

POCKET FACTS 2026

Arkansas Agriculture Profile



MP596

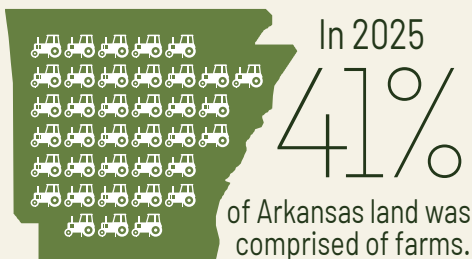
UofA **DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- QUICK FACTS.** 1
- AHEAD OF THE CURVE.** 4
- ARKANSAS COUNTS ON AGRICULTURE** 6
 - Commodity Production and Value, 2025. 8
 - Five-Year Production Highs, 2021-2025 9
 - Census of Agriculture Highlights 10
- ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE SNAPSHOT** 14
- ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE** 18
 - Total Contribution. 22
 - Value Added Contributions 23
 - Employment Contributions. 24
 - Labor Income Contributions 25
- PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL & RURAL SUSTAINABILITY**
 - The New Farm Crisis 26
 - Agriculture’s Contribution Across the US . . . 36
- ARKANSAS IS OUR CAMPUS.** 38
- SOURCES** 39

QUICK FACTS

Arkansas Agriculture contributed
14.6% of the state value added
WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY
\$27.8 Billion in value added^a.



37,000 Farms on 13.6 million acres
with an average farm size of 368 acres.

57% of the state is comprised of forests.^b

 = 1,000 FARMS

Source: IMPLAN, 2026; USDA NASS, 2026a; USDA FS, 2021

^a2024 data is used. 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 is excluded.

^bThis estimate is based on the most recent data available (2021) from the USDA Forest Service, collected as part of its rolling five-year forest inventory cycle.

QUICK FACTS

In 2025, Arkansas **average farm real estate value was \$4,250 per acre.**

- Total farm real estate value: \$57.8 billion
- Average cropland value: \$3,720 per acre
 - irrigated cropland: \$4,300 per acre
 - non-irrigated: \$2,850 per acre
- Average pasture land value: \$3,370 per acre

Organic production in Arkansas grew significantly from 2012 to 2017, with the number of farms selling organically produced commodities increasing from 32 to 69. From 2017 to 2022, the number of organic selling farms decreased slightly from 69 to 66.

However, **the value of total organic product sales rose from \$24.1M in 2017 to \$69.9M in 2022.**



Source: USDA NASS, 2025; USDA NASS, 2024

In 2024, Arkansas' top commodities

in terms of cash farm receipts^a were:



\$5,878 Million



\$1,688 Million



\$1,656 Million



\$979 Million



\$861 Million



\$668 Million



\$381 Million



\$365 Million^b



\$300 Million

Source: USDA ERS, 2026a; AFRC, 2026

^aCash farm receipt values do not include government payments received by farmers.

^bTimber 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 2024, Arkansas ranked
14th in the Nation

WITH

\$13.1
BILLION^a

for total agricultural cash receipts.

- **No. 11 in animals and animal products**, valued at \$8.3 billion.
- **No. 16 in crops**, valued at \$4.9 billion.

Source: USDA ERS, 2026a

^aThis 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:
(2025 Production Year)^a

- **No. 1 in Rice**
- **No. 3 in Broilers**
- **No. 3 in Catfish (foodsize)**
- **No. 3 in Cottonseed**
- **No. 3 in Cotton (upland)**
- **No. 6 in Turkeys**
- **No. 7 in Peanuts**
- **No. 8 in Chicken Eggs**
- **No. 11 in Beef Cows^b**
- **No. 11 in Soybeans**
- **No. 17 in Hay**
- **No. 18 in Corn for Grain**
- **No. 25 in Cattle & Calves**

Note: Beginning in 2016, the USDA no longer included data for blueberries, grapes, peaches, pecans, tomatoes, and watermelons in Arkansas, instead grouping them under an “other states” category due to limited production. In 2020, data collection for sweet potatoes and grain sorghum in Arkansas was also discontinued, followed by the removal of data for hogs, honey, and oats in 2024. As a result, annual rankings for these commodities are no longer available.

