

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

January 12, 2024



An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain Conservation District

“Whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.”

— Jonathan Swift, Gulliver’s Travels, 1726

ATTENTION POULTRY GROWERS: The annual poultry registration process has changed for 2024

The 2024 PFO registration will now be an online only program; growers will no longer go to the Conservation District office. the Arkansas Department of Agriculture has posted a link on our website (image and location of the form are shown below) for growers to register their operations.

We appreciate your help in providing this information to anyone that may come in asking about the registration; please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have. The intent is to make this process easier on the grower and to streamline the results, while assuring the program is sound and supports our efforts towards healthy soil and clean water.

Growers will need to create an account the 1st time they register. The purpose of this is to eliminate the mundane process of information collection and prevent the replication of data each year. When they create their account, they will provide all the information they have in the past. The following years will only require logging in and entering litter use and bird information; basically, information that changes from year to year. However, they will have the opportunity to go back in and change any previous information, like number of acres, phone numbers, or if they have changed companies or added houses; they can't change any of the litter use data once they enter it in.

Thank you.

PATRICK FISK

DIRECTOR

Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Livestock and Poultry Division
#1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 249-3369 | agriculture.arkansas.gov
patrick.fisk@agriculture.arkansas.gov

Poultry Registration Website:

<https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/poultry-feeding-operations-registration/>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Arkansas Announces ACT NOW Funding Sign-Up for Farmers and Ranchers

Fiscal Year (FY)2024 ACT NOW allows Arkansas NRCS to immediately approve and obligate ranked applications in a designated ranking pool when an eligible application meets or exceeds the state-determined minimum ranking score. ACT NOW will utilize minimum ranking score thresholds for each ranking pool. This means no longer having to wait for all applications to be reviewed and preapproved in a ranking pool.

Arkansas FY2024 ACT NOW Opportunities include:

- AR Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative - provides funding for the construction of seasonal high tunnels (hoop house)
 - Conservation Practices available for funding: 325-Seasonal High Tunnel
- AR Energy Initiative – provides funding for energy efficiency improvements in poultry houses (recent energy audit is required)
 - Conservation Practices available: 374 Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation, 670 Energy Efficient Lighting System, and 672 Energy Efficient Building Envelope

How to Apply

NRCS accepts applications for conservation programs year-round, but to be included in this ACT NOW funding opportunity, interested producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. Arkansas NRCS will use the ACT NOW process for some EQIP funding pools and projects beginning January 22, 2024, through February 22, 2024.

Applicants are encouraged to work with NRCS and the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to complete eligibility requirements at their earliest convenience during the application process and to update all their agricultural records for FY2024. Please visit your local USDA Service Center for additional information about ACT NOW or for information about other NRCS Farm Bill programs. You can locate your local Field Service Center at [USDA Service Center Locator](#). The Field Service Center for Polk and Montgomery Counties in Arkansas is at Mena (phone:479-437-6054).

Arkansas ACT NOW Outreach Meeting

The Rich Mtn Conservation District and NRCS office at Mena will present an informational meeting about the 2024 ACT NOW initiatives at 9am on Friday, January 19, 2024 at the Polk County Farm Bureau Office Meeting Room. Register on ZOOM at: https://uada.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqduiprDspE9Xa_bxvdEPQOX-UVNUJsKFh#/registration

Or call 479-437-6054 for more information.

**“To be a successful farmer one must first
know the nature of the soil.”**

— Xenophon, Oeconomicus, 400 B.C.

RMCD Now Taking Resumes - *Ideal for a college student interested in conservation, agriculture, or forestry.*

Rich Mountain Conservation District (Polk County) is taking resumes for a part-time Conservation Technician Assistant position.

Work duties include but not limited to: assisting landowners with installation of conservation practices & programs, working knowledge of agriculture, and working with GPS equipment & computers.

Flexible hours of work will be between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Work involves various outside jobs and some office duties.

Contact us at 479-394-6054. Bring resume to 508 7th Street, Mena between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. or email to rmcdistrict2023@gmail.com before January 31, 2024.



Know someone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter?

Please feel free to forward it to them and have them contact our office to be on the mailing list in the future!

Rich Mountain Conservation District

Web: www.rmcd.org

Email:

[rmcdistrict2023@gmail
.com](mailto:rmcdistrict2023@gmail.com)

Phone: (479) 437-6054

Mail: 508 7th Street, Mena, AR 71953

Sent on behalf of the Rich Mountain Conservation District.
Thanks for your interest in grazing management and conservation,

Steve Swall

District Conservationist
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mena Service Center (Polk & Montgomery counties)
(479) 437-6054

Please reply to unsubscribe if you do not wish to receive this newsletter.