



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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Arkansas Department of Agriculture to Host Public Meetings for Arkansas Water Plan Update

LITTLE ROCK, AR – In compliance with Executive Order 23-27 signed by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) is updating the Arkansas Water Plan and developing the state's first-ever statewide flood plan. As part of the comprehensive analysis required by Governor Sanders' executive order, the Department will hold public meetings to engage stakeholders in identifying current water issues, needs, and best practicable solutions.

The first meeting will be held on **March 26, 2024**, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Office, 2301 S. University Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204. The second meeting will be held on **March 27, 2024**, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences, 1371 W. Altheimer Drive, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72704. Additional public meetings will be held over the course of the planning process.

Representatives from all water use sectors, including interested water planning groups, state and federal agencies, legislators, and local entities, are encouraged to participate in the meetings. Questions about the meetings may be directed to Ryan Benefield at ryan.benefield@agriculture.arkansas.gov or at 501-682-3962.

The update of the Arkansas Water Plan and the development of a statewide flood plan is being conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of the Arkansas Water Plan is to conserve and protect the state's water resources, with a long-term goal of sustainable use to maximize the environmental and economic benefit of the State of Arkansas, and the health and well-being of its citizens. Learn more about the Arkansas Water Plan at agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/divisions/water-management/arkansas-water-plan/. Read Executive Order 23-27 at governor.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/EO-23-27-Arkansas-Water-Plan-1.pdf.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources conservation to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while sustaining natural resources and ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov/. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.