

NRCS State Technical Committee
9:00am Tuesday, December 16, 2025
UACES, Little Rock, AR

Agenda attached

Meeting called to order at 9:00am by Roger Cousins, Asst. State Conservationist for Partnerships.

Members present: (Sign In sheets)

Introduction & Purpose – Roger Cousins

- Described the purpose of the State Technical Committee including roles and responsibilities

Amanda Mathis, Arkansas State Conservationist comments:

- NRCS State Conservationist Amanda Mathis gave her opening presentation with success stories of work complete
- Excited about making things more “farmer friendly”.
- Recentering on whole farm planning
- NRCS will be integrating into a cloud-based format
- Implementing a “one farmer and one file” format for a smoother and more efficient form.
- Encouraged the audience to go to the NRCS website for up-to-date information for an outcome-based format.

NRCS Subcommittee Reports:

NRCS Grazing Management Subcommittee – Jeremy Huff, Chair

About 100 staff have completed training courses so we will continue to offer. These are train-the-trainer sessions and we continue to create these videos for our staff. Even though this recommendation is complete, we're going to continue with our training opportunities for staff. Just a week or two ago, we hosted our fall subcommittee meeting. Much of the discussion was about the new payment scenarios from National Head Office or regional offices. And also, a lot of the topic was on the virtual fence. Our recommendations were to make sure payment rates are appropriately aligned.

Recommendation - Payment rates need to be aligned more appropriately if changes will be made by NHQ/Regional offices. The payment rates that were used in 2025 were more realistic to the specification requirements.

Recommendation - Use the electric fence payment scenarios of previous years than what has been told to use for 2026 from NHQ/Regional offices.

Soil Health Subcommittee – Keith Scoggins, Chair

We had 8 project reports from partners, including the University of Arkansas and Arkansas State University. This included reports from Dr. Steve Green with ASU and Dr. Mike Daniels.

Recommendation - raise the cap by Adam Chappell, We should raise the cap on 340 to \$110,000 for regular producers and \$130,000 for HU.

Recommendation - to add 336 as a priority practice.

Recommendation - to put a requirement on 345 Reduced till to require 40% residue after planting – Dr. Chandler Arel.

Recommendation - to put a requirement on 329 No till to require 60% residue after planting- James Breedlove

Recommendation - to support Arkansas Soil Health Alliance contacting the State Plant Board to remove Sunn Hemp as a noxious and invasive species

Water Quantity Subcommittee – Rodney Wright, Chair

We're going to try to plan for our next meeting to be a Joint Water Quality and Water Quantity Subcommittee Meeting. We can think about maybe just joining them more formally.

Arkansas State Water Plan Update – Corbin Cannon

- Powerpoint on status of the plan presented
- Public hearings to be scheduled in 2026

Sustainable Water Targets – Jeff Fore, TNC

- Provide an update of The Nature Conservancy's efforts regarding water usage.

Master Irrigator Project – Will Gray

- Project is still in the planning phase and in cooperation with Dr. Chris Henry, U of A Division of Agriculture
- Presented the results of a survey with farmers & producers
 - Little interest in classroom training would prefer field day and/or hands on training
 - Consultants were the #1 personnel that were identified as needed or more IWM Technicians

Fact Sheets were provided in Chat with links

- Fact sheets provided to the Field staff for guidance which are available internally.

Recommendation – add specific ranking questions that are unique to regions within the state given the diversity of soils, water usage, etc.

NRCS Water Quality & Source Water Protection Subcommittee – Mary Clayton, Chair

Arkansas Groundwater Initiative Practices (AGWI)

Presentation on Biochar by Matt Freniere and Kevin Crow, Cold Steppe

Recommend - that Practice Code 336 be added to Priority Practice List

- Currently shown on the AGWI Approved Conservation Practices
- Fact Sheet link provided

Recommendation – Nutrient Management plan be joined with biochar practice – Rodney stated that a NMP was already included.

Source Water Protection – Mary Clayton

- Reviewed the list of watersheds that are included along with new HUCs
- FY25 NWQI map shown as well as the FY26 NWQI map
- FY25 MRBI map displayed followed by the FY26 MRBI map

Sediment Control Basins – Becky Roark, Beaver Watershed Alliance

3 Recommendation – modified ponds be included as a scenario under Basin CSP 350

- Discussion by the group regarding the differences in ponds and construction source
 - Was it originally built up to NRCS standards?
 - Could it be modified to bring it up to NRCS standards?

Recommendation – Modified pond practices be added to FY26 Source Water Protection CSP

Edge of Field Monitoring – Dr. Mike Daniels

- Provided links to fact sheets which have been developed by the U of A DOA

NRCS Forestry Subcommittee – Doug Akin, Chair

January 30, 2026 is the deadline for application in the Open Pine RCPP – Austin Klais, NRCS

Forestry Practices

- Tables showing practices, funding for 2023 – 2026.
- Prescribed burning was 22,000 acres for \$1,076,000+
- Robert Quackenbush - *will there be any language to incorporate vegetation into firebreaks, hopefully without a soil test requirement? from my limited experience so far these firebreaks end up a mess and poorly managed, and bare soil water bars don't really seem to last.*
- *Is there a way to remove the soil test requirement? That is what usually deter us from contracting that component.*
- Action item: Look at other states' programs and see if long leaf and a short lea pine initiative could be implemented in Arkansas. (Report back in the Spring)

NRCS Wildlife Subcommittee – Canton Ford, Chair

Alexia Cook, NRCS, reported on her work but with a new administration they really focusing on outcomes rather than dollars. Alexia.cook@usda.gov

- Easements can report some elements but no hard data.
- Merlin app – interesting and a low-tech way to get some measurable outcomes.
- Other systems available that might help collect data on birds such as quail and turkey. Once trees grow, we lose some of the birds from the landscape but no hard data to prove it.
- Must be on-site every 4 years as a starting point but more focus efforts need to be utilized.

MOTUS – giant grid of antennas set up nationwide to track bird tags – Arkansas has one in Little Rock. Requires a foundation similar for regular antenna and runs off solar panels.

Decisions from Wildlife Spring Recommendations provided

Shallow Water Development and Management Scenario #2 – rejected

Scenario planning and application can be addressed through better job sheets and management plans

Conservation Cover and 644 – partially approved.

Code 580 – Rejected due to costs

Conservation Practice Document Updates

390 – Riparian Herbaceous Cover

646 – Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife (name change)

New standard

Will update supporting documents next

645 – Wildlife Habitat Management (name change)

New proposed standard – posted to Federal Register for comment

FY25 Initial Allocations

FY25 Final Obligations

Working Lands for Wildlife - \$1.8 million

MRBI - \$3.67 million

FY25 Applied Practices and Enhancements

329 acres for streambank improvements

Wildlife habitat - \$8 million

Practices that have been applied but not implemented as yet. (Spreadsheets)

Encouraged PLBs and consultants to review and see if you can help get these practices done – primarily prescribed burns and firebreaks.

Spencer Weitzel - On using drones to survey waterfowl: seems as though folks are already using this technology on WRE sites in AR, LA, and MS. (<https://www.ducks.org/conservation/where-ducks-unlimited-works/du-using-aerial-drones-to-expand-wat...>)

Eyes in the Sky: DU Using Aerial Drones to Expand Waterfowl Understanding
Ducks Unlimited uses high-tech aerial drones to expand our understanding of waterfowl and their habitats

Canton requested input regarding ENT species and endangered wetlands.

NRCS Urban Subcommittee – Katy Brantley, Chair

We met on December. 4th, just virtually last minute to schedule, but we still have 20 people attending, robust conversation about hearing from all our participants, our partners and our members about what they're up to, what's going on, what their, their farms or organizations.

Recommendation - There was a recommendation to improve composting facility opportunities for small farms. Smaller designs would be appreciated that fit small farms operations, and the ability to have a design that included rainwater catchment from the roof. The recommendation included more transparency with the composting facility options for small farms, clarifying options, designs, and requirements to meet specs.

Recommendation - There was a recommendation to meet jointly with the specialty crop/alternative crop subcommittee and explore merging subcommittees; there is significant overlap with members in both subcommittees, and meeting collaboratively would allow for better synergy and information sharing.

Arkansas Central Highlands Conservation Delivery Network – Sim Barrow

This is going to be on a new conservation delivery network, Arkansas Central Highlands Conservation Delivery Network.

The Arkansas Central Hardwoods Conservation Delivery Network is a new initiative, a new group that is forming. The new CDN fills the gap of where Arkansas did not have one in Arkansas for this geographic region in the state. He described what the group is going to focus on and how to get involved.

Agriculture Conservation Easements Program – Alexis Cook

We had six different distinct signups in each state. The screening and the ranking criteria, the practice and the project caps were all decided by rice producers at the local steering, at the local state level via

steering committees that we formed. So, we have many phone calls, a lot of coordinating of different producers at six different states to be able to even press go on this, but it was very valuable.

We also did some big restructuring for our team in FY25. So that's what I was going to send out was a new map just so you guys have the points of contact there.

We knew it would be a competitive opportunity and one thing that we did not want to do is have staff decide who's in and who's out and why. So, we really lean heavily on our producers to help us make those decisions that work well.

That would need to go to either JJ Abernathy or Rich Johnson. And they kind of divided the whole state with JJ is doing the north part and Rich is doing the South path.

AMP Partner Project Update – USA Rice Josh Hankins

Project Y, we collected over 1000 applications, and we'll be able to fund about 43% of those. Last year here in the state of Arkansas, we had two different sign-ups and the producer state committee decided to split the state into three different funding regions of North, Central and South region with to help spread some of that funding around.

The practices available. It's very similar to some of our older RCPP programs. We've got two different pools, the general pools and management practices that are available, approximately 30 of those, while Pool 2 as the buildings do management and equip type, infrastructure improvements, land leveling class, etcetera.

Most of those practices included do have NRCS practice standards with a similar payment structure. We can pay a little bit more than that now 75%.

It was 47 as well as my own. Anybody has questions about any of that feel free to contact me as well. And so, our deadline is the same as all the programs. January 15th is going to be the program sign up deadline this year for us as well.

Early August, we received our first official guidance from USDA that we could continue our grant activities with no restrictions while we're working on our amendment.

We also are sitting in the process of sending out deferral letters.

And most importantly, we could start signing producer contracts. So that just happened in August.

We thank all of you that gave me input for my Wetland restoration criteria guide. Last year. We made some significant improvements to it. It is a living document. We are going to continue to make inputs on it. I think we helped that we have made some revisions this year because we utilized it quite a bit this year.

You know, now once we have those producers' contracts signed, we can now start some of those practices and start getting our producers paid that you all know about. One of our largest hurdles before and now after the grant rebranding because we were offering 30 plus practices, which I think we were the only AMP program to offer that many was our environmental evaluation process for the CPA 52 process. That is the sole reason we don't have more contracts signed.

And so in March, we're probably going to have another meeting and look at it.

We were one of 22 projects that survived at 140 or so. So about 15% of the time commodities are now and project survived. So, we're thankful to be one of those. I know we have some other rights projects that also survive.

Watershed Programs – Steven Smedley, State Engineer

Our authority to do watershed work happens under PL-566, a flood protection program.

It focuses on watersheds that typically the United States Army Corps of Engineers wouldn't on smaller watersheds at 250,000 acres or less.

Get some of the primary purposes as you can see is flood prevention and that's the one we typically like to focus on and the sponsors as well as a larger cost share the watershed protection with erosion, water quality, flood control, agricultural water management which we have two irrigation projects that utilize that aspect.

Another potential is 2 stage ditches, and I think TNC has done a lot of work on that.

What I'm going to do is look at each of the 4 pillars and see how this initial group and the CDN, you know, identified different priorities that really are what's current and relevant for conservation in this part of the state.

Also talking to Alexis, there might be potential for some easements. There are some areas along the Cache River that have been flooded for more than three years, don't get to participate with FSA on the insurance program. And so maybe there's a little bit of a opportunity there both on the floodplain easement and maybe even WRP.

And in combination with easements, maybe there's some structural components to where we can alleviate the flooding of the Cache River and manually flood the easements?

We also want to continue improving our landowner perceptions around conservation practices and we really feel applying social sciences.

Next, of course, science-based management is a big pillar for not just CDNS, but the joint ventures as well. And they're also the clearing houses for a lot of the research that we use when we, you know, discuss these, these conservation projects.

Dams for additional flood control.

So we want to apply that and how we manage invasive species in the Ozarks.

There's also potential for an irrigation project in the watershed, just like Grand Prairie and Bayou Meto. There's a there's a Cone of depression where there's groundwater decline, so we have too much

We need landowners that want to work with us, so I think that would be a focus, but. First and foremost, I think we need to address the resource concern and that's the sentiment. So if we have good Lidar data, which I think maybe that you've been working on that identifies specific areas that we need to focus on, I will say that would be the better approach and then see if the landowners are willing to take part in it. I know that we've had some internal discussions about two stage ditches.

Priority Resource Concerns – Rebecca Fox, Chair

When you signed in, you got this handout that might be useful for this conversation. It has all 47 of our priority resource concerns on it and it has been grouped by categories.

So, for 2025, our priority resource concerns were soil health, water quantity, water quality, plant health and condition, and wildlife habitat. And so if you look at the table with the resource concerns, those five align with five categories and then you see more resource concerns fit into each of those.

- For soil health, the resource concerns that fall into that category are subsidence, compaction, organic matter depletion, concentration of salts or other chemicals, soil Organism, habitat loss or degradation, and aggregate instability.
- For water quantity, the resource concerns or surface water depletion, Groundwater depletion, inefficient irrigation water use.
- There is a big list for water quality. Those include nutrient transport, pesticide transport, pathogens and chemical transport, petroleum, heavy metals, sediment transport, and salt transport.
- For plant health and condition, Plant health and productivity. Plant structure and composition, Plant pest pressure, Wildlife Desert for biomass accumulation.
- For wildlife habitat, it's terrestrial habitat, wildlife and invertebrates, and aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms.
- We have more available on the Arkansas Resource Assessment tool.
- Our proposal is to keep the same 5 resource concerns for 2026. Looking at the resource concern list, is there anything people think we need to add or remove and change.