Source: USDA NASS, 2026b.

^a 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.

^b Beef cows is a Jan. 1, 2025, inventory comprised of “beef cows that have calved” and “beef cow replacement heifers 500 pounds and over.”

ARKANSAS COUNTS ON

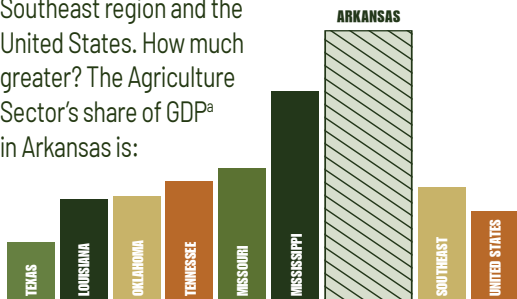
ARKANSAS' AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

is a vital and growing component of the state's economy.



AGRICULTURE

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^a in Arkansas is:



The Agriculture Sector's Share of the State Economy

- 4.5 times greater than in Texas
- 2.64 times greater than in Louisiana
- 2.57 times greater than in Oklahoma
- 2.24 times greater than in Tennessee
- 2.03 times greater than in Missouri
- 1.29 times greater than in Mississippi
- 2.35 times greater than in the Southeast^b region
- 2.99 times greater than in the US as a whole

Source: USDC BEA, 2026; Seo & Pullo, 2026a.

^aCalculations based on the percent contribution of the Agriculture Sector to state GDP in 2024. 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.

^bThe 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' contiguous states listed in the table.

Commodity Production and Value, 2025

Commodity	Acres Harvested (thousands)	Production (thousands)	Value (thousands)
Broilers ^a	N/A	7,790,000 LBS	\$5,577,640
Soybeans	2,570	141,350 BU	\$1,498,310
Chicken Eggs ^a	N/A	4,004,800 EGGS	\$1,058,107
Cattle & Calves	N/A	506,867 LBS	\$1,026,436
Rice	1,250	93,449 CWT	\$873,748
Corn For Grain	790	143,780 BU	\$603,876
Cotton (Upland) ^b	515	1,329 BALES	\$377,649
Timber	332	21,826 TONS	\$368,688
Hay	1,270	2,921 TONS	\$365,125
Turkeys ^a	N/A	389,150 LBS	\$349,457
Cottonseed ^b	N/A	397 TONS	\$111,192
Peanuts	47	235,000 LBS	\$50,525
Wheat	70	3,990 BU	\$20,748
Catfish (Foodsize)	N/A	12,600 LBS	\$19,875

Note: Beginning in 2016, the USDA no longer included data for blueberries, grapes, peaches, pecans, tomatoes, and watermelons in Arkansas, instead grouping them under an “other states” category due to limited production. In 2020, data collection for sweet potatoes and grain sorghum in Arkansas was also discontinued, followed by the removal of data for hogs, honey, and oats in 2024.

Source: USDA NASS, 2026b; AFRC, 2026

^aTotal Poultry Industry (Broilers, Turkeys, and Chicken Eggs): \$6,985M

^bTotal Cotton Industry (Upland Cotton and Cottonseed): \$489M

Five-Year Production Highs, 2021-2025

Commodity	Year	Production (thousands)
Beef Cows (inventory) ^a	2021	1,078 HEAD
Broilers	2025	7,790,000 LBS
Catfish (foodsize)	2024	14,900 LBS
Cattle & Calves	2024	521,868 LBS
Chicken Eggs	2021	4,259,300 EGGS
Corn for Grain	2021	152,720 BU
Cotton (upland)	2024	1,788 BALES
Cottonseed	2024	513 TONS
Hay	2025	2,921 TONS
Peanuts	2024	244,200 LBS
Rice	2024	109,262 CWT
Soybeans	2024	166,100 BU
Timber	2022	22,835 TONS
Turkeys	2022	545,700 LBS
Wheat	2023	9,405 BU

Source: USDA NASS, 2026b; AFRC, 2026.

