

Forestry Invitational, held every summer at the Jackson's Mill 4-H Camp in Weston, West Virginia. In addition to the three topics given to the juniors, the seniors are also tested in forest health (insects and diseases), forest evaluation, topographic maps, and a forestry quiz bowl. Instructional materials for the senior program may be obtained from the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky, or on the Invitational Web site at [www.aces.edu/n4Hfi/](http://www.aces.edu/n4Hfi/). Information on forestry 4-H programs is available at any county Cooperative Extension office. Teachers might also be interested in the 4-H Virtual Forest. This program, created by Virginia Cooperative Extension, provides youth with an interactive Web-based learning experience that introduces the concepts of forest management to youth ages 9 to 13 ([www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualforest/](http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualforest/)).

A final recommendation for teachers is one of the best-known forestry programs available. The program, which can be used by formal and non-formal educators, is Project Learning Tree (PLT). PLT is designed for and by educators working with students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. PLT helps prepare students to make informed decisions about conservation practices and natural resource use by practicing problem solving and critical thinking skills. For more information on PLT workshops and programs, visit the Kentucky Division of Forestry's Web site at <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/education/plt/>. Teachers should also encourage their students who show an interest in forestry to visit the "Just for Kids" Web page at [www.forestry.ky.gov/kids/](http://www.forestry.ky.gov/kids/).

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Photo courtesy: Kentucky Forest Leadership Program

A student learns how to measure a tree using a Biltmore stick.



## "Win with Wood" Reveals a Forest of Possibilities to Youth

Photo courtesy: Carroll Fackler

by **Katie Pratt**

The University of Kentucky Robinson Station's "Win with Wood" day-long program provides east Kentucky youth an opportunity to explore the area's forest industry and possibly earn money for college.

Carroll Fackler, UK forestry research specialist, began the program several years ago as a recruitment tool for the Hazard Community and Technical College's forestry program. When that partnership ended, many area 4-H agents remembered the competitions and asked Fackler to revamp the program for youth. He said young people do not realize forest industries are one of the top industries in the state and vital to the economy of eastern Kentucky, which largely depends on natural resources, such as coal and forestry, to generate income.

The day includes an assortment of contests, demonstrations, and information for youth ages nine to 18. Young people from area 4-H clubs, FFA, and agriculture classes compete in events such as compass and pacing, wood identification, tree identification, soil judging, and identification of invasive plants. Youth can submit individual and team wood-working projects for judging. The program not only exposes young people to the industry but also provides a chance for industry members to learn about the skills area youth possess. Representatives from major and area forestry companies are on hand to speak with students during the event about careers in forestry and ways the industry affects their lives.

While this program is in eastern Kentucky, individuals from other areas of the state who are interested in forestry and the program are invited to participate. There will be hands-on demonstrations, games, and prizes. The Kentucky Forest Industries Association and its members sponsor a \$500 UK College of Agriculture scholarship to the individual who accumulates the most points in the competitions. "Win with Wood" events begin at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 16 at the Wood Utilization Center at Robinson Station.

For more information on "Win with Wood," contact Carroll Fackler at 606.666.2438, ext. 235, or visit the UK Wood Utilization Center's Web site at [www.ukwoodcenter.net](http://www.ukwoodcenter.net).

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