

Landowner Resources for Wildlife Habitat Assistance

Rebecca McPeake
Professor - Wildlife

Nancy Young
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

David Long
Arkansas Game and
Fish Commission

Assistance is available for Arkansas private landowners who voluntarily implement management practices promoting sustainable land use and conservation. Practices that reduce soil erosion and improve water quality benefit wildlife and forest resources. Many government and non-government agencies and organizations provide assistance for practices which improve our wildlife, forest and water resources (Figure 1). These agencies and organizations offer:

- Technical assistance on integrated management plans for wildlife, forestry and agriculture.



Figure 1. County Extension agents can assist landowners with establishing conservation plantings which benefit wildlife. Photo by Kevin Quinn, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

- Financial incentives including cash benefits, improvement cost sharing, tax incentives, conservation easements and “free” materials for improving wildlife habitat.

Conservation programs are voluntary and have been highly successful in helping private landowners restore and preserve the natural, recreational, cultural and economic values of their property. The resulting improvements in land stewardship

benefit wildlife habitat and sustainable agriculture (Figure 2) and are essential components of state and national conservation initiatives.

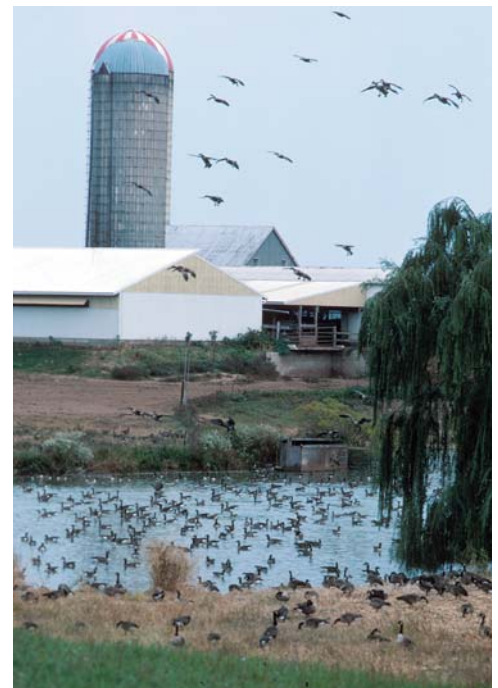


Figure 2. Land stewardship practices benefit wildlife and promote sustainable agriculture. Photo by Tim McCabe, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Though we update information in this publication periodically, programs can change fairly rapidly. Therefore, always check with the responsible agency or organization for more detailed information and updates about their program.

Information presented in this fact sheet will cover sources for technical assistance. For programs offering financial assistance, see FSA9104, *Financial Assistance for Wildlife Habitat*.

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Technical Assistance

Several wildlife and natural resource professionals provide guidance about improving wildlife habitat on privately owned land. Many services from government agencies are free of charge.

Private Lands Biologist.

Provides wildlife technical assistance to private landowners. Conducts site visits and cooperates with landowner by writing a wildlife habitat plan for 40 or more acres. For less than 40 acres, written wildlife management information may be provided. Provides technical support for Farm Bill conservation programs. Contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and ask for the private lands biologist in your region (800-364-4263 or www.agfc.com).



County Forester. Land

examinations, forest management plans, forest health assessments and advice about disease and insect control are available free of charge. AFC foresters also offer fee-based services such as fire lane construction, prescribed burning and timber marking. To receive help managing your forestland, contact the Arkansas Forestry Commission (501-296-1940 or <http://www.forestry.state.ar.us/>).



Consulting Forester (private practice). Provides scientific and long-term financial alternatives based upon the landowner's objectives for a fee. Is knowledgeable about local markets and pricing your timber. A list of certified forestry consultants is available from the Arkansas Forestry Commission (501-296-1940 or <http://www.forestry.state.ar.us/manage/consultantforesters>).

District Conservationist.

Assists in planning and applying conventional conservation practices on farmed land to maintain or improve production while conserving soil and water resources. Assists with wetland determination and technical assistance for several Farm Bill programs. Visit your local USDA Service Center (<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>) or locate the district conservationist in your area by contacting the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Arkansas (501-301-3122 or www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/).



Stream Team Coordinator.

