



November 1, 2009

# Ozark Woodland Owners Association, Inc.

[www.ozarkforestry.org](http://www.ozarkforestry.org)



## President's Notes

By Ed Mabry



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Boy, it sure has been an unusual weather pattern this summer. It's too damp to do much right now, and I expect some will have a problem with fungus and mold everywhere. As you know, the markets are very slow. We have been having meetings with the Forestry Commission, NRCS, and FSA to do planning on the BCAP program in the Farm Bill. Since we have a "Biomass Conversion Facility" in Batesville, we are getting ready for those programs. The one requirement that producers will have to meet is to have a "Stewardship Plan" in effect. We're a couple of years away from needing them, but you can get more information at any of the above mentioned groups. We'll also be keeping you up to date at our regular meetings. Speaking of that....**our membership meeting will be held 15 October, 2009, at the Independence County Fairgrounds.** Be there at 6:30pm. We'll have a membership meeting for the election of officers, then a good meal with the Cattlemen's Assn. The title of our program will be "Are You Ready for the Next Ice Storm"; and you can sign up for a Chainsaw Safety Workshop to be held 4th November, 2009 at the Univ. of Ark. Experiment Station near Batesville. Logger credits can be earned, and a great lunch will be served. Come on out and see how to accurately drop a tree (where you intend to drop it). Y'all come now, ya hear?

### Annual Fall Meeting

Joint meeting with the Cattlemen's Association  
 Independence County Fairgrounds October 15, 2009  
 Business Meeting and Election of Officers at 6:30 pm  
 Dinner at 6:45 pm  
 Meeting begins 7:00 pm  
 Speaker: Rick Williams, Stone County Conservationist

### Hardwood Management Field Day

U of A Livestock & Forestry Branch Station Hardwood Management Field Day  
 October 28, 2009 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Topics: Site Preparation, Planting, Herbicide Use, Thinning, Damage Assessment, Basic Inventory/measurement and Regeneration.

Please call Kyle Cunningham, UACES at 501-671-2145 or e-mail [kcunningham@uaex.edu](mailto:kcunningham@uaex.edu)

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## Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces New Direction and Vision for America's Forests

*<http://www.timberbuysell.com>*

SEATTLE, August 14, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today outlined his vision for the future of our nation's forests. In his first major speech regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, Vilsack set forth a new direction for conservation, management, and restoration of these natural treasures.

"Our nation's forestlands, both public and private, are environmental and economic assets that are in critical need of restoration and conservation," said Vilsack. "By using a collaborative management approach with a heavy focus on restoring these natural resources, we can make our forests more resilient to climate change, protect water resources, and improve forest health while creating jobs and opportunities."

Climate change, catastrophic fires, disease and pests have all led to declining forest health in recent decades. The resulting impact on watersheds, the climate, local economies, wildlife, and recreation, has led the USDA to offer a new vision for our nation's forests. By taking forest management in a new direction, the Department will emphasize the role our national forestlands play in contributing to the health and prosperity of the country and reverse the trend of declining forest health.

"Declining forest health and the effects of our changing climate have resulted in an increasing number of catastrophic wildfires and insect outbreaks," said Vilsack. "It is time for a change in the way we view and manage America's forestlands with an eye towards the future. This will require a new approach that engages the American people and stakeholders in conserving and restoring both our National Forests and our privately-owned forests. It is essential that we reconnect Americans across the nation with the natural resources and landscapes that sustain us."

In addition, the new approach to managing our forests aims to secure the nation's water supply. Watersheds with a large proportion of forest cover are more likely to be associated with good water quality, with forests protecting soil, moderating stream flow, supporting healthy aquatic systems, and sustaining good water quality.

President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is one component of this new direction that USDA has already begun to implement. Through the Recovery Act, the Obama Administration is funding 512 projects that will create jobs restoring our nation's private, state and national forests through hazardous fuel reduction, forest health protection, rehabilitation, and hazard mitigation activities. Nearly 170 of these projects will help maintain our forests to reduce the potential for fires. Meanwhile, thirty of these projects, funded at \$57 million, will promote the development of biofuels from woody biomass to help private sector businesses establish renewable energy infrastructure, create green jobs and build a new, green economy for the 21st century.

The U.S. Forest Service manages national forests and grasslands encompassing 193 million acres of land, which is an area equivalent to the size of Texas. With over 80% of the forest area in the United States outside of the National Forest System, the new vision seeks to increase public-private cooperation regarding the conservation and restoration practices to non-federal forests - state, tribal and private forest lands. The Administration's plan calls for the U.S. Forest Service to play a leading role in the development of new markets to sustain the economic viability of forest stewardship and provide landowners with economic incentives to maintain and restore forests.

