

The Kentucky LogJam

 College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Forestry Extension

Providing Environmental, Safety, and Professional
information to Kentucky's Timber Harvesting Operators



Changes in Logging Inspections

by Jeff Stringer

Starting January 1, 2017, there will be changes in some of the mandatory Best Management Practices (BMPs). This article provides information on what these changes are and how and why they are being made.

Why and How Changes Were Made?

The BMPs that have been in place since 2000 were tested using commercial loggers in a large research project by the University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry. The project that ran from 2004 to 2014 found some of our BMPs were working well and some needed improvement. The 13-member



governor-appointed BMP Board, which includes loggers, is charged with reviewing the BMPs and making changes if information indicates a change is needed. The board took a year to review the research findings and made changes to the BMP requirements. Loggers on the board were diligent in ensuring that if changes were made, they were considered with an eye toward costs and feasibility. In the end, some requirements were eliminated and some were strengthened. Final approval of the changes occurred in October 2015 by the Kentucky Division of Water.

When Will Changes Occur?

The new requirements will take effect January 1, 2017.

County Rangers are undergoing training on these changes this summer, and we have scheduled Advanced BMP training for you that will detail what these changes are and how they will be inspected (see registration form on last page of this LogJam). All loggers are encouraged to attend these sessions this summer and fall for CEC credits and to get up-to-speed on what is coming.

What Are the Changes?

In a nutshell, the changes focus on improving BMPs directly near streams while providing more flexibility for loggers in other areas.

Logger Choice – Loggers will have more flexibility in choosing whether or not to retire roads, trails, and landings that are far away from streams and will not produce muddy water runoff that will find its way into streams. This is a significant change in the minimum requirements, providing loggers with more of a choice on smoothing ruts, water control, and seeding these less critical areas.

Trees Around Streams – The research found that leaving 50 percent of the overstory trees in the 25 feet or 55 feet wide Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) for regular streams was adequate and no changes were made. However, trout stream SMZs were increased from 60 feet to 100 feet.

Skid Trails, Roads and Landings Within the SMZ - While the width for leaving trees in an SMZ remained the same for regular streams, the distance of roads, trails, and landings

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to the stream was increased to 50 feet on flat ground (<15% slope) and 100 feet on steep ground. When they are closer than 50 feet or 100 feet, one or more practices must be used to prevent muddy water runoff from reaching the water.

Seeding – As indicated above, some areas no longer need to be seeded. However, where seed is required, seeding must be done in conjunction with one or more methods to help ensure revegetation.

Stream Crossings – The research found that how channels and streams were crossed is very important. Elevated crossings, including bridges, pipes, poles, and other similar structures are required where technically and economically



One or more practices to promote revegetation such as seeding into loose dirt will be required to help ensure revegetation.

feasible. If elevated crossings are not feasible, crossings are to be made at right angles and the stream bed is required to be firm, either naturally or improved. Disturbed dirt at crossings must be immediately stabilized.

Temporary and Inactive Jobs – Jobs or areas within a job with no activity for two weeks must have water control (temporary or permanent).



The disturbed ground and fill dirt at this channel crossing in Breathitt Co. in eastern Kentucky was mulched and seeded when it was installed. This was done to reduce muddy water entering the stream and practices like this will be required in January.

This list above provides information on the major changes, however other, smaller changes were also made. A new BMP field guide is being developed and will be available before the new inspections start. A brochure outlining these changes will be distributed this summer and fall by KDF inspectors. **Most importantly, the Kentucky Master Logger program is conducting several advanced BMP one-day continuing education courses focusing on these changes. Please register for one of these (see the registration form on the page 7).**

Written Warnings

Many loggers have noticed an increase in written warnings from Kentucky Division of Forestry county rangers. The law has always required a written warning when county rangers found problems. However, if the logger was on-site when the inspection was done, many county rangers often verbally let loggers know about a problem rather than issue a written warning. While this seemed



reasonable, it also has led to some problems. As a result, county rangers have been instructed to write a written warning when they find a problem. They can tell you, but they also have been directed to provide you with a written warning as well. This change has caught some loggers off guard. The BMP Board has reviewed the situation and wants to remind loggers that if they receive a written warning it is just that, a warning. If the problem is fixed, then the warning goes away. No different than if the county ranger gave a verbal warning. Once the problem is fixed the warning goes away. If you get a written warning, please realize the county ranger is doing his or her job, and if the problem is addressed the warning goes away. As a logger, you are the only one seeing the written warning; it is not sent to the landowner.

