



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

B.2

March 8, 2021

The Honorable Breanne Davis
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jim Wooten
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division’s monthly activity report for February 2021

Dear Senator Davis and Representative Wooten:

Per Section 33 of Act 544 of the 2019 General Session, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for February 2021.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division responds to all types of emergencies. February dealt all of us a massive winter storm that crippled daily activities for most of the state. The Forestry Division was asked for assistance during this time.

The first request was for help clearing snow and ice from the Arkansas State Veterans Home in North Little Rock. Staff from Pulaski County and Baucum Nursery responded with equipment to clear the snow and ice from the drive and parking lot so patrons could use the facilities. The second request was to deliver a water hippo from Dermott to Arkansas City. Staff from Drew County assisted by transporting the water hippo to provide Arkansas City with much needed water.

Forestry Division staff are honored to assist the state in these and all times of emergencies.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



FORESTRY DIVISION

**Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division
February 2021 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During February a total of 115 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,862 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of February is 152 wildfires with 2,775 acres burned.

Storm Damage Assistance: ADA – Forestry Division crews did assist ADEM (WEBEOC) during the historic winter snow.

- Pulaski County assisted with snow removal at 2401 John Ashley Dr, NLR (Arkansas State Veterans Home).
- Drew County assisted with transporting a water hippo from Dermott to Arkansas City.

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists fire departments (FDs) with organization, training and equipment. RFP provides interest-free loans, secures firefighting and emergency service equipment from the federal government and administers a federal grant to assist approximately 925 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance and refurbishment to federal property destined for FDs and repairs Department of Agriculture equipment as well.

February 2021:

- There were six Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with forty-eight FDs (ninety-one firefighters), including four Forestry personnel and seven minority departments in attendance.
- Two service trucks, one brush truck, one boat/motor/trailer, six tents, one generator on a trailer and one cargo trailer were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$311,571.54).
- RFP received six hundred thirteen items from the Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) to include nozzles, pocket multi tools, ammunition chests and SCBAs (o.a.c. \$43,104.36).
- RFP received one enclosed cargo trailer (o.a.c. \$8,370.00).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on one Forestry vehicle and one FD vehicle (labor savings of \$4,930.00).
- Received rakes for the Wildland Suppression Kits. Waiting on wildland coveralls (expected around the beginning of March).

Firewise: Firewise staff and district personnel work with fire departments and civic organizations to make communities safer from the threat of wildfire through mitigation projects and community education initiatives. Arkansas is one of the top states with 96 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in **February**:

- Delivered one risk assessment training.
- Delivered national recognition signage and trophies to newest community.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: one grant presentation, eighteen Fire Chief visits, one paperwork assists, three literature distributions and two landowner assists

Law Enforcement: The department has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but primarily focuses on unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and forestry equipment theft and vandalism. The Department aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. The Department Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened six timber cases and two dumping cases. They closed two dumping cases and two fire cases.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: The Forestry Division works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect and enhance Arkansas's forests. The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is an opportunity for non-industrial private forest landowners who are interested in managing their property for wildlife, recreation, soil and water conservation, agro-forestry and/or for timber production to get a comprehensive multiple use forest management plan that is prepared by private consulting or Division foresters, private consulting or AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 292,938 acres of private land actively enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Certified Forest Stewards. There are 1,275 Forest Stewards owning 286,554 acres in the State.

During the month of February, one Forest Stewardship management plan was prepared for 40 acres. In addition, Forestry Division personnel provide technical assistance through the rural forestry program to landowners that are enrolled in USDA tree planting and forest management programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetland Reserve Program, and the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. Forestry Division personnel prepared 76 forest management practice plans on 5,040 acres and conducted 18 prescribed burns on 149 acres.

Urban & Community Forestry Assistance: Urban & Community Forestry Program staff provides assistance and training to communities, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, developers, and homeowners on urban tree care, inventory and management.

Staff achieved the following in February:

- Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) Ceremonies/Tree Plantings were held at McGehee High School and at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in Jonesboro. Due to COVID restrictions, ceremonies were held via Zoom or were limited in scope, but all trees were successfully planted, and students participated in curriculum about skin cancer prevention and the benefits of planting and maintaining community trees.
- Attended the virtual Winter Meeting of the Southern Group of State Foresters' (SGSF) Urban & Community Forestry Committee (U&CFC).
- Provided on-site recommendations for Historic Arkansas Museum administrators concerning pruning needs at the facility.
- Urban Forestry staff remotely attended the first virtual Tree City USA Conference, which was held weekly throughout the month.
- Urban & Community Forestry training presentations are being updated in preparation for offering U&CFC training to Forestry Division personnel.
- Participated in the final session of the Arkansas Environmental Education Association's statewide virtual Community Dialogues addressing environmental education challenges and ways to overcome them in Arkansas and nationwide.

Reforestation: The Forestry Division's tree improvement program strives to provide landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One method the Forestry Division employs to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. The Forestry Division's Baucum Nursery then makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which are the net result of the tree improvement program.

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

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16.

- 2021 (Total through February 28)
 - 899 total orders
 - Total sales of 897,450 pine and 4,219,525 hardwood
- 2020 Comparatively
 - 600 total orders
 - Total sales of 780,650 pine and 6,195,500 hardwood
- Lifted and packed the following:
 - 664,925 pine
 - 4,655,600 hardwood
 - 66,100 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 88,775 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine
- Total seedlings packed = 5,475,400
- Shipped the following
 - 146,600 pine
 - 3,462,250 hardwood
 - 22,575 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 68,575 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine

During the month of February, Baucum Nursery staff completed the following:

- (District- 4) Nevada County continued to repair tractors as needed.
- Assisted the NLR Veterans Home with snow removal.
- Continued receiving seed from vendors

Tree Improvement: The Division's tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed.

