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STATUS REPORT OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON RULEMAKING REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF THE 2025 REGULAR SESSION

The Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Arkansas submits the rule promulgation status report of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) in compliance with Arkansas Code § 25-15-216(b)(4). The Department identified twelve (12) acts from the 2025 Regular Session that require amendments to or repeal of rules.

Act 19

Act 19, Section 1, amended Arkansas Code § 17-101-306(d)(3), and Section 2 amended Arkansas Code § 17-101-319(b)(3) to permit a supervising veterinarian, when utilizing indirect supervision, to authorize a veterinary technician or veterinary technologist to go to other locations to provide emergency services. The act requires amendments to 17 CAR § 1-114, Veterinary technology — Levels of supervision, to add the emergency services language. The Arkansas Board of Animal Health (Board) approved amendments to 17 CAR Pt. 1, Veterinary Medicine rules, on August 7, 2026, and the Department filed the amended rule on August 10, 2026. The public comment period ended on September 15, 2026, and the Board approved the final rule amendments on October 23, 2026.

Act 239

Act 239, Section 1, amended Arkansas Code § 4-35-204 to require the board of directors of a public water authority to post contact information on the public facing websites of the public water authority and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (Commission). The Commission approved amendments to 4 CAR Pt. 1, Water Authorities, and the Department filed the amended rule on July 15, 2026. The public comment period ended on August 18, 2026, and the Commission approved the final amendments to 4 CAR Pt. 1 on August 19, 2026.

Act 285

Act 285, Section 1, amended Arkansas Code § 20-58-207(e) to allow the repackaging of eggs in retail if the replacement egg is of the same packer, grade and size, expiration date, lot code or Julian date, brand, and cleanliness of a missing or broken egg. The act requires amendments to 2 CAR Pt. 157, Arkansas Egg Marketing Rule, to add the requirements to replace missing or broken eggs in a retail container. The Arkansas Board of Animal Health (Board) approved the rule amendments on August 7, 2026, and the Department filed the amended rule on August 10, 2026. The public comment period ended on September 15, 2026, and the Board approved the final rule amendments on October 23, 2026.

Act 291

Act 291, Section 1, amended Arkansas Code § 17-31-105(a) to allow the Arkansas Forestry Commission (Commission) to impose a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed $5,000 for violations related to the unregistered practice of forestry. In addition to the civil penalty, the act makes the unregistered practice of forestry a Class A misdemeanor. Section 2 of the act added Arkansas Code § 17-31-204(d), permitting the Arkansas Forestry Commission to promulgate rules to establish a penalty matrix. Amendments to 17 CAR Pt. 20 are necessary to add the maximum penalty amount and a penalty matrix. The Commission approved the rule amendments on July 24, 2026, and the Department filed the amended rule on July 27, 2026. The public comment period ended on September 2, 2026, and the Commission approved the final rule amendments on October 2, 2026.

Act 527

Act 527 amended Arkansas Code §§ 2-18-102 through 2-18-109 to designate the Department as the agency responsible for investigating and certifying agricultural seeds. The act also amended Arkansas Code § 2-18-105 to require the Department, instead of seed certification applicants, to calculate and invoice applicants for costs related to inspection and certification and promotion and advertising of certified seed. The State Plant Board (Board) approved amendments to 2 CAR Pt. 34, Official Standards for Seed Certification in Arkansas, on July 14, 2026, and the Department filed the amended rule on July 15, 2026. The public comment period ended on August 18, 2026, a public hearing was held on August 19, 2026, and the Board approved the final rule amendments on September 8, 2026.

Act 530

Act 530, Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5, amended Arkansas Code §§ 2-19-202(a)(1), 2-19-202(d)(1)(B)(i), 2-19-203(a), and 2-19-207, respectively, to designate the Department as the agency responsible for approving registration of commercial fertilizer and fertilizer materials sold in Arkansas. Section 7 amended Arkansas Code § 2-19-208(a)(2) to require the Department, instead of fertilizer registration applicants, to calculate and invoice applicants for the amount due per ton or fractional ton of fertilizer. The State Plant Board (Board) approved amendments to 2 CAR Pt. 26, Fertilizer Rules, on July 14, 2026, and the Department filed the amended rule on July 15, 2026. The public comment period ended on August 18, 2026, and the Board approved the final rule amendments on September 8, 2026.