NEWS

Railroad Ties

We are getting reports of decreased tie production and some price reductions and quotas throughout Kentucky.



While price reductions and quotas may not be significant in all regions of Kentucky, treatment facilities have lowered pricing and cut production levels back over the last few weeks. Some of the reasons given from different sources are:

- 1) Rail traffic and revenues have decreased greatly due to less oil, gas, and coal extraction and shipments.
- 2) Norfolk Southern is holding back expenses (including rail maintenance) to try and hold off a takeover from Canadian National.
- 3) Class 1 railroad companies are reducing their record investments in railroad maintenance and improvement, and fewer ties are needed to keep up with regular maintenance.
- 4) According to the Railroad Tie Association website, many facilities have a large inventory, many of which are at or near capacity.

While Kentucky will remain an important source of tie logs, treatment facilities may become more selective, require fewer ties, and likely pay less for them. It is hard to tell right now how long these issues will affect tie pricing and consumption. Projections indicate it will likely take a while for things to shake out and the market to adjust. A few optimistic sources are projecting increased usage for next year, presumably the effect of delayed purchases from this year.

Verso Mill Closure

As many of you know, especially those of you in the western part of the state, the Verso paper mill (formerly NewPage) has been idled for some time now. The plan was to find a buyer for the mill to prevent the permanent closure of the facility, but no buyer has been found, so the mill will close June 3. The idling that occurred in November 2015 had significant impacts on many logging firms in the western portion of Kentucky and the community of Wickliffe. With the impending closure of the Verso mill, this impact will be permanent unless a buyer emerges. Go to www.masterlogger.org to see the full economic impact report, \$400 million loss to western Kentucky and over 100 loggers impacted.

Eastern Kentucky Loggers – New Federally Listed Fish

Loggers in Eastern Kentucky will soon have to contend with a new federally listed threatened species, the Kentucky arrow darter. This small fish lives in headwater streams that drain into the Kentucky River system (see map below). The Kentucky arrow darter is the first fish that has been listed in this region. The Endangered Species Act requires that streams where the Kentucky arrow darter lives be protected.

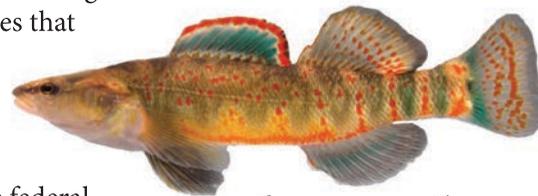
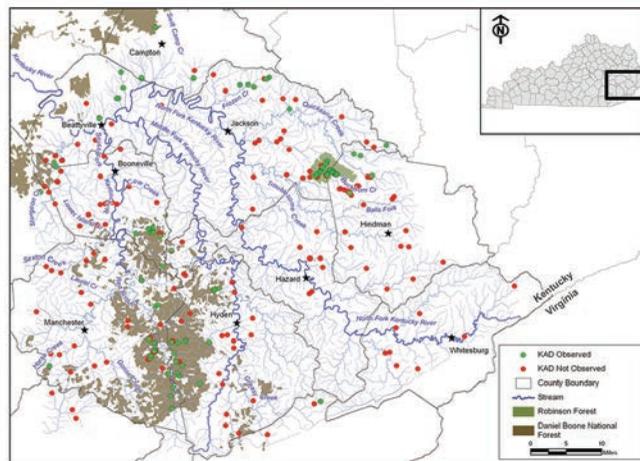


Photo courtesy: Matt Thomas

If not, loggers face federal fines and cleanup. Loggers in southeast Kentucky have had to deal with the blackside dace, another small fish living in headwater streams draining into the Cumberland River, for several years. The listing may occur this summer or fall. Stay tuned to the LogJam for further information.