National forestlands produce economic benefits from a diverse range of sources including recreation and more than 200 hydroelectric plants operated in national forest watersheds. With more than 192 million visitors to National Forests in 2008, local communities throughout the country benefit economically from those who recreate on and near forestlands and high-quality water bodies protected by forested watersheds.

A healthy and prosperous America relies on the health of our nation's forests:

Nearly 87% of all of the country's fresh water supply originates from forests and agricultural lands and more than 200 million people rely on their drinking water from public and private forests and grasslands;  
53% of the Nation's total water supply originates from public and private forest lands;  
More than 900 cities rely on national forest watersheds;  
3,400 public water systems serving 66 million people in 33 states are supplied by watersheds with Forest Service land;  
Public and private forests in the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern States help to protect more the 1,600 drinking water supplies supplying more than 4 trillion gallons per day to households of more than 52 million Americans;  
80% of the forest area in the United States is outside of the National Forest System;  
The estimated annual value of water from national forests for in-stream uses is at least \$3.7 billion.

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## USDA Conservation Stewardship Program Now Open to Nonindustrial Forest Landowners Nationwide

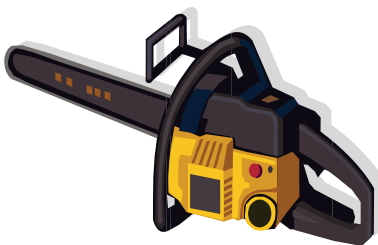
By: Ron Bell

USDA has just launched a new program, the Conservation Stewardship Program that will be of great benefit to forest landowners. Unlike a sister program, the Conservation Security Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program is now available for forest landowner enrollment in all geographic areas of the Nation much like the current Equip Program is now administered. Now the program has been converted to a program having open enrollment throughout the year, and is open to landowners in all geographic areas of the nation much like the EQIP program is now administered. USDA has just completed a short trial enrollment period ending September 30, 2009 to test their new CSP enrollment procedures. The next open enrollment period will begin in Jan 2010.

Unlike other conservation programs, CSP makes payments to landowners who have already installed conservation measures on their forestlands; who agree to maintain those practices for a five year contract period; and who agree to install one or more additional practices in that period. **Per acre payments for enrolled forestlands will range from \$6-12 annually. Ten percent of CSP program funds have been set aside specifically for forestland enrollment; therefore forestland owners will only be competing with other forestland owners for those funds.**



To be eligible for enrollment forestland owners must have made one or more improvements over the last 10 years in accordance with a written management plan. There must be no apparent erosion on harvested or burned areas, skid trails, or landings; and certain other conservation and wildlife management practices must be in place. Program information and application forms may be obtained from your county Natural Resources Conservation Service office or obtained from the NRCS website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>.



### Simple Maintenance- Procedures for Reducing Chainsaw Down Time

By: Lori Barker, NRCS

1. Air filter- Filters should be cleaned with soap and water and should be dry before putting them back in the saw.
2. Screws and Bolts- Always check screws, nuts, and bolts; especially after running a few tanks of gas through a new saw.
3. Bar- Clean the groove. Heat generated along the bar will cook oil and chips into the rail. This should be removed daily or it will tend to clog the bar. One way to extend the bar life is to rotate the chains. Consider owning 3 chains, which can be rotated on a daily basis. This will help the chain and bar wear at an even rate.
- 4.Chain catcher- the chain catcher on the bottom of the saw must be in place to protect the operator from injury and the saw gas tank from rupture if a chain should be thrown off the bar.
5. Chain Brake- The chain brake stops the chain in the event of kickback. Most new brakes have an inertia function so the brake will engage even if the handle is not hit. The chain brake must be cleaned daily and can be checked by running the saw at full speed and activating the brake. The chain should stop almost instantly.

Keeping your saw in perfect running condition is the key to efficient use and minimizing safety hazards. Make sure your chain saw carburetor is properly adjusted. (This should be done by a trained servicing dealer.) A misadjusted carburetor will cause stalling or poor performance and could cause injury to the operator.

## Chainsaw Safety Workshops Scheduled for October

By: Lori Barker, NRCS

"During last years ice storm, limbs snapped from their trunks and stuck in upper reaches of trees could be a safety problem for years," said Dana Hinkley, president of Logger Rescue Inc.

"As the spring leaves cover the trees, they camouflaged the dead limbs, which could fall on hikers, hunters or anyone trying to cut a tree down at the trunk," he said.

"Until those trees are on the ground, I foresee you're going to have problems," said Hinkley, of Berlin, N.H., who conducted chain saw safety workshops across Arkansas. "Every day that ice-storm-damaged tree aren't taken care of, the danger increases."

Hinkley said dead tree limbs from a 1995 ice storm in New Hampshire are still causing safety problems in that state.

"When you cut a tree down, dead limbs will fall separately," he said. "It's camouflaged, so you can't see it."

