



MASTER LOGGER NEWSLETTER

July, 2011

Volume 2, Issue 1

Tennessee

Master Logger Partners:



Extension

Tennessee Tree Farms are Certified for Wood

Provided By: Sammy Woodfin, Tennessee Tree Farm Chairman

Wood harvested from Tennessee Tree Farms is recognized as certified fiber by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) systems. The interest in certified fiber at several mills appears to be growing across our State and nationally. Many mills are tracking certified fiber deliveries which include Tree Farm wood. Certified wood means the landowner is following a set of guidelines or standards developed to promote good forest management. The Tennessee Tree Farm system just completed a successful audit to gauge our adherence to these standards. American Tree Farm System Certification can be a marketing point for the wood you

harvest. It may improve the market you already have or it may even provide an additional market. When you are working with a landowner or a forester to prepare the next harvest, be sure to follow these ideas:

1. Check if the parcel is currently certified by contacting the State Tree Farm Administrator at the Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA) office @ 615-883-3832.
2. Tell the forester, dealer or the mill that the wood is certified. Provide the Tree Farm number and the regional certification number. The TFA office can provide you with these numbers if the land is Tree Farm certified.
3. Consider developing a load ticket to go with the



wood so that the scale house knows the wood is certified. Important information to include is the Tree Farm number (e.g. TN-1234), property county or town, property legal description and landowner's name.

Additional information is available at www.tnforestry.com and www.treefarmssystem.org.

Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program for Loggers

Provided By: John Kirksey, Tennessee Department of Agriculture/Tennessee Division of Forestry, Forest Protection Leader

All of us are interested in keeping our streams running clear. By taking a few precautions logging and clean water can go hand-in-hand. Almost all water quality problems associated with logging are related to roads, especially stream crossings. Temporary stream crossings are necessary for access to forest lands, but they greatly increase the potential for polluting streams.

During forestry operations, it is best to avoid crossings if possible. If temporary crossings are necessary, an excellent way to prevent soil sedimentation pollution from getting into waterways is to use skidder bridges. If a wet area needs crossing, then pallet mats can be used.

Correctly installed skidder bridges and pallet mats help protect streams. Skidder bridges are steel or wood. Typically they consist of 2 or 3 fabricated panels placed side by side to form a bridge. They are easy to pick up and lay down with a grapple skidder and/or loader. These temporary bridges are reusable, so they can be more cost effective than a permanent crossing such as a culvert or ford and do not require a permit to install.

Pallet mats are placed end to end to provide a road surface which gives access across wet areas with minimum soil damage. They are frequently used on roads leading up to highways to minimize the amount of mud tracked onto pavement. Pallet mats are reusable and provide a cost effective alternative.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program (TAEP) is offering financial assistance to help pay for portable skidder bridges for temporary stream crossings and truck mats for wet area crossings. These structures allow timber harvesters to cross streams and wet areas in an environmentally sound manner that leads to better protection of water resources.

Funds are also available to provide stabilization of stream crossings. Materials such as stream-crossing grids, geotextile fabric and erosion EELS are among the items that may be eligible.

Fixing a water quality problem, and possible related penalties, can be a big headache and shrink your pocketbook. These practices are intended to save you, the logger, time and money by preventing water quality problems. To apply for this assistance contact your local Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry Area Forester Office. The Area Forester will handle the sign-up paperwork for cost-share assistance. For more information call the Division of Forestry at 615-837-5425, or visit the TFA website, www.tnforestry.com or the Division of Forestry website at www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry/waterquality.

THE HEAT OF THE SUMMER

Bryan Wagner, Forestry Mutual Insurance

In the past twenty years the forest industry has been blessed by mechanization. The amount of hard and demanding physical labor has been reduced greatly. The introduction of grapple skidders; feller-bunchers; buck saws and delimiters have reduced risk in the industry. Such equipment has also reduced the physical exertion of logging employees. Mechanized forest equipment operators enjoy great creature comforts, heaters and air conditioners. The cabs of the newer logging equipment provide for a comfortable working environment.