Map courtesy: KSNPC & FWS

Decline in Bats Continues to Impact Logging

Many of you are aware that bats can interfere or have the potential to interfere with logging operations. The Indiana bat has been listed as a federally endangered species since the 1980s. A disease that is killing a significant number of bats that hibernate in caves has resulted in the Northern long-eared bat



Northern long-eared bat with white-nose syndrome.

Photo courtesy: University of Illinois - Steve Taylor

being listed this year as a federally threatened species. The Northern long-eared bat lives in woods throughout Kentucky during the summer. Right now, the listing means that areas around caves must be minimally disturbed. If bats are found to be in an area during the summer, it can affect logging. Harvesting on public land and surface-mining sites will be impacted the most. Under the current law, harvesting can still occur on private land as long as it is not around a cave. The LogJam will provide more information on cave locations and the bat situation in upcoming issues.

New KDF Director- In February 2016 the new director of the Kentucky Division of Forestry was announced as Mr. William "Bill" Steele Jr. Bill was previously president and CEO of Kentucky Tie and Lumber Company, a family-

owned business in Columbia, Ky. The company has 80 employees and is operated by his two sons. Bill previously served as president of the Kentucky Forest Industries Association and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from the University of the South.

Bill has been quoted as saying, "Although most of my career has been spent in the

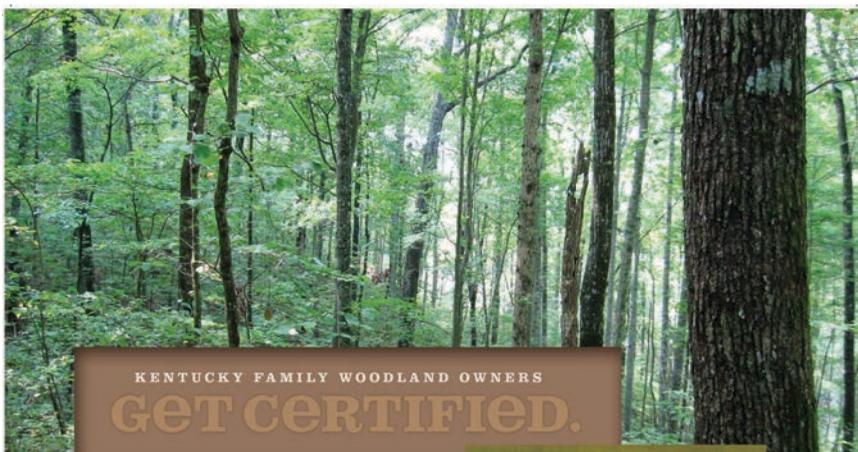
manufacturing of forest products, I have always kept in mind the importance of the obligation I have as a professional forester to be a good steward of our state's and our nation's natural resources," said Bill. "I think this is true of the majority of the people I have encountered in over forty years in an industry. I have been both gratified and excited to learn of the passion that my fellow employees in the Kentucky Division of Forestry share for protecting and enhancing this incredible natural resource that covers roughly one half of all of the land found within our state's borders." Join the University of Kentucky Forestry Department in welcoming Mr. Bill Steele to the Division of Forestry.



Congratulations to Sutton Logging Kentucky Logger of the Year



Sutton Logging was honored as the 2015 Kentucky Logger of the Year. Pictured are outgoing Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Chairman Lloyd Foe (left), Mike Sutton (center), and Justin Sutton.



KENTUCKY FAMILY WOODLAND OWNERS
GET CERTIFIED.

Enroll your woodland property in a forest certification system.

Most private landowners are probably not aware of the forest certification process and its' benefits, while other landowners may have heard and don't know where to begin.



