

Occupational Authorizations

for the meeting of the

ALC-OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Arkansas State Plant Board

AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANT

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated: 184

Entity Division Name: Plant Industries Division, Quality Control and Compliance

Scope of Practice: Advice or prescriptions for the control and eradication of any insect or mite pest; control or eradication of any plant pathogen; control or eradication of any weed; use of fertilizer, lime, or micronutrients based on soil classification and cropping systems and soil or plant tests.

Statutory Requirement(s): ACA 17-13-107 provides that "No person may provide agricultural consulting for a fee that is directly tied to and identifiable with agricultural consulting without a license issued by the State Plant Board.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Yes

Fees & Penalties

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	License fee	\$100.00	Annually
Penalty	First offense penalty	\$600.00	Once
Penalty	Subsequent offense penalty	\$1,000.00	Once

Administrative Rules Documents

Document Type	Document
Rules	AGRICULTURAL_CONSULTANT_RULES.docx

Supporting Evidence Documents

No Supporting Evidence Documents Provided

GRAIN DEALER

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated: 24

Entity Division Name: Plant Industries Division, Quality Control and Compliance

Scope of Practice: Individuals who purchase grain from a farmer/producer or a grain warehouse in Arkansas.

Statutory Requirement(s): ACA § 2-24-104 provides that "A dealer shall obtain a license from the State Plant Board under this chapter before entering into a contract for or purchasing grain."

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Yes

Fees & Penalties

Arkansas State Plant Board (Continued)**GRAIN DEALER (Continued)**

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
fee	License fee- \$150 to \$800, based on amount of grain purchased the previous year. 2 CAR § 28-104.	\$800.00	Annually
Fee	Audit fees	\$40.00	Hourly
Penalty	Violation fine	\$100.00	Once
Penalty	Violation Civil Penalty	\$1,000.00	Once

Administrative Rules Documents

Document Type	Document
Rules	GRAIN_DEALER_LICENSE_RULES.docx

Supporting Evidence Documents

No Supporting Evidence Documents Provided

LIME VENDOR (APPLICATOR)

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Plant Industries Division, Quality Control and Compliance

Scope of Practice: N/A, Repealed by Act 557 of 2021, Section 11

Statutory Requirement(s): N/A, Repealed by Act 557 of 2021, Section 11

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Fees & Penalties

No Fees or Penalties Provided

Administrative Rules Documents

No Administrative Rules Documents Provided

Supporting Evidence Documents

No Supporting Evidence Documents Provided

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee
Occupational Entity Questionnaire

Responses to the following questions are due via email to Subcommittee staff no later than the 15th of the month immediately preceding the month the occupational authorization is scheduled for review by the Subcommittee.

AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANTS LICENSE

1. Would consumers be at risk of substantial harm if Arkansas did not have this occupational authorization? What instances of specific and substantial harm have been documented in the past year?
Yes. Licensed agricultural consultants advise farmers on the control of insects, plant disease, weeds, and fertilizer and lime use, and unqualified advice on those decisions can cause crop loss, wasted input cost, and the misapplication of regulated pesticides. No specific instance of substantial harm was documented in the past year.
2. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by unauthorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?
None reported. No complaint was received in 2025 alleging that an unlicensed person held himself or herself out as a licensed agricultural consultant, so no enforcement action was required.
3. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by authorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?
None reported. No licensee was subject to license suspension or revocation in 2025.
4. Were any applicants who otherwise met authorization requirements denied an authorization in the past year? If so, why?
No.
5. How much does the occupational entity collect annually in fees, and what are annual expenses? How much money does the occupational entity have in reserves?

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Occupational Entity Questionnaire

The program collected \$19,700 in FY2025, and 184 licenses have been issued for FY2026. The license fee is \$100 per year, which is the maximum the State Plant Board may charge under Ark. Code Ann. § 17-13-106(3). Annual expenses are \$33,866, funding a percentage of the salaries and benefits for three employees who also work in other Division programs. No funds are held in reserve.

6. If the occupational entity has a positive amount in reserves, when was the last time reserve funds were used? For what purpose?

Not applicable. The program maintains no reserve balance.

7. Does the occupational entity have any other sources of revenue? Could occupational authorization fees be reduced without causing the occupational entity to be underfunded?

~~Yes. License fees are the program's only direct revenue and are deposited into the State Treasury as special revenue credited to the State Plant Board Fund. Ark. Code Ann. § 17-13-110.~~ The difference between fee revenue and expenses is covered by other special revenue. Fees could not be reduced without underfunding the program; they recover approximately 58 percent of program cost, and the \$100 annual fee is ~~already~~ the statutory maximum.

8. How many applicants for the occupational authorization fail each year? Does the occupational entity track how many applicants that do not progress are veterans, women, or minorities?

On average, two applicants per year do not pass the required examination on the first attempt, and those applicants may retake ~~it~~the exam after ninety (90) days. The Division does not track whether applicants who do not progress are veterans, women, or minorities.

9. Can applicants complete the training requirements for this occupational authorization with vocational or non-traditional education (e.g., apprenticeships)? What percentage of applicants complete apprenticeships?

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Occupational Entity Questionnaire

Yes. An applicant may qualify after seven years of continuous apprentice experience working for a licensed agricultural consultant in place of a degree. 2 CAR § 20-103(d)(1)(B). The Division does not track the percentage of applicants who qualify through that pathway.