EQIP – Corey Cornelious

Good morning before I get started in the presentation. We just received the notice for FY26. USDA Conservation Program sign up was just released. I'm assuming yesterday afternoon because it said December 15th, so the vacuum deadline for how? Programs 526 would be January 15th. So that part of the new streamlined approach that national office is conducting. We couldn't announce the sign up state specific, it's a national sign. So, all our programs include Environmental Quality center program, conservation stewardship program. ASAP program and also the regenerative pilot program that Amanda mentioned this more. This is all included in this news release. More information should be coming out from our public affairs to. So it'll be seen statewide and all the news releases, pressure releases that we generally send our sign-up information through, but. That it has been released. We were waiting for notification that it. The signal deadline is January 15th. For our outline conservation programs within our cities. So to get to my slides, I'm going to. Cover first talk about FY25 EQIP obligation and implementation. We had obligated a little over at \$82 million So it's good to see that 20% of those funds are already conservation on ground. And 20% of those contracts are obligated already completed contracts. So we already off to a good start even with all the impacts with the government shutdown and. And price increases and things that's going on in the economy.

I just want to highlight again that that's a **major change for us on that deferral policy, significant change**. So in the past, you know, folks applied, they didn't have to do anything. It just automatically carried over a year after a year this year if they applied. And they applied in January last year and they want to be considered again. It is required that they need to pick up the phone when they get that letter and tell the field office they want to stay in consideration. If they don't contact us, we can cancel that application. And again, we've got, we've gotten in the situation where we have over 6000 applications on the books. Some of them need to be cancelled. Some of these people, you know, are not interested anymore.

There is going to be a time frame between December 19th and January 19th for those participants to respond.

Conservation Stewardship Program – Michela Martin

FY26 CSP will have a new policy for newly acquired and newly eligible land. It pretty much is going to streamline the contract management process and improve our customer service. It reduces confusion by having an entire operation under a single contract. So typically, folks that have CSP, if they had new acres, they would come in and put in a new 1200 application. Through this process, they will just have one single, one single contract and they would just add those acres to their existing contract. And it reinforces our former first direction by meeting our customer service needs. It should reduce administrative burden on the office. And also, we won't just have so many applications on file.

RCPP – Katy Brantley

There are a few updates for FY26. We are anticipating a notice of funding opportunity this year. We're anticipating a few changes to some of the proposal questions.

The Open Pine Landscape Restoration partnership project, we've had a project like this similar with the conservation delivery Network, but then similar Agenda and objectives, but this is an expanded version the first year of that. We're excited about this project in FY26. This is now for 27 counties. And pretty much all South Arkansas and this is very heavily partner oriented with the partner biologists from Quail Forever and AGFC.

Katy showed a map of all the projects areas and anticipated funding amounts.

Questions and Answers – open discussion was held to allow anyone to ask specific questions regarding any one of the areas discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Moreland



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FALL 2025

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Dec 16, 2025

(WATER QUANTITY REPORT)



Rodney Wright, Ph.D.
Water Management Engineer, Arkansas
Natural Resources Conservation Service
rodney.wright@usda.gov 870-206-5688

Mary Clayton
Water Quality Specialist, Arkansas

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES



NO SERIOUSLY, I'VE BEEN FURLOUGHED

Fall 2025 Water Quantity Subcommittee

~~Wednesday, October 2, 2025~~

Monday, November 24, 2025

Zoom only meeting

AGENDA

I. Opening

II. Presentations

A. Corbin Cannon, ANRD – Water Plan Update

B. Jeff Fore, TNC – Sustainable Water Targets

C. Will Gray, TNC – Master Irrigator Update

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

V. Closing



Status of the Arkansas Water Plan Update

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

Corbin Cannon

Geology Supervisor, ANRD



- Now in Phase 2 of the development of the plan. Additional stakeholder meetings during Feb. – July 2026
- Forecast demand increasing by **1 billion gallons per day** by 2050.
- July 2026 is the anticipated date for completion of Phase II.

The Nature
Conservancy



Sustainable Water Targets

Jeff Fore, PhD



30% Reduction Sustains the aquifer??

Develop a project where
companies could pay farmers to
meet or exceed sustainable
water use targets.



Master Irrigator

Effective advanced water management training

Will Gray-TNC

Farmer Survey

Profits & Pumping costs were the top concerns reported by farmers.

#1 Need – Irrigation Consultants - *IWM Techs!?*

AGENDA

- ✓ Opening
- ✓ Presentations
- III. Old Business
 - i. Pitless Tailwater Recovery Updates - Rodney
 - ii. AGWI Ranking Update and Irrigation Project Infrastructure Update - Rodney
 - iii. High Priority Practice Selection
- IV. New Business
- V. CLOSING / ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUNDING PITLESS TAILWATER RECOVERY - NRCS

Plan to have a fact
sheet on how to
contract soon.

Working out the
details with Dr.
Henry and his staff.



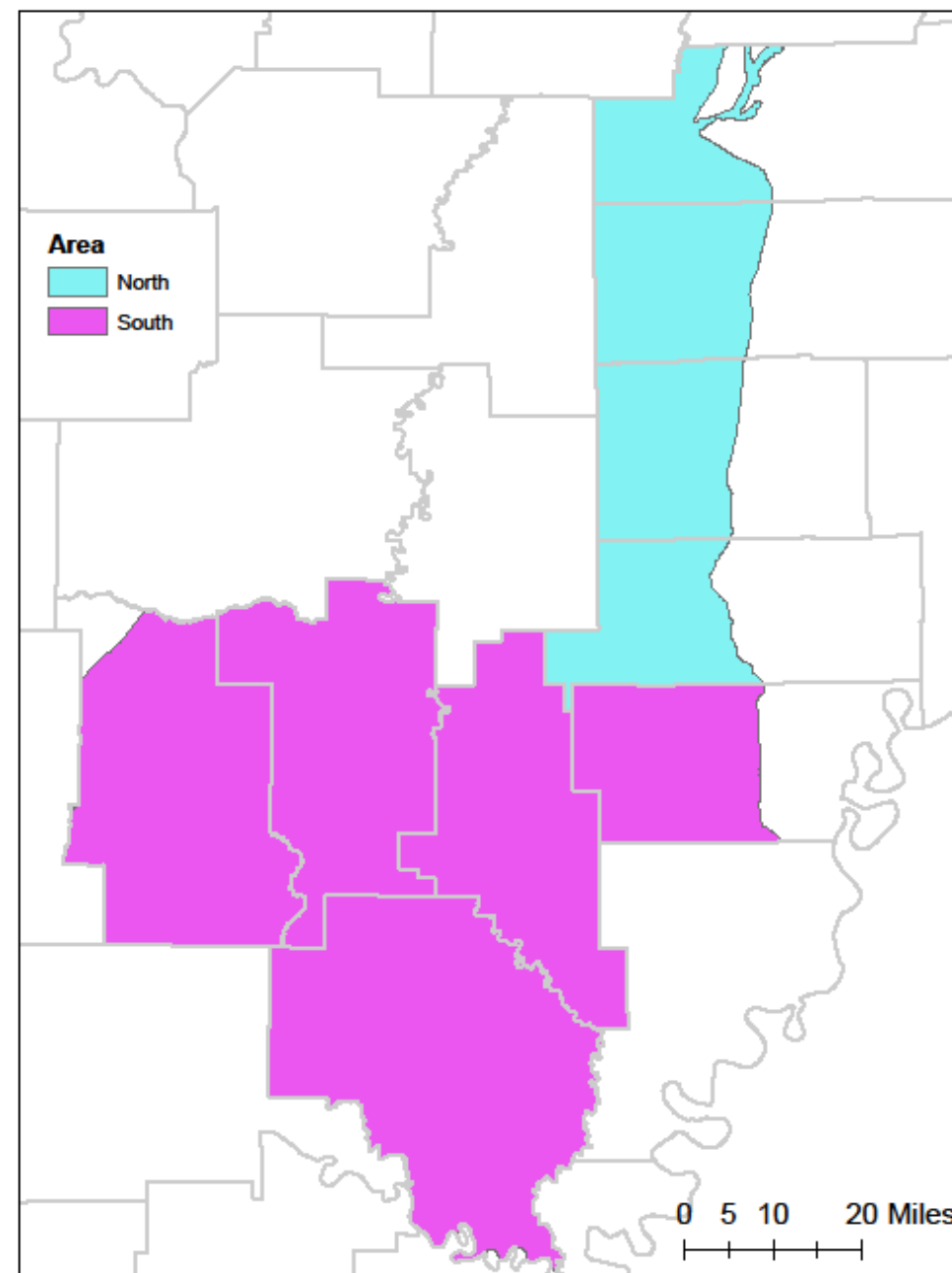
AGWI Tier / Ranking Update

Proposed this past Spring to:

Add a spatial ranking question to the AGWI Ranking pool report that gives priority to producers in the **Phase I areas** of the Irrigation Projects in the **South AGWI Area** for a temporary three-year period.

**Approved by State Conservationist,
Amanda Mathis**

2024 AGWI - North and South Areas



High Priority Practices (HPP)

NRCS, with input from the State technical committee, may designate up to 10 practices to be eligible for increased payments (90%-payment rate) for conservation practices that:

“Address the conservation of water and declining aquifers and mitigate drought”.

Water Quantity

High Priority Practices (HPP)

Submitted:

- **449 - Irrigation Water Management, Scenario 10, Rice Intermittent Flood All Season (AWD & Row Rice)**
- 449 – Irrigation Water Management, Scenario 9, IWM Device w/ Telemetry, Yr 1.
- 464 - Irrigation Land Leveling
- 447 - Irrigation and Drainage Tailwater Recovery
- 436 - Irrigation Reservoir
- 430 - Irrigation Pipeline

AGENDA

- ✓ Opening
- ✓ Presentations
- ✓ Old Business

IV. New Business

- i. AGWI Practices – Matthew Freniere and Kevin Crow, Founders – Cold Steppe
- ii. ...

V. CLOSING / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resource Concerns Addressed

- Water Quantity (primary)
- Soil Health (secondary)

Project Goals

Address critical groundwater decline by:

- Implementing management plans that create water savings through innovative equipment technology and management techniques;
- Addressing soil health concerns through implementation of cover crop science in order to build and retain soil moisture throughout the soil profile.



Arkansas Groundwater Initiative (AGWI)

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)



Project Overview

The Arkansas Groundwater Initiative (AGWI) is a targeted approach to address the critical groundwater decline issues in the Arkansas Delta. Through this voluntary program, financial and technical assistance will be provided to agricultural producers in seven counties: Arkansas, and Prairie; and portions of Craighead, Cross, Lonoke, Poinsett, and St. Francis.

Resource Concerns Addressed

- Water Quantity (primary)
- Soil Health (secondary)

Project Goals

Address critical groundwater decline by:

- Implementing conservation practices that convert to surface water usage;
- Implementing management plans that create water savings through innovative equipment technology and management techniques;
- Installation of permanent flowmeters on wells and reliefs for contracted acreages;
- Monitor and collect accurate well water use within the critical groundwater areas creating a comprehensive network of measured wells;
- Addressing soil health concerns through implementation of cover crop science in order to build and retain soil moisture throughout the soil profile.

Conservation Practice Funding

Funding will be available to eligible landowners through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS will provide financial assistance for a systems approach using approved conservation practices for the purpose of addressing resource concerns. Land and producer eligibility, adjusted gross income, and all other program criteria for participation must be met. Funding will be prioritized based on a tiered approach with areas with highest groundwater drawdowns being the highest priority. Agricultural lands are eligible for enrollment in the initiative.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Approved Conservation Practices

- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
- Irrigation Land Leveling (464)
- Irrigation Pipeline (430)
- Irrigation Reservoir (436)
- Irrigation System, Micro Irrigation (441)
- Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (443)
- Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Mulching (484)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pest Management (590)
- Pumping Plant (533)
- Residue and Tillage Management; No-till (329)
- Residue and Tillage Management; Reduced-till (345)
- Sprinkler System (442)
- Structure for Water Control (587)
- Surface Drain, Field Ditch (607)
- Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (608)
- Water Well Decommissioning (351)
- Well Water Testing (355)



ARKANSAS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov

AR • June 2019

AGWI Approved Conservation Practices

Cover Crop (340)	Nutrient Management (590)
Critical Area Planting (342)	Pest Management (590)
Grade Stabilization Structure (410)	Pumping Plant (533)
Irrigation Land Leveling (464)	Residue and Tillage Management; No-till (329)
Irrigation Pipeline (430)	Residue and Tillage Management; Reduced-till (345)
Irrigation Reservoir (436)	Sprinkler System (442)
Irrigation System, Micro Irrigation (441)	Structure for Water Control (587)
Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (443)	Surface Drain, Field Ditch (607)
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447)	Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (608)
Irrigation Water Management (449)	Water Well Decommissioning (351)
Mulching (484)	Well Water Testing (355)
	Soil Carbon Amendment / Biochar (336)



