed 145 contractors, 279 drillers, 280 pump installers, and permitted 433 rigs
- Approved 77 new Groundwater Conservation Tax Credit projects totaling \$1,867,931 million and impacting 13,372 acres
- Responded to 650 floodplain assistance requests and provided 27 community assistance visits
- Conducted 22 dam condition assessments, seven workshops, and presented nationally on the new Operation Permit Renewal Program
- Approved 37 new providers to perform rate studies for water service providers
- Filed Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to prepare a draft environmental review statement for the Southwest Arkansas Navigation Feasibility Study (June 2025)

Arkansas Water Plan Update

The Arkansas Water Plan is the state's comprehensive policy for the development, management, and conservation of water and related land resources. In 2023, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders issued Executive Order 23-27 initiating a comprehensive review and update to the plan. In FY 2025, the Department:

- Completed Phase I of the update
- Executed an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement Phase II of the update
- Hosted seven technical focus group meetings on water supply, demand, quality, infrastructure, and flooding
- Provided 16 presentations to more than 1,000 individuals on the status of the update
- Initiated a Northwest Arkansas Water Reclamation Master Plan to assess wastewater infrastructure needs and assist with planning future investments

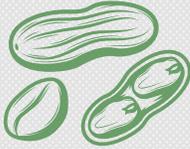
Plant Industries



RICE
#1 IN NATION



COTTON
#3 IN NATION



PEANUTS
#7 IN NATION

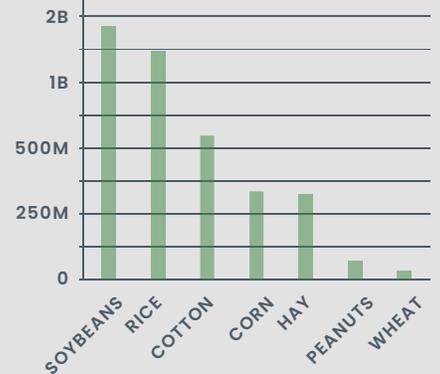


172,258 TONS
of Arkansas peanuts
graded annually



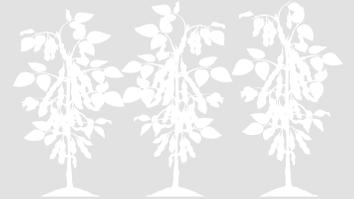
465,977 POUNDS
Collected 465,977
pounds of unwanted
pesticides

TOP PRODUCERS AT A GLANCE



14,652
pesticides registered
and monitored

1,584
exports certified free of
pests, weeds, and disease



BUREAU OF STANDARDS

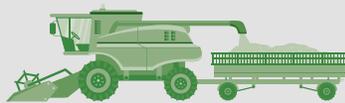
5,715
petroleum pumps tested

3,614
retail station inspected

5,676
scale inspections

3,048 TESTS

More than 3,048 quality assurance tests on seeds for more than 100 different crop varieties



AR TOP COMMODITIES RANKED NATIONALLY



1,390
bee colonies inspected
5,359
beekeepers registered

(by value of production)



- #1 in Rice
- #3 in Cotton
- #3 in Cottonseed
- #7 in Peanuts
- #10 in Soybeans
- #19 in Corn
- #20 in Hay



INVASIVE PEST QUARANTINE



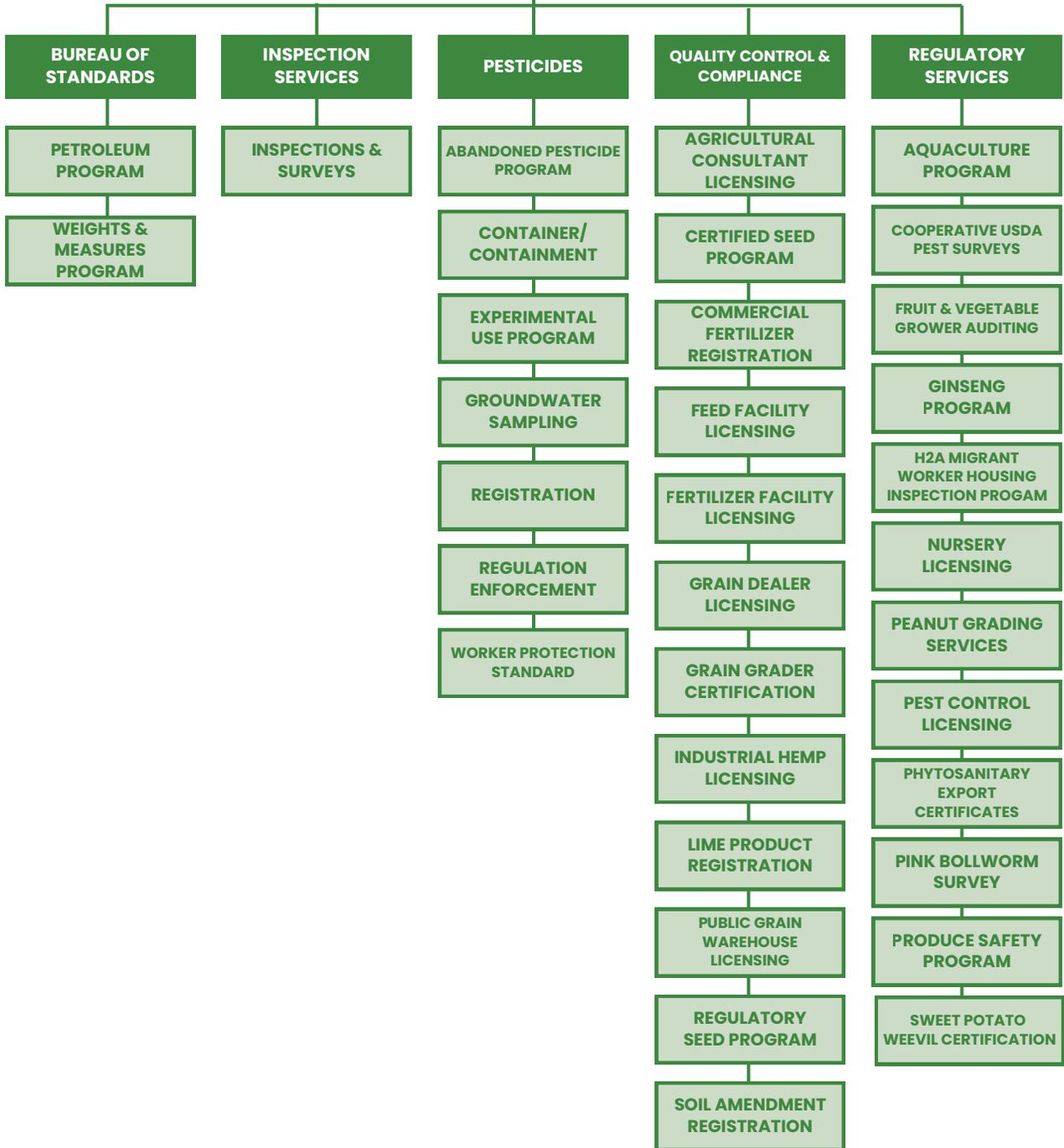
FIRE ANT: 50 counties
EMERALD: 75 counties
ASH BORER

