



Power Point 13



ACP Guiding Principles

The conservation partnership is committed to using the strengths of each organization. It promotes the protection and conservation of natural resources through voluntary implementation of conservation practices, applied technical assistance, and cost-share incentives through conservation districts. This locally-led partnership empowers every rural and urban citizen to contribute in protecting and conserving Arkansas' soil and water resources.

This partnership began in 1992 as a unified approach to solving natural resource problems.

The partnership has grown to eight partners.



Arkansas Conservation Partnership

- **Arkansas Natural Resources Commission**
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- **Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts**
- **Arkansas Forestry Commission**
- **Arkansas Association of Conservation District Employees**
- **University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service**
- **Resource Conservation and Development Councils**
- **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission



- **ANRC is a statutory body consisting of nine members appointed by the governor.**
- **The Commission establishes policy and makes funding and regulatory decisions relative to soil conservation, water rights, dam safety and water resource planning and development within the state.**
- **ANRC provides direct financial and administrative assistance to the State's 75 conservation districts.**
- **Divided into three divisions: Conservation Division, Water Management Division and Water Development Division**
- **ANRC appoints two members of each local conservation district while three members are elected locally.**



Natural Resources Conservation Service

- **The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.**
- **Arkansas was the first state to enact a model conservation district law, March 3, 1937. Today more than 260 NRCS employees serve all 75 conservation districts from 62 field service centers.**
- **NRCS field service centers are led by district conservationists (DC), supported by engineers, soil scientists, soil technicians, water and grazing management specialists and administrative support staff.**
- **NRCS provides congressionally funded programs:**

Conservation Operations
National Cooperative Soil Survey Program
Grazing Lands technical assistance
Resource Conservation and Development Program

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention
Booneville Plant Materials Center
Emergency Watershed Protection program
Farm Bill Programs (EQIP, WHIP, etc)



Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts

Purpose and Mission

- The purpose and mission of The Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts is to assist the conservation districts of the state of Arkansas in their efforts to serve the soil and water conservation needs of the people of Arkansas.

What is a Conservation District?

- Conservation districts are political subdivisions of the State of Arkansas. They are a creation of popular vote of resident landowners for the purpose of conserving our land and water resources as authorized by Act No. 197 of the [Arkansas General Assembly](#) of 1937; the Nation's first conservation district law.
- Conservation districts are local governments at work and their specific responsibility is management of our soil and water resources. The idea behind their formation is to keep decision making on soil and water conservation matters at the local level. Each district is governed by a board of five directors who serve without pay. Two directors are appointed by the [Arkansas Natural Resources Commission](#) and three are elected by resident landowners.

Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts Employees



AACDE Mission Statement

“To empower the district employee to become more professional and more effective in advancing natural resources conservation.

- **Facilitates the professional development of district employees through educational and training opportunities**
- **Serves as a valuable networking and communications tool to help conservation district employees meet the challenges set forth by the local district boards to expand the influence of conservation on the land and environment.**



University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

- **The Mission of the Extension Service is to assure an effective nationwide Cooperative Extension System that is responsive to priority needs and the Federal interest and policies with quality information, education, and problem solving programs.**
- **Educational programs are identified at the local level, addressing such activities as weed and insect identification clinics, information on the conservation of natural resources, relating research to real life needs.**
- **Provide the latest in agricultural information to forest landowners, producers, farmers and ranchers through workshops, demonstrations, and research.**
- **Information is unbiased, scientific-based information gathered from extensive research, field tests, and collaboration within the USDA community.**

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff



- **Opened on Sept. 27, 1875 in the city of Pine Bluff with Professor Joseph Carter Corbin in charge of seven students. In 1972, it was merged with the University of Arkansas System.**
- **The University operates three farm sites: 220 acres in Pine Bluff, 871 acres in Lonoke and 48 acres in Marianna. These sites allow the university to conduct research and demonstrations on different soil types and under slightly different environmental conditions. It also demonstrates Best Management Practices in different parts of the state.**
- **The University is committed to addressing the needs of the small and limited resources farmers and families in the state.**



Arkansas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils

- The mission is to make available the total resources of USDA and other public-private partnerships to build relationships, create financial leverage, and increase the capacity of communities to meet their regionally identified resource conservation and development needs.
- 7 RC&D Coordinators work with the non-profit councils to assist communities.
- Rural Fire Protection Program is funded by ANRC to provide education and grants to rural fire departments for water supply and delivery systems.
- Currently serves 670 rural fire departments with ISO training, assistance with fire dues notices, and the development of county Master Fire Plans.

Arkansas Forestry Commission



**Wildfire
Danger**

- AFC has been serving landowners since 1931 with their forestry need.

**County
Burn Bans**



- Is responsible for the protection of 19,727,978 acres of non-federal forestland in Arkansas.



**BMP
Guidelines**

- AFC has responsibility for:

**Forest Management
Protection of Forest
Community Forest
Rural Fire Protection**

**Buy
Seedlings**



Then and Now



It is easy for people who lived through the 1930s and 1940s to appreciate how conservation programs brought about a resurrection of the land. But for later generations it is hard to even imagine just how bad the erosion and flooding once were in the state.

The conservation job is not over because natural resource concerns are constantly evolving. Changes in land ownership, farming equipment, technology, land use and climate will continue to present the need for conservation practices. And there are always new threats such as depleting aquifers, nonpoint source pollution issues, invasive species, and other natural resources concerns.

But today there is a partnership of local, state and federal partners in place with over 70 years of experience and a long standing commitment to the landowners of the State of Arkansas.

ACP Accomplishments

- **Ground Water Decline and Need for Sustainable Water Supply**
Numerous on-farm construction activities designed to use surface water efficiently for crops and wildlife. Benefits include: adequate surface water supply for wetland reclamation, cropland irrigation, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- **Water Quality and Animal Production Industry**
Assist producers with Nutrient Management Plans and Comprehensive NMPs that address animal waste and nutrient management. Producers are implementing these plans to protect the quality of the state's valuable water resources.
High priority is given to education and training of livestock and poultry producers, i.e. grazing lands management workshops and nutrient applications.
- **Implementation of Farm Bill Programs and 319 Grant Program**
- **Statewide Technical Committee** to provide an efficient and effective method for interagency coordination and review of environmental issues.
- **Forestry Outreach** to Small and Limited Resources Farmers, Forest Landowners topics impacting their forest management and utilization.