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

- Completed inventory of seed on hand from controlled crosses stored in the freezer.
 - This is a large undertaking to update almost 20 years of controlled crosses with correct seed counts.
 - This updated information will be used by The Western Gulf Tree Improvement Coop to assist us with planning future tests.
- Finished planting grafted trees in orchard 1721.
- Continued planting grafted trees in orchards 1718, 1719 and 1720.
- Moved rootstock into the greenhouse for grafting.
- Picked up containerized shortleaf in DeRidder LA for Baucum and delivered to Malvern and Baucum.
- Received hardwood scion material from Tree Improvement Coop at College Station.
- Received pine scion material from ArborGen.

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

BMP achieved the following in February:

- Prepared information on historical Bradley County complaint to Forest Management.
- Supplied an illegal dump location on State Forest to ADA LE.
- Completed a new exam on State Forest at Mill Creek watershed.
- Completed a new field exam in Nevada, Co. on a logging operation.
- Completed a requested post -harvest exam on tract in Faulkner County.
- Provided information to an Oregon grad. student on BMP methods.
- Worked on 319(h) grant application.

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA): Forestry Division in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station is responsible for collecting scientific data from permanently established plots located all over the state. The plots, each representing 5,937 acres, are strategically located on a three-mile by three-mile grid. The inventory plots have been generating data since they were established in the 1950's. Natural resource managers use the data to make management decisions and follow Arkansas's natural resource trends through time.

FIA completed 61 plots for the month of February. Inventory 2021 is now 15% complete.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(282,425.82)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(282,425.82)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(11,329.38)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(11,329.38)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(29,175.64)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(59,607.50)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(88,783.14)	
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(400.00)	
** OR - Rents	(400.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	0	
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	(466.15)	WEX Rebate
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0	
6200003000 Other Donations	(4,500.00)	Riding Mower
** OR - Miscellaneous	(4,966.15)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(10,424.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(398.00)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(1,758.60)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(12,580.60)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.06)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.06)	
4050002000 GRANTSUBGRANT REFUND	0	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(128.31)	Refund for overpayment

4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(128.31)
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(699,280.26)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(699,280.26)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	8,472.78
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	901.87
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	312.48
** Treasury Charges	9,687.13
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	772,621.02
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	12,763.27
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	141.18
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	55,607.28
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	130,050.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,507.64
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	119,583.23
5010008000 03 Unemployed Comp Exp	0
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	3,176.79
** Salary Expense	1,098,450.41
5020001000 Postage	0
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	4,201.84
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	180.63
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,065.76
5020005000 Freight	0
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0

** Communication & Transp. of Commodity	5,448.23
5030001000 Printing	147.85
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	0
5030004000 Film Processing	(63.53)
** Printing & Advertising	84.32
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	13,163.47
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	648.27
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	427.05
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	1,944.86
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	0
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	246.25
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	21,675.09
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	0
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	865.54
** Repairing & Servicing	38,970.53
5040001000 Electricity	12,016.32
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,386.90
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	5,536.35
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	1,200.00
5040006000 Lease Private Land	0
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,242.54
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	0

Reflective Decals; Bus. Cards

Correction from previous month

5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	103.18	
** Utilities & Rent	22,485.29	
5050001000 02 Mileage	82.32	
5050003100 02 - Meals	834.07	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,495.50	
5050004100 09 - Meals	0	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	0	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	0	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	0	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	0	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0	
** Travel & Subsistence	2,411.89	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	3,600.00	Stewardship
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0	
5060005000 Medical Fees	0.00	
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	0	
** Professional Services & Fees	3,600.00	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0	
5070007000 Other Insurance	0	
** Insurance & Bonds	0	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	0	
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0	
5080008000 Air Observe Crop Svc	0	
5080013000 Security Services	0	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	3,249.46	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	8,506.02	Baucum Nursery

5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	36.00
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	46,323.65
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	3,918.41
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	0.00
** Other Expenses & Services	62,033.54
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	0
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	0
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0
5090004000 Tires	0
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	1,844.32
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	191.89
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	1,722.63
5090006000 Office Supplies	265.28
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	0
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	4,645.75
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0
5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup	0
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	2,683.16
5090017000 02 Anim/Livest Pur/S	0
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	0
5090019000 Food Purchases	306.54
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	531.88
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	0
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	12,053.63

Cater Farm & Planting (Harvesting)
Baucum

1000 - GROCERY TOTE

5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	10,803.00	
5090026000 DP Supps	0	
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	0	
5090026200 02 CD,Dsk,Stor Media	0	
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	0	
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	0	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	0	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	587.60	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	0	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	15,195.93	Laptops; Camera
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	15,195.93	
5901080000 LVA EXP NBR(F)	0	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	66,027.54	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	12,289.45	VFA (Rakes); Mitigation
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0	
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	12,289.45	
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	1,437.50	Baucum Nursery Refunds
5110008000 License & Permits	1,433.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	2,870.50	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	456,490.71	Land; Freightliners; Donated Riding Mower
** Capital Outlay	456,490.71	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	150,532.88	
** Depreciation/Amortization	150,532.88	
6100002000 Gain/Loss FA(Full)	0	

** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0
5130030500 Inter X out-warr 04	0
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(630,000.00)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(2,353.75)
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	96,233.06
6061004501 InterAgy GR Tran-Out	0
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0
** Transfers In/Out	(536,120.69)
6092000000 Ins Settle/Restitute	0
** Insurance Proceeds	0
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	(55.50)
** Prior Year Adjustment	(55.50)
*** BALANCE	0.00