Ensuring quality products and services through education and regulatory enforcement.





**DIRECTOR
COREY SEATS**



Plant Industries



The Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Plant Industries Division protects Arkansas citizens and the agricultural and business sectors through enforcement of state laws and regulations. The Division maintains quality products and services while supporting fair commerce, food safety, and plant and pest regulation.

Bureau of Standards

Ensures equity and fairness in Arkansas commerce through uniform weights and measures standards and petroleum product regulation.

- Collected 6,776 fuel samples, inspected 3,614 retail stations, and inspected 5,009 storage tanks
- Tested 331 vehicle scales, 200 platform scales, 5,145 small scales, and 1,897 high-volume fuel meters
- Inspected 5,715 petroleum pumps
- Inspected 8,769 meat packages and 3,482 packaged commodities
- Conducted 848 egg labeling, 89 fish identification, and 58 USDA country of origin labeling inspections
- Conducted 211 complaint investigations
- Issued 298 notices of violation and 76 stop sales

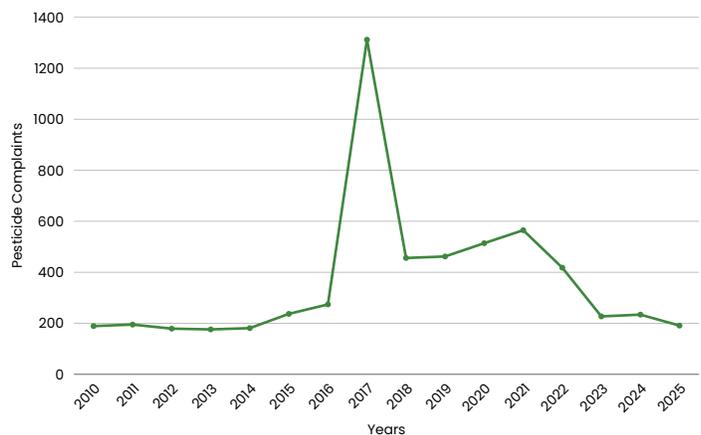
Inspection Services

Provides inspection and sampling support across programs.

- Provided inspections and sampling across all programs, including pesticides, nursery licensing, produce safety, peanut grading, and H2A housing
- Supported pesticide complaint investigations, invasive pest surveys, and regulatory enforcement

Pesticide Complaints

Inspectors’ workloads rose sharply with the introduction of dicamba-tolerant seed technology, leading to a surge in pesticide complaints from 2017 through 2022, though complaint levels have returned closer to pre-2017 levels in recent years.



Pesticide Section

Administers and enforces pesticide control laws and cooperative agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- Registered 14,652 pesticide products, registered 1,574 pesticide manufacturers, and licensed 453 pesticide dealers
- Certified 325 commercial applicators, 50 commercial applicator technicians, 231 non-commercial applicators, and 2,858 private applicators
- Re-certified 70 commercial applicators, 13 commercial applicator technicians, 135 non-commercial applicators, and 834 private applicators
- Licensed 169 aerial commercial firms, 203 ground commercial firms, 389 aerial individual commercial applicators, 507 ground individual commercial applicators, and 41 commercial applicator technicians
- Licensed 422 non-commercial applicators, 2,561 five-year private applicators, 200 one-year private applicators, and five private applicators with pilot authorization
- Issued 61 custom applicator permits and five tree injection permits
- Conducted 33 agriculture use inspections, 128 certified applicator inspections, 20 EPA producer establishment inspections, 137 marketplace inspections, 175 RUP dealer inspections, 43 worker protection inspections, 25 worker protection label compliance inspections, and 14 container/containment inspections
- Collected 465,977 pounds of abandoned pesticides in four counties
- Administered 150 in-person and 470 online applicator tests
- Issued 338 warning letters and conducted 16 administrative hearings

Quality Control and Compliance

Oversees licensing, certification, and registration for feed, fertilizer, lime, seed, grain, industrial hemp, and agricultural consultants.

- Issued 314 seed labeler licenses and 76 seed treater licenses, with 15,014 acres inspected and certified for seed quality
- Tested 241 GMO rice seed lots for genetic purity and compliance
- Licensed 1,274 feed facilities and analyzed 1,782 feed samples, resulting in 255 penalties for labeling or quality violations
- Registered 529 fertilizer companies, 280 soil companies, and 85 lime companies
- Registered 5,283 fertilizer products, 1,123 soil amendment products, and 129 lime products
- Issued 19 industrial hemp licenses for 15 growers and four processors, covering 4.77 acres planted and 2.93 acres harvested, producing 1,683 pounds of floral, grain, and fiber products
- Licensed 190 agricultural consultants to provide nutrient and pest management advice
- Issued 32 grain warehouse licenses and 23 grain dealer licenses
- Conducted 30 grain warehouse audits and 18 grain dealer audits
- Provided grading services for 63 locations and issued 34 grain grading certificates

Regulatory Services

Oversees plant pest and disease programs, nursery licensing, apiary and aquaculture programs, produce safety, pest control licensing, and federal/state inspection and certification services.

