

POCKET FACTS

2021



# Arkansas Agriculture Profile

**UofA**

**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

*University of Arkansas System*

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# QUICK FACTS

Arkansas Agriculture contributed  
**14.6% of the state value added**

WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY

**\$19.4 Billion in value added.<sup>a</sup>**



In 2020

**42%**

of Arkansas land was  
comprised of farms.

**42,200 Farms** on 14.0 million acres  
with an average farm size of **332 acres.**

**57%** of the state is comprised of forests.

 = 1,000 FARMS

Source: IMPLAN, 2021; USCB, 2010; USDA NASS, 2021a; USDA FS, 2021  
<sup>a</sup>Value added includes labor income, plus indirect taxes and other property-type income generated by agricultural production, processing, and ag-related activities. Value added directly by food retail activities are excluded. Government payments are included.

# QUICK FACTS

In 2020, Arkansas **average farm real estate value was \$3,350 per acre.**

- Total farm real estate value: \$46.9 billion
- Average cropland value: \$2,880 per acre
  - irrigated cropland: \$3,360 per acre
  - non-irrigated: \$2,100 per acre
- Average pasture land: \$2,650 per acre

Organic production in Arkansas grew significantly from 2012 to 2017. By 2017, the number of farms selling organically produced commodities had increased from 32 farms to 69. During this time, **sales of organic products increased by almost 3,000 percent**, from \$789,000 in 2012 to over \$24 million in 2017.



Source: USDA NASS, 2020; USDA NASS, 2019

## In 2019, Arkansas' top commodities

in terms of cash farm receipts<sup>a</sup> were:



**\$3,610 Million**



Soybeans

**\$1,198 Million**



Rice

**\$1,065 Million**

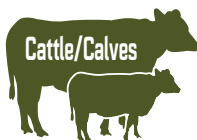


**\$504 Million**



Corn

**\$464 Million**



**\$452 Million**



**\$445 Million<sup>b</sup>**



**\$407 Million<sup>c</sup>**



**\$334 Million**

Source: USDA ERS, 2021a

<sup>a</sup>Cash farm receipt values do not include government payments received by farmers

<sup>b</sup>Timber value is listed in terms of stumpage value paid to landowners for standing timber

# Ahead of the Curve

Arkansas consistently ranks in the  
**top one-third of the nation**  
for agricultural cash farm receipts.

In 2019, Arkansas ranked  
**15th in the Nation**

WITH

**\$8.5**  
**BILLION**<sup>a</sup>

for total agricultural cash receipts.

- **No. 11 in animals and animal products**  
valued at \$5.1 billion.
- **No. 17 in crops**, valued at \$3.4 billion.

Source: USDA ERS, 2021a

<sup>a</sup>This estimate represents only crop and animal production, the value of government payments and timber are excluded

**Arkansas is in the top 25 states** in the production of the following agricultural commodities: (2020 Production Year)<sup>a</sup>

- **No. 1 in Rice**
- **No. 3 in Broilers**
- **No. 3 in Cotton (upland)**
- **No. 3 in Cottonseed**
- **No. 4 in Catfish (foodsize)**
- **No. 4 in Turkeys**
- **No. 7 in Peanuts**
- **No. 10 in Chicken Eggs**
- **No. 11 in Beef Cows<sup>b</sup>**
- **No. 11 in Soybeans**
- **No. 18 in Corn for Grain**
- **No. 21 in Hay**
- **No. 22 in Oats**
- **No. 23 in Cattle & Calves**
- **No. 23 in Honey**
- **No. 24 in Hogs & Pigs**

*Note:* Beginning in 2016, the USDA stopped reporting values for blueberries, grapes, peaches, pecans, tomatoes and watermelons for Arkansas. In 2020 reporting was also discontinued for sweet potatoes and grain sorghum. Therefore, annual rankings are no longer available for these crops.

Source: USDA NASS, 2021b

<sup>a</sup> Data for some states are unavailable due to nondisclosure, especially for livestock and livestock products commodities. As a result, these states are not included in the rankings, which may affect Arkansas' actual rank.

<sup>b</sup> Beef cows is a Jan. 1, 2020, inventory comprised of "beef cows that have calved" and "beef cow replacement heifers 500 pounds and over."

