



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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B.3

Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

January 8, 2021

The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division's monthly activity report for
December 2020

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw:

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 December 2020.

In December, forestry crews suppressed 78 wildfires that burned 1,304 acres. For 2020, forestry suppressed 573 wildfires that burned 11,010 acres. This is the lowest wildfire occurrence in the 85 years of Forestry.

Four of the last thirteen years have been the lowest wildfire occurrence years in history. Statistically speaking, Arkansas is headed for a dry or drought year that can allow for greater wildfire occurrences.

In order to be prepared for a dry year recruitment of new employees, new equipment and training of all employees are priorities of the Forestry Division in 2021.

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
December 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During December a total of 78 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,304 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of December is 58 wildfires 770 acres burned.

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.

December 2020:

- There were two Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with seven FDs (twenty-eight firefighters), including one Forestry personnel in attendance.
- One aircraft, one fire truck, one brush truck, one service truck, one haz-mat decon trailer, four generators and seven toolboxes were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$611,495.82).
- RFP received one thousand six hundred fifty items from the Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) to include tools, field sacks, tourniquets, heating blankets, boots and other firefighting equipment (o.a.c. \$116,499.07)
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on six Forestry vehicles and two FD vehicles (labor savings of \$8,500.00).
- The drivers made several in-state trips along with three out-of-state trips to include Ft. Sill, OK; Eglin, FL and Red River, TX.
- 2021 Fire Show contract has been signed and submitted to Conway Expo Center along with the 2nd day deposit of \$500. They will roll over deposit from 2020 into next year's show (\$1,000). Dates: October 1st (set-up day), October 2nd (show day); Extended time 9am-3pm.
- Attended the Fire Protection Services Board Meeting 12/9. Amending the title from a "board" to a "commission".

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 December:

- Delivered recognition signage and trophies to newest community.
- Worked with multiple communities to finalize 2020 renewal submissions.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: four grant presentations, eleven Fire Chief visits, seventeen paperwork assists, three literature distributions, two landowner assists and one educational exhibit.

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 nine timber theft cases, four unlawful dumping cases, two forest fire cases and one AFC Property. They closed 0 cases in December.

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 Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) private lands wildlife biologists, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 323,501 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 1,264 Forest Stewards owning 285,087 acres in the State.

During the month of December, one Forest Stewardship management plan was prepared for 137 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 51 forest management practice plans on 3,309 acres and conducted 13 prescribed burns on 653 acres.

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

Urban achieved the following in December:

- Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) Ceremonies/Tree Plantings were held at Clinton Primary School in Hope, Raymond & Phyllis Simon Middle School in Conway, and Parkway Elementary School in Alexander. 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.
- Tree City USA communities continued holding Arbor Day ceremonies and submitting their Tree City applications for the 2020 year. Communities were granted extensions to the December 31st deadline on a case-by-case basis to allow as many cities as possible to renew, even if they were having difficulties with completing paperwork due to municipal staff being out due to COVID. It is anticipated that all 2019 Tree City USA communities will be able to again achieve recognition.
- 100 maple leaf oak seedlings from the Bluff City facility were delivered to the Garland County Master Gardeners for demo projects and personal plantings to help cultivate the species.
- Krissy Kimbro Thomason gave a presentation on pruning for Arkansas Forestry Association's Women Owning Woodlands lunch and learn program.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist assists Forestry Division personnel statewide in efforts to maintain healthy, productive forest ecosystems by preventing, detecting, monitoring and suppressing damaging insects and diseases. AR Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division offers technical assistance to landowners who encounter forest health issues.

- The Forestry Division is actively participating in the White Oak Initiative, an interagency group focused on the preservation of the white oak resource. The Forestry Division has collected white oak acorns for the Initiative's research to develop an improved seedling.
- The Arkansas Forest Health Highlights of 2020 are now available on our website: [Forest Health - Arkansas Department of Agriculture](#).

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: The Forestry 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 December 31)
 - 687 total orders
 - Total sales of 985,725 pine and 4,571,375 hardwood
- 2020 Comparatively

- 428 total orders
- Total sales of 893,025 pine and 6,553,200 hardwood
- Lifted and packed the following
 - 1,070,669 hardwood
 - 9,300 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 9,275 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine
 - Total seedlings packed = 1,089,244
- Shipped the following
 - 240,000 hardwood

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

- Completed moving irrigation pipe from fields 2, 7 and 8 to storage.
- Performed general maintenance on both lifters in preparation for lifting season.
- Bush hogged cherrybark oak progeny test.
- Picked up black walnut seed in Marshall.