- Graded 66,000 acres of peanuts
- Registered 204 new beekeepers and inspected 1,390 colonies
- Certified 22 aquaculture operations encompassing 13,392 acres and conducted nine aquatic nuisance species inspections
- Administered the boll weevil eradication program, impacting 628 producers on 613,419 acres and collecting \$1,840,257 million in assessments
- Licensed 1,045 pest control companies, 1,193 operators, and 2,700 agents, and received reports for 37,060 termite jobs
- Issued 1,584 phytosanitary certificates for interstate and international shipment of agricultural commodities
- Trained 83 produce growers and completed 30 on-farm inspections to ensure compliance with federal produce safety standards
- Certified 5,637 acres of sweet potatoes and issued 2.94 million green tags
- Installed 2,200 spongy moth traps and conducted 645 fire ant inspections to protect against invasive pests
- Conducted four biotechnology regulatory inspections, reviewed 227 permit applications, and completed eight Cooperative Agricultural Pest Surveys
- Monitored ginseng harvesting and certification, recording 630 pounds dried, 329 pounds green, 539 pounds certified dried, and 145 pounds certified green
- Licensed five ginseng dealers
- Completed 769 farm inspections and 1,321 housing inspections under the H2A program
- Issued 1,246 nursery licenses and conducted 645 nursery inspections

Shared Services



FISCAL



HUMAN
RESOURCES



INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY



COMMUNICATIONS



LEGAL



LABORATORY
SERVICES



\$243 MILLION

Fiscal managed a combined operating budget of more than \$243 million



9,900

vendor invoices processed



\$122,000,000

in federal grant aid payments processed



\$129,000,000

federal grant aid reimbursement requested



**LAW
ENFORCEMENT**

\$3,205,115

in restitution returned to land owners

229

law enforcement cases resolved

128

assists to other law enforcement agencies across the state



149 Positions

Human Resources processed 149 hires and promotions across all divisions



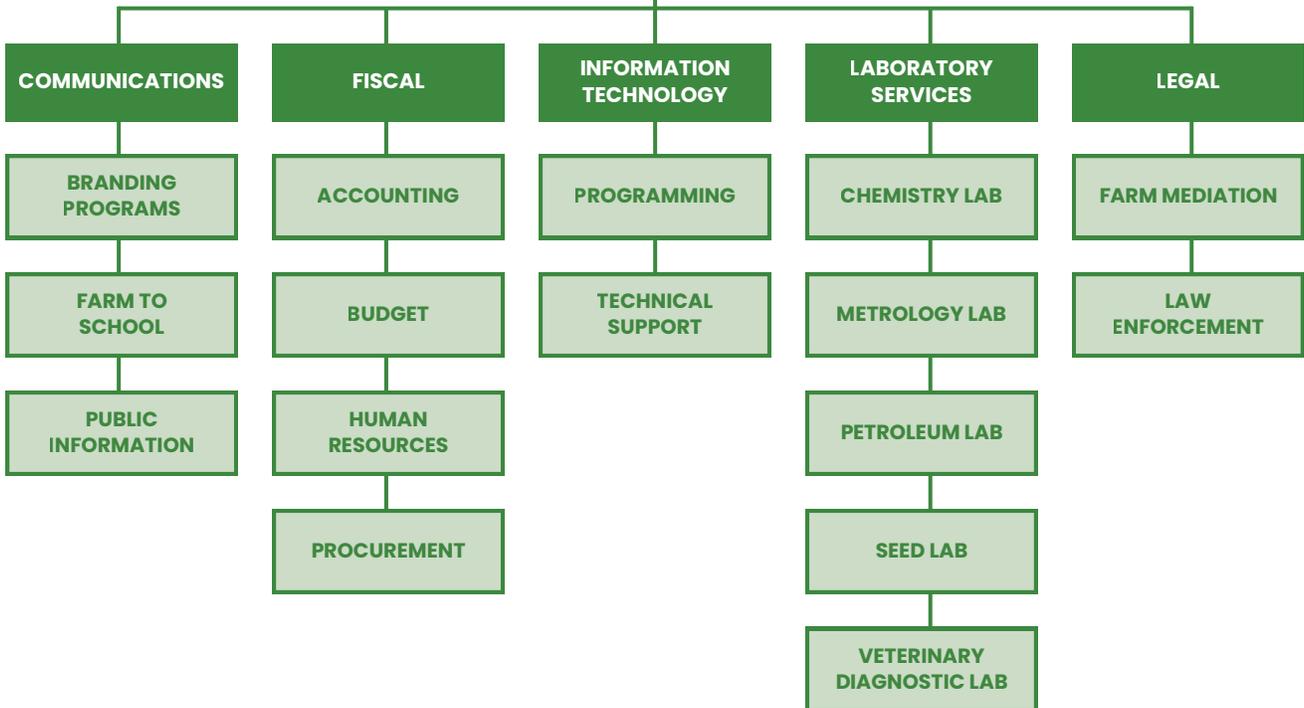
Issued 39 press release and requested 16 agricultural proclamations from Governor Sanders

Shared Services assists all Divisions as well as public and industry stakeholders.





**CHIEF OF STAFF
ALEX JOHNSTON**



Shared Services

The Shared Services Division provides centralized administrative, technical, and communications support for all divisions within the Department.

Communications

Coordinates internal and external communications for the Department, including media relations, public information, branding programs, and online presence.

