



ASA HUTCHINSON  
GOVERNOR

# ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION  
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

1 NATURAL RESOURCES DRIVE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205 | (501) 225-1598 | AAD.ARKANSAS.GOV



WES WARD  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4/16/2018**

**CONTACT:** Adriane Barnes, (501) 516-6255, [Adriane.barnes@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:Adriane.barnes@agriculture.arkansas.gov)

## Arkansas Agriculture Department Provides Efficiency Awards for Cost Savings Efforts

**STATEWIDE, ARK.** – The Arkansas Agriculture Department has announced District Forester Cory Bostic as the winner of its fourth quarterly efficiency award. Cory’s suggestion to combine the administrative functions of a district office with the Poison Springs State Forest office will allow the Department to realize a cost savings of at least \$38,000 each year while improving the services that are offered at a centralized location.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department implemented the quarterly efficiency award program in 2017 to encourage suggestions from employees on how to improve operations and realize cost savings. Award winners receive a \$200 gift card to the place of their choice from leadership at the Arkansas Agriculture Department. Efficiency suggestions to date have resulted in improved services and cost savings of at least \$135,000 since the program was implemented.

The Arkansas Agriculture Department has presented seven efficiency awards as part of the program. Previous efficiency award suggestions include: utilizing a new vendor for laboratory supplies; utilizing a digital radio link to improve connectivity; implementing courier service changes for laboratory submissions; consolidating cell phone contracts and the implementation of regular cost analysis and need assessments for cell phones.

“The Arkansas Agriculture Department exists to promote and protect our state’s largest industry and we take our obligations very seriously. The efficiency award program is a demonstration of our commitment to the industry to constantly improve upon our operations and make sure that we are providing the best services in the most effective and cost effective way possible” says Arkansas Agriculture Secretary Wes Ward.

The AAD is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit [www.aad.arkansas.gov](http://www.aad.arkansas.gov).

###

*The Arkansas Agriculture Department offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

