

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
AGENCY (400) - 2011-13 BIENNIUM - EXECUTIVE RECOMMENATION

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

Act 1978 of 2005 created the Agriculture Department. Its mission is to develop and implement policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep them competitive in world markets while ensuring safe food, fiber and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation.

The Agency began operations on August 15, 2005. The Department was charged with administering and coordinating the activities of 3 agencies placed in the Department. These are the Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission and the Arkansas State Plant Board. The office of the State Land surveyor is now housed in the Arkansas Agriculture Department. During the 2007 - 2009 biennium, the Aquaculture program was added to the Agriculture budget.

MISSION - LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMISSION

To safeguard human and animal health, assure food safety and quality and promote Arkansas livestock and poultry industries. Controls interstate and intrastate movement of livestock, ensures compliance with State and Federal disease control regulations by surveying auctions, barns, state lines, livestock dealers, and garbage feeding establishments; also administers Egg and Poultry Inspection Program.

MISSION - PLANT BOARD

The board samples and analyzes agricultural production for quality assurance; performs inspections, testing and grading to protect against harmful insects, plant diseases and noxious weeds; provides enforcement of quarantines and regulations; enforcement of pest control, nursery, and apiary rules and regulations; and checks the accuracy of commercial weighing and measuring devices.

MISSION - FORESTRY COMMISSION

Protect and develop forest resources, detect and suppress wildfires, monitor forest health, promote reforestation, provide forest management assistance to private landowners, and assist rural fire departments.

TOTAL BIENNIAL BUDGET

The operating budget for the Arkansas Agriculture Department for FY12 is \$73,278,940 and \$73,219,940 for FY13.

FUNDING SOURCE

The budget is funded by general revenue, special revenue, cash and federal funds.

II) CHANGES/APPROPRIATIONS

AGRI SECRETARY'S OFFICE

The total General Revenue funding is \$1,106,330 for each year of the biennium for the Agri Secretary's Office which includes the Division of Land Survey and Department of Aquaculture.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY COMMISSION

The General Revenue funding for the Livestock and Poultry Commission is \$3,934,905 each year for operations and \$736,780 each year for Show Premiums. The changes for this agency include:

- Restoration and/or increase of appropriation in various programs funded by fees or federal funds to replace equipment.
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PLANT BOARD

The total General Revenue funding for each year for operations of the Plant Board is \$2,596,411.

FORESTRY COMMISSION

The Forestry Commission Base Level General Revenue funding for each year of the biennium is \$8,214,217. An increase in General Revenue funding of \$160,062 is provided each year for the following:

- \$61,000 for increased telecommunication costs, \$9,000 for wireless costs, \$20,000 increased fuel costs and \$30,000 for seed fertilizer increases and an increase of \$15,000 each year to support the annual Fire Boat School. The additional amount will also cover the reclassification of 20 Forest Rangers positions.

In addition to the General Revenue increases. The agency's changes include:

- Additional appropriation of \$1,000,000 each year to support the Firewise Communities Program.
- Additional federal appropriation of \$4,192,000 each year to enable the Forestry Commission to acquire conservation easements.

III) POSITIONS

Total positions for 2011-13 biennium:627

Total positions for FY 2011:627

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

* BUFFALO GNAT CONTROL PROGRAM - The Buffalo Gnat Program is for Miller, Lafayette, Little River and parts of Hempstead counties.

* EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT - Funds shall be used to reimburse members of high school 4H clubs, high school FFA clubs and Miss Arkansas Rodeo for expenses incurred at national conferences and events.

* FUND TRANSFER - The Livestock and Poultry Director with prior review of the Legislative Council and approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer may transfer funds from the Livestock and Poultry Equine Infectious Anemia Control Fund to the Livestock and Poultry Fund Account.

* TRANSFER PROVISION-PEST ERADICATION - Appropriation may be transferred from the Pest Eradication Program special line item to Reg. Salaries, Extra Help, Overtime, and Pers. Svcs. Matching if the Board determines that pest eradication efforts require additional personnel expenses, with the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer and review by the Legislative Council.

* EXTRA HELP PROVISION: No Extra Help employee may receive an amount to exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ or 75% of maximum annual salary for comparable position or be employed for more than nine months or 1400 hours in any single fiscal year.

* TRANSFER PROVISION - The State Forestry Commission may transfer from Extra Help or Professional Fees if temporary firefighters, dispatchers or pilots are required to meet demands of a wildfire season.

* REFUND TO EXPENDITURE - The Arkansas Forestry Commission is authorized to charge fees to federal agencies and other states to reimburse for expenditures made on behalf of these governmental units.

* ALLOCATION RESTRICTIONS - The Secretary of Agriculture shall at no time designate general revenue allocations to the State Plant Board, Livestock and Poultry and Forestry Commission at a level less than the revenue distribution provided in the Official Forecast of state general revenue in effect for each of those agencies.