Take advantage of forest certification and choose to enroll today.

To enroll, please contact the Center for Forest & Wood Certification (CFWC) or the Kentucky SFI Implementation Committee for assistance in developing a plan to become certified.

There are many benefits for getting your property certified which include but are not limited to:

1. Potentially increasing the value of your property and giving you a competitive advantage in the marketplace.
2. Ensuring a sustainable forest ecosystem for future generations.
3. Improving biodiversity, water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.
4. Allows you to gain a deeper knowledge of your property and the resources you own.
5. Provides access to certified professionals in the wood industry, wildlife biologists, and state foresters.



Toll-Free: (855) 579-2690
www.forestcertificationcenter.org

Have Black Locust Logs?



Interested in black locust logs, 8 to 16 feet long, with a minimum of 10 inch diameter; or standing black locust trees, minimum of 10 inch diameter.

Middleground Golf and Bat Company

Jerry Childress
1-800-635-3098

Kentucky Forestry Economic Impact Report 2015

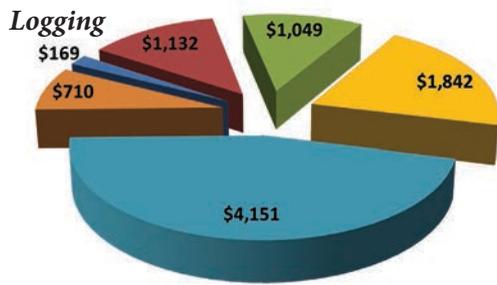
Overall Impact

In 2015, the Kentucky forest industry's economic contributions increased 9 percent from 2014, providing about \$9.1 billion in direct impact. Taking into account all of the economic activity within the forestry sector, the contribution totals more than \$14.5 billion, one billion more than the economic contribution from tourism and larger than any other agricultural commodity. Direct employment in the industry increased slightly (less than 1 percent) compared to 2014 with 28,408 employed in 2015.

Direct Impact: \$9.1 billion
Total Impact: \$14.6 billion

Logging and Wood Industries

The forest industry had a slight increase in the number of facilities, with 10 new locations coming online in 2015; a total of 713 facilities reside in 109 counties. The Verso paper mill in Wickliffe, Ky., has been idled and will be closing its doors in early June 2016, a significant impact on loggers



Direct Economic Impact by Kentucky Forestry Sub-Sectors in Millions.

Legend

● Wood Industry

Active Master Loggers

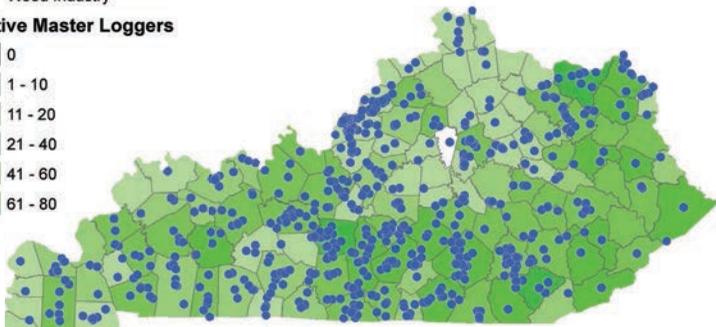
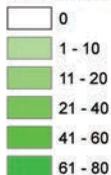


Figure 1. Kentucky Wood Industries and Master Logger Distribution 2015

cabinets, flooring) had a 10 percent decrease in 2015 as well as a reduction of about 1,000 employees. In 2015, a total of 2,731 master loggers worked in all but one county (Woodford - see figure 1).