Biochar Impact on Plant Yield and Physiology

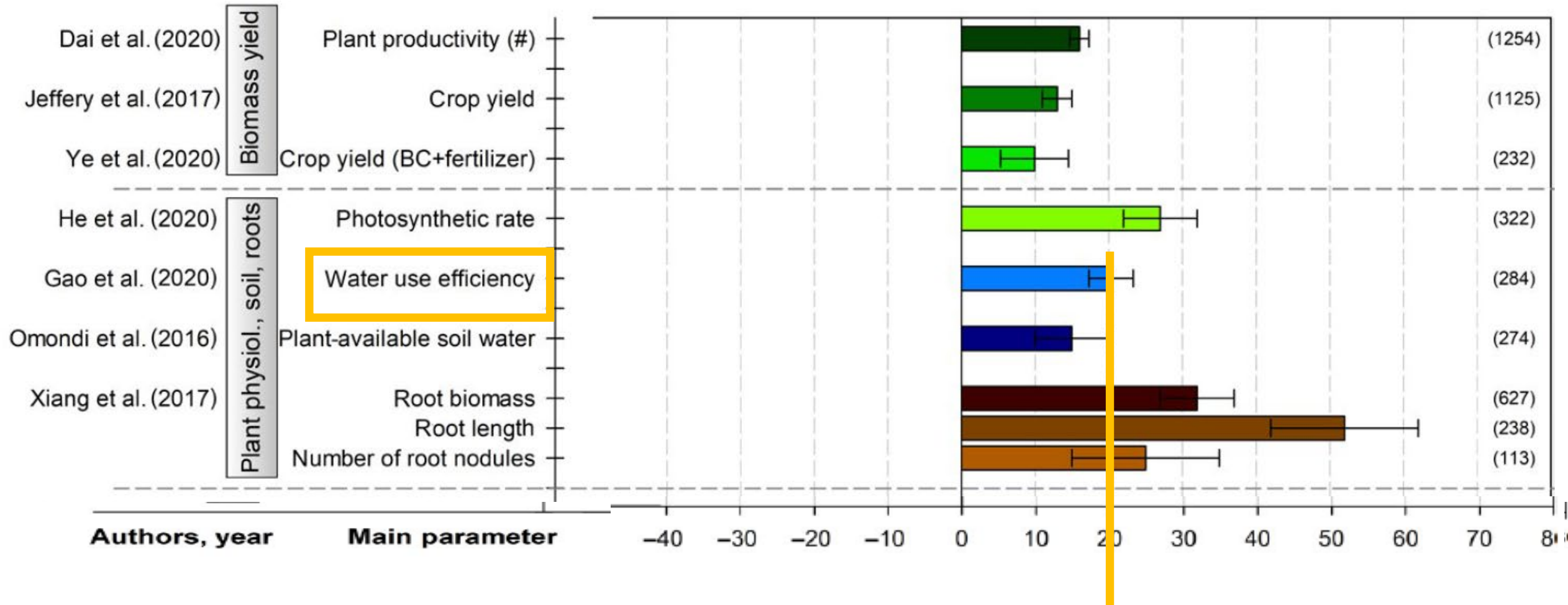
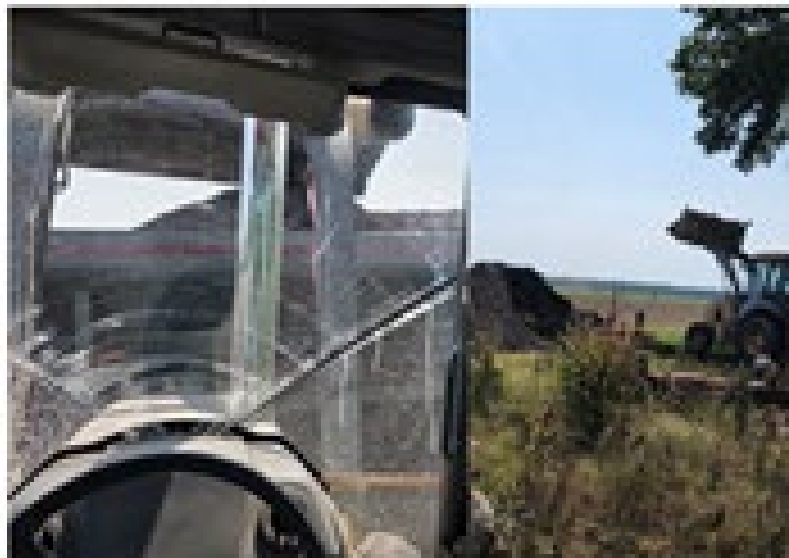
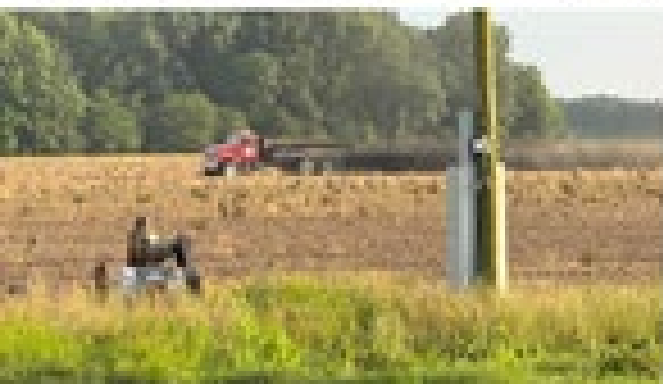
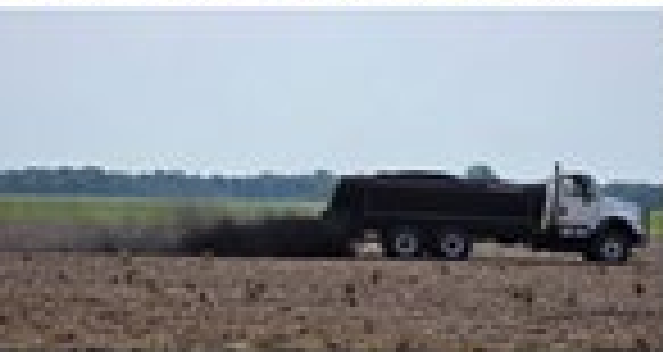


Chart from Schmidt, et al. 2021. Biochar in agriculture – A systematic review of 26 global meta-analyses. GCB Bioenergy. 13:1708-1730.



Based on Matthew's presentation and recommendation the Subcommittee agrees to propose adding:

Conservation Practice Code 336 to the Approved Conservation Practices for the AGWI Funding Pool.

≡ Google Trends



trends.google.com

News

- 1 One Big Beautiful Bill Act
- 2 Government shutdown
- 3 Charlie Kirk assassination
- 4 Tariffs
- 5 No Kings protest

● Government shutdown
Search term

+ Compare

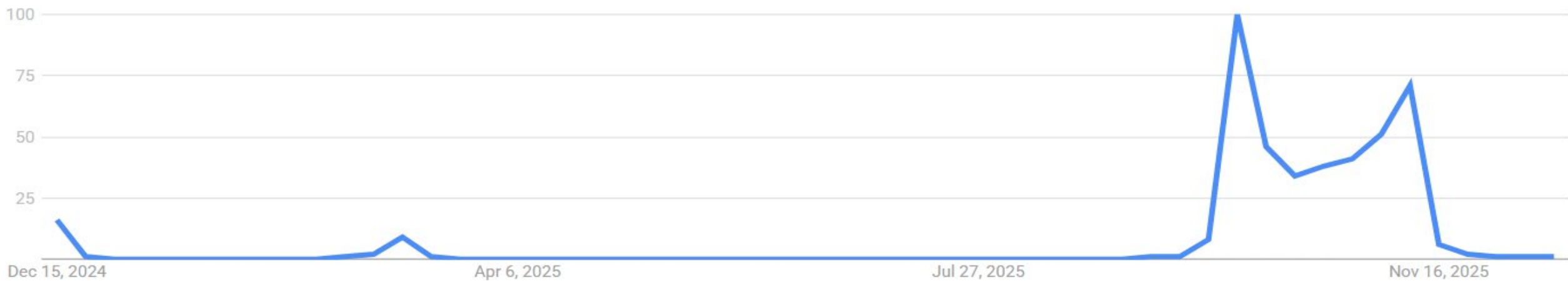
Worldwide ▼

Past 12 months ▼

All categories ▼

Web Search ▼

Interest over time ⓘ



Watering & Irrigation
Topic

+ Compare

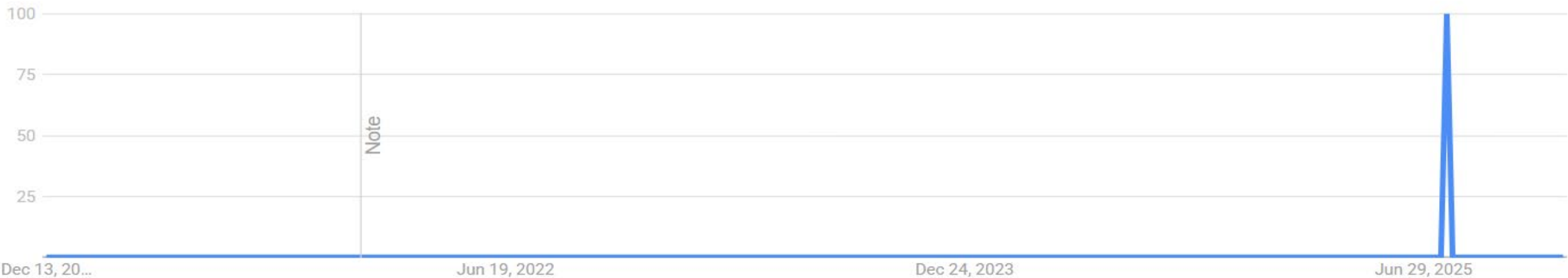
Arkansas ▼

Past 5 years ▼

All categories ▼

Web Search ▼

Interest over time ⓘ





Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

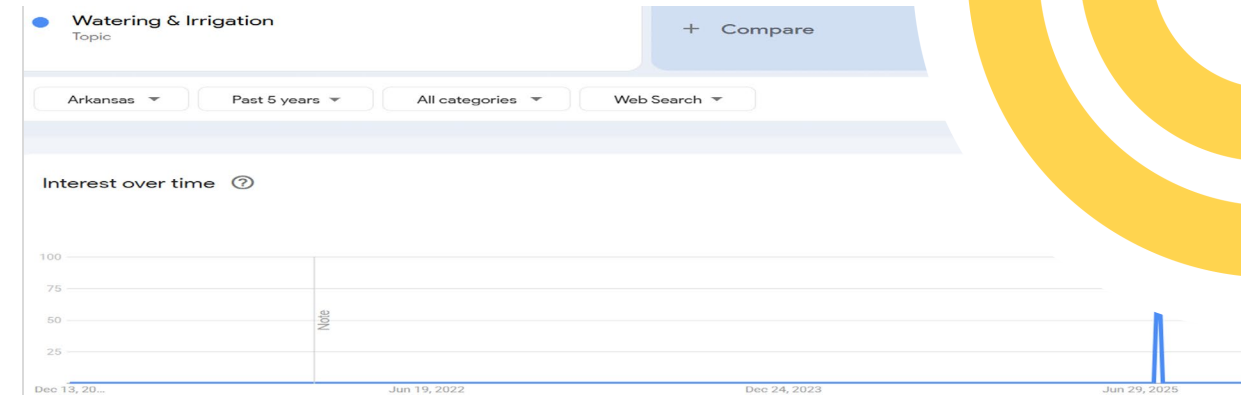
FALL 2025

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Dec 16, 2025

(WATER QUANTITY REPORT)

Rodney Wright, Ph.D.
Water Management Engineer, Arkansas
Natural Resources Conservation Service
rodney.wright@usda.gov 870-206-5688



FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



United States Department of Agriculture

FY25 Fall Water Quality and Source Water Protection Subcommittee Meeting

ARKANSAS

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Mary Clayton, Water Quality Specialist
10/2/2025

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

FY25 Fall Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting was held virtually on Monday November 24, 2025 at 10am. The Water Quality and Water Quantity meetings were held together at this time. There were 71 participants that logged into the meeting.

- Recommendation was add a Modified Ponds Scenario to 350 Sediment Control Basin and to add the practice to the available Source Water Protection practices list.

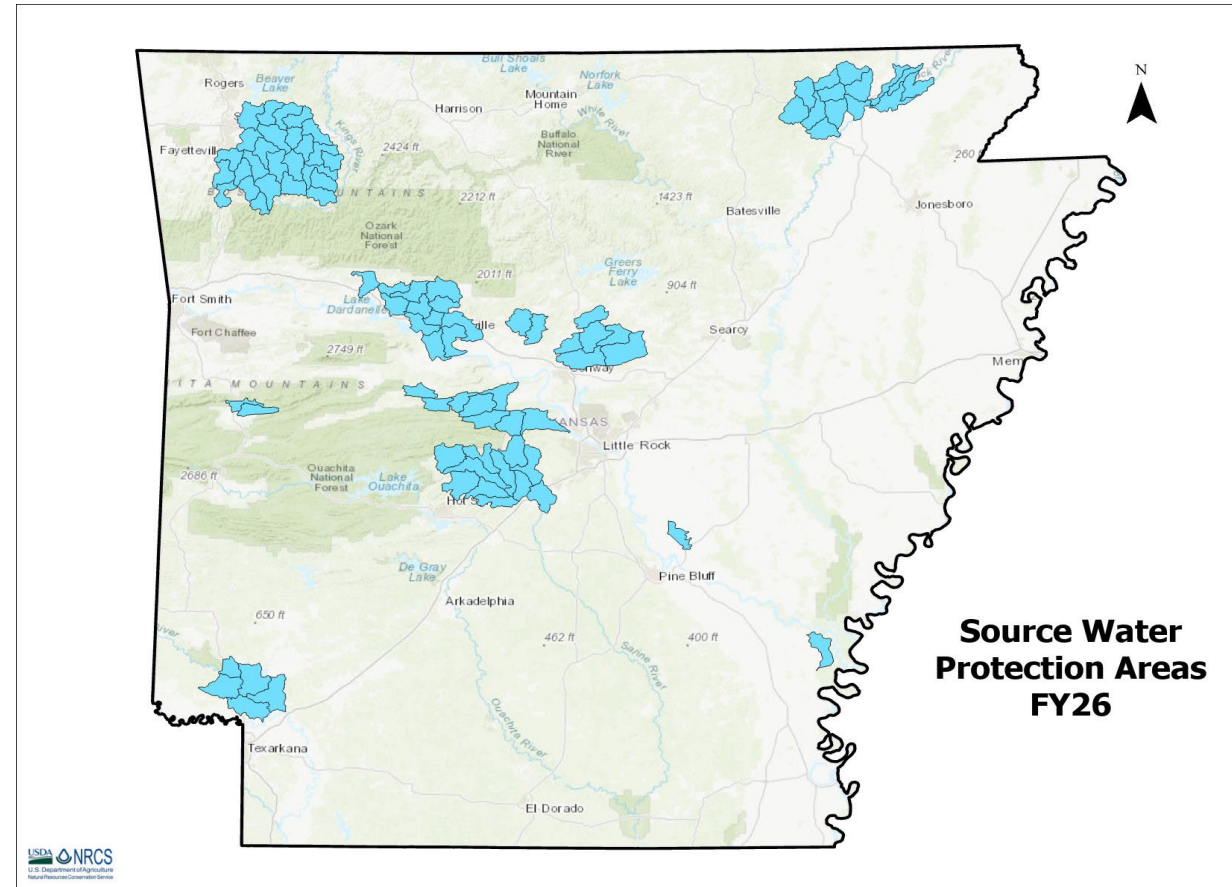


Source Water Protection

Source Water Protection provide for increased incentives for practices that relate to water quality and quantity and protect drinking water sources while also benefitting producers. Practices are selected from the NWQI core practices. Selected practices will receive the higher payment rate in the identified Source Water Protection Priority Areas.