# Arkansas Counts on Agriculture

**ARKANSAS' AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**  
is a vital and growing component  
of the state's economy.

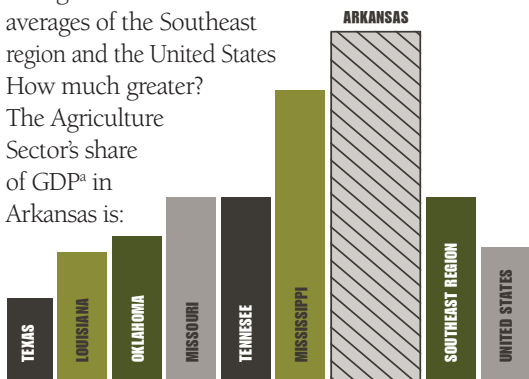




The Aggregate Agriculture Sector's share of the state economy is much greater for Arkansas than for any contiguous state and for the averages of the Southeast region and the United States

How much greater?

The Agriculture Sector's share of GDP<sup>a</sup> in Arkansas is:



## The Agriculture Sector's Share of the State Economy

- 4.2 times greater than in Texas
- 2.7 times greater than in Louisiana
- 2.4 times greater than in Oklahoma
- 1.9 times greater than in Missouri
- 1.9 times greater than in Tennessee
- 1.2 times greater than in Mississippi
- 1.9 times greater than for the Southeast<sup>b</sup> region
- 2.6 times greater than for the U.S. as a whole

Source: USDC BEA, 2020; English, Popp, and Miller, 2021a

<sup>a</sup>Calculations based on the percent contribution of the Agriculture Sector to state GDP in 2019. GDP by state represents the market value of goods and services produced by the labor and property located in a state. GDP does not factor in the impact of subsidies and/or taxes on products, which are captured in value added estimates.

<sup>b</sup>The Southeast is defined by BEA to include the states AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and WV, and is not the sum of Arkansas's contiguous states listed in the table.

## Commodity Production and Value, 2020

Commodity	Acres Harvested	Production (thousands)	Value (thousands)
Broilers <sup>a</sup>	N/A	7,347,900 LBS	\$2,681,984
Soybeans	2,780,000	139,000 BU	\$1,542,900
Rice	1,441,000	108,107 CWT	\$1,297,284
Chicken Eggs <sup>a</sup>	N/A	3,816,300 EGGS	\$567,580
Corn for Grain	605,000	111,320 BU	\$439,714
Turkeys <sup>a</sup>	N/A	595,200 LBS	\$421,997
Cotton (upland) <sup>b</sup>	520,000	1,300 BALES	\$413,712
Timber	N/A	22,505 TONS	\$367,887
Cattle & Calves	N/A	516,854 LBS	\$356,025
Hay	1,273,000	2,677 TONS	\$289,956
Cottonseed <sup>b</sup>	N/A	418 TONS	\$81,928
Hogs & Pigs	N/A	99,437 LBS	\$40,325
Peanuts	38,000	182,400 LBS	\$35,386
Wheat	75,000	4,125 BU	\$22,894
Catfish (foodsize)	N/A	15,700 LBS	\$16,642
Honey	N/A	980 LBS	\$1,764
Oats	5,000	320 BU	\$960

Source: USDA NASS 2021b; AFRC, 2021

<sup>a</sup>Total Poultry Industry (Broilers, Turkeys, and Chicken Eggs): \$3,672M

<sup>b</sup>Total Cotton Industry (Upland Cotton and Cottonseed): \$496M



## Five-Year Production Highs, 2016-2020

Commodity	Year	Production (thousands)
Beef Cows (inventory) <sup>a</sup>	2019	1,091 HEAD
Broilers	2019	7,429,000 LBS
Catfish (foodsize)	2019	18,600 LBS
Cattle & Calves	2018	528,300 LBS
Chicken Eggs	2019	3,573,700 EGGS
Corn for Grain	2016	127,395 BU
Cotton (upland)	2019	1,506 BALES
Cottonseed	2019	472 TONS
Grain Sorghum <sup>d</sup>	2016	3,212 BU
Hay	2019	2,760 TONS
Hogs & Pigs	2019	122,837 LBS
Honey	2017	1,972 LBS
Oats	2017	680 BU
Peanuts	2020	182,400 LBS
Rice	2020	108,107 CWT
Soybeans	2017	178,500 BU
Sweet Potatoes <sup>cd</sup>	2018	1,056 CWT
Timber	2019	24,197 TONS
Turkeys	2017	587,050 LBS
Wheat	2017	6,500 BU

**Note:** beginning in 2016, the USDA discontinued reporting for blueberries, grapes, peaches, pecans, tomatoes, and watermelons for Arkansas. Therefore, five year production rankings are no longer available for these crops.

