



Bossier Parish Office  
Post Office Box 370  
Benton, LA 71006-0370

Courthouse, 4th Floor  
204 Burt Boulevard  
(318) 965-2326  
Fax: (318) 965-3712

# Timber Tales

No. 126      News and Ideas for Forest Landowners from Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent      4th Quarter 2008

## Precommercial Thinning Field Day

A forestry field tour is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, in Webster Parish. We will be looking at two areas that were pre-commercially thinned to improve growth rates and wildlife habitat. With a high percentage of financial assistance now available through USDA programs, this practice is much more feasible for landowners. The field day will be from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the 13th. Here's an agenda of what we will discuss.

1:00 - 1:15	Welcome and Introduction	Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent, LSU AgCenter David Lowe, Chairman, Dorcheat SWCD
1:15 - 1:30	Stand History Management Decisions	Marcus Wren, Landowner
1:30 - 1:45	Benefits of Precommercial Thinning	Dr. Terry Clason, State Forester, NRCS Dr. Michael Blazier, Research Forester, LSU AgCenter
1:45 - 2:00	Field Operations	Wayne Roberts, Area Forester, NRCS
2:00 - 2:30	Woods Walk Over Stand	Open Discussion - Speakers and Participants
2:30 - 3:00	(Break) Drive to Natural Stand	
3:00 - 3:30	Woods Walk Over Stand	Open Discussion - Speakers and Participants
3:30 - 3:45	Conservation Programs 2009	Bobbie Wall, District Conservationist
3:45 - 4:00	Review Field Day	Ricky Kilpatrick

If you would like to attend, please call my office at (318) 965-2326 and speak to Alison to register. There is no cost, but we do need a head count. We will send you directions to the field day location prior to the event.

## Season of Importance of Wildlife Food Plants<sup>1</sup>

Wildlife need food year round. For that reason, it is important to have a diversity of vegetation to provide a food source throughout the year. Diversity is also important as some years certain species of plants will have low mast production. The following table lists several species that are important food sources by their season of availability.

<sup>1</sup> From Making the Most of Your Mast byCarolym M. Sekerak and George W. Tanner. Publication SS-FOR-3 by the University of Florida, 1994.

### For additional information, call Area Code 318 and . . .

<b>BIENVILLE</b>	<b>263-7400</b>	<b>BOSSIER</b>	<b>965-2326</b>	<b>CADDO</b>	<b>226-6805</b>
<b>CLAIBORNE</b>	<b>927-3110</b>	<b>DESOTO</b>	<b>872-0533</b>	<b>NATCHITOCHE</b>	<b>357-2224</b>
<b>RED RIVER</b>	<b>932-4342</b>	<b>SABINE</b>	<b>256-3406</b>	<b>WEBSTER</b>	<b>371-1371</b>

**Spring**

Wild plum (*Prunus* species), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), squawroot (*Conophilus americana*), winged elm (*Ulmus alata*), poplar (*Populus* species), mushrooms and other fungi (e.g., *Amanita*, *Clavaria*), blackberry (*Rubus* species), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), mulberry (*Morus rubra*), native grasses (e.g., *Andropogon*, *Panicum*, and *Paspalum* species)

**Summer**

Hawthorn (*Crataegus* species), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), blueberry (*Vaccinium* species), pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), pine (*Pinus* species), mushrooms and other fungi, blackberry, grape (*Vitis* species), holly, gallberry (*Ilex* species), native grasses (e.g., *Panicum*, and *Paspalum* species), greenbriar (*Smilax* species)

**Fall**

Oak (*Quercus* species), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), beech (*Fagus* species), hickory (*Carya* species), pine, blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), grape, holly, gallberry, native grasses (e.g., *Panicum* and *Paspalum* species) greenbriar, legumes (*Cassia* and *Desmodium* spp.)

**Winter**

Oak, black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), beech, hickory, poplar, blackgum, sumac (*Rhus coccinea*), cherry laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*), holly, gallberry, waxmyrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), greenbriar

**Common Forest Trees and Their Relative Wildlife Food Value**

Tree	Squirrel		Deer		Turkey Fruit	Quail Fruit
	Fruit	Buds	Browse	Fruit		
Oak (Groups)						
White	H	M	L	H	H	H
Red	H	M	L	H	H	H
Water (Pin)	H	M	M	H	H	H
Hickory	H	....	L	....	....	....
Pecan (Sweet)	H	....	L	M	....	....
Beech	H	....	M	....	H	H
Gum						
Black	H	....	M	H	H	....
Tupelo	H	....	M	H	....	....
Red	M	M	L	....	M	M
Magnolia	M	....	M	....	M	M
Sweetbay	M	....	H	....	M	M
Ash	M	....	M	....	M	M
Elm	L	M	L	....	L	L
Hackberry	M	....	L	....	L	L
Yellow Poplar	L	....	M	....	....	L
Cottonwood	....	....	L	....	....	....
Willow	....	M	M	....	....	....
Black Cherry	M	....	M	....	M	M
Mulberry – Red	M	....	H	....	H	H
Locust	H	....	M	M	H	H
Dogwood – Flower	M	....	M	....	H	M
Maple	M	M	M	....	M	M
Sycamore	M	....	L	....	....	....
Pine	M	....	L	....	M	H
Cypress	M	....	M	....	L	....

