



# arkansasinc.

Fall 2013

## Dec. 31 deadline looms for 2013 tax payments

In case you missed it, the deadline to file annual reports and pay corporate franchise taxes for the year ending December 2012 was May 1, 2013. Every for-profit business entity, whether domestic or foreign, pays an annual fee to do business in Arkansas. Even if your company has ceased doing business in Arkansas, franchise taxes and penalties will continue to accrue until you formally dissolve the company with the Arkansas Secretary of State. You must formally dissolve before December 31, 2013, and pay franchise taxes to avoid paying franchise taxes in 2014 for both years.

### Dissolution Process:

1. Bring the entity into good standing with the Secretary of State.
  - a. All back franchise taxes must be paid.
2. Submit the final report form and pay final franchise tax and fee.
3. File Articles of Dissolution with the Secretary of State.
  - a. Forms are available online: [www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/)
  - b. Articles of Dissolution must be mailed or filed in person with an original signature.
  - c. Pay applicable dissolution fee (see chart online).

Franchise Taxes can be paid online, by mail or in person. Articles of Dissolution are not available for online filing.



## The Secretary's Minute Keeping an eye on the prize for economic growth

*Mark Martin*

ARKANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE

As we move toward the end of 2013, I am pleased with Arkansas's progress in several areas related to business.

Despite political turmoil in Washington, D.C., and a brutal economic season, Arkansas leaders have worked together to foster growth and support the business community.

An example of this is the franchise tax penalty and interest amnesty program. During the final quarter of the year, September 1 through December 31, businesses previously in "revoked" status for failure to pay franchise taxes as of December 31, 2012, can pay up to three years of back taxes without paying the accrued penalties and interest.

This program allows businesses whose corporate charter has been revoked to return to good standing. The business will have to pay up to three years of past-due franchise taxes.

This is a great opportunity for businesses trying to rebuild after the past few years of economic downturn. For more information about the amnesty program, visit our website at [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov).

Meanwhile, if you have not yet paid franchise taxes due this year, remember to do so by December 31 to avoid potential revocation of your corporate charter. We mailed postcard reminders of this deadline in October. See the article on this page for more information.

December 31 is also the deadline to dissolve a business you have closed, to avoid accruing the 2014 franchise tax. The forms to dissolve a business are available on our website.

More and more of the business forms used by our customers are being converted to PDF format so they can be typed and printed from your computer screen. Find newly converted forms on our website.

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# Mulberry is home to nation's first edamame plant

Devotees of Asian cuisine have long been familiar with edamame. Now, a small town in Arkansas is home to the nation's first edamame processing facility.

American Vegetable Soybean and Edamame Inc. (AVS) opened its commercial processing facility in Mulberry almost two years ago. It is the first facility in the United States dedicated to producing edamame.

Ray Chung, chief financial officer of AVS, said Mulberry was a prime location. "It's at the heart of the Arkansas River Valley, and near Interstate 40," he said. "Transportation is key."

And because many Arkansans have worked at other area food processing plants, a skilled workforce was already in place.

The company's \$5.8 million facility employs more than 100 people, and an expansion is in the planning stages.

Mulberry Mayor Gary Baxter said the city actively recruited the company. The Mulberry Industrial Development Corporation donated over 13 acres to AVS, and the city extended utilities to the facility.

City leaders worked to build relationships with the owners of AVS, and the Mulberry area has benefited. Besides employees at the facility, AVS does business with local companies like West-NorthWest Trucking and Westark Material handling. And it is a tax-paying business, providing the city with additional revenue.

Chung said his company is very appreciative of support for AVS, from both the city of Mulberry and the state. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission provided support and incentives, including bond guarantees.

Edamame is young soybeans in pods, cooked briefly in hot water and then flash-frozen. It has become popular in the United States

over the past three or four years, especially as soy-based foods have been promoted as healthful. In America, it was first served as a salty snack in Japanese restaurants, but edamame has been part of Asian cuisine for centuries.

AVS washes pods five times with specially-treated water. Good news for the germ- and sodium-conscious: the hot water is changed periodically as the pods are cooked, and no salt is added while cooking. Employees in the cooking process wash their hands every 20 minutes. And studies have indicated that soy products can improve hormone levels, arterial elasticity and cardiac health.

A related "first" is the first edamame vegetable soybean variety developed in America and licensed for commercial production. The bean was developed in the University of Arkansas's soybean breeding program. It was named "UA Kirksey" in honor of long-time soybean grower Joe Kirksey of Mulberry.

Farmers contracted to AVS grew the UA Kirksey as well as a Chinese variety of soybean for edamame production. It was the first time edamame had been included in the 3 million-plus acres of soybeans commercially grown in Arkansas.

JYC International, the Houston-based parent company of AVS, is marketing the edamame nationwide. Consumers can find packages in the frozen food section of Sam's Club and other club stores, such as Costco.

Both Chung and Baxter are excited for AVS to continue expanding operations and providing edamame to an increasing customer base. The popularity and health benefits, as well as Mulberry's location and partnership, will combine to make AVS an iconic Arkansas business.



CFO Ray Chung introduces Sec. Martin to "Cruncha Ma Me" products.

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I hope you'll enjoy features on two Arkansas manufacturers, one of the newest and a historic icon. American Vegetable Soybean and Edamame, Inc. constructed an edamame processing facility in Mulberry last year. The \$5.8 million facility employs about 100 people. I recently toured the plant and was impressed by the work done there. This month's Arkansas Icon is Rogers' own Daisy Outdoor Products, maker of the classic Daisy air rifle and legendary Red Ryder BB gun.