^aBeef cows is a Jan. 1, 2025 inventory comprised of “beef cows that have calved” and “beef cow replacement heifers 500 pounds and over.”



Release of the 2022 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 15 commodities.^a

Commodity	Value (thousands)	Rank
Baitfish	\$29,172	1
Sport or Game Fish	\$20,177	1
Crustaceans	\$301	6
Rabbits, Live	\$114	13
Greenhouse Fruits & Berries	\$198	14
Equine	\$23,326	16
Mules, Burros, Donkeys	\$214	16
Other Aquaculture Products ^b	\$137	17
Trout	\$2,965	18
Meat Goats & Other Goats	\$2,893	19
Sod Harvested	\$23,200	20
Mushrooms	\$404	22
Other Livestock Products ^b	\$651	23
Flower Seeds	\$14	23
Llamas	\$24	25

Source: USDA NASS, 2024

^aRankings were estimated from values disclosed in the 2022 Census of Agriculture.

Nondisclosure of values for some states may affect the ranking values shown in this table.

^bCommodities denoted as “other” refer to an aggregation of products not having a specific code on the census report within their respective categories.

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



Additionally, the most recent Census of Agriculture indicates that Arkansas ranks in the top 25 states in acres harvested for the following 32 commodities.^a

Commodity	Acres Harvested	Rank
Sweet potatoes	6,370	5
Peas, southern (cowpeas)	814	6
Mulberries	13	6
Sorghum for syrup	4	7
Pecans, all	9,766	8
Blackberries and dewberries	642	8
Ginseng, cultivated only	2	8
Almonds	6	10
Okra	88	12
Sorghum for grain	8,984	13
Watermelons	1,506	14
Kiwifruit	1	14
Persimmons	44	15
Tomatoes in the open	798	16
Plums	57	16
Forage, all	1,343,016	18
Mustard greens	27	18
Figs	12	18
Pumpkins	1,410	19
Other noncitrus fruit ^b	10	19
Pawpaws	6	19
Escarole and endive	1	19

(continued on page 15)

(continued from page 14) Commodity	Acres Harvested	Rank
Chestnuts	107	21
Nectarines	16	21
Ginger root	1	21
Squash (including zucchini)	447	22
Cabbage, head	138	23
Walnuts, English	29	23
Elderberries	9	23
Peaches, Clingstone	87	24
Cucumbers and pickles	211	25
Collards	17	25

Source: USDA NASS, 2024

^aRankings were estimated from values disclosed in the 2022 Census of Agriculture.

Nondisclosure of values for some states may affect the ranking values shown in this table.

^bCommodities denoted as “other” refer to an aggregation of products not having a specific code on the census report within their respective categories.



ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE

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



year in and year out. In 2024, there were 37,200 farms in Arkansas (USDA NASS, 2026a). These farms generated a net farm income of \$3.29 billion in inflation-adjusted 2026 dollars (USDA ERS, 2026b).

For 2024, Arkansas ranked 14th in total agricultural exports with a value of \$4.1 billion (USDA ERS, 2026c). Rice generated the highest export value for the state, bringing in \$1.1 billion in 2024. That same year, Arkansas ranked in the top 10 in the nation for exports of seven commodities:

- **No. 1 in rice** (valued at \$1.1 billion)
- **No. 3 in broilers** (valued at \$526 million)
- **No. 3 in cotton** (valued at \$482 million)
- **No. 7 in other poultry** (valued at \$109 million)
- **No. 10 in soybeans** (valued at \$877 million)
- **No. 10 in soybean meal** (valued at \$229 million)
- **No. 10 in vegetable oils** (valued at \$102 million)

SNAPSHOT

In 2024, Arkansas ranked 35th in overall GDP at \$188 billion. However, when looking at the share of GDP generated by agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, Arkansas ranked 7th overall in the nation (USDC BEA, 2026). In terms of agricultural cash farm receipts in 2024, Arkansas ranked 14th with a value of \$13.1 billion, contributing 2.5% to the U.S. total cash farm receipt value. Arkansas ranked 11th in total livestock cash farm receipts at \$8.3 billion and 16th in total crop cash receipts at \$4.9 billion (USDA ERS, 2026a).