On the other side of the coin, timber cutters and saw hands have a very physically demanding job. When the heat of the summer is thrown into this equation, fatigue is the result. Fatigue is a very serious risk that must be dealt with in our industry. It is human nature that a tired or fatigued person will take a short-cut. Short-cuts in the logging woods can prove to be lethal. Fatigue affects the thought process. If we can limit or reduce fatigue levels, we end up with an alert, clear thinking timber cutter. To limit fatigue in the summer heat, we must look at personal health and physical exertion. Above all, we must stay hydrated. "Gas for the saw, water for me" is a saying that should be followed. Strenuous physical exertion may be reduced by working a little smarter, not harder.

- Drink plenty of water before, during and after exposure to the heat. Dark yellow colored urine is a sign of not enough water being consumed.
- Avoid caffeinated drinks; they tend to make you thirstier.
- Keep in the shade as much as possible.
- Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing.
- Doctors recommend at least 8 glasses of water on a normal day, twice that should be consumed during high heat periods.
- Work smart, the brain can save a lot of foot steps, less

foot steps, less fatigue.

- If at all possible do most of the manual felling during the early morning to avoid the heat of the day.
- If possible, toppers should be stationed in a shaded "safe zone" from the skidders.
- Limit the time your toppers are exposed to the direct sun. Make one trip out of the safe zone to top 3 or 4 drags, rather than running out to top single drags of wood.
- Timber cutters can cut their whole drag, before going down to top the timber. Limit your trips up and down the slope.

Ultimately, we have to work in the heat to feed our families and pay the bills. If we pay attention to keeping enough water in, and thinking through our work plans, fatigue can be reduced. We must remember that fatigue breaks down the thought process. A sharp and alert mind will conquer risk by employing a proper technique or a correct decision. Beat the summer heat by working smarter, not harder.

UPCOMING MASTER LOGGER CLASSES

5 Day Initial Course

Starts Wednesday, July 27*

Dickson, at UT Extension Office in Library Building

Continuing Ed. Class

Thursday, August 4 Natchez Trace State Park Lodge*

"A Lesson on Process of Timber Inventory"

Instructor: Dr. David Mercker

(this class is limited to 16 participants)

*All classes start at 8:00 a.m., contact Dana at TFA to pre-register

FROM LIEUTENANT JOHN HARMON, TN HWY. PATROL

Lieutenant Harmon asked that TFA remind our Master Loggers that for trucks hauling loads with at least a 4 ft. overhang, the following light laws apply ½ hour before sundown ½ hour after sunrise and any other time when lights are required to be used:

- A red flag is required at the end of the load. The flag must be between 12"-18" in diameter.
- A steady burning red lamp is required on end of load.
- A flashing amber LED or strobe lamp is required at end of load.

Also the height of load must not be over 13 Ft. 6 inches. Legal length of the truck including load must not be over 75 ft. It is

TFA PASSES LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF TENNESSEE FORESTS

TFA introduced and passed unanimously through both the House of Representatives and Senate a resolution that recognizes the sustainability of Tennessee's forests. Governor Haslam also promptly signed the resolution. The Master Logger program is commended in the text of the resolution. Passage of this resolution certainly demonstrates the support from our Governor, State House and Senate members for our Master Loggers, landowners and forest industry. To download a copy of the resolution, check-out the TFA website at: www.tnforestry.com

MASTER LOGGER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

At TFA, we know there are many deserving loggers across our state who deserve to be recognized. Each year, we present the Master Logger of the Year award at the TFA annual convention. To nominate a logger for this prestigious award, please download the nomination form from TFA's website: www.tnforestry.com, or contact TFA to have the nomination form sent to you. Please send your nomination for Tennessee Master Logger of the Year to TFA by August 1.

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LOGGING PROGRAM
TENNESSEE MASTER