- Distributed 39 press releases and 78 meeting notices to stakeholders
- Responded to 162 media requests and provided daily media monitoring
- Increased social media engagement significantly, with Facebook reach up 395% and 2,827 new followers
- Produced creative materials including brochures, booklets, banners, print ads, and signs to support agency programs
- Maintained the Department's website and initiated a major redesign project
- Administered the Arkansas Grown, Arkansas Made, and Homegrown by Heroes programs with 129 new members added
- Hosted the third Arkansas Grown Conference & Expo with more than 620 attendees and 181 vendors from 23 states
- Awarded \$6,000 to 10 schools through the Arkansas Grown School Garden of the Year Contest
- Hosted the Arkansas Farm to School Institute with participation from 15 schools

Fiscal

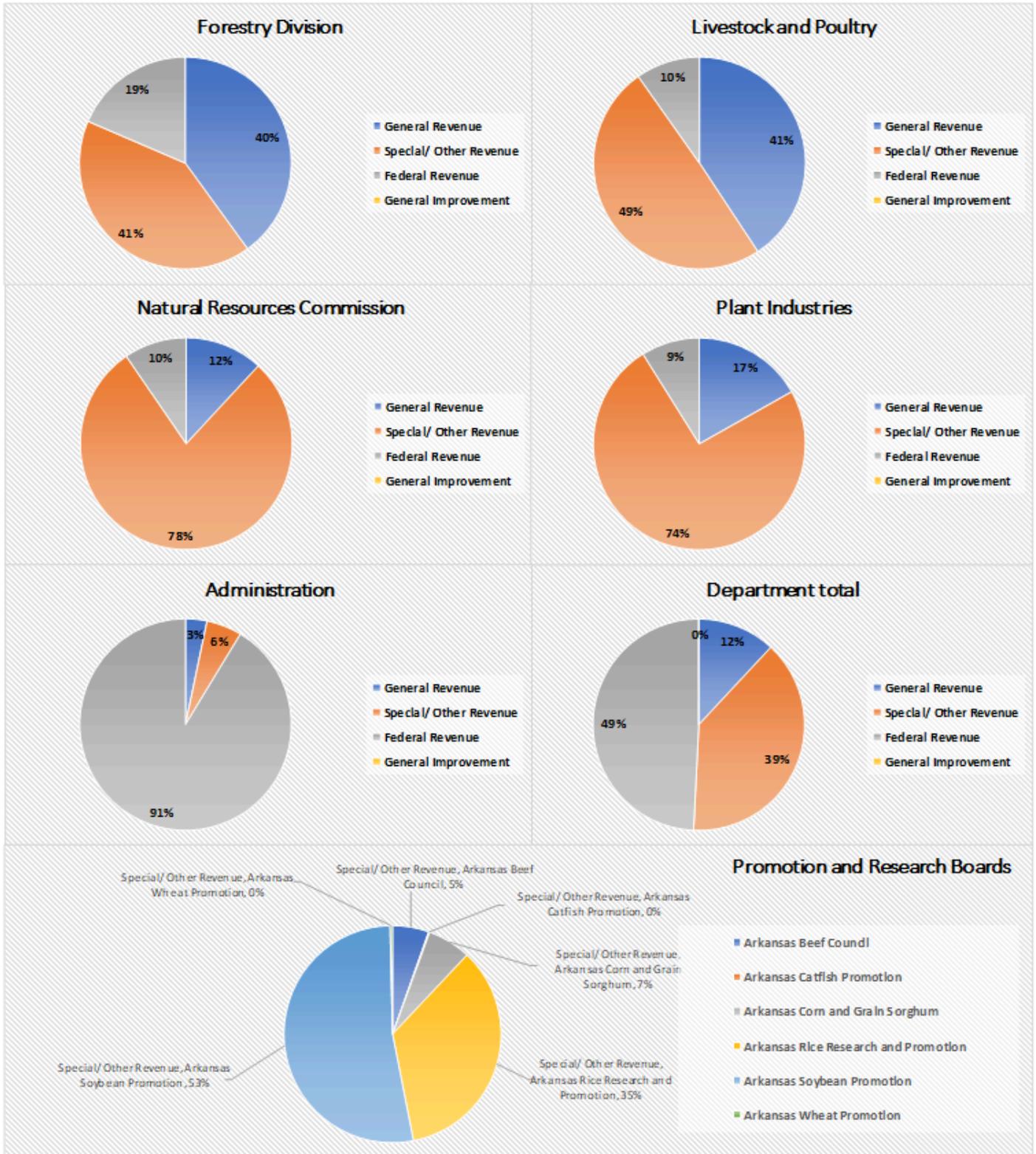
Provides human resources, budgeting, accounting, procurement, and financial reporting support for all divisions within the Department.

- Processed more than 9,900 vendor invoices and requested over \$129 million in federal grant reimbursements
- Processed \$122 million in federal grant aid payments to subrecipients
- Provided budgeting, procurement, accounting, and reporting support to all Department divisions and continued cross-training staff to improve efficiency
- Assisted with purchasing and contract reviews to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations
- Processed 149 employee hires and promotions, 20 retirements, 63 resignations, 18 terminations, and 10 transfers
- Maintained payroll, benefits, safety, and employee training programs for all Department personnel

Department FY 2025 Adjusted Budget and Expenditures

<u>Department and Division</u>	<u>Adjusted Budget</u>	<u>Capital Improvement Budget</u>	<u>American Rescue Plan Act Budget</u>	<u>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Forestry Division	\$34,496,199				\$26,665,406
Livestock & Poultry Division	\$14,355,838				\$11,821,955
Natural Resources Division	\$130,559,304				\$41,114,878
Plant Industries Division	\$20,165,865				\$12,520,170
Administration	\$11,221,992				\$10,677,850
Soil Classifiers	\$1,296				\$50
Registration for Foresters	\$46,168				\$1,060
Veterinary Examiners	\$141,298				\$57,622
Promotion and Research Boards	\$32,293,367				\$17,546,619
Department		\$3,052,461	\$272,800,503	\$150,504,253	\$117,690,929
TOTALS	\$243,281,327	\$3,052,461	\$272,800,503	\$150,504,253	\$238,096,538

FY 2025 Revenue Sources



Information Technology

Provides data management, software development, networking, and desktop support for all Department divisions. The team maintains critical systems that enable efficient operations, regulatory compliance, and improved service delivery to staff and the public.