Source: USDA NASS 2021b; AFRC, 2021

<sup>a</sup>Beef cows is a Jan 1, 2020 inventory comprised of "beef cows that have calved" and "beef cow replacement heifers 500 pounds and over"

<sup>b</sup>Estimates discontinued for Arkansas in 2016

<sup>c</sup>Estimates undisclosed for Arkansas in 2016 and 2017

<sup>d</sup>Estimates discontinued for Arkansas in 2020

Release of the 2017 Census of Agriculture provides the opportunity to highlight additional crops where annual reporting is limited. The most recent Census indicates that Arkansas ranks in the top 25 states by value for the following 16 commodities <sup>a</sup>

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Value</b> (thousands)	<b>Rank</b>
Baitfish	\$26,530	1
Sport or Game Fish	\$15,947	1
Greenhouse Fruits & Berries	\$245	3
Rabbits, Live	\$226	9
Other Aquaculture <sup>b</sup>	\$122	10
Mules, Burros, Donkeys	\$236	14
Other Livestock <sup>b</sup>	\$544	17
Meat Goats	\$1,921	18
Flower Seeds	\$15	19
Sod Harvested	\$15,918	20
Trout	\$2,717	20
Goats (All)	\$2,271	22
Other Floriculture & Bedding Crops	\$350	22
Other Food Fish <sup>b</sup>	\$10	22
Bulbs, Corms, Rhizomes, & Tubers	\$57	25
Foliage Plants, Indoor	\$1,017	25

Additionally, the most recent Census of Agriculture indicates that Arkansas ranks in the top 25 states in acres harvested for the following 28 commodities <sup>a</sup>

Source: USDA, NASS, 2019

<sup>a</sup>Rankings were estimated from values disclosed in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Nondisclosure of values for some states may affect the ranking values shown in this table.

<sup>b</sup>Commodities denoted as "other" refer to an aggregation of products not having a specific code on the census report within their respective categories.

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Acres Harvested</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Sorghum for Syrup	43	4
Turnip Greens	734	4
Blackberries & Dewberries	501	6
Pecans	15,736	6
Fescue Seed	78	7
Green Southern Blackeyed Peas	284	11
Short Rotation Woody Crops	137	11
Okra	82	11
Figs	8	14
Watermelons	1,822	14
Hazelnuts	31	15
Mustard Greens	68	15
Tomatoes	952	15
Almonds	1	16
Other Non-Citrus Fruit <sup>b</sup>	26	16
Summer Squash	578	17
Forage	1,343,033	18
Other Nuts <sup>b</sup>	42	19
Persimmons	16	19
Collards	32	20
Grapes	956	21
English Walnuts	33	21
Squash, All	660	22
Peaches	669	23
Sorghum for Silage	1,021	23
Beans, Green Lima	6	24
Sweet Cherries	20	24
Blueberries	356	25

# Arkansas Agriculture Snapshot

Arkansas' diverse portfolio of livestock products and crops supports the value of the Agriculture Sector year in and year out

## Arkansas Ag Exports

In 2019, there were 42,300 farms in Arkansas (USDA NASS, 2021a) These farms generated a net farm income of \$976.3 million (USDA ERS, 2021b)

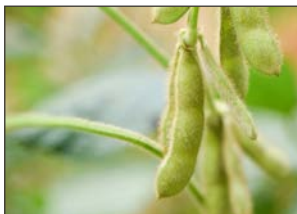
For 2019, Arkansas ranked 16th in total agricultural exports with a value of \$3.1 billion (USDA ERS, 2021c) Rice generated the highest export value for the state, bringing in \$722 million in 2019 That same year, Arkansas ranked in the top ten in the nation for exports of four commodities:

- **No. 1 in rice** (valued at \$722 million)
- **No. 2 in broilers** (valued at \$412 million)
- **No. 4 in other poultry** (valued at \$138 million)
- **No. 5 in cotton** (valued at \$427 million)



In 2019 Arkansas ranked 35th in overall GDP at \$131.0 billion. However, when looking at the share of GDP generated by agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, Arkansas ranked 11th overall in the nation (USDC BEA, 2020). In terms of agricultural cash farm receipts in 2019, Arkansas ranked 15th with a value of \$8.5 billion, contributing 2.3% to the U.S. total cash farm receipt value. Arkansas ranked 17th in total crop cash farm receipts at \$3.4 billion and 11th in total livestock cash receipts at \$5.1 billion (USDA ERS, 2021a).

In terms of value, Arkansas' top two commodities for 2019 were broilers and soybeans. Bringing in \$3.6 billion, broiler production represented 42.5% of all agricultural cash farm receipts in the state. At \$1.2 billion, soybeans contributed over 14.1% to total Arkansas cash farm receipts in 2019. Rice also had a large contribution with 12.5% of total agricultural cash receipts (\$1.1 billion) for Arkansas.



# Arkansas Agriculture Snapshot

On the national-level, Arkansas continued to rank number 1 in rice and number 2 in broilers in the country, with cash receipts comprising almost 38.7% and 12.8%, respectively, of the U.S. total cash farm receipts for these commodities in 2019.

Arkansas' total cash farm receipt value decreased 7.3% between 2018 and 2019<sup>a</sup>. The animals and animal products sector, lost 10.6% of its value, while the crops sector experienced an overall loss in value of 1.9% during this time.

On the crop side, hay saw the greatest gain with cash farm receipt value increasing 23.3% between 2018 and 2019. Peanuts, cotton lint, cotton seed, rice, and corn also showed increases in value, growing by 22.9%, 19.6%, 19.2%, 3.9%, and 3.3%, respectively.



<sup>a</sup>Percentage comparisons between 2018 and 2019 values are based on real 2021 dollars. That is, our numbers are adjusted for inflation, which allows for a true “apples to apples” comparison.



Wheat showed the greatest overall loss, with cash receipt value dropping 59.8%. This was followed by oats which dropped by 43.9%, and soybeans fell 13.3%.

On the animal production side, turkey sales saw the greatest gain at 12.1%. This was followed by mohair (12.5%), and wool (7.4%). All other animal sectors showed a decline in cash receipt value from 2018 to 2019. This includes: honey (-37.2%), farm chickens (-20.0%), broilers (-13.3%), cattle and calves (-8.3%), chicken eggs (-6.1%), hogs (-6.0%), dairy products (-3.5%), and catfish (-1.6%).



# Economic Contribution of Ag

The total economic contribution of the Aggregate Agriculture Sector includes three areas of wealth and job generation

- **Direct Contributions** are generated by production and processing of crops, poultry, livestock and forest products



- **Indirect Contributions** result when agricultural firms purchase materials and services from other Arkansas businesses — a very important part of the economy in many communities



- **Induced Contributions** result when employees of agricultural firms and their suppliers spend a portion of their salaries and wages within Arkansas



Government payments — payments made directly to some recipients in the farm sector — are included in the contribution analysis. Input providers (fertilizer, pesticide and equipment manufacturers) and retail locations (restaurants, grocery stores, lawn