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

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

- Pruned orchards 1719, 1720 and 1721.
- Double disked Hope test site in preparation for 2nd test planting.
- Inventoried hardwood grafts for scion request.
- Inventoried pine grafts for planting.
- Packed and shipped maple leaf oak to Hot Springs County for Urban Forestry.
- Processed controlled cross pinecones.
- Put out gopher bait in orchards 1719, 1720 and 172.1

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 December:

- Inspected a forest road with repair work done by logging contractor from older complaint in Nevada County.
- Inspected a new complaint from Saline County and spoke with landowners within the area. Complaint was found to be non-valid.
- Inspected a new complaint from Union County. Made contact with landowner and logging contractor for repair work needed to site during upcoming work plans.
- Spoke with Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) on the complaint in Union County. They assisted with information and guidelines to get site within BMP compliance.
- Planned for 319(h) grant application for 2021.

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 73 plots for the month of December. Field work for Inventory 2020 is now complete.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

December 2020

	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(374,456.14)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(374,456.14)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(456,052.06)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(456,052.06)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(122.60)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(20,067.55)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(20,190.15)	
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(700.00)	
** OR - Rents	(700.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	0	
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0.00	
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0	
6200003000 Other Donations	0	
** OR - Miscellaneous	0.00	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(31,557.90)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(185.00)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(1,888.89)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(33,631.79)	

4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.06)
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.06)
4050002000 GRANTSUBGRANT REFUND	(32,336.03)
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(95.01)
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	(569.39)
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(33,000.43)
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(2,947,628.15)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(2,947,628.15)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	11,233.68
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	8,018.85
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	641.75
** Treasury Charges	19,894.28
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,169,278.45
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	14,690.23
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	27.43
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	86,635.25
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	121,380.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,968.26
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	180,153.55
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0
** Salary Expense	1,576,133.17
5020001000 Postage	520.94
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	8,313.30
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	211.64
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,481.03
5020005000 Freight	95.24
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	10,622.15
5030001000 Printing	0
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0

TX A&M Forest Service - Wildland Assistance

SW Electric

District Level Invoices, 2 mos pymts

5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	(116.31)	Correction from previous month
** Printing & Advertising	(116.31)	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	18,656.28	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	583.16	
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	17.79	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	843.61	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	21,091.83	
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	1,583.28	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	10,377.20	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	6,779.97	
5030017000 Software Maintenance	3,000.00	Nic AR - large site annual maintenance
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,358.35	
** Repairing & Servicing	64,291.47	
5040001000 Electricity	8,781.50	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	6,545.36	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	2,230.00	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	600.00	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	1,800.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,087.47	
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	111.32	
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	67.53	
** Utilities & Rent	22,223.18	
5050001000 02 Mileage	413.00	
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,458.85	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,586.85	
5050004100 09 - Meals	6.67	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	1,905.20	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	0	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,125.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	100.00	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0	

** Travel & Subsistence	6,595.57	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	800.00	Stewardship
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0	
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	2,600.00	Invasive Plant Project
** Professional Services & Fees	3,400.00	
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	776.51	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	1,463.75	Baucum Nursery
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	0	
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0	
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	8,374.38	Cater Farm & Planting Baucum Nursery
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	4,337.16	
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	0	
** Other Expenses & Services	14,951.80	
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	0	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	0	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	16.35	
5090004000 Tires	2,402.06	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	1,407.90	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	130.13	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	2,432.68	
5090006000 Office Supplies	2,809.95	
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	0	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	47.00	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0	
5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup	0	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0	

5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	19.78
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	8,680.45
5090017000 02 Anim/Livest Pur/S	0
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	2,246.26
5090019000 Food Purchases	637.55
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	688.01
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	768.21
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	202,691.17
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	3,532.14
5090026000 DP Supps	631.00
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	160.34
5090026200 02 CD,Dsk,Stor Media	18.48
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	420.72
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	719.70
5090027000 Software/Licenses	0
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	4,091.79
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	838.70
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	3,467.47
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	0
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	0
5901080000 LVA EXP NBR(F)	0
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	238,857.84
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	50,850.00
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	50,850.00
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	1,080.00
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	1,080.00
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0
** Refunds	0
5900003000 Capital Outlay	2,153,131.01
** Capital Outlay	2,153,131.01
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	144,097.35
** Depreciation/Amortization	144,097.35

Mitigation; SPB

Land Purchase; System Analyzer

6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	930,000.00
5130030500 Inter X out-warr 04	(930,000.00)
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(853,512.23)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(111.00)
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	108,142.64
6061004501 InterAgy GR Tran-Out	0
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	102,055.00
** Transfers In/Out	(643,425.59)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0
** Prior Year Adjustment	0
*** BALANCE	0.00