- Developed online portals for veterinary and forestry license applications and renewals
- Created online forms, fillable health certificates, and continuing education integration for veterinary services
- Developed multiple reporting tools
- Implemented enhancements to the Poultry Feeding Operation application and developed a large animal health certificate scanning tool
- Upgraded servers and replaced aging workstations to improve performance and system reliability across the Department

Laboratory Services

Provides analytical, diagnostic, and regulatory testing in support of animal health, feed, fertilizer, seed, petroleum, aquaculture, and metrology programs statewide. The team ensures accuracy and efficiency through advanced methods, accreditation, and cross-divisional collaboration.

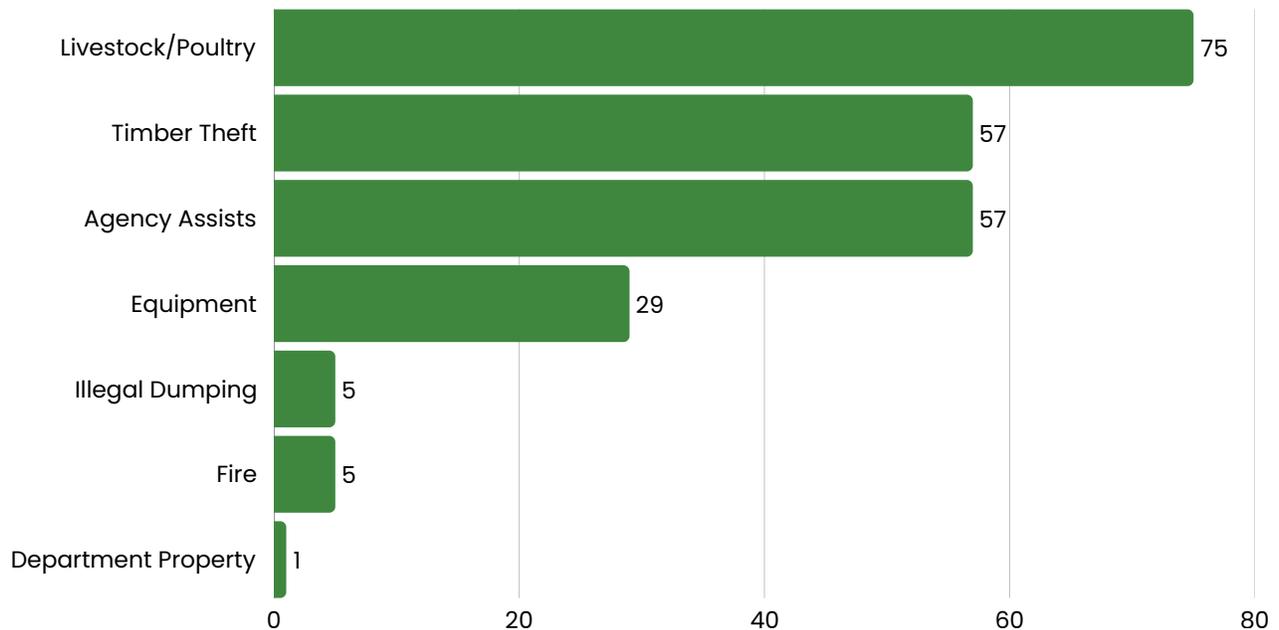
- Reorganized operations under the Arkansas Forward initiative to improve efficiency and responsiveness
- Processed 410,674 diagnostic assays, 23,874 fish health tests, and 3,038 seed tests across multiple accredited laboratories
- Achieved ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for aquaculture testing and maintained USDA APHIS biosafety recognition and NAHLN membership
- Conducted 7,546 fuel quality tests, 1,738 feed analyses, 561 fertilizer tests, and 106 limestone tests to safeguard product integrity
- Processed 3,152 metrology artifacts and certified 210 grain moisture meters
- Installed a new incinerator tripling burn capacity and incinerated 53,309 pounds of material, strengthening biosecurity
- Implemented cost-saving measures, including a new pipette calibration vendor and shared consumable inventory, reducing expenses by over 50%
- Expanded molecular diagnostics capacity, doubling PCR throughput and managing the state's largest avian influenza surveillance season
- Supported wildlife and public health efforts by testing 6,916 samples for chronic wasting disease and providing rabies diagnostics
- Hosted the annual Aquaculture Producers' Workshop and provided training, collaboration, and technical assistance to support Arkansas's agricultural industries

Legal

Provides guidance on legal matters, enforcement, rulemaking, and policy interpretation for the Department. The section also includes the Law Enforcement team, which investigates agricultural crimes, enforces laws and rules, and manages the Office of Agricultural Intelligence to monitor prohibited foreign activity affecting Arkansas's agricultural land.

- Assisted with adoption or amendment of two administrative rules
- Sponsored nineteen legislative proposals that were enacted into law
- Responded to 139 Freedom of Information Act requests
- Opened 298 and closed 229 law enforcement cases
- Assisted in providing \$3,205,115 in restitution to landowners
- Provided 128 assists to other law enforcement agencies across the state
- Facilitated 24 mediations through the Arkansas Farmer/Creditor Mediation Program, resulting in 12 agreements

Investigations Closed By Type of Crime



Boards and Commissions

Arkansas Board of Animal Health

The Arkansas Board of Animal Health provides oversight and guidance to protect animal health and ensure the safety of the state's livestock and poultry industries. The nine-member board is appointed by the Governor to serve five-year terms and includes licensed veterinarians.

Members: Bruce Maloch, Chad Chester, Danny Wright, Marcus Creasy, Dr. Mike Pallone, Dr. Sara Throne, Tommy Wren, Tyler Davis, Dr. William Hewat

Arkansas Forestry Commission

The Arkansas Forestry Commission provides oversight and guidance to protect and manage the state's forests. The nine-member board is appointed by the Governor to represent each congressional district and serve five-year terms.