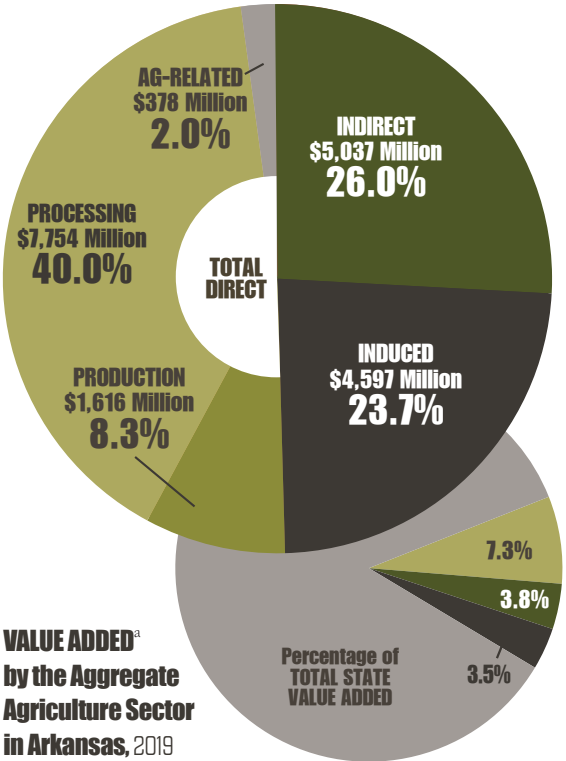
and garden centers, etc ) are not considered part of the Aggregate Agriculture Sector, but some of the economic activity of these industries and other retail stores and input providers is picked up as indirect and induced effects and included in the total contribution

These contributions are reported in terms of Jobs, Labor Income, and Value Added

- **Jobs** includes all wage and salary employees, as well as self-employed workers in a given sector
- **Labor Income** consists of proprietary income — which includes all income received by self-employed individuals — and wages, which includes all payments to workers including benefits
- **Value Added** includes Labor Income plus indirect taxes and other property-type income such as payments for rents, royalties and dividends Value Added and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are equivalent measures in theory but are estimated using different methods and data sources



# Economic Contribution of Ag



**VALUE ADDED<sup>a</sup>  
by the Aggregate  
Agriculture Sector  
in Arkansas, 2019**

Source: IMPLAN, 2021; English, Popp, and Miller, 2021b Note: Presented in 2019 \$'s  
<sup>a</sup>Value added is the sum of employee compensation, proprietary income, other property type income and indirect business taxes This includes contributions generated by agricultural production and processing, but excludes retail sales Government payments are included

**Agriculture contributes almost  
\$19.4 Billion in value added**

WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY

**1 in 7  
every**

**VALUE  
ADDED  
DOLLARS**

and provides almost **254,500 jobs**

IN ARKANSAS

# Economic Contribution of Ag

Agriculture and associated agricultural activities are major contributors to the Arkansas economy. The total economic contribution of Arkansas' Aggregate Agriculture Sector includes all direct, indirect, and induced effects generated through agricultural production, processing, and agriculture-related activities within the state.

## Total Contribution of Arkansas Agriculture, 2019

- **254,476 Jobs** – 1 out of 7 Arkansas jobs
- **\$10,098 Million in Wages** – 13.9% of the state total
- **\$12,156 Million in Labor Income** – 15.0% of the state total
- **\$19,381 Million in Value Added** – \$1 out of \$7 in Arkansas

Source: IMPLAN, 2021; English, Popp, and Miller, 2021b



## Value Added Contributions

Value Added By the Aggregate Agricultural Sector in AR, 2019			
Contribution Area	Value (Millions)	% of Total Contribution	% of State Total
Direct	\$9,748	50.3	7.3
Indirect	\$5,037	26.0	3.8
Induced	\$4,597	23.7	3.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,381</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14.6</b>

The far-reaching contributions of agriculture are seen in the distribution of Value Added<sup>a</sup> throughout the economy

Value Added Generated by Ag in Top Five NAICS Industries <sup>b</sup>	
Industry	Value (Millions)
Manufacturing	\$7,882
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$1,994
Wholesale Trade	\$1,844
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	\$1,398
Transportation and Warehousing	\$924
<b>Top Five Total</b>	<b>\$14,042</b>
(72.5% of all Value Added generated by Agriculture)	

Source: IMPLAN, 2021; English, Popp, and Miller, 2021b

<sup>a</sup>Value added is the sum of employee compensation, proprietary income, other property type income and indirect business taxes. This includes contributions generated by agricultural production and processing, but excludes retail sales.

<sup>b</sup>Groupings based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) aggregation.