In terms of value, Arkansas' top three agricultural commodities in 2024 were broilers, rice, and soybeans. Broiler production generated \$5.9 billion, accounting for 44.7% of the state's total agricultural cash farm receipts. Rice and soybeans contributed nearly equal amounts, with rice generating \$1.69 billion (12.8%) and soybeans \$1.66 billion (12.6%) of total agricultural cash farm receipts.



ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE

On the national level, Arkansas ranked number 1 in rice and number 3 in broilers in the country, with cash receipts comprising 43.7% and 12.4%, respectively, of the U.S. total cash farm receipts for these commodities in 2024.

Arkansas' total cash farm receipt value decreased by 6.6% between 2023 and 2024.^a The animals and animal products sector increased by 1.2%, while the crops sector experienced an overall decline of 17.4% during the same period.

On the crop side, peanuts recorded the largest increase in cash farm receipt value, rising 16.7% between 2023 and 2024. Hay, rice, and cottonseed also recorded increases of 9.0%, 6.5%, and 4.4%,

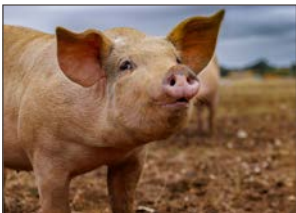


^aPercentage comparisons between 2023 and 2024 values are based on real 2026 dollars. That is, the numbers are adjusted for inflation, which allows for a true “apples to apples” comparison.

SNAPSHOT

respectively. In contrast, oats experienced the largest decline, falling 76.1%, followed by wheat (-56.1%), cotton lint (upland)(-40.6%), soybeans (-29.8%), and corn (-17.3%).

On the animal production side, hogs recorded the largest increase in cash farm receipt value, rising 39.7% between 2023 and 2024. Cattle and calves and broilers also posted gains of 21.3% and 3.4%, respectively. Among the sectors that declined, farm chickens experienced the largest decrease (-54.2%), followed by turkeys (-45.0%), honey (-17.0%), catfish (-8.4%), mohair (-7.1%), chicken eggs (-4.6%), wool (-2.9%), and all other animals and products (-2.5%).



ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

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,

OF AGRICULTURE

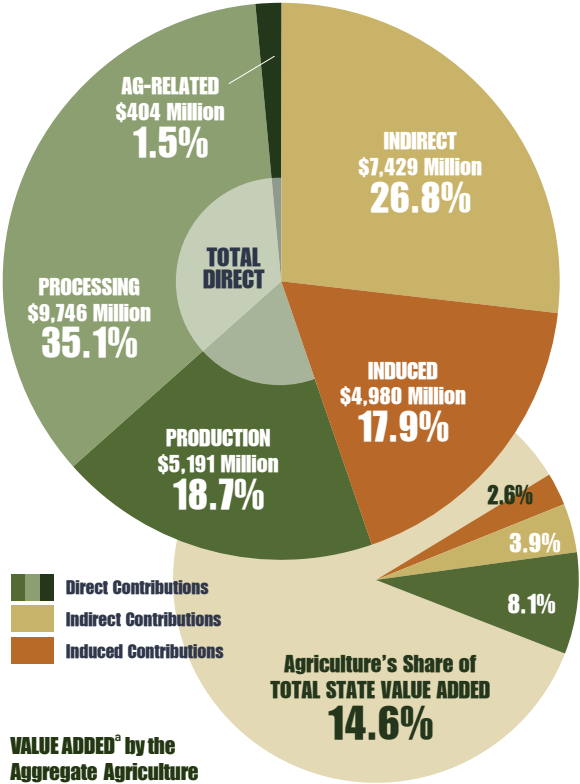
lawn and garden centers, etc.) are not considered part of the Aggregate Agriculture Sector, but some of the economic activity of these industries and other retail stores and input providers is picked up as indirect and induced effects and included in the total contribution.

