



ARKANSAS TREE FARM PROGRAM

www.arkforests.org
501-374-2441

FAMILIES & FORESTS

A NEWSLETTER FOR ARKANSAS TREE FARMERS

SUMMER 2018

Summer Forestry and Wildlife Practices

Written by: Tabitha Holloway, County Forester, Arkansas Forestry Commission

July is a good starting point to begin planning and preparing tracts for the planting of seedlings in the winter or spring. A fully developed management plan is the best way to ensure that your land management goals, such as establishing seedlings, are met. Meet with your local Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) County Forester to develop a plan and identify options for other practices discussed below. Also, your local Cooperative Extension Agent through the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service (UAEX) is an excellent resource for management and pesticide recommendations.

Site Preparation

The first step in site preparation usually involves the application of chemicals, chosen specifically for the type of vegetation you are hoping to treat. Chemical treatments typically take affect within six weeks of application. The application of prescribed fire is usually a next step, carefully planned and completed to remove competing vegetation, pests, and other vegetation that can clutter areas and inhibit growth of new seedlings. Remember, if landowners are using EQIP funds, prescribed burns should be conducted

to allow for planter access, only. Mechanical site preparation follows in the late fall or winter months, which may include ripping or subsoiling. Ripping or subsoiling should be completed at least 6 weeks before planting to allow time for the rips to settle or "heal". Ripping or subsoiling allows the seedling's roots to penetrate compacted soils or hardpans.

Insects

If you are managing actively growing forests, summer months are often a prime time for insect and other pest populations to thrive. There are several insects to be aware of that could be detrimental, such as Ips pine bark beetles, southern pine beetle, emerald ash borer, variable oak leaf caterpillar, pine tip moth, redheaded pine sawfly, walkingsticks, fall webworm, red oak/white oak borers, and eastern pine weevil. All of these problems are best prevented through timely management, e.g., a thinned pine stand is less likely to have bark beetle infestations. Regular tract inspections should be scheduled throughout the summer, as often as every two weeks, or once per month, depending on the health of the tract.

General Maintenance

During the summer months and

THE TREE FARM PROGRAM... is administered by the Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) and its Tree Farm Committee.

AFA's goal is to provide relevant, timely information about the Tree Farm program and forestry resources.

periodically throughout the year, landowners should ensure the general maintenance of fire breaks, access routes and roads, and boundary line maintenance and fences. Arkansas is home to several seedling nurseries, and July is the beginning of availability of tree seedlings through the AFC Baucum Nursery for the next planting season. Learn more about options and bundles, at www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/order-seedlings.

The AFC is an agency of the Arkansas Agriculture Department. The AAD is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Learn more: www.agriculture.arkansas.gov.

HELP RE-ESTABLISH THE CONNECTION

A number of recent studies have reported the disconnect between today's school-age children and nature. Dramatically increasing rates of the use of electronic devices among children of all ages accounts for one reason that nature-based play is becoming less common than even 10 years ago. Helping children form connections with the natural world can shape the decisions they will make as adults regarding the value they place on natural resources and their use. Forestry education is an important part of the mission of the Arkansas Forestry Association, AFA Education Foundation and the Arkansas Tree Farm Program (ATFP). As a Tree Farmer, you realize the importance of sustainably managed forests and could be a valuable resource to your local school district.

The Arkansas Tree Farm Program would like you to consider two requests for partnering with teachers in your area to increase the connection between their classroom and your forest:



1. The ATFP was recently approved for grant funding to provide a Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop free of charge for any Tree Farmer and/or Tree Farm inspector who is interested in becoming trained in this award-winning environmental education curriculum. This training will put in your hands over 90 activities which use the environment as a fun and engaging learning tool to teach a variety of subjects -- and it gets students excited about nature! Once trained, you will be able to lead students in these activities at their

- school, or on your Tree Farm. You will have four opportunities to attend this 6-hour training course over the next few months. Please watch the calendar of events for details.
2. To help teachers connect with local forests that they can use as an outdoor classroom, the ATFP will be developing a list of Tree Farmers who are willing to host local schools for field trips.

Please contact Jennifer Johnson by emailing her at jjohnson@arkforests.org or calling 501-374-2441 for more information or if you are interested in participating.

"Like" us on FB!



www.facebook.com/AR-TreeFarm/

Tree Farm Conference a Success

On Friday, June 8, over 75 tree farmers, landowners and forestry professionals came together in Arkadelphia for the 4th Annual Tree Farmer Conference. The day consisted of networking, educational speakers and feral hog trap demonstrations.

The morning program included a program update and an overview of the current legislation that may impact both timberland owners and those in the forest industry. Winners of the District Tree Farmer of the Year Award were recognized with plaques and signs. The morning session wrapped up with a panel of timber landowners who discussed their individual timber harvesting experience.

After a lunch prepared by Farm Credit Services, Dr. Becky McPeake and Skip



Arms spoke to the group about the feral hog issue in Arkansas. The UA Extension employees focused on the history, proven methods of treatment and eradication. Representatives with UA Extension were available to demonstrate several different styles of traps and discuss their benefits.

The meeting was made possible by its sponsors: Farm Credit Services, West Fraser, UA Cooperative Extension and AFA Education Foundation.

PLEASE NOTE:

All certified Tree Farmers in Arkansas have been mailed an invoice for their annual program membership fees.

Arkansas Tree Farmers who have not submitted payment by September 30, 2018 will be removed from the program. Those landowners may reapply for membership by meeting the Standards of Sustainability via an inspection.

If there are questions or problems related to the invoices, or if you do not wish to participate in the program please notify ATFS by emailing Jennifer Johnson at jjohnson@arkforests.org, calling 501-374-2441 or writing ATFP at 1213 West 4th Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.



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Arkansas Tree Farm Program Focuses On Education

The Arkansas Tree Farm Program wants tree farmers all around the state to have the knowledge and resources they need to continue growing their biggest investment. Education is more than just sitting in a classroom and learning. It's tours as well as on the ground assistance during initial and re-inspections.

Some of the upcoming education opportunities include a Hunting Lease and Landowner Liability Workshop. Both landowners and hunters will have the opportunity to hear from various speakers about these subjects. Another upcoming workshop is a Forest Management Workshop & Tour that will take place at the University of Arkansas Livestock & Forestry Research Station in Batesville.

Education opportunities like these are one of the values of being a member of the Arkansas Tree Farm Program.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming educational opportunities:

August 28

Hunting Leases & Landowner Liability Workshop
 Fordyce Civic Center, Fordyce - 6 p.m.

September 11

Forest Management/BMP Workshop & Tour
 UA Livestock & Forest Research Station,
 Batesville - 9 a.m.

October 2-4

AFA Annual Meeting
 Hot Springs

October 12

PLT Project WILD Workshop
 Logoly State Park, McNeil - 9 a.m.

October 19

PLT Project WILD Workshop
 Lake Dardanelle State Park, Russellville - 9 a.m.

October 26

2018 Outstanding Tree
 Farmer of the Year Tour
 Location TBA - 9 a.m.

November 16

Landowner Legacy Workshop
 UA Cooperative Extension, Little Rock - 9:30 a.m.

December 14

PLT Project WILD Workshop
 Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center,
 Jonesboro - 9 a.m.