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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6/7/2024

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Arkansas Department of Agriculture Expands Capacity of Law Enforcement Section and Completes Successful Investigations

LITTLE ROCK, AR — The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department) Law Enforcement Section has expanded its ability to investigate agricultural crimes in Arkansas. Kenneth Booth was recently sworn in as a special agent for the Department, bringing years of law enforcement experience along with expertise in locating stolen equipment.

“We exist to serve Arkansans and work collaboratively with other agencies to investigate crimes that impact agriculture, our state’s largest industry,” said Law Enforcement Chief Billy Black. “Special Agent Booth recently joined our team of now six agents to enhance our ability to protect Arkansas agriculture. He has played an instrumental role in completing several successful investigations since he was sworn in last month.”

On May 29, a 24-foot cattle trailer and seven head of cattle were reported stolen from Pruitt’s Mid-State Stockyards in Van Buren County. Special agents identified and questioned a suspect who admitted to the theft. All property was recovered and returned to the owner. The agents were assisted by the White County Sheriff’s Office, Damascus Police Department, and Rose Bud Police Department.

On May 28, agents recovered two flatbed trailers and one cargo trailer that were reported stolen from Pulaski County. The agents were assisted by the Lonoke County Sheriff’s Office in recovering the trailers in Lonoke County. A suspect has been identified and is awaiting formal charges.

The Law Enforcement Section was recently tasked with investigating foreign land ownership throughout the state pursuant to Act 636 of 2023. The addition of Special Agent Booth will allow agents to protect the producers of Arkansas more effectively.

Learn more about the Law Enforcement Section at agriculture.arkansas.gov/arkansas-department-of-agriculture-resources/law-enforcement/.

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. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov/. 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.