



Ozark Woodland Owners Association, Inc.



www.ozarkforestry.org



President's Notes

By Jimmy Wallace

The annual fall membership meeting was a success. We had presentations on The Fire and Ice Grant for private forestland owners, storm damage prevention and chainsaw safety. All were very interesting and informative. I would like to extend a special thanks to FNBC for sponsoring our dinner. As always, Van Jackson did a wonderful job.

As the new president of the OWOA I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve. Also I would like to thank past president Ed Mabry for all he has done for our organization. We will soon begin planning our spring meeting and hope to have several great educational topics. We will continue to strive to stay ahead of the curve on legislative topics, government programs, and newly forming market opportunities. Our quarterly newsletters will be full of timely information to help the private woodland owners of Northern Arkansas better manage their forest resources. As a wildlife biologist I see a vast resource in the wildlife populations that inhabit our forestlands, and hope to include a wildlife management component in our activities. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year! Enjoy the season!

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If you would like to receive our newsletter by e-mail, please contact us at

Pat.womack@rcdnet.net with your name and e-mail address.

We will be happy to send you our newsletter in Acrobat Reader (.pdf) format.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Accepting 2010 EQIP and WHIP Applications through January 15, 2010

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 3, 2009 - Farmers and landowners in Arkansas have until January 15, 2010, to submit applications to receive cost-share assistance to implement conservation activities through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) for the 2010 program year. Applicants can sign up at their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service field service center.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Individuals and other entities engaged in livestock and/or crop production are eligible to participate in EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, pasture, private non-industrial forest land, and other farm and ranch lands.

EQIP in Arkansas is specifically designed to address the resource concerns of water quality issues related to animal manure management and sediment, improved management of irrigation water and reduction in ground water use, reduction of erosion, and improvement of wildlife habitat. All applications will be evaluated for funding based on a state developed procedure to optimize environmental benefits. Applications ranking highest in a funding category will be funded subject to availability.

A list of eligible conservation practices and how they apply to regular or historically underserved (beginning, limited resource or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers) participants will be posted on the Arkansas NRCS Web site at <http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov>. Most conservation practices in the Arkansas EQIP Payment Schedule are set at 60 percent cost-share with some receiving 75 percent. Some practices have payment caps that cannot be exceeded in a single contract.

The 2008 Farm Bill also allows applicants qualifying as historically underserved to receive an additional 25 percent cost-share. However, no applicant can receive more than 90 percent unless it is an incentive payment. The Farm Bill also provides advance payments to historically underserved producers, of up to 30 percent of the anticipated costs to be incurred to purchase materials or services to implement a conservation practice.

If a contract is cancelled by the participant or terminated because of non-compliance, the NRCS state conservationist may require repayment of cost-shares already paid or a proportion of the payments.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

The program addresses wildlife habitat in riparian areas, wetlands, uplands and cave ecosystems; and elk and quail habitat. Each area will have specific conservation practices eligible for cost-sharing that benefit certain wildlife species.

Applicants will be ranked according to how the wildlife habitat development plan will effect certain wildlife populations. The plans will be developed by the landowner with assistance from an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission biologist and NRCS conservationist. The plans will be implemented during a long-term agreement that generally lasts from 5 to 10 years.

A wildlife habitat development plan outlines management practices as well as establishment practices such as planting and seeding. Plans include practices to manage plant succession in fields and forests and may prescribe management techniques such as burning, disking and mowing herbaceous stands.

Plans may also include forest management practices such as forest stand improvement by herbicide treatment and harvesting small groups of trees to create the proper density, composition and age of the stand for different wildlife species. On wetland areas, plans outline dates and rates of water drawdown to encourage different species of annual native plants for waterfowl and shorebirds. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land.

> For more information on any of these programs, visit <http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/> or contact the local USDA/NRCS field service center.

Conservations Stewardship Program Fact Sheet

Overview

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) encourages agricultural and forestry producers to maintain existing conservation activities and adopt additional ones on their operations. CSP is a new voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. CSP provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver valuable new conservation.

Eligibility

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands, as well as nonindustrial private forest lands in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

Individual producers, legal entities, corporations, and Indian Tribes may be eligible for the program. Eligible lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

Applicants must:

- Be the operator of record in the USDA farm records management system for the eligible land being offered for enrollment;
- Have documented control of the land for the term of the proposed contract;
- Include the eligible land in their entire operation as represented for other USDA programs;
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of 7 CFR Part 12, and adjusted gross income provisions of 7 CFR part 1400.

