## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205 agriculture.arkansas.gov (501) 225-1598



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/4/2024 Contact: Shealyn Sowers, 501.355.6667 shealyn.sowers@agriculture.arkansas.gov





## Arkansas Department of Agriculture Announces Ecodrum Composter Giveaway Contest for Farm to School Month

**LITTLE ROCK, AR** — Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders has proclaimed October as Arkansas Farm to School Month. To celebrate, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is excited to launch the Cultivating Green Schools: Ecodrum Composter Giveaway Contest. The contest aims to promote conservation practices in education by awarding a state-of-the-art composter.

The selected school will receive an Ecodrum Composter Model 410, valued at nearly \$22,000. This package includes delivery, setup, and training. The Model 410 is user-friendly, energy-efficient, durable, and designed to provide hands-on learning experiences in composting.

"We are excited to launch this contest as part of our commitment to promoting conservation in Arkansas schools," said Jessica Chapman, Farm to School and Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator. "This contest not only provides an incredible opportunity for one lucky school to enhance their environmental efforts, but it also encourages a culture of conservation among our students and communities."

"Ecodrum believes the future belongs to the children, and it's essential to involve them in hands-on learning about environmental stewardship," said Yusuf Celik, General Sales Manager for Ecodrum. "We are proud to sponsor this new and exciting contest, as it aligns with our commitment to the future of humanity."

Applications will be accepted until October 31, 2024. To be eligible, applicants must be a public K-12 school in Arkansas with a demonstrated commitment to at least one of the following practices:

- Active school garden
- Composting
- Energy conservation
- Environmental education
- Food waste reduction
- Recycling
- Agricultural conservation
- Livestock conservation management
- Water conservation

Learn more about the contest and apply <u>here</u>.

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture, forestry, and natural resources conservation to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while sustaining natural resources and ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For more information, visit agriculture.arkansas.gov/.