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

- **Jobs** include 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



**VALUE ADDED^a by the
Aggregate Agriculture
Sector in Arkansas, 2024**

Source: IMPLAN, 2026; Seo & Pullo, 2026a. Note: Presented in 2024 dollars.
^aValue 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.

OF AGRICULTURE

**Agriculture contributes about
\$27.8 Billion in value added**

WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY

**1 in 7
every**

**VALUE
ADDED
DOLLARS**

**and provides over 238,680 jobs
IN ARKANSAS**

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

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, 2024

- **238,680 Jobs** — 1 out of 7 Arkansas jobs
- **\$12,508 Million in Wages** — 12.8% of the state total
- **\$14,798 Million in Labor Income** — 13.8% of the state total
- **\$27,750 Million in Value Added** — \$1 out of every \$7 in Arkansas

Source: IMPLAN, 2026; Seo & Pullo, 2026a.



OF AGRICULTURE

Value Added Contributions

Value Added By the Aggregate Agricultural Sector in AR, 2024			
Contribution Area	Value ^a (Millions)	% of Total Contribution	% of State Total
Direct	\$15,341	55.3%	8.1%
Indirect	\$7,429	26.8%	3.9%
Induced	\$4,980	17.9%	2.6%
TOTAL	\$27,750	100.0%	14.6%

The far-reaching contributions of agriculture are seen in the distribution of Value Added^b throughout the economy.

Value Added Generated by Ag in Top Five NAICS Industries ^c	
Industry	Value ^a (Millions)
Manufacturing	\$9,878
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$5,595
Wholesale Trade	\$2,753
Transportation and Warehousing	\$1,579
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$1,487
Top Five Total	\$21,292
(76.7% of all Value Added generated by Agriculture)	

Source: IMPLAN, 2026; Seo & Pullo, 2026b.

^aDue to rounding, the totals may not precisely reflect the sum of the individual values.

^bValue 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.

^cGroupings based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) aggregation.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

Employment Contributions

Employment By the Aggregate Agricultural Sector in AR, 2024			
Contribution Area	Jobs	% of Total Contribution	% of State Total
Direct	133,152	55.8%	7.5%
Indirect	56,049	23.5%	3.1%
Induced	49,479	20.7%	2.8%
TOTAL	238,680	100.0%	13.4%

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

Jobs Generated by Ag in Top Five NAICS Industries ^a	
Industry	Jobs ^b
Manufacturing	82,236
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	51,687
Transportation and Warehousing	16,744
Wholesale Trade	12,034
Health Care and Social Assistance	12,185
Top Five Total	174,885
(73.3% of all Jobs generated by agriculture)	

Source: IMPLAN, 2026; Seo & Pullo, 2026b.

^aGroupings based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) aggregation.

^bDue to rounding, the totals may not precisely reflect the sum of the individual values.

OF AGRICULTURE

Labor Income Contributions

Labor Income By the Aggregate Agricultural Sector in AR, 2024			
Contribution Area	Value ^b (Millions)	% of Total Contribution	% of State Total
Direct	\$8,203	55.4%	7.6%
Indirect	\$4,123	27.9%	3.8%
Induced	\$2,472	16.7%	2.3%
TOTAL	\$14,798	100.0%	13.8%

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

Labor Income Generated by Ag in Top Five NAICS Industries ^a	
Industry	Value ^b (Millions)
Manufacturing	\$5,453
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$2,814
Wholesale Trade	\$1,159
Transportation and Warehousing	\$1,080
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$805
Top Five Total	\$11,311
(76.4% of all Labor Income generated by Agriculture)	

Source: IMPLAN, 2026; Seo & Pullo, 2026b.
^aGroupings based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) aggregation.
^bDue to rounding, the totals may not precisely reflect the sum of the individual values.

PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL

The New Farm Crisis

Arkansas farmers are facing the worst agricultural economy in decades.

Stagnant demand has led to commodity prices falling 30 percent since 2022. Meanwhile, input costs in 2026 were about 20 percent higher than the levels from before Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Farmers have had to cope with the resulting cost-price squeeze, with production expenses exceeding total cash income for three consecutive years, from 2023-2025. Projections suggest that 2026 will continue that trend. In total, Arkansas crop income has declined by \$1.23 billion since 2022.



Harvesting a corn variety trial in Lafayette County.
(UADA photo by Jerri Dew)

& RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

"The agricultural economy right now is probably in one of the most depressing states that I've seen in my career," said Deacue Fields, head of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, noting some similarities to the farm crisis of the 1980s.

In an analysis published in the fall of 2025, UADA economists also pointed to broader economic pressures, including inflation, supply-chain pressures, higher interest rates and the effects of global conflicts.

"Many farmers are once again in a year where choosing a crop that has the greatest likelihood of lowest loss is the best-case scenario," said Hunter Biram, assistant professor and extension economist for UADA.

"All row-crop commodities are being affected simultaneously," said Tommy Young, a row crop farmer in Jackson County. "My fellow farmers and I have



Russ Parker, right, works with farmer Will Gammill in certifying a Most Crop Per Drop contest. (UADA photo by Katrina Wallace)

PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL



Irrigation water gushes into a field in Cross County.
(UADA photo by Jenna Martin)

steadily watched long-term equity be eaten away in hopes that the farm economy would turn around. It is now 2026, and even with much-appreciated government support, the financial position of Arkansas farmers has gotten even worse.”

The results of these challenges have been increased financial strain for Arkansas farmers, a rise in Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings, and even some farmers looking for the exit.

“This downturn is causing structural changes to Arkansas agriculture,” Young said. “It is taking its toll on rural agricultural communities and is changing the face of what is Arkansas’ number one industry.”

& RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

UADA's Economic Response

In response to the extraordinary challenges facing Arkansas farmers, UADA's economists have published analyses and developed tools designed to help producers, policymakers, and other stakeholders understand the situation and weigh their options. From the "State of the Arkansas Crop Economy in 2025" to the "Spring 2026 Net Farm Income Outlook for Arkansas," UADA has provided clear information to support farmers and policymakers. UADA's ag economists have also provided timely information to decision makers through media interviews and in-house podcasts and newsletters.

Biram and fellow UADA extension economist Ryan Loy developed the Arkansas Crop Profit/Loss Calculator, a web-based decision tool designed



Wheat and feed grains agronomist Jason Kelley speaks at a winter production meeting at the Rice Research and Extension Center in Stuttgart, Arkansas. (UADA photo by Ryan McGeeney)

PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL

to provide producers and other stakeholders with the profit-and-loss potential of producing a crop in Arkansas.

Ongoing UADA economic analysis and outreach aims to help farmers make the best possible decisions in a highly challenging environment.

Farm Stress and Family Support

The economic strain of the ongoing crisis is also contributing to a “mental health crisis among farmers,” said Brittney Schrick, extension associate professor and family life specialist for UADA.

To help farm families cope, the Cooperative Extension Service is offering training in farm stress management



Collecting accurate soil samples is made more difficult during periods of drought. (UADA photo)

& RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

and mental health first aid. Extension's farm stress programs focus on equipping producers, families, educators, and first responders with research-based information and tools that help them recognize and respond to people in need of care.

Schrick added that because farmers may not seek out mental health resources directly, the Cooperative Extension Service also works in partnership with trusted local contacts who regularly interact with producers to connect people with support.