Benefits to Participants

CSP provides participants with two possible types of payments. An annual payment is available for installing new conservation activities and maintaining existing activities. A supplemental payment may be earned by participants receiving an annual payment who also adopt a resource-conserving crop rotation.

Through 5-year contracts, payments will be made as soon as practical after October of each year for contract activities installed and maintained in the previous year. For all contracts, CSP payments to a person or legal entity may not exceed \$40,000 in any year, and \$200,000 during any 5-year period. Each CSP contract will be limited to \$200,000 over the term of the initial contract period.

How CSP Works

NRCS at the State level, in consultation with the State Technical Committee and local working groups, will focus CSP on natural resources that are of specific concern for a State. Agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land will be ranked separately.

Producers interested in CSP are encouraged to begin the application process by completing a producer self-screening checklist. The self-screening checklist helps potential applicants decide for themselves whether CSP is the right program for them. The level of environmental benefit to be achieved will be estimated to determine eligibility, rank applications, and establish payments.

For a pre-approved applicant, NRCS will request the applicant's conservation activity records and conduct on-site field verification to ensure that information provided by the applicant was accurate prior to contract approval. Once information is verified, NRCS and the applicant proceed to develop the contract.

More Information

For more information and updates about the Farm Bill, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill, or the NRCS Web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill; for more information on CSP, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/new_csp.

Market Report for December 2009

Larry L. Morris RF, CF

To try and define the market today is like the Government trying to define the status of the Recession. We can't say much about it except we know it is bad. There are some bright spots.

The wet weather down south has moved the demand for hardwood pulpwood north. It is so wet they can't log in South Arkansas so they moved north for harvest. This increase in demand will probably continue until it dries out down south. So now would be the time to clean up the undesirables and crooked trees out of your stands. Be sure to leave the good quality trees for growing stock. Remember the loggers would rather get all the trees, but hold fast to thinning from below. Leave your better quality trees and your saw log material to grow.



Another good demand is the Cedar market. Presently there is a good demand for Cedar. This would be a good time to clean out some of those cedar areas.

There are a few tie logs moving but with no demand for side lumber it hurts the overall demand. Just remember it went down and it will come back up. We just can't say when. As my mother used to say, "If our foresight was as good as our hindsight we would all be millionaires."

"Keep it growing"



OZARK WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

490 East College Street, Room 242
Batesville. AR 72501-5632



Dear OWOA Member,

December is the time of year when we ask our OWOA members to renew your membership. To justify your continued support I would like to share with you some of the things we have accomplished on your behalf this year and the efforts we have planned for next year.

The top priorities for our efforts have always been our forest landowner education and technical assistance programs. We have continued to support our county workshops and have grown our spring and fall forestry field days into regional events.

The economy is tough this year, and will take time to recover. We are closely watching forest product market developments in order to keep private forest landowners informed. We are heavily involved in the Bio-fuel development as it evolves, and will be working to make sure we have a place in it's development and growth.

Your \$15 yearly membership contribution to OWOA is returned to you in our newsletter printing and postage costs and our semiannual workshop expenses. Your OWOA leaders and other volunteers match that with the donation of their time and personal resources to bring you the services and benefits listed above. Please commit to remaining an informed forest landowner and renew your membership for the 2009 membership year today.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Wallace, President

OZARK WOODLAND OWNER'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____
Last First MI

Address: _____
Street/Route City/State Zip Code

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

County(s) in which timber is owned: _____

- Renewal 1 year(\$15) New Member Gift Membership

Please return the above form with your dues to:
Ozark Woodland Owner's Association
490 East College Street, Room 242
Batesville, AR 72501
Telephone (870) 793-4164 ext. 3
www.ozarkforestry.org

- Mail me a copy of the Arkansas Forest Stewardship Program brochure and enrollment form.
 Sign me up to receive the Newsletter by e-mail e-mail address _____

OZARK WOODLAND OWNER'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

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490 College Street, Federal Building
Batesville, AR 72501
870-793-4164

Officers

Jimmy Wallace, President
Charles Barnett, Vice President
Ron Bell, Treasurer
Alice Witterman, Secretary



Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall. ~ *Larry Wilde*

Greetings for Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.