



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 4/12/2024

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Arkansas Department of Agriculture to Host Location-Specific Public Meetings for Arkansas Water Plan Update

LITTLE ROCK, AR – In compliance with Executive Order 23-27 signed by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) is updating the Arkansas Water Plan. As a part of the comprehensive analysis required by Governor Sanders' executive order, the Department will hold public meetings to engage stakeholders in identifying current water issues, needs, and best practicable solutions.

The meetings are scheduled for **May 6 -10, 2024** from 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. The format for each meeting will consist of a general overview of the current water plan and discussion about potential updates during the morning session and location-specific water supply discussion in the afternoon from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Attendees are welcome to attend all or parts of each meeting but encouraged to arrive 15 minutes early for on-site registration. The meetings will be held in the following locations:

May 6, 2024 – Fowler Center 201 Olympic Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72401 (Afternoon session topic: Water Infrastructure)

May 7, 2024 – Fort Smith Convention Center, 55 S 7th St., Fort Smith, AR 72901 (Afternoon session topic: Drinking Water Supply)

May 8, 2024 – Donald W. Reynolds Campus & Community Center, 100 E. University St., Magnolia, AR 71753 (Afternoon session topic: Industrial Water Supply and Mineral Extraction)

May 9, 2024 – Rice Research and Extension Center, 2900 AR-130, Stuttgart, AR 72160 (Afternoon session topic: Agricultural Water Supply)

May 10, 2024 – Arkansas Cooperative Extension State Office, 2301 S. University, Little Rock, AR 72204 (Afternoon session topic: Environmental Quality and Recreation). A virtual option will be provided on the agency website at agriculture.arkansas.gov.

The update of the Arkansas Water Plan and the development of a statewide flood plan is being conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of the Arkansas Water Plan is to conserve and protect the state's water resources, with a long-term goal of sustainable use to maximize the environmental and economic benefit of the State of Arkansas, and the health and well-being of its citizens. Learn more about the Arkansas Water Plan at agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/divisions/water-management/arkansas-water-plan/. Read Executive Order 23-27 at governor.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/EO-23-27-Arkansas-Water-Plan-1.pdf.

Representatives from all water use sectors, including interested water planning groups, state and federal agencies, legislators, and local entities, are encouraged to participate in the meetings. If you would like to provide feedback about water issues, please fill out the Arkansas Water Engagement Form, bit.ly/ArkansasWaterPlanSurvey. Contact J. Ryan Benefield at Ryan.Benefield@agriculture.arkansas.gov or at 501-682-3962 for additional meeting information. Learn more about the Arkansas Water Plan at agriculture.arkansas.gov/natural-resources/divisions/water-management/arkansas-water-plan/.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources conservation to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while sustaining natural resources and ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov/. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.