# Economic Contribution of Ag

## Employment Contributions

<b>Employment By the Aggregate Agricultural Sector in AR, 2019</b>			
<b>Contribution Area</b>	<b>Jobs</b>	<b>% of Total Contribution</b>	<b>% of State Total</b>
Direct	144,928	57.0	8.7
Indirect	49,873	19.6	3.0
Induced	59,674	23.4	3.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>254,476</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15.3</b>

Arkansas' Aggregate Agriculture Sector generates employment in all 20 industries in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) used for economic analysis

<b>Jobs Generated by Ag in Top Five NAICS Industries<sup>a</sup></b>	
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Jobs</b>
Manufacturing	82,394
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	63,437
Transportation and Warehousing	12,440
Health Care and Social Assistance	12,241
Wholesale Trade	10,962
<b>Top Five Total</b>	<b>181,474</b>
(71.3% of all Jobs generated by agriculture)	

Source: IMPLAN, 2021; English, Popp, and Miller, 2021b

<sup>a</sup>Groupings based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) aggregation



## Labor Income Contributions

<b>Labor Income By the Aggregate Agricultural Sector in AR, 2019</b>			
<b>Contribution Area</b>	<b>Value</b> (Millions)	<b>% of Total Contribution</b>	<b>% of State Total</b>
Direct	\$6,658	54.8	8.2
Indirect	\$2,928	24.1	3.6
Induced	\$2,570	21.1	3.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>

Value is further spread throughout the economy by the spending of labor income by individuals whose jobs are upheld by agriculture

<b>Labor Income Generated by Ag in Top Five NAICS Industries<sup>a</sup></b>	
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Value</b> (Millions)
Manufacturing	\$4,530
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$2,187
Wholesale Trade	\$872
Transportation and Warehousing	\$694
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$692
<b>Top Five Total</b>	<b>\$8,974</b>
(73.8% of all Labor Income generated by Agriculture)	

Source: IMPLAN, 2021; English, Popp, and Miller, 2021b

<sup>a</sup>Groupings based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) aggregation

## **Arkansas Forest Resources Center**

Forests support multiple ecosystems and economies in the Natural State and the faculty of the Arkansas Forest Resources Center is conducting research, education and outreach on multiple fronts to ensure our forests are here for the long run

Forest products, plus related recreational opportunities such as hunting and hiking, are major contributors to Arkansas' economy

“We serve a unique and significant niche in Arkansas,” said Michael Blazier, the new dean of the College of Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello “We are the only forestry program of its kind in Arkansas ”

Vic Ford, associate vice president-extension-agriculture and natural resources, said “the AFRC is



very important to the mission of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture in terms of getting forestry, wildlife and natural resources information out to the people of the state Arkansas, The Natural State, has a diverse forest cover and supplies wood, clean water,

# Sustainability

clean air, abundant wildlife, and excellent fisheries Research and extension programs that focus on conserving and managing these natural resources for



future generations will allow the citizens of Arkansas to enjoy the outdoors while adding to the economy of the state ”

The Arkansas Forest Resources Center, which has faculty at UAM as well as in Little Rock, is a Center of Excellence within the University of Arkansas System and is funded in part by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Its faculty are working the issue of forest sustainability from multiple angles including forest health, enhancing and restoring wildlife habitat and populations, impacts of forestry and natural resources on the Arkansas economy, as well as looking at the effects of a wide range of human interactions in forestland

“We are in the Delta region, which is a landscape rich with bottomland hardwood forests, farmland, and waterways, and they interact in complex ways That landscape is a great place for our programs,” Blazier said

# Promoting Agricultural and Rural

“We’ve got faculty working statewide, and they’re working on a wide array of issues,” he said “We have research on maintaining forest health and productivity as well as restoring forest ecosystems like shortleaf pine and wildlife populations like black bear ”

In 2021, UAM announced the creation of the Center for Forest Business “This Center will help the forest industry, general public, policy-makers and other stakeholders better understand the county and regional economic impacts of forestry throughout Arkansas,” Blazier said

Forest sustainability is a key issue for AFRC Blazier said “we are focusing on having more boots on the ground to increase the number of certified sustainable forests in Arkansas So many of our forest products facilities have an international business footprint That certification is helpful to those businesses for



demonstrating their products come from sustainably managed forests ”

