

Tobacco-Free Policy for University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

PURPOSE

Tobacco addiction is among the leading preventable causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States, and in the world. Cigarette use alone results in an estimated 440,000 deaths in the US each year; one-fourth of Arkansans smoke. The list of illnesses caused by tobacco use is long and includes heart disease and stroke, many forms of cancer, and lung and vascular diseases. A full 30% of cancers are caused by tobacco use.

The University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture is committed to promoting health, wellness, and disease prevention within the community as well as to providing a safe, clean and healthy environment for our employees and visitors. It is, therefore, Division policy to provide a tobacco-free work environment in compliance with Act 734 of 2009, the Arkansas Clean Air on Campus Act. The Division is committed to providing helpful intervention strategies and treatment resources in addressing this issue and to offering programs to assist current employees to reduce their dependence on tobacco products.

DEFINITIONS

Tobacco – for the purposes of this policy, "tobacco" is defined to include any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, bidi cigarette, clove cigarette, and any other smoking product, and spit tobacco, also known as smokeless, dip, chew, and snuff, in any form.

Employee – for the purpose of this policy, all Division employees while in Division facilities (leased or owned) or on the grounds of those facilities.

PROCEDURES

Tobacco products in any form may not be used in any Division owned or leased building, or within fifty (50) feet of any Division owned or leased building entry, or in any Division owned or leased passenger vehicle or other enclosed cab vehicle.

This policy applies to all persons, including employees, faculty, students, visitors, contractors, subcontractors, and others on Division properties. Individuals located in offices not owned/leased by the Division will abide by the tobacco-free policy of the Division unless such property restrictions exceed Division policy.

Compliance with this tobacco-free policy will be the responsibility of all unit heads.

Lack of cooperation or repeated violations should be reported to the individual's supervisor. The supervisor shall then resolve the problem.

Standard disciplinary procedures will be followed for compliance problems with employees. Violations may result in progressive disciplinary actions, including termination.

In the event the tobacco violation involves a potential threat to health or safety (e.g. smoking where combustible supplies, flammable liquids, gasses or oxygen are used or stored) local authorities may be called upon for support.

Signs will be posted at each building's entrances and displayed in prominent, visible areas advising employees and visitors of this policy.

New employees will be informed of the Division tobacco-free policy during employee orientation. Unit Heads or other hiring individuals will also inform employment candidates of the tobacco-free policy during the application process or refer the candidates to the Division's Tobacco-Free Policy.

Tobacco products will not be sold or dispensed within the Division properties.



September 29, 2009

Milo J. Shult - Vice President for Agriculture

Date