

Kentucky Woodland

Certified Logging Program in Kentucky

A new certification program for Kentucky loggers is underway. The Certified Master Logger Program is being piloted in western Kentucky (and western Tennessee) and is a voluntary program for logging firms owned by Master Loggers. These firms agree to abide by a set of written standards of good logging practice. These firms also agree to spot audits of their operations to ensure that they are conducting their operations according to these standards.

The current Kentucky Master Logger Program provides training for individual loggers and the Certified Master Logger Program provides a way for logging firms to be certified in the use of practices that are taught in the program. Forty-two logging firms are enrolled in the program and currently undergoing audit. This winter the Rainforest Alliance will provide 3rd party evaluation of the entire program to their SmartLogging standards that is designed to lead to certification of the program. This means that landowners will have a group of certified loggers whose business and field performance can be guaranteed.



Photo courtesy: Jeff Stringer

Hispanic chainsaw operator for Holt Logging getting checked for use of personal protective equipment during delimbing operations.

Emerald Ash Borer Update

The Kentucky Division of Forestry is working on its 40 trap-tree sites across the state this fall. Felled and de-barked trees have been negative so far for the presence of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) larvae.

It is interesting to note that the focus of EAB detection has changed. In the past, the focus was the lower bole of the tree and looking for the characteristic “D-shaped” exit holes. However, after attending a meeting and site visit in Cincinnati this summer, that detection method will not uncover newly-infested trees.

EAB initially infests the crowns of trees and therefore the symptom to look for first is crown dieback. Ash trees with dead or dying branches may be in the initial stages of an EAB infestation. Examination of the crown branches and the upper bole will reveal the possible signs of an EAB infestation, namely the presence of the “D-shaped” exit holes and vertical bark splits. EAB larvae may cause the bark to split where larva is just under the bark.



Photo courtesy: Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service

Exit holes on the lower bole would indicate that the tree has been infested for several years and it may be too late to save the tree at this point. Early detection must begin with emphasis on detecting symptoms in the crown. The Cincinnati site (only four miles from Kentucky's border) is thought to have been infested as early as 2002, although it was only discovered this summer.

2007 Tax Tips for Forest Landowners

Linda Wang, Forest Taxation Specialist and John L. Greene, Research Forester, Southern Research Station recently released the *Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2007 Tax Year*. This publication is a must read for woodland owners that conducted a timber sale or had forestry related activities in 2007. You can get a copy of the publication by visiting www.ukforestry.org and clicking on “New Information” or calling 859.257.7597 and requesting a copy. Additional information regarding forestry related taxes can be found at the National Timber Tax Website: www.timbertax.org

Answers to Test Your Knowledge on page 23

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A. AMERICAN BEECH
B. SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE
C. HORNED OAK GALL
D. TOPPED TREE
E. BAGWORM

News To Use

Fire Situation in Kentucky

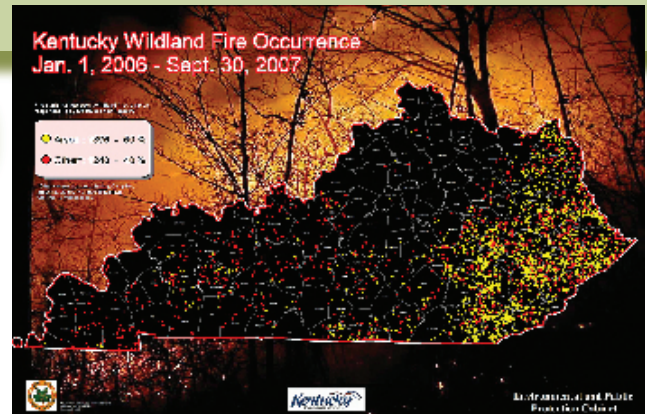
This year's drought started our fall wildland fire season (normally Oct. 1 to Dec. 15) in July with an increase in accidental fires. Many of these fires were started in unusual ways: farm and construction equipment, sparks from railroads, catalytic converters, electric fences, internal combustion in rolled hay and improperly disposed of cigarettes under normal weather conditions would rarely cause a fire. By September, arson became the leading cause of wildland fire, with more than 60 percent intentional.

Kentucky has two wildland fire seasons, Oct. 1 to Dec. 15 (fall fire season), and Feb. 15 to April 30 (spring fire season). During these official wildland fire seasons:

It shall be unlawful for any person to set fire to, or procure another to set fire to any flammable material capable of spreading fire, located in or within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland, except between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. or when the ground is covered with snow. (KRS 149.400)

In early October, with Kentucky's forests in their worst tinderbox state, Gov. Ernie Fletcher enacted a statewide burn ban which prohibited all outdoor burning. This action significantly assisted KDF in their fire suppression efforts. The statewide burn ban remained in place for two weeks and many counties kept their local burn bans in place until November. Throughout November, we have been blessed with significant rainfall events that have reduced wildland fire activity.

For more information about current and historical wildland fire activity in Kentucky, please visit the division's fire pages <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/situationreport/> or <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/firemanage/Fire+Statistics.htm>



Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Launches Website

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee has recently launched a website. The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee promotes actions that sustain forests, watersheds, and wildlife habitat through the power of private stewardship. Family forests approved for the American Tree Farm System are recognized by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and meet current standards qualifying tree farms as SFI certified wood. The Tree Farm System operates as an informal partnership encouraging resource management professionals from all disciplines and segments (forest industries, public agencies, private forestry consultants, and forest landowner organizations) to work together and offer expertise to family forest owners. Visit the website at <http://www.kytreefarm.org/>.



Dates To Remember

Date:	Event:	Location:	Contact:
February 20, 2008	Kentucky Woodlot\$: "Capture the Value" Conference	Pulaski County	606.677.6186/www.centertech.com
March 15, 2008	Tri-State Woodland and Wildlife Workshop (KY-IN-OH)	Campbell County	859.257.7597/www.ukforestry.org
April 2-4, 2008	Kentucky Forest Industries Association Annual Meeting	Kenton County	502.695.3979/www.kfia.org
April 10-13, 2008	Central Kentucky Home & Garden Show	Fayette County	606.666.2438 x235/ www.ckyhomeshow.com
April 18-19, 2008	Kentucky Woodland Owners Annual Meeting	Bell County	606.876.3423/ www.kentuckywoodlandownersassociation.com