Members: David Cawein, Frank Wilson, George Dunklin, John McAlpine, Ken Bragg, Mary Clapp, Miles Goggans, Peter Prutzman, Ray Dillon

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission provides oversight and guidance for the conservation, development, and management of the state's water and soil resources. The nine-member board is appointed by the Governor to serve five-year terms and includes licensed water well contractors.

Members: Bruce Leggitt, David Gilbert, Eddie Glover, James Anderson, Jamie Burr, JoAnne Bush, Mike McDermott, Will Brewer, William Anderson

Arkansas State Plant Board

The Arkansas State Plant Board provides oversight and guidance to protect Arkansas agriculture and consumers through the fair enforcement of laws and regulations. The 19-member board includes 17 Governor-appointed members and two non-voting members designated by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, all serving five-year terms.

Members: Bruce Alford, Caleb Wall, David Gammill, Davis Wallace, Garrett Frost, George Dunklin, Jon Bierbaum, Ken Korth, Kyle Baltz, Matthew Miles, Nathan Reed, Nathan Slaton, Reynold Meyer, Robert Thorne, Robin Ralston, Sam Stuckey, Sammy Angel, Travis Senter

FY 2025 FUNDING & IMPACT

Supporting Research and Promotion

Arkansas commodity promotion boards exist to support the growth and competitiveness of the state's agricultural industries. Funded by assessments on the commodities they represent, these boards invest millions of dollars annually in research and promotion to benefit producers and strengthen Arkansas agriculture.

PRODUCTION BY COMMODITY



ASSESSMENT AMOUNTS BY COMMODITY

BEEF
\$1/HEAD

CATFISH
\$1/TON OF FEED

CORN
1¢/BUSHEL

RICE
\$6.25/100 LBS.

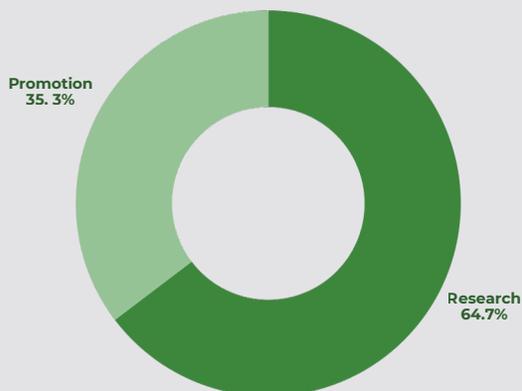
SOYBEAN
0.5% OF NET MARKET VALUE

WHEAT
1¢/BUSHEL

ASSESSMENT DOLLARS COLLECTED IN FY 2025



\$11.5 MILLION
TOTAL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION FUNDING ALLOCATED FY 2025



SOYBEAN \$3.4M RESEARCH \$793.6K PROMOTION

RICE \$2.9M RESEARCH \$2.8M PROMOTION

CORN & GRAIN SORGHUM \$1M RESEARCH \$192.7K PROMOTION

BEEF \$37K RESEARCH \$227.5K PROMOTION

WHEAT \$53K RESEARCH

CATFISH \$25.3K PROMOTION

Research and Promotion Boards

Arkansas Beef Council

The Arkansas Beef Council promotes the growth and development of the state's beef cattle industry through research, promotion, and market development. Council members are appointed to three-year terms, and activities are funded by a \$1-per-head assessment on all cattle sold in Arkansas.

Members: Caleb Plyler, Jerry Christie, Michael Lee, Michael McMillian, Robert Campbell, Sam Cecil, Sharon Kay Casey

- State collected \$886,099.30 in assessments on cattle sold in the state
- Held four meetings
- Allocated \$37,050 to research projects and \$277,455 to promotion projects

Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board

The Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board supports the state's catfish industry through research, marketing, and promotional efforts. Board members are appointed to two-year terms, and activities are funded by an assessment on catfish feed sales.

Members: Andrew Mitchell, Brad Graham, Dick Baxter, Greg Moyers, Larry Dorman, Robert Glennon, Steve Kueter

- State collected \$24,945.25 in assessments on catfish sold in the state
- Held one meeting
- Allocated \$25,250 to promotion projects

Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board

The Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board supports the state's corn and grain sorghum industry through research and outreach programs. Board members are appointed to two-year terms, and activities are funded by a one-cent-per-bushel assessment on all corn and grain sorghum grown in the state.

Members: Jason Felton, Kenny Falwell, Matt Gammill, Matt Smith, Tommy Young, Trent Dabbs, William "Perry" Galloway

- State collected \$1,028,188.08 in assessments on corn and grain sorghum grown in the state
- Held four meetings
- Allocated \$1,021,966 to research projects and \$192,666 to promotion projects

Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board

The Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board supports the state's rice industry through research, extension, marketing, and promotional programs. Board members are appointed to two-year terms, and activities are funded by assessments on rice grown and sold in Arkansas.

Members: Becton Bell, Carl Phillips, Charles Williams, David Gairhan, Jay Coker, Jeff Rutledge, Jim Whitaker, Paul Schwarz, Scott Matthews

- State collected \$5,608,610.61 in assessments on rice grown and sold in the state
- Held six meetings
- Allocated \$2,927,141 to research projects and \$2,815,446 to promotion projects

Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board

The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board supports the state's soybean industry through marketing, research, and promotional activities. Board members are appointed to two-year terms, and activities are funded by a 0.25% assessment on the market price of all soybeans grown in the state.

Members: BJ Rogers, Boyce Johnson, Brad Doyle, Donald Morton, Jr., John Freeman, Josh Cureton, Matt Smith, Matthew Roberson, West Higginbotham

- State collected \$8,336,217.44 in assessments on soybeans sold in the state
- Held five meetings
- Allocated \$3,384,611 to research projects and \$793,560 to promotion projects

Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board

The Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board supports the state's wheat industry through research, extension, marketing, and promotional programs. Board members are appointed to two-year terms, and activities are funded by a one-cent-per-bushel assessment on all wheat grown in the state.