FY26 will include 15 additional HUCs in Conway, Clay, Greene, Lawrence, Randolph, and Sharp counties. Practices include -

- 328 Conservation Crop Rotation
- 329 Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
- 340 Cover Crop
- 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- 391 Riparian Forest Buffer
- 393 Filter Strip
- 590 Nutrient Management



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

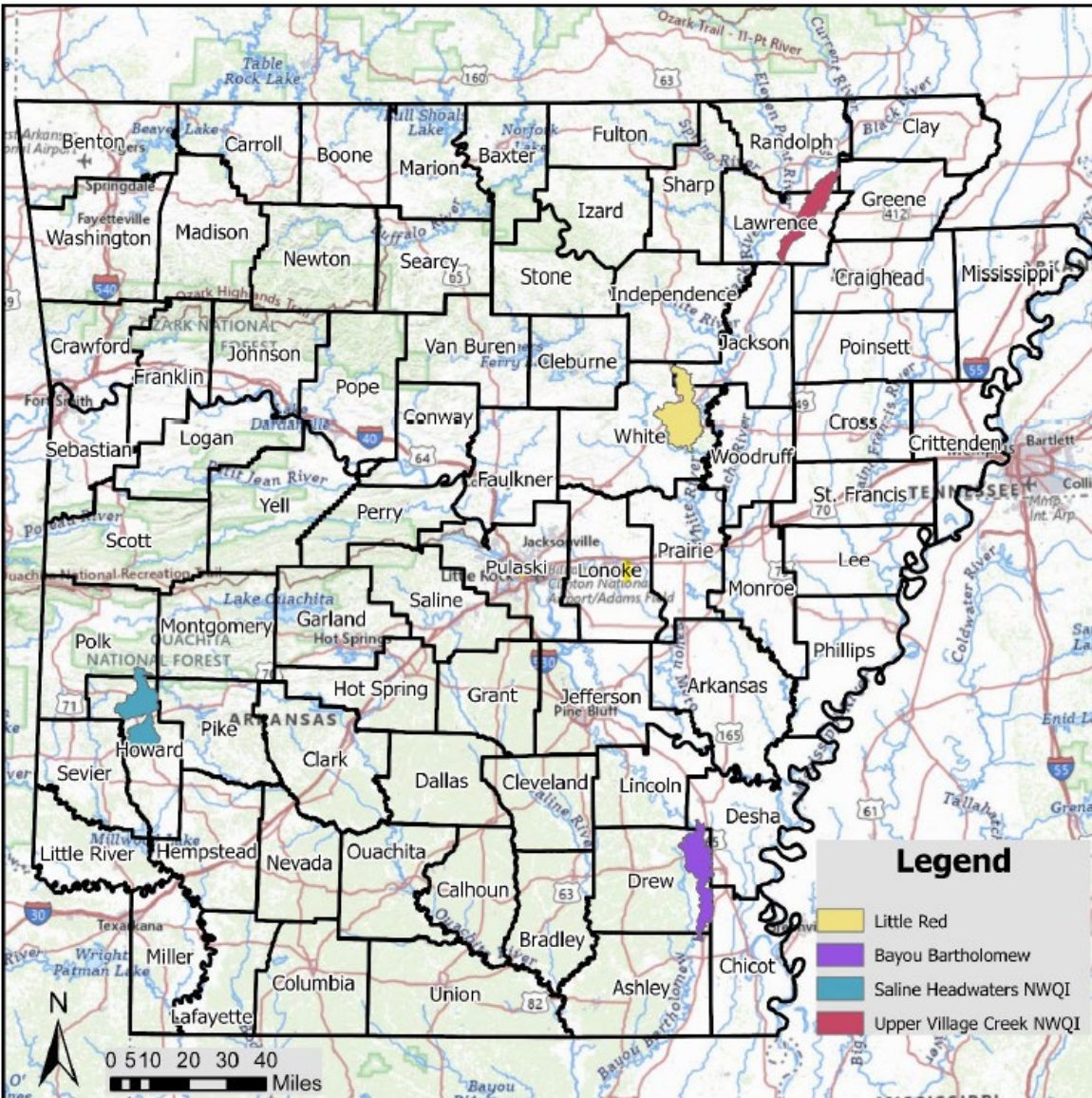
FY26 EQIP High Priority Practices

High Priority Practices address specific causes of ground or surface water impairment relating to excessive nutrients, address the conservation of water to advance drought mitigation and declining aquifers, meet other environmental priorities and priority resource concerns identified in habitat or area restoration plans, or are geographically targeted to address a natural resource concern in a specific watershed. Selection of practices to receive the high payment rate should incentivize conservation practices that have high potential for conservation benefit but are underutilized.

- **360 – Waste Facility Closure –**
 - recommended at the FY25 Spring meeting and approved for FY26



FY25 NWQI

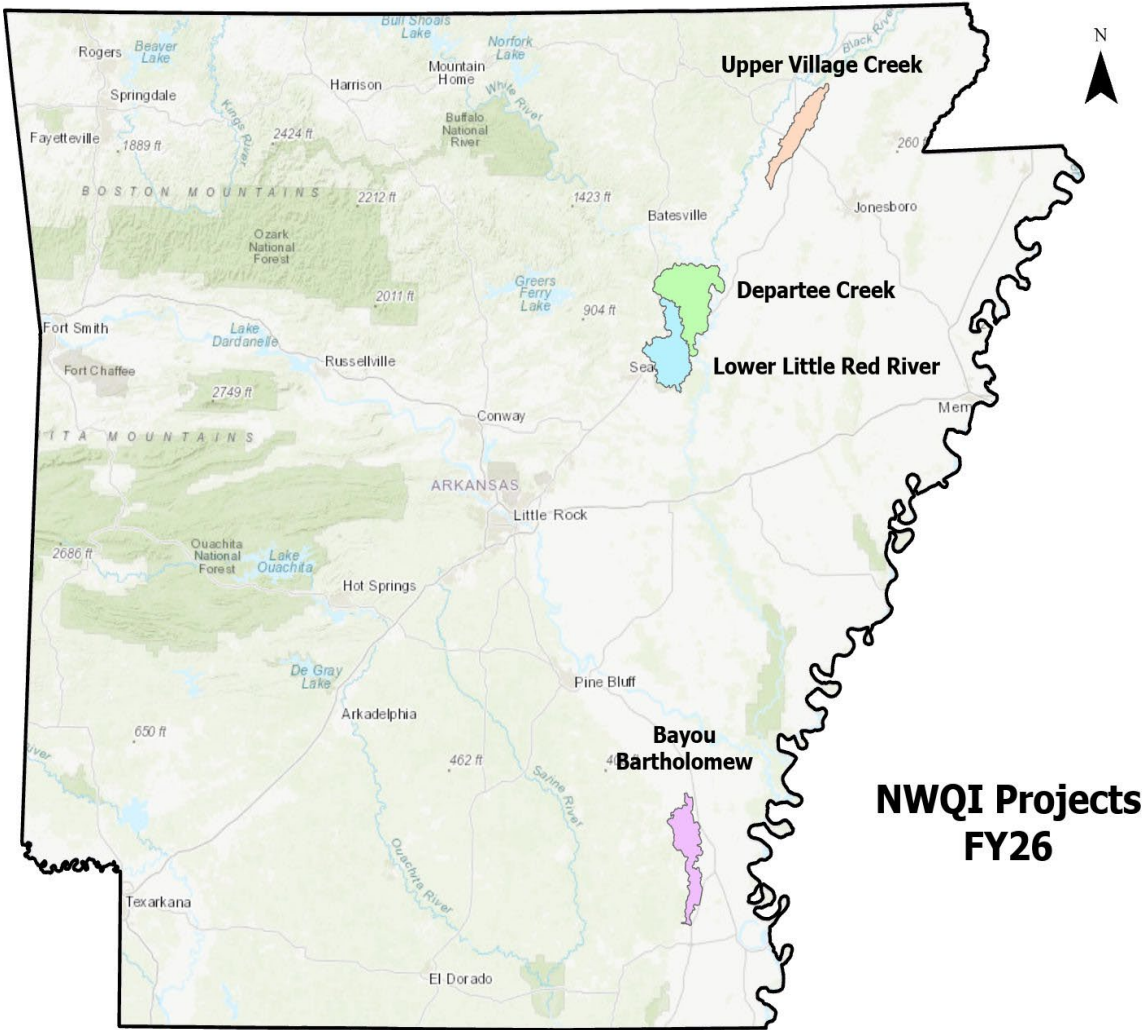


NWQI Project	Project Lifespan	Funds Obligated	Acres
Upper Village Creek	FY2023-2026	\$ 641,453.00	745.8
Saline Headwater	FY2023-2025	\$ 315,831.00	234
Little Red	FY2024-2027	\$ 528,666.00	356.2
Lower Bayou Bartholomew	FY2024-2027	\$ 970,143.00	3058.5
FY25 Totals		\$ 2,456,093.00	4394.5

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

FY26 NWQI



NWQI Project	Project Lifespan	Counties
Upper Village Creek	FY2023-2026	Lawrence, Randolph
Saline Headwater	<i>NOT FUNDED FY26</i>	Howard, Polk
Little Red	FY2024-2027	Jackson, White
Lower Bayou Bartholomew	FY2024-2027	Drew
Departee Creek	FY2020-2023, 2026	Independence, Jackson, White
Requested \$3,700,000.00 for FY26. Arkansas will receive \$2,775,392.00 for FY26.		
Each state is required to participate in NWQI.		

Natural
 Resources
 Conservation
 Service

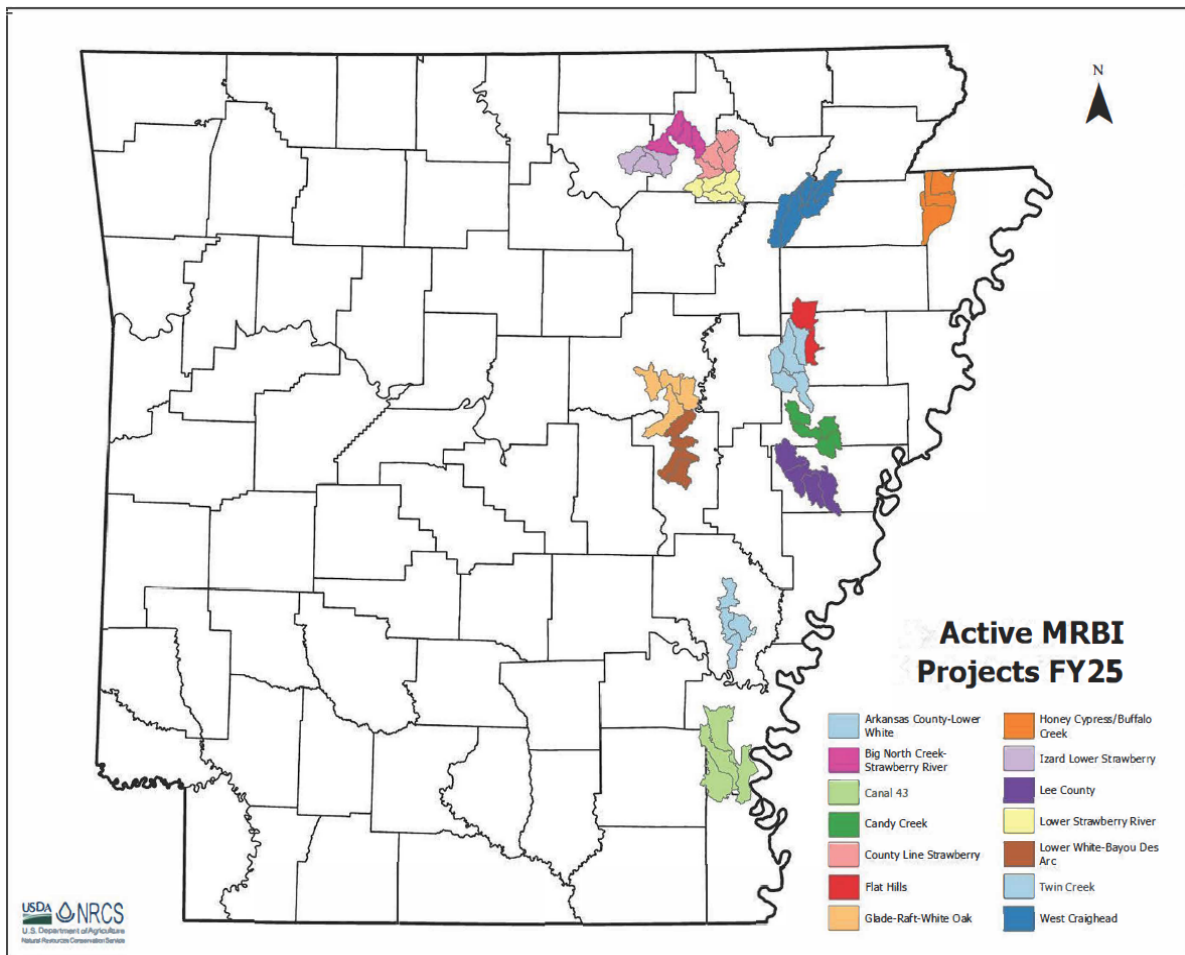
nrcs.usda.gov/

Planning Phase Projects

- **Lower Bull Shoals Lake**
 - Boone & Marion counties
 - Watershed assessment is currently in development
- **Lower Black River Watershed – 3 projects**
 - Randolph County
 - Lawrence County
 - Independence, Jackson, and Sharp Counties
 - Received approval from NHQ to develop watershed assessments



