

# Arkansas Business

THE STATE'S BUSINESS NEWS AUTHORITY.

## (Bad) Dream Home

Trial airs complaints in lawsuit over leaky windows in \$1.25 million Little Rock house. [P9]

## Biodiesel Blues

Arkansas' biodiesel industry has shrunk, and Troy Hornbeck knows a couple of reasons why. [P10]

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### SPOTLIGHT: Environmental & Green Business



## Exec Q&A: Leslie Davis

The VP and principal of Harbor Environmental & Safety says businesses see the value of environmental and safety programs. [P38]

### The Lists [P14, 27-30]

Green Consultants, LEED Buildings

Whispers [P3]

More Bourbon & Boots complaints

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## Poultry Industry's Watershed Moment

Tyson among food giants curtailing antibiotic use

By Marty Cook  
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Christine Daugherty is almost irrepressibly energetic.

It's a trait that serves her well in her role as vice president of sustainable food production at Tyson Foods of Springdale. Tyson announced in April its goal of eliminating the use of human-use antibiotics in its broiler chicken flocks by 2017.

Broiler chickens are those raised for human consumption. Many in the medical community fear that the use of human antibiotics in food animals can lead to the proliferation of bacteria that are resistant to those antibiotics, making them ineffective for people.

POULTRY CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Tyson Foods Vice President Christine Daugherty. [PHOTO BY WESLEY HITT]



## Once Bright, Wind Sector In Arkansas Founders

By Sean Beherec  
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Nearly seven years after the first wind manufacturing facility opened its doors in the state, the industry's sails are anything but full.

What began as a promising new manufacturing sector for the state has petered out into one the Arkansas Economic Development Commission no longer actively pursues.

Of the five manufacturing companies that announced plans to do business in the state, only one still remains, LM Wind Power of Little Rock, which was also required to return state investment funds after failing to generate enough jobs. Manufacturing projects announced by Mitsubishi, Beckmann Volmer, Nordex and Polymarine have gone by the wayside. The state has either recouped or plans to recoup its incentives in the projects, AEDC spokesman Scott Hardin said in an interview.

Hardin said the agency has removed wind from its list of "targeted industries," which he said get the bulk of its marketing dollars, as well as its time and recruitment efforts.

"A lot of what happened can simply be considered bad timing. These projects announced, and then the bottom just fell out

WIND CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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# Arkansas Business Exec Q&A

To submit questions or interview suggestions, email [GMoritz@ABPG.com](mailto:GMoritz@ABPG.com)

*In February, Harbor acquired Blaylock Threet Engineers of Little Rock, a move that expanded engineering and added surveying capabilities to its portfolio of services.*

**How important is it for businesses to focus on environmental and safety issues?** I believe we are finally at a point where businesses see the value in proactive environmental and safety programs. In the last 10 to 15 years, we have seen our clients' focus shift from just permit compliance to management systems that take a more complete view of environmental requirements. We spend a lot of man-hours auditing management systems and making recommendations on improvements that eventually translate to the bottom line through more efficient operation of those systems within the business. Some businesses have conquered compliance and are now focused on sustainability programs, such as zero landfill, energy management, etc.

**Do most businesses apply the appropriate amount of thought and effort to those issues?** Most businesses do focus on current environmental and safety issues appropriately. However, the industry is always moving. The Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration and our local regulatory agencies are changing the rules almost daily. It is so important that businesses recognize that they have the opportunity to effect change in those rules and in how the regulations are developed and implemented locally. Business owners should take advantage of opportunities to comment on new laws, proposed changes to existing regulations, even draft copies of their own permits. We always recommend a proactive approach

## This Week: Leslie Davis

Principal, Harbor Environmental & Safety of Little Rock

with regulatory agencies whether it is through direct agency contact, a consultant or an industry association. Most agencies, especially at the local level, are usually very willing to discuss your specific situation and try to find ways to develop more flexible compliance requirements.

### Describe your experience as a female founder. Any extra hurdles to clear?

I'm not sure there were any additional hurdles to clear, but I do think being a woman in an industry heavily populated with men has sometimes been a challenge, especially early on in our business. My partner, Trena Adair, and I probably put more pressure on ourselves to "prove" we could compete in the field than was actually out there. Like most business owners, we are definitely wired to try to excel at everything we do.

### What does the future for this industry look like?

We are seeing a transition in this industry from strictly "enforcing" compliance to businesses taking the initiative to reduce environmental impact and improve safety before regulations are even imposed. Corporations are



### Bio: Leslie Davis

**Background:** Davis, vice president and principal at Harbor, co-founded the environmental, safety and engineering consulting firm with Trena Adair in 2007. Davis specializes in acquisition assistance and implementation of compliance management systems. She has more than 20 years of experience in the industry and has served on several regulatory committees in Arkansas.

**Education:** A North Little Rock native, Davis earned a bachelor's degree in environmental health science from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. ■

[PHOTO BY SIERRA WHEELER]

developing policies for sustainability that go above and beyond what regulatory agencies require. From a safety perspective, corporations are realizing that heavy-handed rule enforcement is not the most effective way to achieve a safe work environment. Behavior-based safety

culture is at the forefront. Some companies are even taking that a step further by teaching environmental and safety concepts that apply to their employees' home lives. We are definitely seeing a more holistic view from businesses, which is very exciting. ■