Timber Output and Prices

Overall log and pulpwood harvesting was strong in 2015 with sawlog production coming in at about 762 million dbft. Delivered sawlog pricing varied greatly for all species

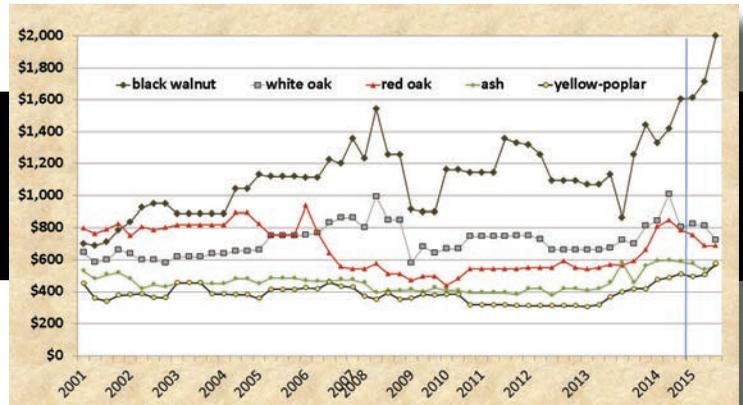


Figure 2. Delivered Grade 1 Sawlogs Prices for Major Species in Kentucky

(see figure 2). Yellow poplar and black walnut were two species that had increased delivered log pricing for 2015. Black walnut prices have been on the rise since 2013 and increased 22 percent in 2015. Yellow poplar increased 6 percent. Red oak, white oak, and ash all had reduced prices in 2015 compared to 2014. Red oak delivered log price showed a 13 percent decrease in 2015, although early signs are optimistic for some grades in 2016. Grade 1 ash delivered log price was stable but lower grades decreased. Oak tie logs reached almost \$400/MBF, the first time since 2008 that oak ties have surpassed non-oak tie prices (see figure 3). Unlike white oak saw logs, stave logs for barrel production showed a delivered price increase in 2015. In the last quarter of 2015, stave log delivered prices reached \$1,300/MBF, an increase of 23 percent from 2014 (see figure 4). This rise has a strong correlation with increased global whiskey sales.

Economic Impact of One acre of Harvested Timber

The forests of Kentucky provide the timber resources that account for a large portion of economic impact within the forestry sector. This impact includes all aspects of revenue from the landowner selling their timber through logging, milling, residuals such as sawdust and bark, and all primary

and secondary industries that produce or use lumber. Normally we think about an acre of timber being worth the stumpage value or the delivered log value. However, the economic impacts are far greater. To put the real value of an acre of harvested timber in Kentucky into perspective, consider the following: In 2015, the average value of standing timber was \$290 per thousand board foot or \$1,030 of revenue for the landowner for each acre harvested. (This value is the statewide average and of course timber values vary widely.) The average harvested acre also provided about \$794 in direct revenue to the loggers who cut and haul the timber. A majority of timber harvested within the state is processed at mills in Kentucky, which results in \$5,294 in direct revenue for sawmills and \$4,909 direct revenue for pulp and paper mills. Byproducts such as bark from the mills also are an important revenue generator, yielding \$3,322 per acre of timber harvested. Finally, our secondary industries that manufacture finished furniture, furniture parts, flooring, barrels, and a host of other products contribute significant added value to the forest sector, yielding \$8,615 per acre of harvested timber. In total, one acre of timber harvested (see figure 5) results in \$23,964 to the Commonwealth in direct revenue and a total of \$39,743 to the economy of Kentucky if you include the businesses that support logging. These figures show just how important logging and timber is to Kentucky and the real value logging has to Kentucky goes well beyond the value to the timber owner or loggers. Therefore logging should command a high degree of recognition and political clout in Kentucky, which is not well understood but should be.