As my office begins preparing for 2014, I look forward to sharing several pieces of news with you over the coming months. We continue to improve the technology used to serve the business

community, and we are always looking for new processes to simplify doing business with us.

Staff members frequently attend business expos, Chamber of Commerce events and other activities within the communities of Arkansas. Doing this keeps us accessible and in touch with the people we serve, allowing us to improve customer service.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Business and Commercial Services by calling toll-free (888) 233-0325 or (501) 682-3409 or by e-mail at [corprequest@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:corprequest@sos.arkansas.gov). We are here to serve you.



# Arkansas Business Icons: *Daisy Manufacturing*

Ask someone to name an airgun company and chances are excellent that the first name to come to mind will be Daisy. For more than 125 years, Americans have taken their first shot with a Daisy BB gun more than any other brand.

Founded in Michigan, Daisy Outdoor Products has called Rogers, Ark., home for 55 years, stamping the town's name on every gun stock since 1958.

## From windmills to airguns

Daisy began as the Plymouth Iron Windmill Company in 1882, with patented steel windmills. The idea was conceived by Clarence J. Hamilton, a watch repairman, in Plymouth, Mich.

After initial success, the windmill company was struggling and almost closed. The future would change on March 6, 1888, when Hamilton approached the manufacturer with an all-metal airgun of his own design. General Manager L.C. Hough test fired the gun and exclaimed, "Boy, that's a daisy!" An American icon was born.

By 1895 Plymouth switched completely from windmills and began producing the popular airguns exclusively, changing its name to Daisy Manufacturing Company.

## The Red Ryder

With the ground work firmly laid by acquisitions and innovative promotions in the 1930s, Daisy launched the Daisy Red Ryder BB gun in the spring of 1940.

Based on the popular western hero of a comic strip, the Red Ryder was selling one million units annually by 1949. The Red Ryder was and still is the best-known BB gun ever built. It has enjoyed renewed fame thanks to the 1983 movie "A Christmas Story," and Ralphie's longing for his own Red Ryder BB gun.

## Making a home in Arkansas

On April 30, 1958, Daisy closed its doors in Plymouth, Mich., and train cars full of machinery rolled south to its new

**Left:** For generations, Daisy has supported responsible young shooters. **Below:** The first-ever Daisy BB gun.



**Above:** The Daisy Pump Gun is still sold today; the Rogers Daisy Airgun Museum.

facility in Rogers, Arkansas. The move represented the first major industrial investment in this rural region that would become a major hub in the state's economy.

Daisy expanded its presence in the paintball market with the acquisition of the Brass Eagle company. As production shifted, Daisy downsized from its 250,000 square-foot facility in Rogers. Engineering, quality control, assembly, packing and shipping operations moved to sites in Missouri, while corporate headquarters remained in Rogers. In 2007, however, assembly returned to Rogers.

Daisy continues to dominate the airgun category with tried and true models like the legendary Red Ryder as well as innovative high power PowerLine air rifles, air pistols, ergonomic slingshots and a line of Avanti air rifles and pistols for training and match competition. The company also licenses the Winchester name to create a line of Winchester Air Rifles and pistols which live up to that legendary brand.

Throughout its history, Daisy has stressed the safe use of airguns for target shooting and has urged early adult training and supervision of young people in the shooting sports. Daisy literally wrote the book on shooting education, pioneering the industry's first shooting education curriculum in 1955 and partnering with the U.S. Jaycees to launch the nation's largest youth Shooting Education Program in 1963. More than 10 million youth have participated to date. The Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match (The Daisy Nationals) is held each summer in Daisy's hometown of Rogers, Arkansas.

To experience more about the rich history of this company, visit the Rogers Daisy Airgun Museum ([www.daisymuseum.com](http://www.daisymuseum.com)).

**Note:** This article is part of an ongoing series featuring iconic Arkansas businesses and business leaders.





SECRETARY OF STATE  
**MARK MARTIN**

Division of Business and Commercial Services  
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Join us for the  
**75th Annual State  
Capitol Lighting  
Ceremony, 5:30 p.m.,  
Saturday, Dec. 7.**

## *There's still time to file for amnesty program*

Have you taken part in the Secretary of State's franchise tax penalty and interest amnesty program, yet? Many of your fellow Arkansas corporations have and you still have time! The franchise tax penalty and interest amnesty program season began September 1 and will continue through December 31, 2013.

### **What is the franchise tax interest and penalty program?**

During the past legislative session, the office of Secretary of State Mark Martin worked for you to ease repayment of old or forgotten franchise taxes, paving the way for corporations to return to good standing with the state. Act 1041, sponsored by Senator Eddie Joe Williams of Cabot, allows the Secretary of State's office to provide a franchise tax penalty and interest amnesty program.

### **Who is eligible?**

This is a one-time amnesty opportunity for corporations whose charter with the state was "revoked" on or before



December 31, 2012. Franchise taxes are due each year by May 1 for the previous calendar year; penalties and interest begin to accrue at that point. When the tax goes unpaid through December 31, the corporation's charter is revoked. Corporations who only owe franchise taxes for the year ending in 2012 are not eligible and still have until December 31, 2013 to bring their entity into "good standing" with the state.

### **How do you take part?**

Visit [www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/bcs/) to download the franchise tax penalty and interest forms as well as the applicable yearly franchise tax forms. Up to three years' taxes may be settled. Submit the forms and required fees to the Secretary of State's Business and Commercial Services Division either by mail or in person at 1401 W. Capitol, Suite 250, Little Rock, AR 72201. Online filing for the amnesty program is not available.