10. In what ways would removal of the occupational authorization or reduction of occupational authorization requirements be harmful to current authorization holders?
- Removal would eliminate the credential through which licensed consultants use to demonstrate that they have met the qualifications of the chapter, the continuing education that keeps them current, and the prohibition on a consultant accepting more than \$200 to promote a particular product. Ark. Code Ann. § 17-13-109. Without this license, a farmer would have no uniform, verifiable way to confirm that a person offering crop advice has met a defined standard of education, experience, and examination.**

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Occupational Entity Questionnaire

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GRAIN DEALERS LICENSE

1. Would consumers be at risk of substantial harm if Arkansas did not have this occupational authorization? What instances of specific and substantial harm have been documented in the past year?
Yes. Grain producers deliver their crops and transfer title before they are paid, so a dealer that fails financially can leave farmers unpaid for an entire season's production with little practical means of recovery. Licensed dealers purchased \$706,071,977 of Arkansas grain in FY2026 under the protection that this license's requirements provide to Arkansas's producers. No specific instance of substantial harm was documented in the past year.
2. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by unauthorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?
None. No complaint or slow-pay hotline call received in FY2026 alleged that an unlicensed person was purchasing grain, so no enforcement action was required.
3. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by authorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?
None. No licensee was subject to license suspension, receivership, or a civil penalty in FY2026.
4. Were any applicants who otherwise met authorization requirements denied an authorization in the past year? If so, why?
No.

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Occupational Entity Questionnaire

5. How much does the occupational entity collect annually in fees, and what are annual expenses? How much money does the occupational entity have in reserves?

The program collected \$9,450 from 24 license holders in FY2026. Annual expenses are \$97,444, funding the salary and benefits of one employee who is dedicated to this program, and a percentage of the salaries and benefits for two other employees who also work in other Division programs. No funds are held in reserve.

6. If the occupational entity has a positive amount in reserves, when was the last time reserve funds were used? For what purpose?

Not applicable. The program maintains no reserve balance.

7. Does the occupational entity have any other sources of revenue? Could occupational authorization fees be reduced without causing the occupational entity to be underfunded?

Yes. The difference between fee revenue and expenses is funded by other special revenue. Fees could not be reduced without underfunding the program; they currently recover approximately 9.7 percent of program cost, and Ark. Code Ann. § 2-24-105(d) authorizes the State Plant Board to establish nominal fees to offset the costs of administering this chapter.

8. How many applicants for the occupational authorization fail each year? Does the occupational entity track how many applicants that do not progress are veterans, women, or minorities?

No applicant fails, because the license has no examination or training requirement. An applicant that cannot initially document the required net worth, bonding, or insurance is held pending rather than denied. The Division does not track demographic data, as the license is issued to a business entity rather than to an individual.

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee
Occupational Entity Questionnaire

9. Can applicants complete the training requirements for this occupational authorization with vocational or non-traditional education (e.g., apprenticeships)? What percentage of applicants complete apprenticeships?

Not applicable. There are no education or training requirements for this license.

10. In what ways would removal of the occupational authorization or reduction of occupational authorization requirements be harmful to current authorization holders?

Removal would place licensed dealers, who must maintain minimum net worth, bonding, insurance, and an annual audited financial statement, at a competitive disadvantage against undercapitalized buyers subject to none of those requirements. It would also eliminate the financial safeguards that protect producers when a dealer fails.

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee
Occupational Entity Questionnaire

Responses to the following questions are due via email to Subcommittee staff no later than the 15th of the month immediately preceding the month the occupational authorization is scheduled for review by the Subcommittee.

LIME VENDOR LICENSE

1. Would consumers be at risk of substantial harm if Arkansas did not have this occupational authorization? What instances of specific and substantial harm have been documented in the past year?
Not applicable. This occupational authorization no longer exists. The lime vendor's license was repealed by Act 557 of 2021, § 11, which struck the vendor's license provision from Ark. Code Ann. § 2-19-306, and no instances of harm have been documented in the past year.
2. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by unauthorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?
None. No complaints were received, because the authorization has not existed since the 2021 repeal and there is no unauthorized practice to report.
3. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by authorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity?
None.
4. Were any applicants who otherwise met authorization requirements denied an authorization in the past year? If so, why?
None. No applications for this authorization were received or denied, because it no longer exists.
5. How much does the occupational entity collect annually in fees, and what are annual expenses? How much money does the occupational entity have in reserves?
None. No fees are collected and no expenses are incurred for this authorization, and it holds no reserves.

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee

Occupational Entity Questionnaire

6. If the occupational entity has a positive amount in reserves, when was the last time reserve funds were used? For what purpose?

Not applicable.

7. Does the occupational entity have any other sources of revenue? Could occupational authorization fees be reduced without causing the occupational entity to be underfunded?

Not applicable. No fees are collected for this authorization and no funds are expended on it.

8. How many applicants for the occupational authorization fail each year? Does the occupational entity track how many applicants that do not progress are veterans, women, or minorities?

None. There are no applicants for this authorization.

9. Can applicants complete the training requirements for this occupational authorization with vocational or non-traditional education (e.g., apprenticeships)? What percentage of applicants complete apprenticeships?

Not applicable.

10. In what ways would removal of the occupational authorization or reduction of occupational authorization requirements be harmful to current authorization holders?

Not applicable.