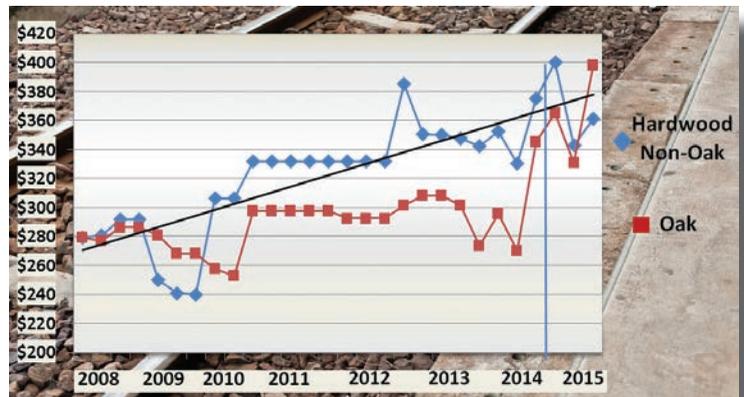


Figure 3. Delivered Tie Logs Prices in Kentucky 2008-2015 by Quarter (\$/MBF)

Sources above and below: Kentucky Division of Forestry's Delivered Log Price Data

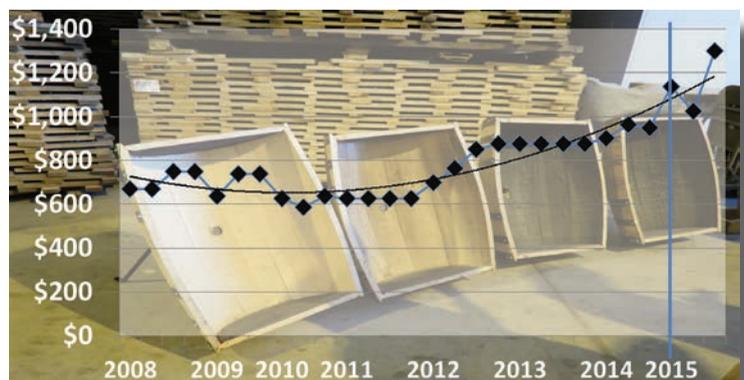
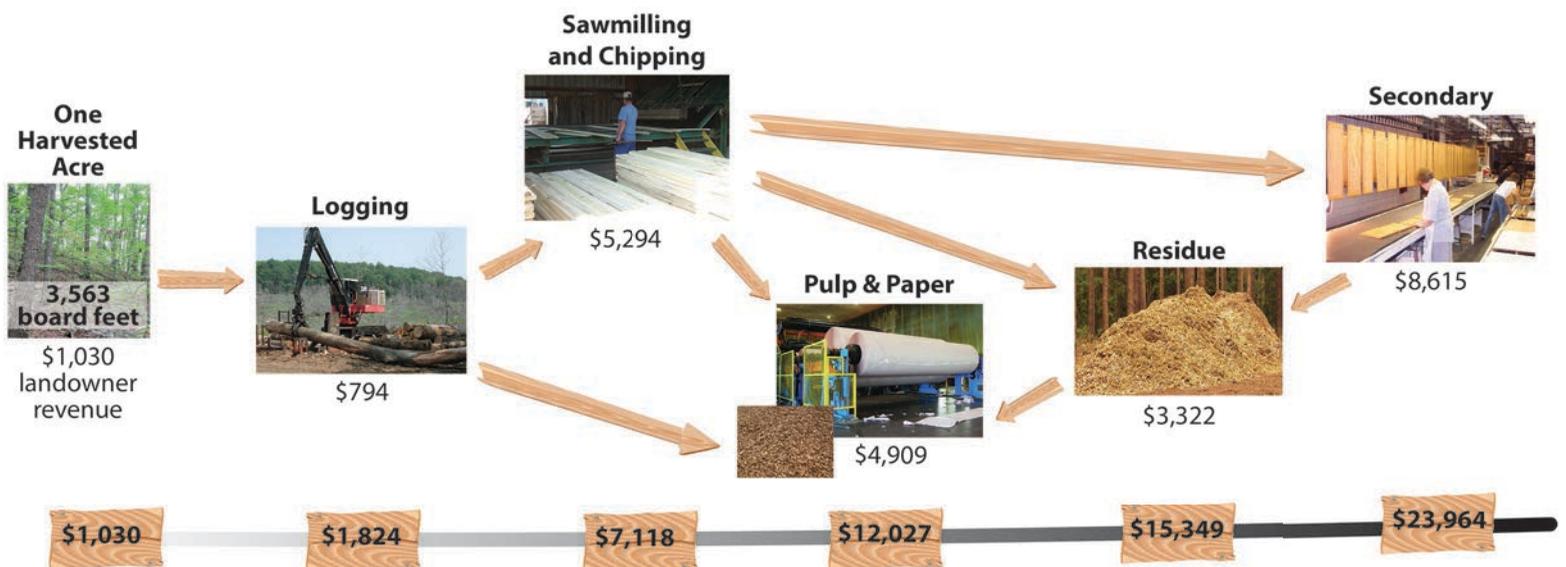