Members: Adam Cloninger, Chris Shaefer, Dusty Hoskyn, Herrick Norcross III, Jack Evans, John Schwartz, Kenneth Clark, Terrance Scott, Tim Smith

- State collected \$59,325.33 in assessments on wheat sold in the state
- Held two meetings
- Allocated \$53,032 to research projects

External Commissions and Committees

The Department serves as a member on various commissions and committees.

Arkansas Homeland Security Advisory Group

The Arkansas Homeland Security Advisory Group was created as an advisory body to the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management to develop and maintain comprehensive guidelines and procedures for implementing a statewide mutual aid system.

Department Representative: Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture

Arkansas–Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission

The Arkansas–Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission oversees the implementation of the Arkansas–Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact, which ensures the equitable use and management of the river’s water resources between the two states. The commission promotes cooperation on water development, pollution control, and resource management in the Arkansas River Basin. It meets annually to report on its activities and finances. The commission includes three representatives from each state and one federal representative.

Department Representative: Chris Colclasure, Natural Resources Division Director

Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission

The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission is the environmental policy-making body for Arkansas. The environmental policy is developed with guidance from the Governor, the Arkansas legislature, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and others and is implemented by the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment.

Department Representative: Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture

Natural Resources Committee

The Natural Resources Committee is authorized to establish a schedule of minimum fees and royalties as well as terms and conditions for various types of permits and leases for state-owned lands other than lands held in the name of and managed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Department Representative: Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture

Red River Compact Commission

The Red River Compact Commission promotes interstate comity among each of the four member states by governing use, control, and distribution of the interstate water of the Red River and its tributaries. Member states include Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana. The commission also serves as a basis for state or joint planning action because it identifies and provides an equitable apportionment of water among the signatory states by defining reaches or subdivisions of the Red River. It provides an active program for the conservation of water, protection of lives and property from floods, improvement of water quality, and development of navigation and regulation of flows in the Red River Basin.

Department Representative: Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture

Buffalo River Conservation Committee

The Buffalo River Conservation Committee was created in 2019 by Executive Order 19-14 and later codified by Act 785 of 2021 to support the long-term health of the Buffalo River Watershed. The committee coordinates efforts among state agencies to align resources, expertise, and funding for watershed conservation. It reviews and updates the Buffalo River Watershed Management Plan each year and oversees subcommittees that engage local stakeholders and partners in projects to protect water quality.

Department Representative: Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture

In 2019, the Arkansas Legislative Council approved \$1 million for the BRCC to fund eight projects focused on unpaved roads, cost-share programs for agriculture, water and wastewater infrastructure, and tourism. Most of those projects have been completed, but updates in FY 2025 include:

- Cave Mountain Road (Hawksbill Crag): This ongoing project includes the removal of trees, installation of cross pipes, base road enhancements, and the installation of guard rails on a two-mile unpaved road on one of the most heavily traveled roads in the Buffalo River Watershed.
- Mill Creek Sub-Watershed Partnership Building, Landowner Engagement, and Water Quality Monitoring: The goals of this project include improving water quality in Mill Creek, a headwater tributary impacting water quality in the Buffalo River. The project also includes landowner engagement and identifying program partners and collaborators. In fall 2024, H2Ozarks hosted a series of four landowner workshops utilizing BRCC funding and gave a presentation to the Newton County Quorum Court in May 2025 on the Septic Tank Remediation Program.
- U.S. Geological Survey Filamentous Algae Study: Beginning in 2018, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) studied the increase of filamentous algae in the Buffalo River. Funded by the BRCC, the USGS monitored nutrients and algae at 24 sites along 70 miles of the river over several years. Data collection ended in 2024, with a final report expected in early 2026.

Buffalo River Conservation Committee, cont.

Unpaved road projects completed in FY 2025 include:

- **Richland Road (Searcy County):** The project, spanning 1.5 miles, installed seven culverts, improved ditches and ditch outlets, improved the road base, and improved storm water management to reduce sediment inputs to the Buffalo River. The project was completed in October 2024.
- **Roads Along Cave Creek (Newton County):** These two projects improved County Road 252 in the Gene Rush Wildlife Management Area and improved access and road conditions at County Road 5070. These projects were completed in September 2024.

Cost-share projects completed in FY 2025 include:

- **Arkansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Sub-Award 20-400 Crooked Creek Conservation District:** The project aimed to maintain and restore designated uses of the Buffalo River Watershed by supporting landowners in implementing voluntary conservation practices that improve pastureland management, protect stream banks and riparian areas, and reduce runoff through demonstration projects. The project was completed in October 2024.
- **Arkansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Sub-Award 21-700 Buffalo Conservation District:** The primary objective of this project was to implement a program that will encourage voluntary participation of landowners and operators in applying BMPs within sub-watersheds that contain or feed the Buffalo River. This project was completed in October 2024.
- **Arkansas Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Sub-Award 24-700 H2Ozarks:** This project aimed to improve water quality and landowner economic benefits within a priority sub watershed of the Buffalo River Watershed by encouraging voluntary adoption of conservation practices on pastureland to reduce nutrient, sediment, and bacteria runoff, protect riparian areas, and support long-term monitoring and evaluation of water quality improvements. This project was completed in October 2024.

The Buffalo River Watershed Enhancement Project aims to improve water quality and watershed health in the Buffalo River Watershed by supporting voluntary conservation practices that reduce sediment and nutrient runoff, enhance pasture and forest management, restore riparian areas, and protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and community resilience through coordinated federal, state, and local partnerships. Key activities in FY 2025 include:

- Funded ten project applications as of September 30, 2025, for a total of \$528,608
- Continued to distribute quarterly newsletter to more than 750 landowners
- Provided rental equipment (no-till drills, aerator, sprayers, and seeders) to a total of 63 producers during the growing season

Buffalo River Conservation Committee, cont.