Offers technical and financial (cost-share) support for reducing streambank erosion and improving wildlife and fish habitat on private property. Contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and ask for the Stream Team coordinator in your region (800-364-4263 or www.agfc.com).



University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

Agents. County-based assistance with collecting soil samples and identifying suitable plantings and herbicides and some wildlife management. Contact the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service and ask for the Extension agriculture agent in your county (501-671-2000 or www.uaex.uada.edu).



Additional Arkansas Habitat Programs

Tree Farm Program. The Arkansas Forestry Association administers the Tree Farm Program in Arkansas, a certification program that recognizes landowners who are good stewards of their forestland. About 4,500 certified tree farmers in Arkansas participate in forest management workshops and other educational opportunities. Members must own at least 10 acres of forest that are privately owned, tax-paying forestlands. (Certain Scout, 4-H and municipal lands may qualify.) Contact the Arkansas Forestry Association toll free at 888-698-7337 or www.arkforests.org.

Tree Seedling Program. The Arkansas Forestry Commission owns and operates a tree improvement complex and a tree seedling nursery for production of pine and hardwood seedlings (Figure 3) for sale to private landowners. Seedling price list and order forms may be obtained at any Forestry Commission office or online, or seedlings can be purchased online at www.forestry.state.ar.us. Purchase seedlings early (i.e., July) as supplies are limited. Contact the Arkansas Forestry Commission (501-296-1940 or <http://www.forestry.state.ar.us/>).



Figure 3. Bundles of tree seedlings can be purchased for a nominal cost from the Arkansas Forestry Commission. Photo by Lynn Betts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Additional Information Resources

Arkansas State Plant Board. The mission of the Arkansas State Plant Board is to protect and serve the citizens of Arkansas and the agricultural and business communities by providing information and unbiased enforcement of laws and regulations, thus ensuring quality products and services. Contact the Plant Board at 501-225-1598 or <http://www.plantboard.org/>.

Aquaculture and Fisheries

Center of Excellence. The Aquaculture and Fisheries Center of Excellence at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff was created in 1988 to combine resident instruction, research and extension responsibilities into one comprehensive unit. The Center provides comprehensive extension programs and services to Arkansas and other states to transfer newly developed techniques and research information into real-world practice. These include diagnostic services to identify fish diseases and water quality problems and recommend treatments. The Center organizes educational meetings, farm demonstrations and field days; publishes fact sheets on important issues; and responds as quickly as possible to calls for assistance from county agents, fish farmers, farm pond owners and natural resource managers. Contact the Center at 870-575- 8141 or <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/aqfi/>.



Arkansas Forest Resources

Center. The mission of the Arkansas Forest Resources Center is to develop and deliver superior programs in education, research and extension that enhance and ensure the sustainability of forest-based natural resources. The Center is a source of forest resources knowledge through the discovery, synthesis and dissemination of new and existing information. Its integrated programs assist in achieving sustainable forest and related resources and an improved quality of life for the people of Arkansas, the south-central region, the nation and the world. Contact the Arkansas Forest Resources Center at 870-460-1052 or www.afrc.uamont.edu.



Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was created in 1982. The Foundation's mission is to acquire and provide financial support for properties and facilities for conservation education programs, wildlife habitat and land for game and fish management programs. The Foundation works to develop, promote and participate in conservation education programs for educators, students and all other Arkansans and to help assure the future of high-quality hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities in Arkansas while supporting the mission of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Contact the Foundation at 501-223-6396 or <http://www.agff.org>.

Arkansas Wildlife Federation.

The Arkansas Wildlife Federation is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1936 to represent citizens who care about the wildlife, waters and wild lands of Arkansas. Its mission is to promote conservation, responsible management and sustainable use of Arkansas' fish and wildlife habitat, natural



resources and outdoor recreational opportunities through education and advocacy. It is the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. Contact the Arkansas Wildlife Federation at 877-945-2543 or www.arkansaswildlifefederation.org.

Audubon Arkansas.

Audubon Arkansas has employees who are engaged in (1) restoration and protection of watersheds and other habitats important to birds and other wildlife, (2) citizen involvement in science and habitat protection, (3) environmental education for young people and (4) public outreach and education. The staff and volunteers can advise landowners about wildlife habitat and, in particular, non-game birds such as songbirds, waterbirds, birds of prey, etc. Contact Audubon Arkansas (501-244-2229 or <http://ar.audubon.org>).