## **Arkansas Forest Resources Center Faculty**

- **Ryan Askren** – *Waterfowl biology & ecology*
- **Benjamin Babst** – *Forest ecology & tree ecophysiology*
- **Mohammad Bataineh** – *Forest entomology*
- **Kyle Cunningham** – *Extension forestry specialist*
- **Robert Ficklin** – *Soil and plant interactions & sustainability*
- **Rebecca McPeake** – *Extension wildlife specialist*
- **Doug Osborne** – *Wildlife management in waterfowl, turkeys and hardwood bird species, & director of the Five Oaks Ag Research & Education Center*
- **Tiffany Osborne** – *Wildlife research & youth natural resources outreach*
- **Matt Pelkki** – *Economist & director of the Center for Forest Business*
- **Elana Rubino** – *Human dimensions in natural resources*
- **Pradip Saud** – *Biometrics & applied predictive statistics*
- **Nana Tian** – *Economic issues & human dimensions in natural resources*
- **Don White** – *Wildlife ecologist, track black bear population resources*
- **Hamdi Zurqani** – *Remote sensing technologies*

To learn more about the work being done by the AFRC, visit [uamont.edu/academics/CFANR/afrc.html](http://uamont.edu/academics/CFANR/afrc.html)

# Promoting Agricultural and Rural

## Arkansas Discovery Farms

Farmers often learn best from other farmers, and that's the premise behind the Arkansas Discovery Farms program, begun in 2009

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's researchers and extension faculty work with producers to measure the effects of farming on soil and water and find ever more sustainable means of producing the world's food, fuel and fiber

The project is a way to test new methods in a real-world laboratory in cooperation with the very farmers the work is meant to help

The partnership is one of trust; understanding that the work does not come out of an ivory tower, but from their own fields



“It's empowering for the producer to see what's coming off the land,” said Mike Daniels, water quality and nutrient management specialist with the University of Arkansas

# Sustainability

System Division of Agriculture “They have never been provided data like this before and it really stimulates new thoughts for them ”

Since its establishment, the Discovery Farms program has grown to 14 farms across the state, representing the diversity of agriculture in Arkansas, including row crops, livestock and horticulture interests, scattered over different geographies

At each site, conservation practices selected for evaluation are based upon the interests and wishes of the farm owner and may coincide with regional water or soil quality issues common to many producers in the area Daniels said that “this approach is taken to involve the producer in the solution process as they know their land and their



# Promoting Agricultural and Rural

own capabilities better than anyone  
Often the farmers themselves come up with  
the best solution ”

Research is coordinated by faculty from the  
University of Arkansas System Division of  
Agriculture and is conducted in collaboration with  
federal and state agencies promoting conservation  
of our natural resources

“The effectiveness of the program comes from  
the producer, researchers and agencies working  
together as a team to be proactive about  
stewardship,” Daniels said

Two new farms were added to the roster in 2021  
One is a horticulture operation in Johnson County  
The plan for this Horticulture Discovery Farm is  
twofold: to develop better irrigation practices for





# Sustainability



## **Participating Arkansas Discovery Farms**

- **Bell Farm**, Forrest City, St. Francis County  
*Rice, corn, and soybeans with cover crop rotation*
- **Compton Farm**, Delaplaine, Greene County  
*Sustainable rice*
- **Conyer Farm**, Pine Bluff, Jefferson County  
*Rice, corn, and soybeans with cover crop rotation*
- **Dabbs Farm**, Stuttgart, Arkansas County  
*Rice, soybean, and corn rotation*
- **Haak Farm**, Gentry, Benton County  
*Dairy operation*
- **Helena Farm**, Long Lake Plantation, Phillips County  
*Corn, soybeans, and peanuts with cover crop rotation*
- **Lacy Farm**, Newport, Jackson County  
*Wildlife habitat and cover crops*
- **Marley Farm**, Lincoln, Washington County  
*Poultry operation*
- **Maus Farm**, Atkins, Pope County  
*Corn and soybean row crop farm*
- **Moore Farm**, Elkins, Washington County  
*Poultry and beef operation*
- **Morgan Farm**, Lamar, Johnson County  
*Fruit, U-pick operation*
- **Morrow Farm**, Wedington, Washington County  
*Beef operation*
- **Stevens Farm**, Dumas, Desha County  
*Cotton, soybean, corn row crop farm*
- **Wood Farm**, Cherry Valley, Cross County  
*Soybean, wheat, rice rotation*

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specialty crops and to provide specialty crop growers an on-farm demonstration of these practices. The second is a Wildlife Discovery Farm using cover crops as a conservation practice and attracting deer and waterfowl.