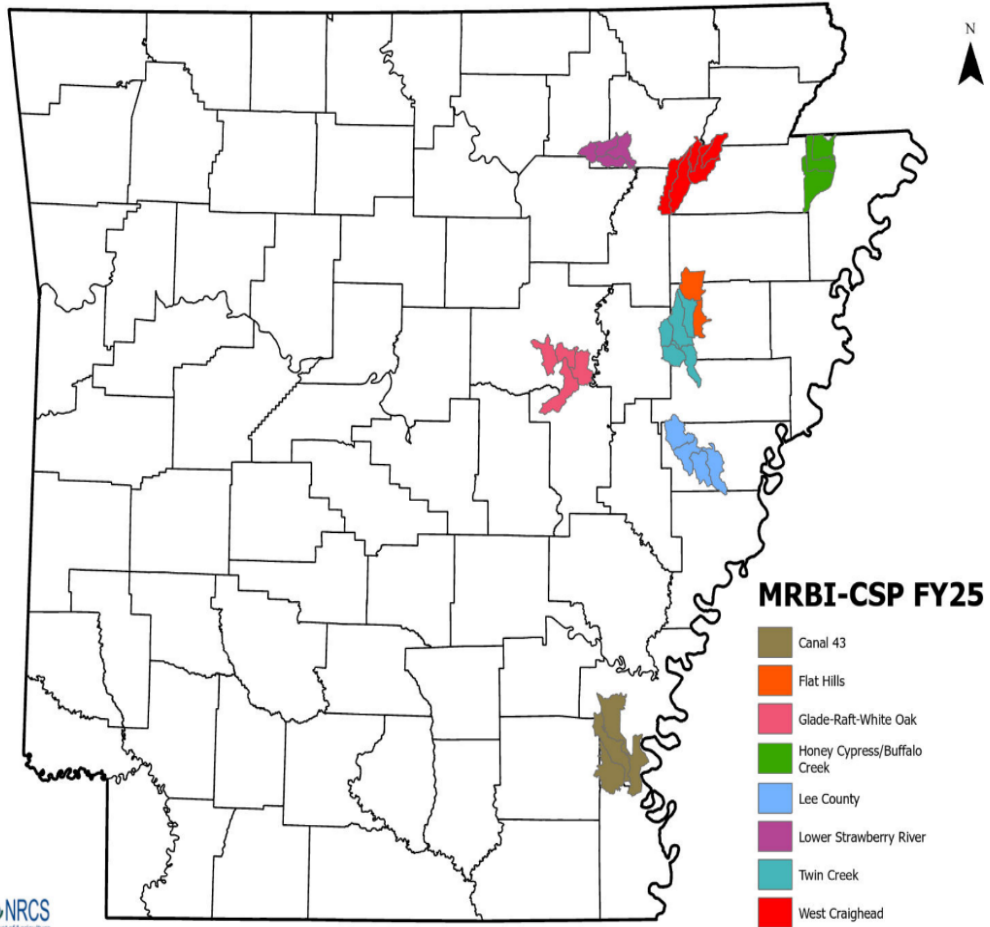
FY25 MRBI EQIP



Project	Counties	Project Lifespan	Allocation	Obligated	Acres
AR County-Lower White	Arkansas	2023-2026	\$ 1,204,302.10	\$ 640,610.00	594.1
Canal 43	Chicot, Desha	2021-2025	\$ 1,881,866.00	\$ 2,572,373.34	3512.3
Candy Creek	Cross, St. Francis	2021-2025	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 681,466.00	481.9
County Line Strawberry	Lawrence, Sharp	2022-2026	\$ 364,408.00	\$ 341,030.71	1387.4
Flat Hills	Cross, Poinsett	2022-2025	\$ 666,428.00	\$ 918,711.00	2004
Glade-Raft-White Oak	Prairie, White	2022-2026	\$ 1,124,890.00	\$ 599,356.00	926.2
Honey Cypress Buffalo	Craighead, Mississippi	2024-2027	\$ 1,329,068.50	\$ 1,204,162.50	2043.8
Izard Lower Strawberry	Izard, Sharp	2021-2025	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 259,073.23	1502
Lee County	Lee	2022-2026	\$ 1,190,000.00	\$ 1,176,345.21	2357.2
Lower Strawberry River	Independence, Lawrence, Sharp	2024-2027	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 607,377.80	1968.7
Lower White-Bayou Des Arc	Prairie	2022-2026	\$ 1,569,454.45	\$ 1,057,524.04	2153.6
North Big Creek-Strawberry River	Izard, Sharp	2022-2026	\$ 421,725.00	\$ 305,226.74	1739.5
Twin Creek	Cross, Woodruff	2021-2025	\$ 1,105,000.00	\$ 1,036,456.64	2816
West Craighead	Craighead, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence	2022-2026	\$ 758,226.00	\$ 1,083,076.50	2958.1
FY25 Totals			\$ 12,440,368.05	\$ 12,482,789.71	26,444.8



FY25 MRBI CSP



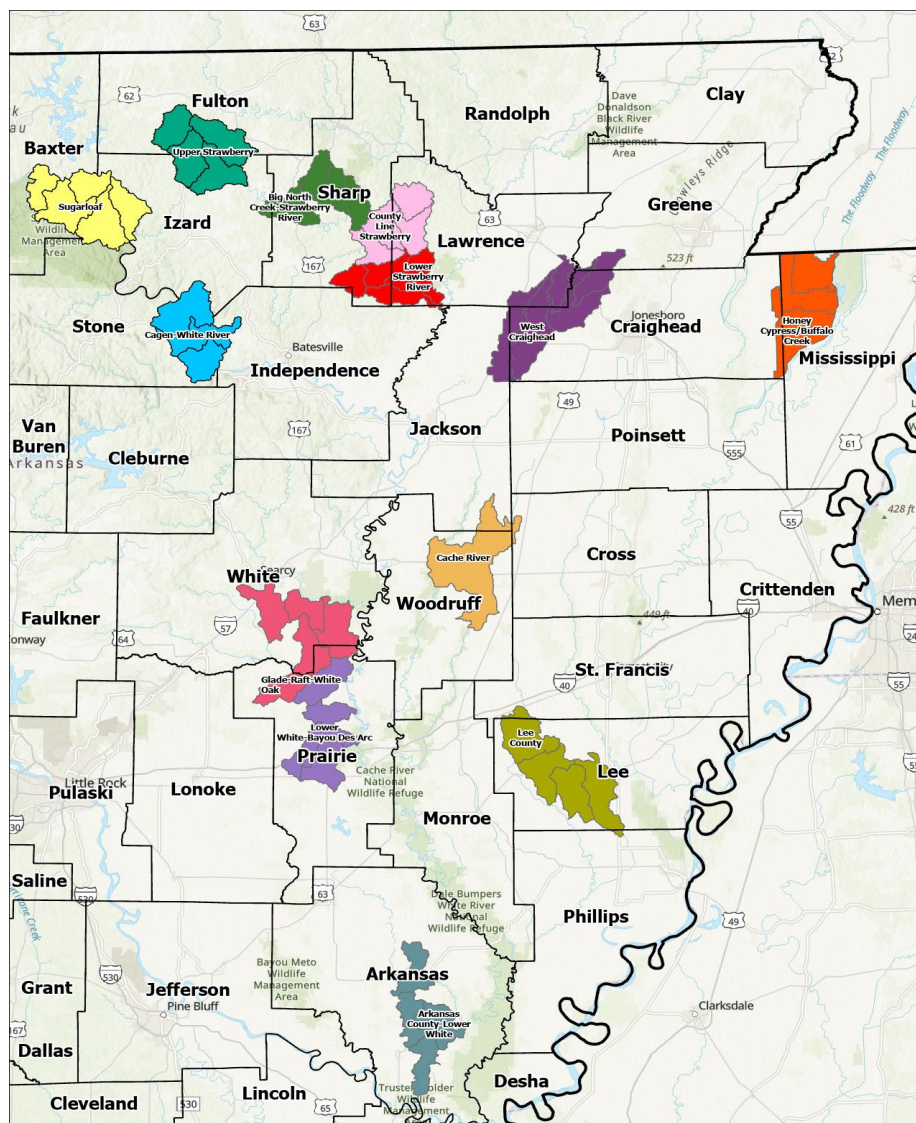
Project	Counties	Project Lifespan	Allocation	Obligated	Acres
Canal 43	Chicot, Desha	2021-2025	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ 2,233,629.00	13464.8
Flat Hills	Cross, Poinsett	2022-2025	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 909,938.00	6524.8
Honey Cypress Buffalo	Craighead, Mississippi	2024-2027	\$ 2,125,000.00	\$ 1,518,348.00	12643
Lee County	Lee	2022-2026	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 715,388.00	4792.6
Lower Strawberry River	Independence, Lawrence, Sharp	2024-2027	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 459,427.00	1775.3
Twin Creek	Cross, Woodruff	2021-2025	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,117,711.00	7829.5
West Craighead	Craighead, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence	2022-2026	\$ 3,125,000.00	\$ 3,358,601.00	22918.8
FY25 Totals			\$ 10,350,000.00	\$ 10,313,042.00	69948.8

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



FY26 MRBI



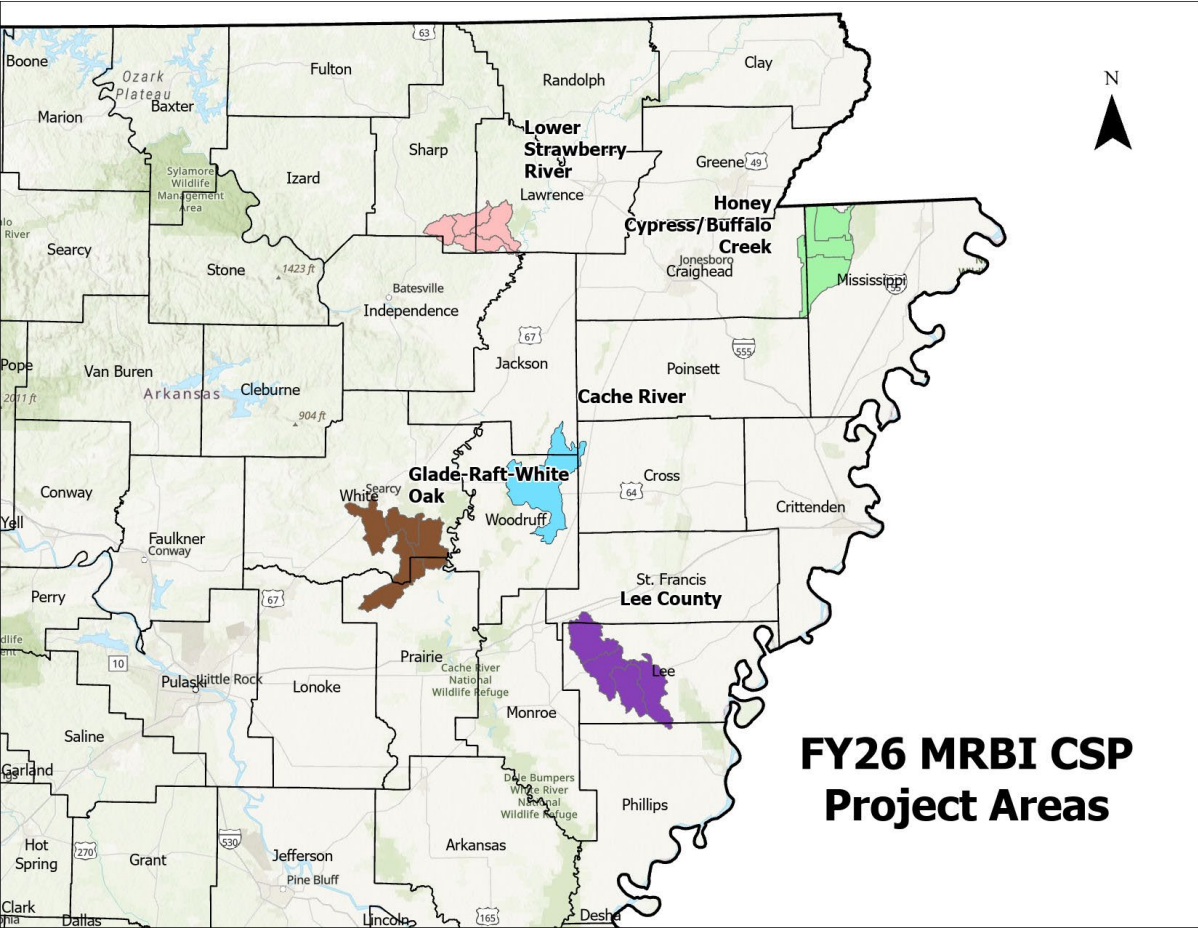
Project	Counties	Project Lifespan	Requested Allocation
Cache River	Woodruff	2020-2023, 2026	\$ 1,280,517.00
Cagen White River	Stone, Independence, Izard	2026-2029	\$ 450,620.00
Sugarloaf	Baxter and Izard	2026-2029	\$ 350,343.00
Upper Strawberry	Fulton and Izard	2026-2029	\$ 1,000,137.00
Honey Cypress Buffalo Creek	Mississippi and Craighead	2024-2027	\$ 1,563,610.00
Lower Strawberry River	Lawrence, Sharp and Independence	2024-2027	\$ 500,000.00
West Craighead	Craighead/Lawrence	2023-2026	\$ 1,555,397.00
Big North Creek	Greene	2023-2026	\$ 421,725.00
Strawberry River	Sharp/Izard	2023-2026	\$ 1,416,826.00
Arkansas County	Arkansas	2023-2026	\$ 750,000.00
Lower White	White/Prairie	2022-2026	\$ 364,408.00
Glade_Raft_White Oak Creek	Sharp/Lawrence	2022-2026	\$ 1,846,417.00
County Line Strawberry	Prairie	2022-2026	\$ 1,500,000.00
Lower White-Des Arc Bayou	Lee	2022-2026	\$ 13,000,000.00
Lee County			
FY26 Totals			

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Arkansas will receive \$13 million for FY26 projects.

nrcs.usda.gov/

FY26 CSP



Project	Counties	Project Lifespan	Allocation
Cache River	Woodruff	2020-2023,2026	\$ 960,000.00
Honey Cypress Buffalo	Craighead, Mississippi	2024-2027	\$ 3,000,000.00
Lower Strawberry River	Independence, Lawrence, Sharp	2024-2027	\$ 1,000,000.00
Glade-Raft-White Oak	Prairie, White	2022-2026	\$ 1,000,000.00
Lee County	Lee	2022-2026	\$ 1,000,000.00
FY25 Totals			\$ 6,960,000.00

Arkansas will receive \$6 million for FY26 projects

Natural
 Resources
 Conservation
 Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Totals



MRBI EQIP FY 2010-FY2025

Total Contract	2,940
Total \$\$	\$ 154,092,586.00
Total Acres	628,658.80

NWQI EQIP FY 2012-2025

Total Contract	451
Total \$\$	\$ 18,006,750.05
Total Acres	82,134.60



Edge of Field Monitoring



3 Projects obligated in FY25. All 3 locations are a part of UofA Extension Discovery Farms Network -

- Phillips County
- Arkansas County
- Jefferson County

Arkansas is the only state in the nation to receive Edge of Field Monitoring projects in FY25.





Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Watershed Program Update for Arkansas 2025



FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

Public Law 83 – 566 Program

- **Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program (WFPO)**
- **The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL 83-566) specifically focuses on small watersheds, up to 250,000 acres**

Authorized Watershed Project Purposes

- **Primary Purposes**

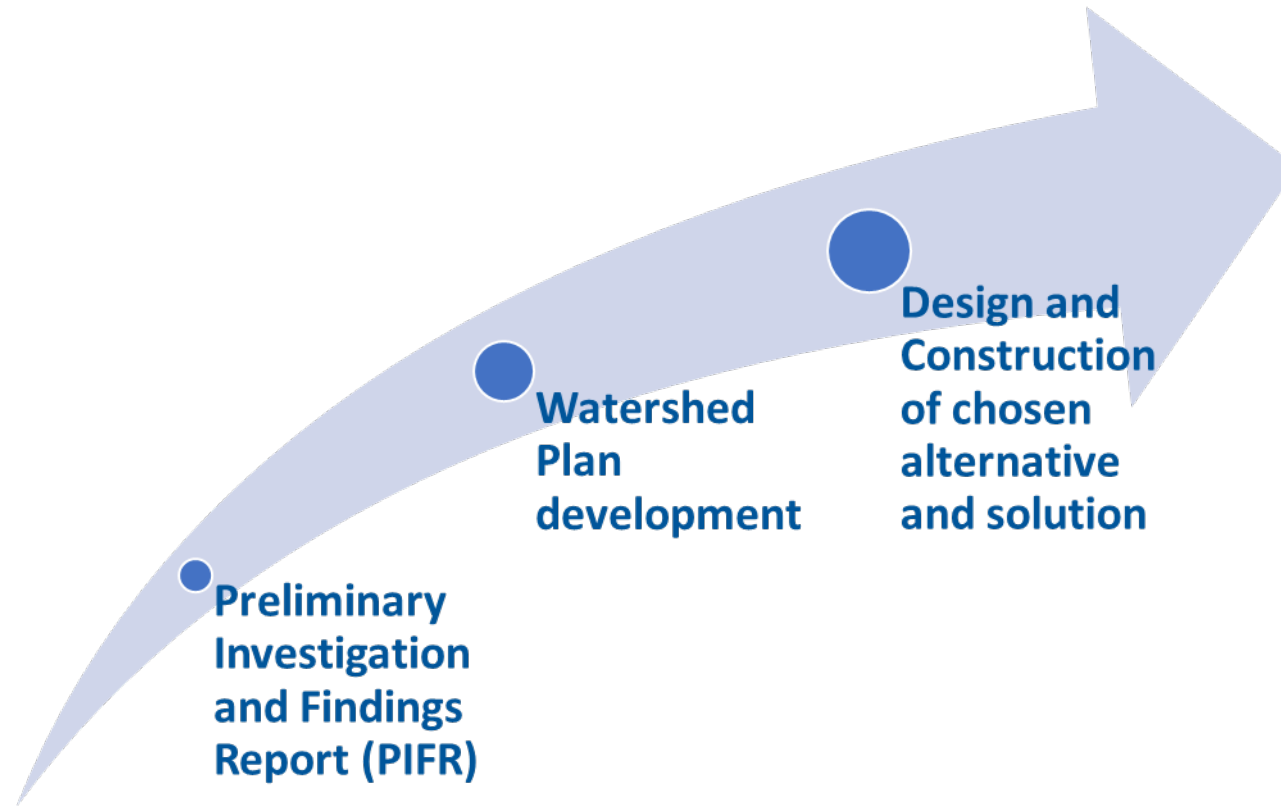
- Flood Prevention/Reduction
- Watershed Protection
 - Erosion and sedimentation
 - Water quality
 - Flood control
- Agricultural Water Management
- Public Recreation Development or Public Fish and Wildlife



Current Watershed Projects in Arkansas

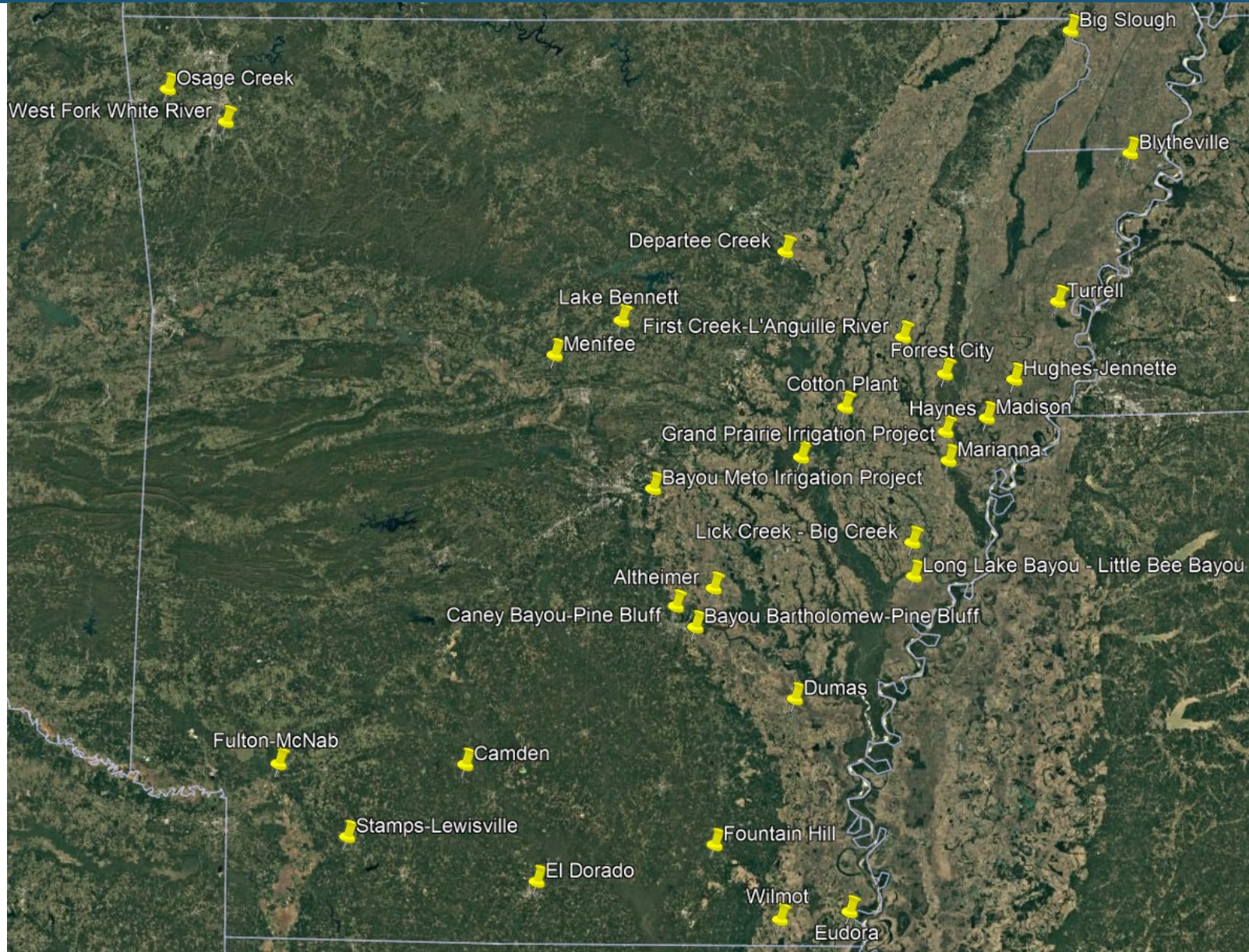
- **30 projects in various phases
(PIFR completed, Planning, Design,
and Construction)**

Phases of PL 83 – 566 Projects





Current Watershed Projects	PIFR Phase Completed	Planning Phase	Design Phase	Construction Phase
City of Cotton Plant	✓			
City of Fountain Hill	✓			
City of Fulton	✓			
City of Menifee	✓			
First Creek – L'Anguille Rive Watershed	✓			
City of Blytheville	✓			
Osage Creek – Illinois River Watershed	not started			
Cities of Stamps and Lewisville		✓		
City of Altheimer		✓		
City of Dumas		✓		
City of El Dorado		✓		
City of Eudora		✓		
Cities of Hughes and Jennette		✓		
City of Madison		✓		
City of Turrell		✓		
City of Wilmot		✓		
Lake Bennett Watershed		✓		
Bayou Bartholomew (Pine Bluff)			✓	
Caney Bayou (Pine Bluff)			✓	
City of Camden			✓	
City of Forrest City			✓	
City of Haynes			✓	
City of Marianna			✓	
Lick Creek – Big Creek Watershed (W. Helena)			✓	
Long Lake Bayou – Little Bee Bayou Watershed (W. Helena)			✓	
Big Slough Watershed			✓	
West Fork White River Watershed			✓	✓
Bayou Meto Irrigation Project			✓	✓
Grand Prairie Irrigation Project			✓	✓
Departee Creek Watershed				✓



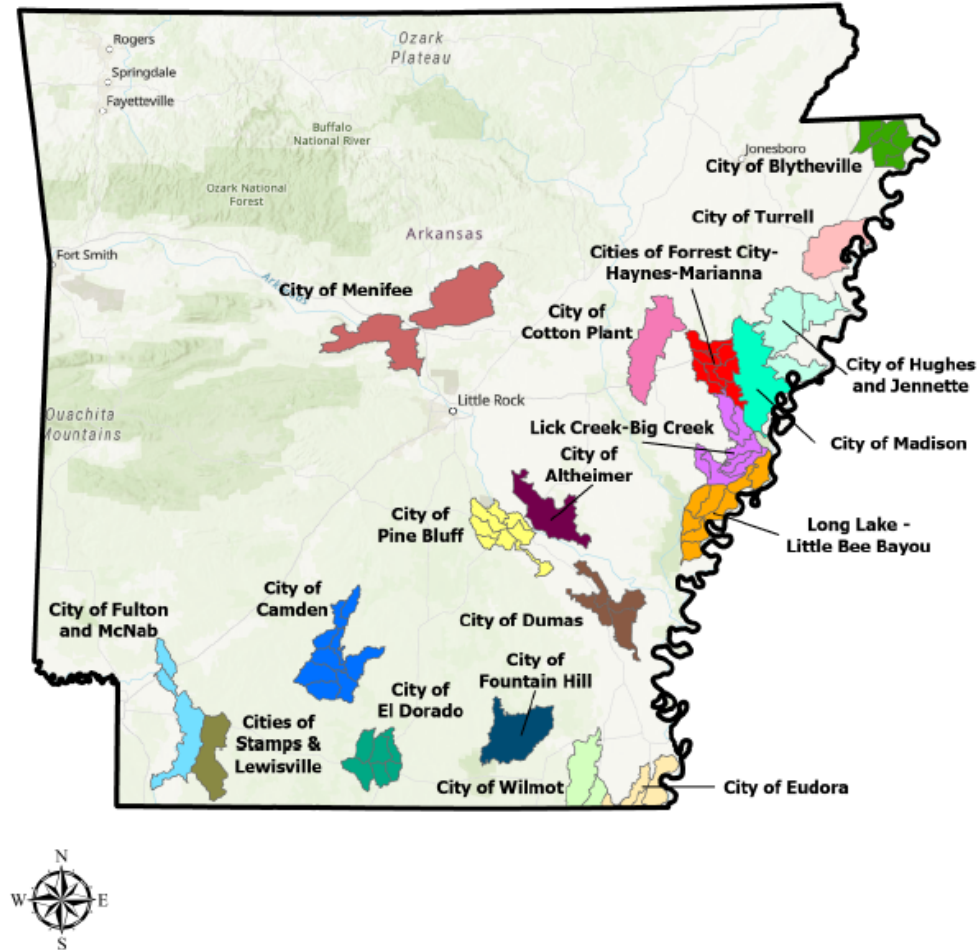
AR-NRCS entered into two Cooperative Agreements with the ABMA in September of 2022

- **All Phases Agreement (planning, design, & construction) covering 8 projects for \$103,619,750**
- **Planning Only Agreement covering 9 projects for \$10,833,726**

17 ABMA Projects are in various stages

- **8 projects have Authorized Watershed Plans and are currently in the design phase**
 - Requests for Proposals advertised
 - A/E Firms Selected
 - Contract negotiations underway
- **9 projects are in the planning phase**
 - 2 plans at NWMC under technical review
 - 7 plans under State Review

Watershed Projects Requested In Arkansas



Potential Work

- **Cache River**

- Execution of existing practices
- 1 to 2 years – Two Stage Ditches
- 2 to 3 years – MRBI
- 3 to 4 years – Easements
- 5 to 7 years – PL-566

Emergency Watershed Protection

- Cache River EWP – Completed log jam removal project, alleviating upstream flooding risk approximately 2-4 feet. (\$729K)
- Cross County EWP - Debris removal project completed. (\$242k)
- Stone County EWP – Submitted Class VII streambank stabilization project to the design center for review.
- War Eagle Clifty EWP – Agreement executed, In construction phase. (\$400K)
- Pumpkin Hollow EWP – Agreement formation. (\$85K)
- Coon Creek EWP – Agreement formation. (\$79K)





Thank You

Questions?