National Wild Turkey Federation – Arkansas

Chapter. The NWTf (www.nwtf.org) is a grassroots nonprofit organization with more than 500,000 members in 50 states, Canada, Mexico and 14 other foreign countries. It supports scientific wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional North American sport. The Arkansas Chapter reports 66 local clubs throughout the state.

Quail Unlimited®.

Quail Unlimited® (www.qu.org) was founded in 1981 to battle the problem of dwindling quail populations and declining wildlife habitat and is the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to the wise management of America's wild quail. Quail Unlimited's® core values include the wise stewardship of our land and its resources and the continuation of our proud heritage of conservation, leaving a legacy and firm foundation upon which our youth and families can build. Quail Unlimited® members are from all walks of life, but they all have the common thread of being interested in quail conservation now and for the future.



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The mission of the Elk Foundation (www.rmef.org) is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat through (1) conserving, restoring and enhancing natural habitats; (2) promoting the sound management of wild, free-ranging elk, which may be hunted or otherwise enjoyed; (3) fostering cooperation among federal, state, tribal and private organizations and individuals in wildlife management and habitat conservation; and (4) educating members and the public about habitat conservation, the value of hunting, hunting ethics and wildlife management. Contact Regional Director Sam Sneed (501-329-2139 or ssneed@rmef.org).



Table 1. Who to contact for assistance about selected wildlife management practices.

| Management Practice | Type of Assistance | Who To Contact |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Establish native plants | Technical assistance | Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Natural Resources Conservation Service University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service |
| | Financial assistance | Farm Service Agency Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| | Rental of native plant seeders | Natural Resources Conservation Service (in some districts) Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (in some regions) |
| | Identify vendors selling native plants | Arkansas Native Plant Society Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission |
| Food plots | Technical assistance | Arkansas Game and Fish Commission University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service |
| Forest stand management | Technical assistance | Arkansas Forestry Association Arkansas Forestry Commission Arkansas Forest Resource Center University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service |
| | Financial assistance | Farm Service Agency Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| | Selling timber | Forestry Consultant |
| Herbicide application | Technical assistance | University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Arkansas State Plant Board |
| | Pesticide Applicators License | University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service |
| | Free herbicide for fescue conversion | Arkansas Game and Fish Commission |
| Pond construction and repair | Technical assistance | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| Pond management | Technical assistance | University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Aquaculture and Fisheries Center of Excellence |
| Prescribed burning | Technical assistance | Arkansas Forestry Commission Arkansas Game and Fish Commission University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service |
| | Financial assistance | Farm Service Agency Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| | Professionals for hire | Arkansas Forestry Commission The Nature Conservancy (occasionally private landowners) Forestry Consultant |
| Reduce streambank erosion | Technical assistance | Arkansas Game and Fish Commission |
| | Financial assistance | Farm Service Agency Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| Restore wetlands | Technical assistance | Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ducks Unlimited |
| | Financial assistance | Farm Service Agency Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arkansas Natural Resources Commission |
| Wildlife-friendly farming practices | Technical assistance | Arkansas Game and Fish Commission University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| | Financial assistance | Farm Service Agency Natural Resources Conservation Service |

Acknowledgments: We thank Dr. Sayeed Mehmood of the University of Arkansas – Monticello and the Arkansas Forest Resources Center, Dr. Nathan Stone of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Aquaculture and Fisheries Center of Excellence and Larry Nance and Doug Akin of the Arkansas Forestry Commission for reviewing this manuscript. Portions of this content were originally developed for The National Web-Based Learning Center for Private Forest and Range Landowners at www.forestandrange.org. Primary references for this web page are the “2000-2001 Landowner’s Guide to Voluntary Wetland Programs in Arkansas,” developed by the Arkansas Multi-Agency Wetland Planning Team, “Wildlife Management for Arkansas Private Landowners,” published by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and “Programs Supporting Habitat Management in Arkansas,” published by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service.

Printed by University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Printing Services.

DR. REBECCA (Becky) McPEAKE is professor - wildlife, Arkansas Forest Resources Center, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Little Rock. **NANCY YOUNG** is employed by Natural Resources Conservation Service and **DAVID LONG** is employed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

FSA9103-PD-12-10RV

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas. The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.