



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
JOB OPPORTUNITY
January 2, 2026

TITLE LOCATION	ANNUAL SALARY POSITION #	APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY:
<p>Agriculture Division Director</p> <p>Arkansas Department of Agriculture Administration Pulaski County/Little Rock</p> <p>Hiring Authority: Arkansas Department of Agriculture #1 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, AR 72205 Phone: 501/219-6362 E-mail: alex.johnston@arkansas.gov</p> <p>Standard State of Arkansas employment application required.</p> <p>Apply on line: http://arcareers.arkansas.gov</p>	Entry Level Salary: \$141,125 Grade: EXE01 Positions #22185107 Req ID #54938	Open Until Filled

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in agriculture, public administration, business administration, natural resources, political science, or a related field
- A minimum of five years of experience in executive leadership, senior management, or public administration, with demonstrated experience overseeing complex programs, regulatory functions, or large organizations.
- Experience working with legislative entities, executive leadership, or governmental oversight entities is required.

Knowledge and Skills:

- Comprehensive knowledge of public administration principles, including executive leadership, organizational management, budgeting, and personnel administration.
- Strong understanding of agricultural policy, natural resources management, regulatory enforcement, food systems, and the role of agriculture in economic development.
- Ability to lead multi-division organizations and manage competing priorities in a politically and operationally sensitive environment.
- Ability to analyze legislation, regulations, and policy proposals and assess impacts across multiple program areas.
- Exceptional communication skills, including the ability to brief executive leadership, legislators, and external stakeholders clearly and effectively.

- Demonstrated skill in strategic planning, problem-solving, negotiation, and consensus-building across diverse internal and external partners.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience overseeing or administering large-scale food and nutrition programs, including programs funded or regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, such as child nutrition, commodity distribution, farm to school, or emergency food assistance initiatives.
- Experience developing and implementing initiatives that integrate locally produced agricultural commodities into institutional food systems, including school meal programs and other public nutrition settings.
- Experience coordinating food and nutrition programs with agricultural promotion, research and market-development efforts, including collaboration with research and promotion boards, commodity organizations, and agriculture branding programs.
- Knowledge of state and federal laws, regulations, and policy frameworks governing food and nutrition programs, including procurement, eligibility, program integrity, and audit requirements.