Bill Kinkaid – Resource Conservationist
NRCS Watershed Planning Team
Office: (501) 301-3127
E-mail: william.kinkaid@usda.gov



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Small Farm and Urban Agriculture Subcommittee

Recommendations for the State Technical Committee



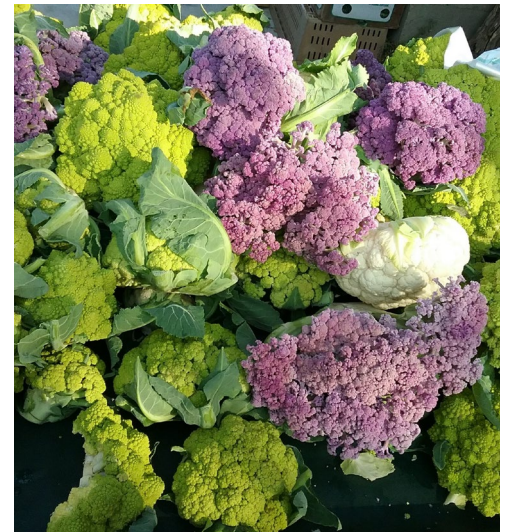
December 16, 2025

Katy Brantley – Initiative Coordinator

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

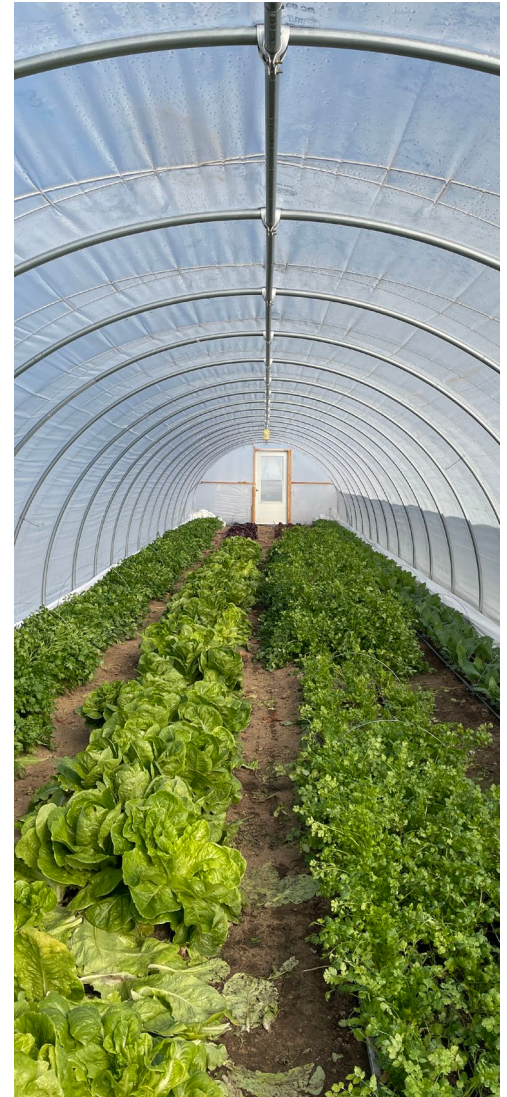
Overview

- Met virtually on December 4, 2025
 - 20 in attendance
- Introductions and partner updates
- Reviewed FY25 urban ranking pool outcomes – EQIP and CSP
- NRCS updates – reorganization and FY26 expectations
- Open discussion



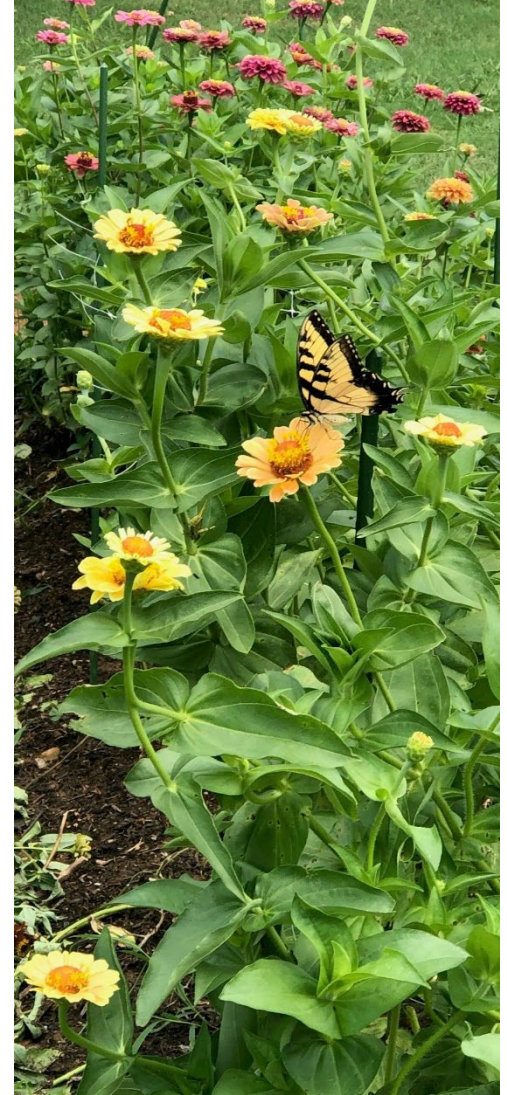
Discussion and Feedback

- Troyce is recommending that caterpillar tunnels be acceptable under the high tunnel standard
 - The subcommittee would like clear guidance on what is allowed and how they must be maintained if caterpillar tunnels are approved by the National Agronomist
 - Will revisit this once Troyce has updates



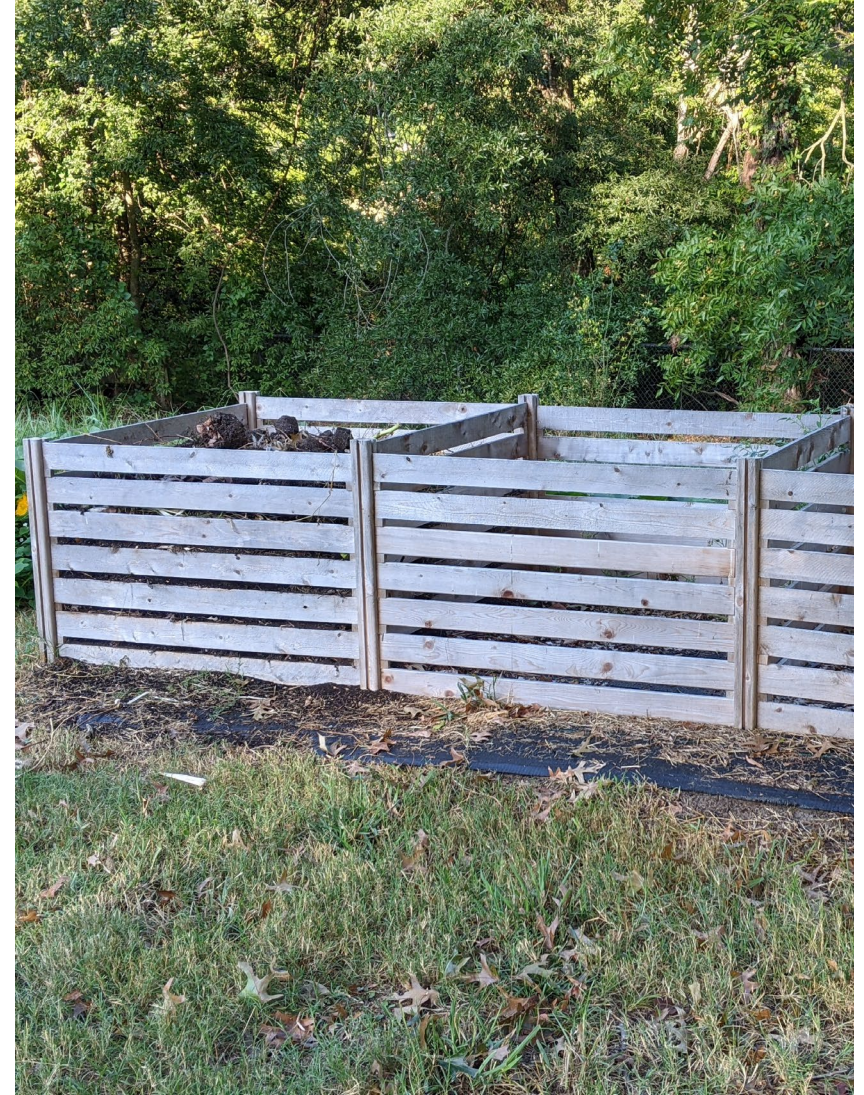
Discussion and Feedback

- Multiple members shared experiences of producers who have been upset with the customer service they have received
 - Working with Kennard to strategize solutions



Discussion and Feedback

- Composting on small farms
 - More approachable designs for small farms
 - More transparency with options and requirements
 - Need to work with engineering to improve this



Discussion and Feedback

- Joint meeting of alternative/specialty crop subcommittee and small farm and urban ag subcommittee
 - Subcommittee recommends a joint meeting going forward
 - Wishes to explore the opportunity to merge subcommittees





Thank you!

Katy Brantley – Katy.Brantley@usda.gov



Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

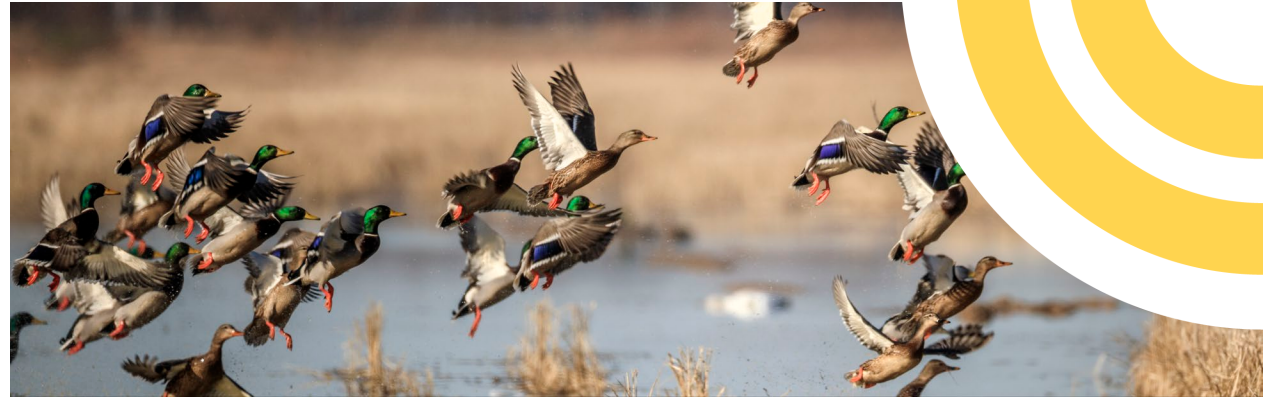
- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Priority Resource Concerns



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Arkansas



2025 Priority Resource Concerns

- Soil Health
- Water Quantity
- Water Quality
- Plant Health and Condition
- Wildlife Habitat



Resource Concern Class	Resource Concern	2026 Priority Resource Concern
Soil	Subsidence	Soil Health
	Compaction	Soil Health
	Organic matter depletion	Soil Health
	Concentration of salts or other chemicals	Soil Health
	Soil Organism Habitat Loss or degradation	Soil Health
	Aggregate instability	Soil Health

Resource Concern Class	Resource Concern	2026 Priority Resource Concern
Water	Surface water depletion	Water quantity
	Groundwater depletion	Water quantity
	Inefficient irrigation water use	Water quantity



Resource Concern Class	Resource Concern	2026 Priority Resource Concern
Water	Nutrients transported to groundwater	Water Quality
	Nutrients transported to surface water	Water Quality
	Pesticides transported to surface water	Water Quality
	Pesticides transported to groundwater	Water Quality
	Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water	Water Quality
	Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to groundwater	Water Quality
	Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water	Water Quality
	Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to groundwater	Water Quality
	Sediment transported to surface water	Water Quality
	Salts transport to surface water	Water Quality
	Salts transported to groundwater	Water Quality



Resource Concern Class	Resource Concern	2026 Priority Resource Concern
Plants	Plant productivity and health	Plant health and condition
	Plant structure and composition	Plant health and condition
	Plant pest pressure	Plant health and condition
	Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation	Plant health and condition

Resource Concern Class	Resource Concern	2026 Priority Resource Concern
Animals	Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates	Wildlife habitat
	Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms	Wildlife habitat

Proposed 2026 Priority Resource Concerns

- Soil Health
- Water Quantity
- Water Quality
- Plant Health and Condition
- Wildlife Habitat

Organic Matter Depletion

Acres At Risk

- 52 - 15,000
- 15,000 - 42,000
- 42,000 - 115,000
- 115,000 - 250,000
- 250,000 - 400,000

The map displays the following counties and their corresponding risk levels (based on the legend):

- Light Yellow (52 - 15,000 acres):** Benton, Carroll, Boone, Marion, Baxter, Fulton, Washington, Madison, Newton, Searcy, IZard, Sharp, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Pope, Van Buren, Cleburne, Sebastian, Logan, Yell, Scott, Polk, Montgomery, Garland, Saline, Grant, Howard, Pike, Clark, Dallas, Cleveland, Bradley, Union, Columbia, Lafayette, Miller, Hempstead, Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, and Ashly.
- Light Orange (15,000 - 42,000 acres):** Randolph, Lawrence, Independence, Jackson, Conway, Faulkner, Perry, Pulaski, White, Woodruff, Cross, St. Francis, Lee, Phillips, Lincoln, Drew, and Ashley.
- Dark Orange (42,000 - 115,000 acres):** Clay, Greene, Craighead, Poinsett, Crittenden, Monroe, and Desha.
- Dark Red (115,000 - 250,000 acres):** Mississippi, Arkansas, and Chicot.

