



**Natural Resources  
Conservation Service**

Room 3416, Federal Building  
700 W. Capitol Ave.  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Voice 501.301.3100  
Email: [reginald.jackson@ar.usda.gov](mailto:reginald.jackson@ar.usda.gov)  
Web: <http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov>

# News Release

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Contact:  
Reginald Jackson, (501) 301-3133; Cell: (501) 352-7761  
[reginald.jackson@ar.usda.gov](mailto:reginald.jackson@ar.usda.gov)

## **NRCS Announces June 15, 2018, Application Deadline for the “Keeping it in the Family Project” to assist Socially Disadvantaged Forest Landowners**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR** May 14, 2018 - The USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has allocated financial assistance to help with the implementation of woodland management practices in Arkansas.

Forest landowners can apply for financial assistance through NRCS at their local USDA Field Service Center. The deadline to apply is June 15, 2018. Landowners must meet all eligibility criteria by June 22. NRCS’s ranking deadline is June 29 with preapproval by July 2. The obligation deadline is July 13.

The Keeping it in the Family (KIITF) project is designed to provide assistance to socially disadvantaged forest landowners in seven counties by helping them install conservation practices leading to economically productive and sustainable forest lands.

Eligible practices include: forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, stream crossing, tree and shrub establishment, diversion, firebreak, tree and shrub site preparation and structure for water control.

The project is offered in Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Little River, Nevada, Ouachita and Union counties.

“This funding will enhance the assistance NRCS is providing socially disadvantaged forest landowners,” said Mike Sullivan, NRCS state conservationist in Arkansas. “The health of our forests and our rural communities very often go hand in hand. NRCS works with private landowners to increase economic and other opportunities for families and businesses that make their homes near woodlands. This assistance also helps decrease the threat of wildfire and restore forest habitat.”

“As with all NRCS programs, participation is completely voluntary,” Sullivan said. “This project incorporates the same practices that landowners have been voluntarily implementing for years, boosting soil and air quality, cleaning and conserving water and enhancing wildlife habitat.”

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For additional information on the KIITF project, contact University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff professor Dr. Henry English at 870-575-7246 or [englishh@uapb.edu](mailto:englishh@uapb.edu), or USDA StrikeForce Coordinator Charlie Williams at 870-633-3055 or [charlie.williams@ar.usda.gov](mailto:charlie.williams@ar.usda.gov).

To learn about technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted) or your local USDA Service Center.