Figure 4. Delivered Stave Logs Prices in Kentucky 2008-2015 by Quarter (\$/MBF)

Figure 5. Cumulative Direct Economic Impact of a Harvested Woodland Acre





Kentucky Master Logger Continuing Education Programs

If you would like to register for one of these programs and complete the six-hour CE requirement, mail this registration form and fee to the KML Office at the address listed

below or call 1-800-859-6006 or 859-257-6230. All class times are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., local time. If time permits you will be sent a return letter verifying your registration along with class information. All Continuing Education Credits have a \$50 registration fee.

See classes offered in the table below.

Kentucky Master Logger 3-Day Program

If you would like to register for a 3-day program, call 1-800-859-6006 or 859-257-6230. The 3-day sessions cost \$85 per person for the entire 3-day course.

2016 Dates and Locations

- **July 12, 13 and 14** - Marshall County - Benton - Cooperative Extension Service Office
- **September 20, 21 and 22** - Metcalfe County - Edmonton Cooperative Extension Service Office
- **October 25, 26 and 27** - Harrison County - Cynthiana - Cooperative Extension Service Office
- **November 15, 16 and 17** - Clay County - Manchester - Cooperative Extension Service Office

Continuing Education Programs



June 23	Central City	Harvest Planning & Cost - MuhlenbergCounty Extension Office
June 28	Clayhole	New BMP Regulations & Harvesting for the Future - U.K. Robinson Forest
June 30	New Castle	New BMP Regulations & Harvesting for the Future - Henry County Extension Office
July 21	Hazard	Open Face Timber Felling - Perry County Extension Office
July 26	Benton	New BMP Regulations & Harvesting for the Future -Marshall County Extension Office
July 28	Flemingsburg	New BMP Regulations & Harvesting for the Future - To be Announced
August 11	Leitchfield	New BMP Regulations & Harvesting for the Future - Grayson County Extension Office
August 16	Liberty	New BMP Regulations & Harvesting for the Future - Casey County Extension Office
August 23	Owenton	Harvest Planning & Cost - Owen County Extension Office
September 29	Morehead	Open Face Timber Felling - Ky Division of Forestry Office
October 20	Benton	Timber Cruising Basics - Marshall County Extension Office
October 22	Pikeville	Logging Aesthetics - Pike County Extionsion Office
November 3	Somerset	Harvest Planning & Cost - Pulaski County Extension Office

Master Logger CEU Registration Form

This form may be duplicated for additional applicants.

Name (First and Last)

Designation Number

Home address (street and/or box number)

City State Zip

E-mail address

Daytime Phone

Fee (Pre-registration strongly encouraged):

Sessions are \$50 .

Visa/MasterCard accepted on-line, by phone or mail.

Circle one: Visa or MasterCard

Expiration date: _____ month / _____ year

or checks payable to: **Kentucky Master Logger**

Please list the date and location you would like to attend:

Date Location

Mail check or money order with completed registration form to:

**Kentucky Master Logger
U.K. Dept. of Forestry
222 T.P. Cooper Bldg.
Lexington, KY. 40546-0073**

Phone: 800-859-6006 or 859-257-6230 FAX: 859-323-1031



Forestry Extension Office
 Department of Forestry
 University of Kentucky
 216 Thomas Poe Cooper Bldg.
 Lexington, KY 40546-0073

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