Forestry activities by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture and U.S. Forest Service during FY 2025 include:

- Conducted prescribed burns on 177 acres in Newton County and 20 acres in Searcy County
- Prepared 19 forest management plans impacting 977 acres in Newton County
- Prepared two forest management plans impacting 800 acres in Searcy County
- Two new forest stewardship plans completed for 45 acres through the USFS Forest Stewardship Program
- Provided forest management technical assistance to 53 landowners impacting 5,368 acres through USFS Forest Stewardship Program
- Completed five prescribed burns for a total of 344 acres through the Cross Boundary Wildfire Mitigation Program
- Awarded wildland fire suppression kits to four volunteer fire departments through the USFS Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program

Water and wastewater system infrastructure activities during FY 2025 include:

- **Marble Falls Sewer Improvement District No. 1:** Engineering work is on schedule, and Board of Commissioners reappointments for the Marble Falls Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste Disposal Suburban Improvement District No. 1 are complete. The loan closed on April 8, 2025; plans, specifications, and bid concurrence were finalized in August; and the notice to proceed was issued on September 30, 2025.
- **Septic Tank Remediation Program:** As of November 2025, 20 projects were completed in the Buffalo River Watershed totaling \$309,949.

Century Farm

The Arkansas Century Farm Program recognizes Arkansas farm families who have owned and operated a farm of 10 acres or more for a least 100 years. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture began the Century Farm program in 2012 as a way to highlight the impact of these families on the agriculture industry as well as their overall contributions to our state.

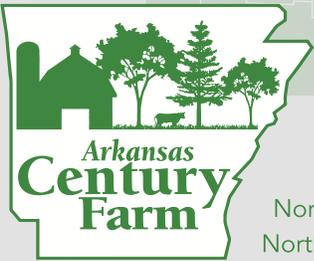
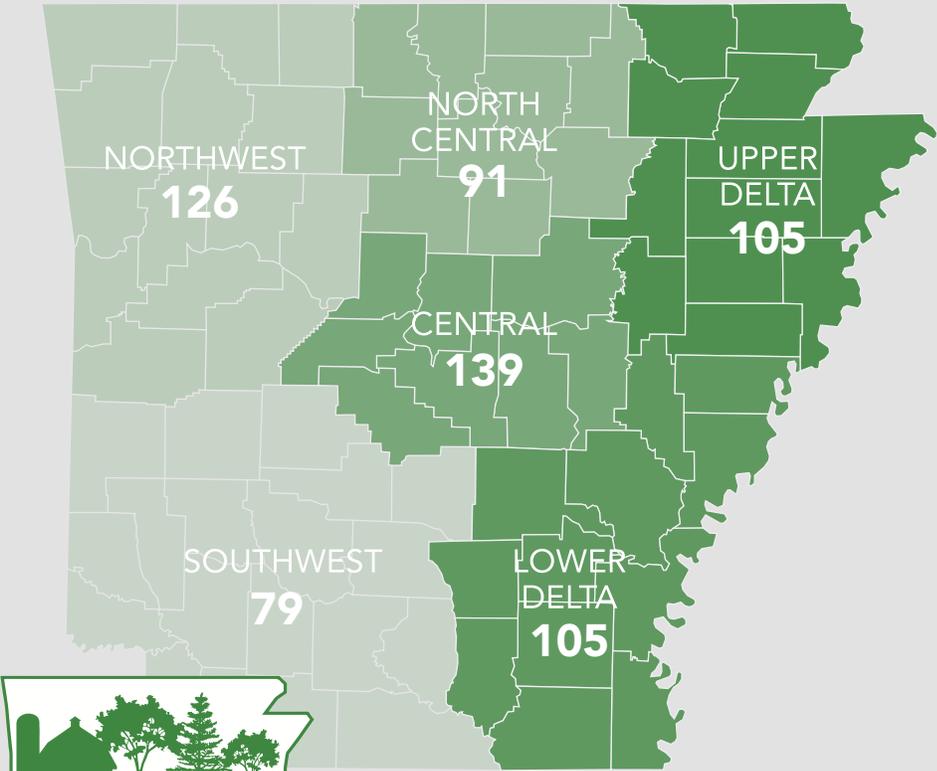
2024 Century Farm Inductees:

- Arnold Abundant Acres Farm
- Bennett Farms
- Brian Chapman Farms
- Chapman Family Farm
- Cox, Cox, and Stone Farms
- Crawford Farm
- Crawley Valley View Farms
- Davis Family Farm of Bono
- Dean Edwards Farm
- Fairview Farm
- Fitch Family Heritage Farms
- Gilbert Family Farm
- Golden-Mack Family Farm
- Hammans Bro Inc Farm
- Harris Family Timber Farm
- Heritage Woods Farm
- Historical Crow House
- Jeffus Farm
- Jones Family Farm
- Killian Farms
- Kirkham Farms
- Lafayette Williams Farm
- Langham/Vierhout Farm
- Lang Farm
- M and M Timberlands Farm
- M.H. Bitely Partnership Farm
- May Farms
- Mos and Mos Farm
- Nauman Farm
- PJH Farms Inc
- Price Family Farm
- Ramey Place Farm
- Richardson, King, Smith Family Farm
- Sebree Farms, Inc. dba Fish Lake Planting Company
- Spicer Farms
- Susan McCoy Farm LLC
- Tommy Welch Farm
- Willard Thayer McDonald Farm
- Wm. Henry Sr. & Eliza A. Jackson Timber Farm
- Wright Farms
- WSBZ Farm



NUMBER OF CENTURY FARMS BY REGION

Over 645 farms have been inducted since 2012



BY REGION

Northwest: 126	Central: 139
North Central: 91	Southwest: 79
Upper Delta: 105	Lower Delta: 105



Recognizing important Arkansas farm families with a century of history.



Arkansas Department of Agriculture
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(501) 225-1598 | agriculture.arkansas.gov