Research and Outreach

Agricultural research and outreach from UADA's Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service is also paving the way for long-term profitability and resilience.



A crop duster approaches a field near the Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center near Jonesboro. (UADA photo)

PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL



More than 200 farmers, crop consultants, industry representatives and researchers gathered for the 2026 Rice and Soybean Field Day. (UADA photo)

Much of UADA's research efforts are aimed at making discoveries that can be used in the short term.

- Rice processing engineers are evaluating rice milling practices that improve head rice yield and rice quality.
- The Arkansas Crop Variety Improvement Program conducts annual variety tests that help farmers and consultants make timely seed purchasing decisions.
- Agricultural engineers are developing new irrigation technologies that reduce water use and improve farmers' bottom lines.
- Weed scientists, plant pathologists, and entomologists are continually testing products and

& RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

processes to determine the most economical pest management strategies.

- Soil scientists are finding ways to maximize fertilizer efficiency while improving soil health.

Other research efforts are more foundational, focusing on expanding scientific knowledge and developing technologies that will make a difference in the long run.

- Poultry scientists and robotics engineers are building automated systems to increase efficiency and address labor challenges in high-turnover jobs.
- Agricultural data engineers are finding new ways to use machine learning and artificial intelligence to improve precision agriculture technologies.
- Food scientists are using innovative processing methods to create new value from agricultural byproducts.
- Plant scientists and entomologists

Researchers examine X-ray images of rice to evaluate grain fissuring after different drying conditions.
(UADA photo)



PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL

are increasing the understanding of plant defense mechanisms that could one day lead to new pest control methods.

- Fruit and row crop breeders are advancing plant genetics research while developing new varieties adapted to Arkansas' environmental conditions.

The results of these studies then form the basis of UADA's outreach efforts. Extension provides a range of planning and decision-making aids for farmers and other stakeholders. Through its statewide network of local county offices, county agents and specialists share the latest research-based recommendations with farmers through field days, landowner visits, workshops, and more. This extensive footprint allows UADA to address site-specific problems in real time,



The UADA rice breeding program has a long history of rice releases benefiting Arkansas farmers. (UADA photo)

& RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

A robotic gripper designed to be used to grasp, lift and hang a chicken carcass on a shackle conveyor for further processing. (UADA photo)



conduct
research and
outreach

tied to local conditions, and translate research into recommendations tailored for stakeholders in every county in Arkansas.

Supporting Profitability and Enhancing Resilience

The severity of the current farm crisis appears to be more than just part of a cyclical downturn, and the economics of farming may be changing in a lasting way. In the face of these uncertainties, UADA will continue to provide policy and economic analyses. It will continue to help farmers make the best decisions possible. And it will continue to provide resources that enhance profitability and resilience. Through its foundational research and timely outreach, UADA will continue to serve Arkansas farmers and the agricultural industry.

PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL

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, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture 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.

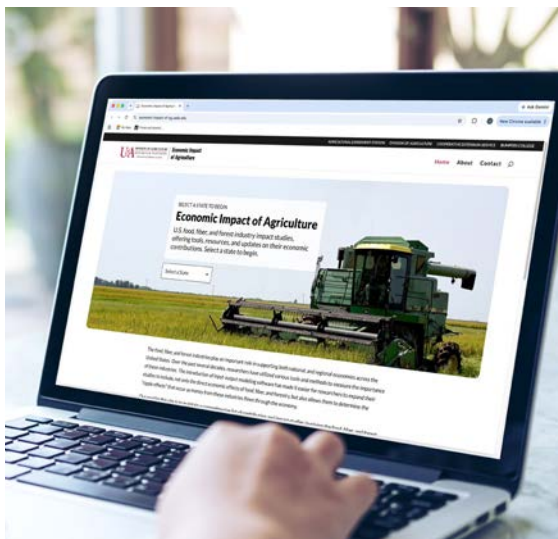
UADA researchers have taken the lead in opening this discussion and are working to develop resources for enhancing the consistency and clarity of contribution of agriculture research. To provide a central location for ongoing discussion and research, they have launched a website called The Economic Contributions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

& RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

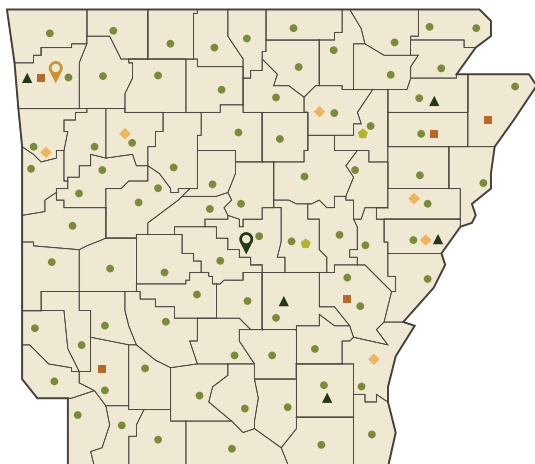
for researchers to reference. It can be found by visiting **economic-impact-of-ag.uada.edu**

To list your study on our website, join discussions on developing common methodologies for agricultural contribution studies, or for questions about the data, please email Frank Seo at fseo@uada.edu.



ARKANSAS IS OUR CAMPUS

The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture conducts research and extension programs to support Arkansas agriculture in its broadest definition. Our employees include Cooperative Extension Service personnel in all 75 counties and Agricultural Experiment Station scientists, extension specialists and support personnel on three university campuses, at five research and extension centers, six research stations, and two extension centers.



- 📍 UADA & CES Headquarters, Little Rock
- 📍 AAES Headquarters, Fayetteville
- ◆ Research Stations
- Research & Extension Centers

- ▲ Associated Research & Extension Units
- ◆ Extension Centers
- County Extension Offices

SOURCES:

- Arkansas Forest Resources Center (AFRC). (2026). Production and value data for 2021–2025. Data by request only.
- IMPLAN Group LLC. (2026). IMPLAN system (data and software): 2024 Arkansas state package. <https://www.implan.com>
- Seo, F., & Pullo, L. (2026a). Economic Contribution of the Agricultural Sector to the Arkansas Economy in 2024 (Agriculture and Natural Resources: FSA112). Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.
- Seo, F., & Pullo, L. (2026b). Economic Contribution of the Agricultural Sector to the Arkansas Economy in 2024 (forthcoming). Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (USDA ERS). (2026a). Annual cash receipts by commodity, U.S. and states. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/farm-income-and-wealth-statistics/data-files-us-and-state-level-farm-income-and-wealth-statistics/>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (USDA ERS). (2026b). Value added by U.S. agriculture (includes net farm income). <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/farm-income-and-wealth-statistics/data-files-us-and-state-level-farm-income-and-wealth-statistics/>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (USDA ERS). (2026c). U.S. agricultural exports, commodity detail by state: Calendar years 2000–2024. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-agricultural-trade-data>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA FS). (2021). Forests of Arkansas, 2021 [Forest Inventory & Analysis One-Click Fact Sheets]. https://public.tableau.com/views/FIA_OneClick_V1_2/StateSelection?%3AshowVizHome=no
- U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS). (2025). Agricultural land values, 2025. <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/pn89d6567>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS). (2024). 2022 Census of Agriculture. <https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/index.php>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS). (2026a). Farms and land in farms, 2025. <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/5712m6524>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS). (2026b). NASS Quick Stats: Production and values data 2021–2025. <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>
- U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis (USDC BEA). (2026). Regional economic accounts: Annual gross domestic product (GDP) by state. <https://www.bea.gov/regional/>

Pursuant to 7 CFR § 15.3, the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services (including employment) without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, sexual preference, pregnancy or any other legally protected status, and is an equal opportunity institution.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

University of Arkansas
Division of Agriculture

2404 North University Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207
(501) 686-2540
www.uada.edu