Act 577

Act 577, Section 1, repealed the Arkansas Catfish Processor Fair Practices Act of 1987, codified at Arkansas Code § 2-6-101, *et seq*. The act requires the repeal of 2 CAR Pt. 23, Rules on Catfish Processors in Arkansas. The rule repeal became effective on March 30, 2026.

Act 586

Act 586 amended the Arkansas Feed Law of 1997, codified at Arkansas Code § 2-37-101, *et seq*., to designate the Department as the enforcing agency responsible for administering feed laws. In addition, Sections 4, 5, and 6 amended inspection fees to sums due for inspection and reports in Arkansas Code §§ 2-37-104, 2-37-108(g), and 2-37-109, respectively. Section 5 amended Arkansas Code § 2-37-108(g) to add a sum to be paid for each facility exempted from licensure. Section 6 amended Arkansas Code § 2-37-109 to require the Department, instead of the commercial feed license applicants, to calculate and invoice applicants for costs related to inspection and reports. The State Plant Board (Board) approved amendments to 2 CAR Pt. 25, Arkansas Feed Rules, on July 14, 2026, and the Department filed the amended rule on July 15, 2026. The public comment period ended on August 18, 2026, and the Board approved the final rule amendments on September 8, 2026.

Act 703

Act 703, Section 5, repealed Arkansas Code § 2-32-301, Equine monitoring by identification chips. The act requires the repeal of 2 CAR Pt. 154, Criteria for Persons Engaged in the Voluntary Embedding of Identification Chips for Equine Monitoring. The rule repeal became effective on June 29, 2026.

Act 736

Act 736 amended the Water Authority Act, codified at Arkansas Code §§ 4–35–101 to 4–35–306, to allow a qualified corporation involved in the sale, transmission, and distribution of potable water to the public to form or convert its entity status to a water authority. Section 2 amended Arkansas Code § 4-35-103(7) to expand the definition of "qualified corporation" to include various governmental, municipal and private entities. Sections 4, 5, and 6 amended Arkansas Code §§ 4-35-202(a) and 4-35-203 to address the formation of or conversion to a water authority. Sections 7 and 8 amended Arkansas Code §§ 15-5-901(a)(3) and 15-5-909(8), respectively, regarding qualifying projects and the definition of "owner" for purposes of the Construction Assistance Revolving Fund. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission approved amendments to 4 CAR Pt. 1, Water Authorities, on July 15, 2026, and the Department filed the amended rule the same day. The public comment period ended on August 18, 2026, and the Commission approved the final rule amendments on August 19, 2026.

Act 812

Act 812, Section 1, created the Water and Sewer Treatment Facilities Grant Program Fund, codified at Arkansas Code § 19-27-344. Section 2 created the Water and Sewer Treatment Facilities Grant Program, codified at Arkansas Code § 25-43-203. The Act requires the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to administer the program. Amendments to 15 CAR Pt. 2, Financial Assistance, became effective on June 29, 2026.

Act 925

Act 925, Section 1, added Oversight of Wastewater and Sewer Retail Providers, codified at Arkansas Code §§ 14-239-101 to 107, to require the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (Commission) to oversee wastewater and sewer systems for the purpose of improving the operations and infrastructures of systems in Arkansas. The act requires rate studies and board training of public or private sewage collection or sewage treatment service providers. The Commission approved amendments to 14 CAR Pt. 2, Oversight of Retail Water Providers, on July 15, 2026, and the Department filed the amended rule the same day. The public comment period ended on August 18, 2026, and the Commission approved the final rule amendments on August 19, 2026.

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