As COVID closed the doors to in-person events, the Arkansas Discovery Farms Program was featured in a series of Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation field trips.

Follow the Arkansas Discovery Farms on Facebook @ARDiscoveryFarms and see details of its component farms at [aaes.uada.edu/discovery-farms](https://www.aaes.uada.edu/discovery-farms)

The Arkansas Discovery Farms Program is supported by a host of sponsors and industry stakeholders who ensure research addresses the needs of Arkansas farmers in a proactive manner.



## **Agriculture's Contribution Across the U.S.**

Economic impact and contribution analyses are an increasingly popular method for illustrating the importance of food, fiber, and forestry to state and local economies. In 2015, CARS researchers conducted a survey of agricultural economists which showed vast differences in methods used to conduct contribution studies. The survey results suggested a need for further discussion, as well as the development of additional resources to aid researchers in conducting these types of studies.

CARS researchers have taken the lead in opening this discussion and are working to develop resources for enhancing the consistency and clarity of contribution of agriculture research. To provide a central location for ongoing discussion and research, they have launched a website called The Economic Contributions and Impacts of U.S. Food, Fiber, and Forest Industries.

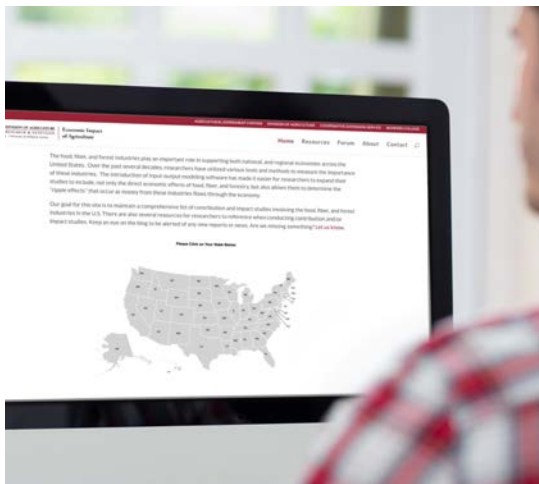
**The website contains a list of known contribution and impact studies involving the food, fiber, and forest industries in the U.S.**

There are also several resources for researchers to

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reference, as well as a forum for the discussion of various topics. It can be found by visiting **[economic-impact-of-ag.uada.edu](http://economic-impact-of-ag.uada.edu)**

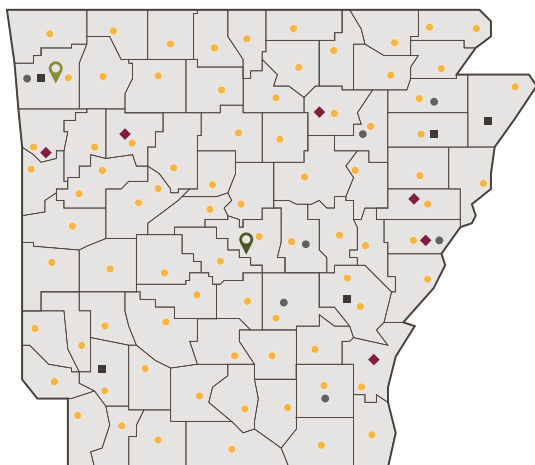
To have your study listed on the website, or to join the discussion regarding the development of common methodologies for agricultural contribution studies, send us an email at [cars@uark.edu](mailto:cars@uark.edu)



# Arkansas Is Our Campus

The U of A System Division of Agriculture conducts research and extension programs to support Arkansas agriculture in its broadest definition

Our employees include Cooperative Extension Service faculty in all 75 counties and Agricultural Experiment Station scientists, extension specialists and support personnel on five university campuses and at five research and extension centers and six research stations and two extension centers



- 📍 Division & CES Headquarters, Little Rock
- 📍 AAES Headquarters, Fayetteville
- Research & Extension Centers

- ◆ Research Stations
- Associated Research & Extension Units
- County Extension Offices

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