Hinkley has conducted 11 chain saw safety workshops in Arkansas for county road departments. The workshops were attended by road departments, city crews, Arkansas Forestry Commission, and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders. The county and city road departments spend a lot of their time clearing roads of tree limbs after storms, and routine maintenance while the AFC use the chainsaws during fires and AFC forest managements. The Volunteer 1<sup>st</sup> Responders provide emergency service which many cases involve operating a chainsaw.

Hinkley states "Using a chain saw to cut limbs during an ice storm is problematic because ice changes the weight of the limbs, which could also be waterlogged, it changes the whole dynamics of it".

George Lease, director of logger education for the Arkansas Timber Producers Association, said road crews use cutting machines to trim trees near roads, but chain saws have to be used in wooded, hilly terrain and sometimes in emergency situations.

In each of the morning classes, Hinkley spent time outdoors demonstrating how to properly sharpen a chain saw blade with a file, maintenance of the chainsaw filters and oil levels, protective clothing and the safest position in starting a chainsaw. "The biggest problem is making sure the saw is ready and filed correctly," he said.

Afterwards, the groups go out to an area with a tree that needs cutting to watch Hinkley cut down the damaged tree.

"We find most people injured, hurt or killed within eight feet of the stump," he said.

At this time, other Chainsaw Safety workshops are being planned for U of A Livestock & Forestry Experiment Station on November 4th, registration beginning at 8:30 and meeting to begin at 9:00 am. For information on this workshop and to register for attendance, you can call the Independence County Conservation District Office at 870-793-4164. There will also be held at Ash Flat Ozarka College on November 3rd, for more information on this workshop and to register for attendance, you can call the Sharp County Conservation District Office at 870-994-7335. If you have questions on other meetings held around the state, you can call the Ozark Foothills RC&D office at 870-523-8986 ext 4. The workshops were sponsored by the Arkansas Resource Conservation & Development Councils, the Conservation Districts, Ozark Woodland Owners Association, Ozark Foothills RC&D Council, and National Resources Conservation Service and the Arkansas Timber Producers Association.



## Ideas on Food Plots

By: Jimmy Wallace RF, Wildlife Biologist, M&W



Many landowners especially those that hunt understand the importance of food plots. These little projects bring forth great pride and sometimes greater aggravation. Here are a few ideas that can help when planning your next food plot.

Remember that food plots are not a fix for poor habitat conditions. An attempt to increase wildlife population numbers should focus on habitat. Substantial food plot investments should only be made after proper habitat management has been implemented. It is often tempting for hunters to plant small food plots to hunt over. These are of little use to wildlife because they are usually stripped of food very quickly. Many of us have had the aggravation of watching our hard work and money turn into a dirt field by January. When planning food plots try to find large areas of at least 1 to 2 acres.

When planting food plots soil samples should first be obtained to determine soil pH and nutrients. Balancing soil pH and supplementing soil nutrients provide greater yield of food plants and better nutritional quality. A visit to your county's soil conservation service office will provide you with containers and instructions on soil sampling techniques. Then the soil conservation service will provide you with a soil analysis.

There are generally four types of food plots. The following is a list of food plot types and some food plant species.

1. Yearly planting in the fall of winter wheat, cold hardy oats, or a mixture of these.
2. Yearly planting in the spring of a mixture of Iron & Clay peas or red ripper cow peas with alyse clover (reseeding annual) and joint vetch (reseeding annual). Also, planting corn and soybeans in the summer to leave fallow in fall. For Turkey, Spring plantings of chufa and browntop millet are good and are fairly drought resistant.
3. More permanent plots planted in the spring or fall with mixtures of red and white clovers and/or crimson clover (reseeding annual) with a nurse crop in the fall of the first year of wheat, oats, or rye. For turkeys and other birds Marion or Korean lespedeza is good to add in the spring and birds foot trefoil can be added in the spring or fall.
4. The most permanent plots planted in early spring or fall of orchard grass mixed with arrowleaf clover (reseeding annual) in the fall, while alyce clover, joint vetch, and lespedezas are good to add in the spring. birdsfoot trefoil can be planted spring or fall. Clover mixed with vetch are good cool season mixtures for turkey, quail and other birds.

When buying seed remember that seeding rates on the bag are for pure stands. When planting more than one species reduce the seed rate by the number of species. Example: Species A has a seed rate of 50# per acre and Species B has a seed rate of 20# per acre. To plant a 50/50 mix you will need 25# of A and 10# of B to plant 1 acre.

Food plots need to be mowed regularly. When the vegetation reaches 12 to 14 inches tall it should be mowed back to about 8 inches. This will help control unwanted weeds as well as keep food plants producing young tender growth. Since most clover are reseeding annuals, clover fields should not be mowed from March through September to allow plants to seed out.

I hope this article can lend some help when planning your next food plot.

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