

# Kentucky Woodland

## 2008 Farm Bill Update

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (also known as the 2008 Farm Bill) is now law. While many details are still being resolved a few of the voluntary financial incentive programs that are included in the farm bill and are of special interest to woodland owners are highlighted below<sup>1</sup>. Stay tuned to Kentucky Woodlands Magazine for more information and details related to the 2008 Farm Bill and what it means for Kentucky's woodland owners.

### **EQIP Overview**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service provides financial incentives to promote agricultural production and environmental quality, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, and local environmental regulations.

### **WHIP Overview**

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) helps private landowners to develop and improve high quality wildlife habitat.

### **WRP Overview**

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring eligible land from agriculture.

### **HFRP Overview**

The Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) is a new program established for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems to: 1) promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species, 2) improve biodiversity; and, 3) enhance carbon sequestration.

### **More Information about the 2008 Farm Bill**

For more information and updates about these programs and other Farm Bill topics, please visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture Web site <http://www.usda.gov/farmland> or the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

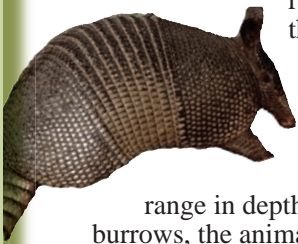
<sup>1</sup>The above information was compiled from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmland/2008/ataglance.html>.



## Armadillos in Kentucky

Update from Thomas Barnes, Ph.D.

One of Kentucky's newest residents in the past several years is the nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*). This southern species is making its way north and I first observed one in Fulton county about 6 or 7 years ago. Last year I received photos of one killed in Larue County and I observed one in Anderson County which would be the furthest north these animals have been reported in Kentucky. This spring I found one in northern Hopkins County. Armadillos are just one of many southern species that are headed north and these are particularly good indicators of a changing environment because at the temperature of 22 degrees the animal shivers continually and is uncomfortably cool. However, if they have a suitable winter nest which is usually located where there is an abundance of leaves and grass for insulation near the base of a tree, the animals can easily tolerate temperatures colder for short periods of time. The burrows range in depth from 3 to 20 feet in length and as long as soil temperatures do not freeze as deep as they are in the burrows, the animals will do just fine. They do not hibernate but can go for long periods without eating. Armadillos are primarily insectivores and will forage in erratic patterns. They are also nocturnal or crepuscular and are most often seen in the early morning or late afternoon time periods. *Photo courtesy: Thomas Barnes*



## Dates To Remember:

Don't forget to add these important dates to your calendar! Preregistration is strongly encouraged for all events.

Date:	Event:	Location:	Contact:
August - September 23	Woodland Owners Short Course	various KY counties	859.257.7597
September 19 - 20	Kentucky Wood Expo	Madisonville, KY	502.695.3979

For more information about these programs, visit [www.ukforestry.org](http://www.ukforestry.org)

# News To Use

## ***Budget Cuts - UPDATE***

Last issue we provided you with a page of information on impending budget cuts at the state and federal level that would impact woodlands and woodland owners in the Commonwealth. The following is an update on this issue. Unfortunately, not all of the news is good.

### ***State Budget Cuts -***

The state budget cuts were significant. However, due to lobbying efforts of concerned citizens, woodland owners, state forest industry and woodland owner associations the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) tree nurseries survived, but not without consequence. Budget cuts were still deep and ultimately the reduction in budgets has to come from somewhere. The following currently applies to the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

- An additional \$373,500 reduction in General Funds for 2009.
- A reduction in workforce, including service foresters that assist woodland owners with forest management planning and technical assistance, and county forest ranger technicians that inspect timber harvesting operations and organize and direct local wildfire suppression crews.
- The budget does still not allow for the replacement of over 80 aged vehicles and over 30 pieces of wildland fire equipment.

The noticeable and cumulative effects of the state budget cuts will be at the least, a delay if not, an overall reduction

of technical assistance provided to woodland owners; less logging oversight and a decrease in the ability to effectively fight wildfires.

The University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry is dealing with budget cuts as well. In some instances, positions that were unfilled were functionally eliminated while others were left unfilled. The Department of Forestry did receive permission to continue the search for a research/teaching forest policy professor. However, one extension position previously held by Dr. Don Graves was lost from the Department. The budget tightening has also caused changes in other teaching, research, and extension programs. For example, some have noticed the increase in registration fees and the lack of the traditional 3-ring binder of resource materials in the Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Courses this summer. More changes will be in the works as Forestry Extension continues to strategically improve the cost effectiveness of educational opportunities for woodland owners.

### ***Federal Budget Cuts -***

With the current budget situation resulting in continued resolutions and the upcoming election little is known about changes in the federal budget as it relates to woodland owners in Kentucky. All of the possible changes and consequences that were outlined in the last issue of this magazine are still a possibility. Stay tuned for further information. Engaged woodland owners should be aware of these issues as they will undoubtedly affect assistance to woodland owners, communication and education on woodland issues, and forest health in Kentucky.

## ***Family Woodlands School: a school for sustainable woodland management in Kentucky***

Plans are being made for the development of a woodland management school for Kentucky's woodland owners. If you have attended one of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Courses this school is for you. It is designed to provide woodland owners that have participated in forestry continuing education programs in Kentucky with in-depth training in woodland management. In technical terms it is a school in sustainable woodlands management. Examples of specific areas of training include how to use new and emerging markets for carbon and biomass for improved management, use of GPS and mapping to improve planning, how to use current cost-share programs to improve your woodlands, training in techniques to improve timber, wildlife and protect the ecosystem. One important aspect of the school is that participants will bring information and materials on their woodlands to the school and will develop detailed and improved plans for their woodlands as part of the school. The school is being developed by Forestry Ex-

tension at the University of Kentucky in conjunction with the Kentucky Division of Forestry and will partner with the same organizations that sponsor our Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Courses. The first school will be conducted next year and surveys are now underway to determine the exact subject areas that will be included and the length and dates for the school. Stay tuned for further information.

### **Answers to Test Your Knowledge on page 21.**

- A. Black Cherry
- B. Locust Leafminer
- C. Wool Sower Gall
- D. Yellowbelly sapsucker
- E. Fireblight