Insufficient Irrigation Water

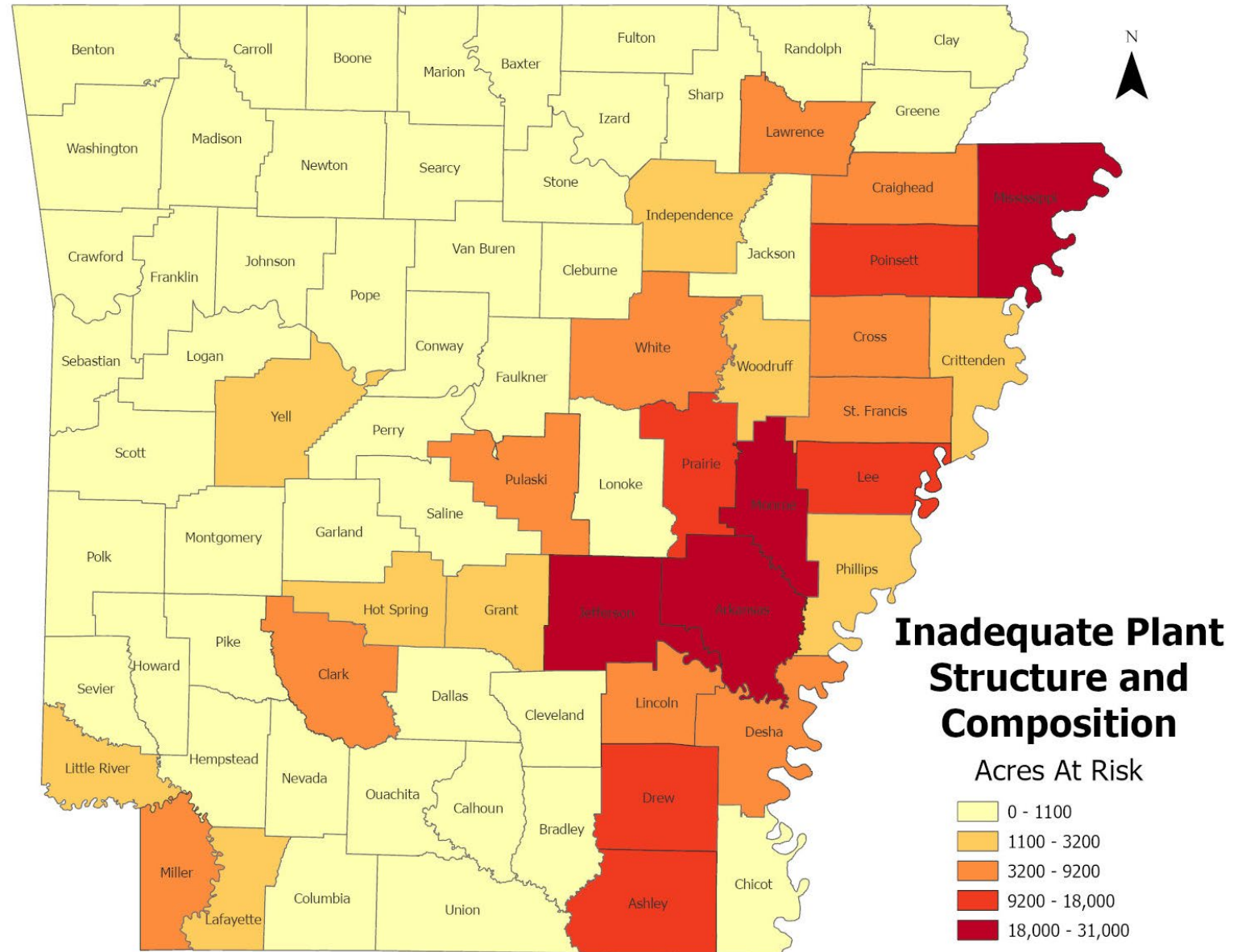
Acres At Risk

- < 390,000
- 390,000 - 436,000
- 436,000 - 495,000
- 495,000 - 575,000
- 575,000 - 675,000

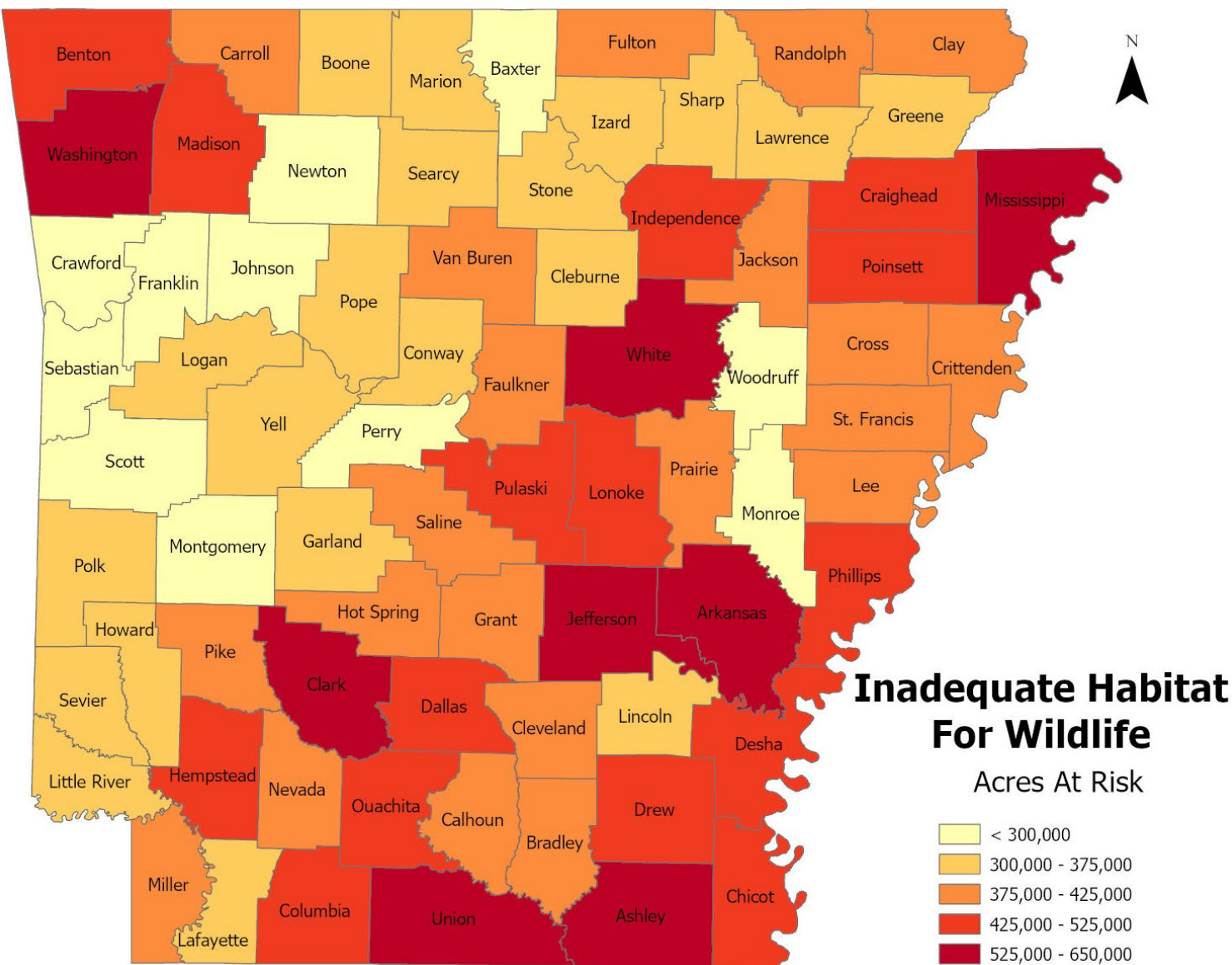
Excess Nutrients
Acres At Risk

52.71 - 12,000
12,000 - 45,000
45,000 - 125,000
125,000 - 230,000
230,000 - 500,000

Plant Health and Condition



Wildlife Habitat



Arkansas Resource Assessment

This guide visualizes the components used in CART to make resource assessments. It does not replace CART nor should any assessments or decisions be made from this guide. It is meant to show spatial distribution of resource concerns at a much larger scale than CART.

Please be patient when loading maps. Some have a lot of data and may be slow to load depending on your internet speed.



Soil



Water



Air



NRCS Resource Concerns			
SWAPAE+H	Category	CART Category	Resource Concern
SOIL	SOIL EROSION	Wind and water erosion	Sheet and rill erosion
			Wind erosion
		Concentrated erosion	Ephemeral gully erosion
			Classic gully erosion
			Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels
	SOIL HEALTH	Soil quality limitations	Subsidence
			Compaction
			Organic matter depletion
			Concentration of salts or other chemicals
			Soil organism habitat loss or degradation
Aggregate instability			
WATER	EXCESS WATER		Weather resilience
		Seasonal high water table	
		Seeps	
		Drifted snow	
		Naturally available moisture use	
	INSUFFICIENT WATER	Source water depletion	Surface water depletion
			Groundwater depletion
			Inefficient irrigation water use
	WATER QUALITY	Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss	Nutrients transported to surface water
			Nutrients transported to groundwater
			Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to surface water
			Sediment transported to surface water
		Field Pesticide loss	Pesticides transported to surface water
			Pesticides transported to groundwater
		Storage and handling of pollutants	Nutrients transported to surface water
			Nutrients transported to groundwater
			Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to surface water
			Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to groundwater
		Salt losses to water	Salts transported to surface water
			Salts transported to groundwater
AIR	AIR QUALITY	Air quality emissions	Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors
			Emissions of greenhouse gases - GHGs
			Emissions of ozone precursors
			Objectionable odor
			Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen
PLANT	PLANT CONDITION	Pest pressure	Plant pest pressure
		Degraded plant condition	Plant productivity and health
			Plant structure and composition
		Fire management	Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation
ANIMAL	LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION	Livestock production limitation	Feed and forage balance
			Inadequate livestock shelter
			Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution
	HABITAT FOR FISH & WILDLIFE	Terrestrial habitat	Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
		Aquatic habitat	Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms
			Elevated water temperature
ENERGY	ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Inefficient energy use	Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities
			Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations
HUMAN	LAND, LABOR, CAPITAL, MANAGEMENT, AND RISK		

FY26 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Updates



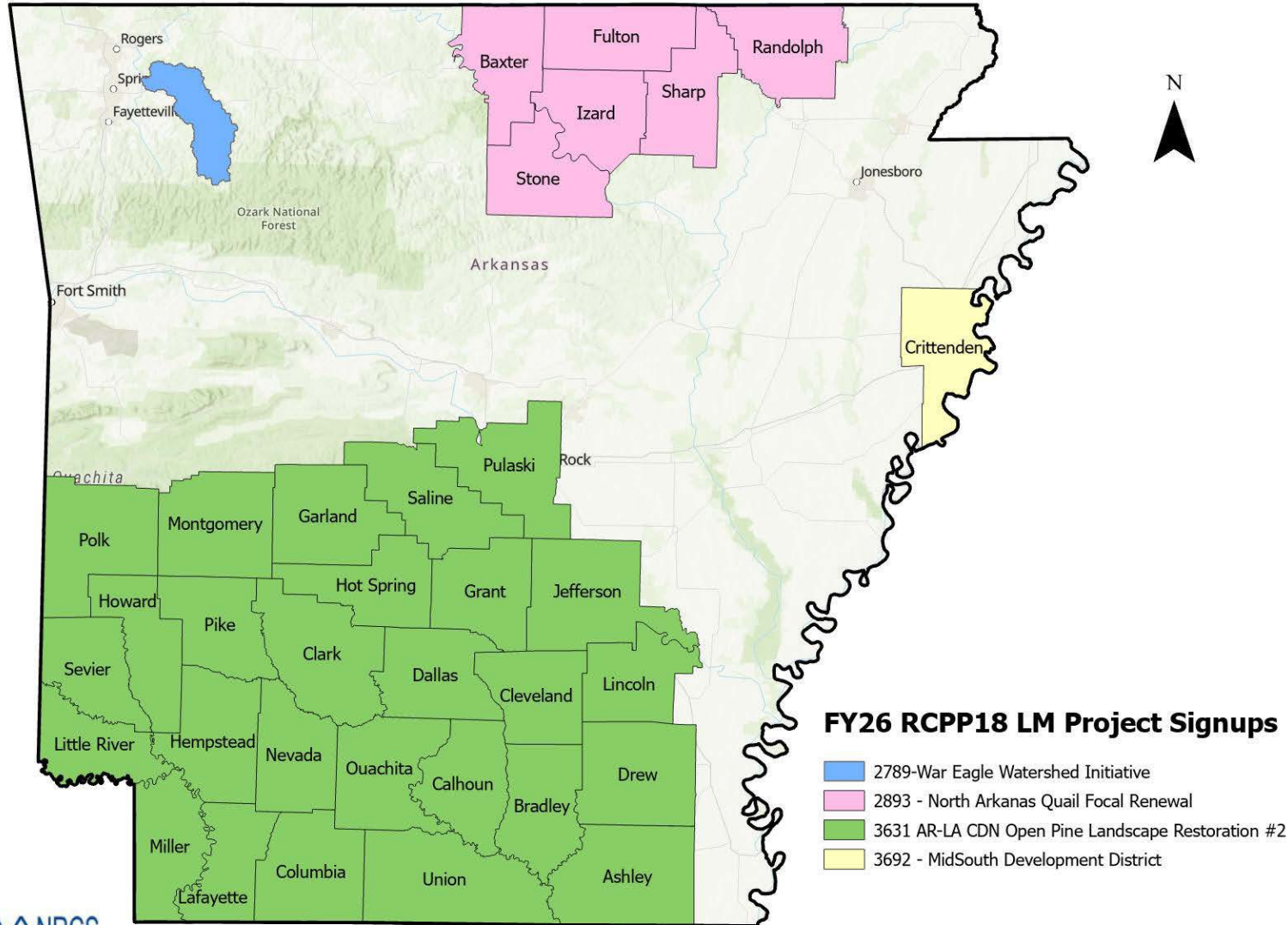
December 16, 2025

Katy Brantley – Initiative Coordinator

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

FY26 Notice of Funding Opportunity

- Anticipating release of NOFO soon
 - There will be some changes to the proposal questions
 - Classic and Alternative Funding Arrangement will be available
 - Condensed application timeline
 - Start getting together:
 - Project objectives
 - Expected conservation benefits and outcomes
 - Targeted geography
 - Targeted practices, if choosing land management contracts
 - Contributing partners
 - Budgets (financial assistance and technical assistance)
- Let me know if you would like to schedule a meeting



RCPP FY26 Signups

- **War Eagle Creek Watershed Initiative:** lead partner is Beaver Watershed Alliance; in the last year of signups
- **North AR Quail Focal Landscape Renewal Project:** lead partner is Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; in the last year of signups
- **MidSouth Development District Project:** project managed by Tennessee NRCS; only includes Crittenden County in Arkansas and is having the first signup this year
- **Open Pine Landscape Restoration Partnership:** partnering with the AR-LA Conservation Delivery Network; 2026 is the first year of signups in the expanded area - 27 counties in AR, 20 parishes in LA.
- Facts sheets about the projects are located on the AR RCPP Website

Fact Sheets



www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/regional-conservation-partnership-program/arkansas/regional-conservation



The Nature Conservancy



East Arkansas



Enterprise Community, Inc.

Mississippi River Trust



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
LAND TRUST



Arkansas RCPP Partners



WATERSHED CONSERVATION
RESOURCE CENTER



KKAC





Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Questions?



Katy Brantley – Initiative Coordinator
Katy.Brantley@usda.gov

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center