H - High Use, L - Low Use, M - Medium Use .... Information lacking or not used

### **Hardwood Planting Tips**

1. When planting oak trees, the experts feel that intermixing species (various oaks and other hardwoods) will result in a more healthy, vigorous stand with better quality trees down the road. This is contrary to some of the thinking in the past that it was better to plant species in blocks.
2. Because of its small crown structure, sweetgum is actually a good trainer species to interplant with oak trees. The smaller crown means less competition for sunlight with the desired oaks while it helps to prune and train the oaks into a better quality tree. The sweetgums can be thinned out early in the rotation.
3. 12 x 12 spacing is commonly recommended. The "trainer" trees such as sweetgum, other light-seeded species, or poorly formed oaks can be removed during the first thinning and sold for pulpwood. The idea is to try and delay oak-on-oak competition until later thinnings. However, depending on the site and the species mix, one may want to plant on a closer spacing such as 8 x 8 or 10 x 10, to push the oak "crop" trees a little harder. Once again, "trainer" trees can be very helpful, and they can be thinned out in the first thinning. If pure oaks are planted at these closer spacings, precommercial thinning may be necessary. This again supports the idea of using the trainer species so that money can be saved by eliminating the need for a precommercial thin.
4. In their plantings, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries commonly plants 50 to 60 percent oaks and 40 to 50 percent light-seeded species. In addition to sweetgum, other light-seeded species they use include elm, maple, hackberry, ash and others. Of course, the species mix, both for the oaks and others, will depend upon the soil, site, and drainage characteristics.

### **Latest Estimates Show \$950+Million in Hurricane Damage to Louisiana Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

Estimates of damage and losses to Louisiana agriculture, forestry and fisheries resulting from this fall's hurricanes have climbed to approximately \$950 million, according to the latest figures from the LSU AgCenter.

The totals related to hurricanes Gustav and Ike include up to \$763 million in lost revenue to Louisiana farmers, ranchers, foresters and fishers and as much as \$175 million to \$200 million in additional damage to the equipment and facilities that form the industries' infrastructure. That means the total damage and losses from the two storms are pegged around \$951 million and climbing.

Based on information gathered and compiled during September by LSU AgCenter economists, crop specialists, field agents and others, these figures show more than \$636 million in damage to a variety of Louisiana agricultural and forestry commodities from hurricanes Gustav and Ike and up to \$127 million in potential lost revenue to the state's fisheries and aquaculture industries.

Additional losses in the industries' infrastructure - farm equipment, barns, processing facilities and so forth - are still being calculated, but late-September totals show those could approach \$188 million or more.

"The losses are a big problem for individual farmers who already were having a difficult time making ends meet year after year," said Dr. Bill Richardson, chancellor of the LSU AgCenter. "The ripple effect of these losses will affect not only farmers but the communities that depend on the food and fiber sector as a major part of their economy."

"In the long run, the effects will be felt throughout the whole state's economy and may be seen for years to come," he said.

Among the hardest hit, in terms of total lost revenue, are soybeans, cotton, aquaculture and fisheries, timber, sugarcane, corn, rice, sweet potatoes and shrimp.

"But the millions in losses to those crops don't tell the whole story," said Dr. Kurt Guidry, one of the LSU AgCenter economists who helped to compile the damage estimates. "For example, in addition to losing more than half the state's cotton and sweet potato crops, estimates show at least half the Louisiana pecan crop also was lost."

The estimates have been continually climbing since the landfall of Hurricane Gustav - as additional information was gathered about that storm's damage and as farmers, foresters and fishers saw the effects of lingering rains following the first hurricane.

Then came Hurricane Ike with more damage. Some of the storms' most significant damage came in coastal parishes where winds, rain and flooding were issues with crops. But the damage certainly was not limited to the coast - with farmers in North and Central Louisiana seeing plenty of the storms' fury.

"Crop damage was pretty significant all around, but it was easy to see that the infrastructure damage was more significant with aquaculture and fisheries," said LSU AgCenter economist Dr. Rex Caffrey. "For farmers and ranchers, land is the biggest part of their infrastructure, and barns generally are located farther inland."

"That's not true for those involved with fishing and seafood processing. They've got boats and docks and processing facilities located right on the water, where they're exposed to a lot more potential for damage."

Backing up Caffrey's assessment, current estimates for infrastructure damage in agriculture and forestry are about \$10 million, but the figures for aquaculture and fisheries range \$127 million to \$178 million in damage to processing facilities, docks and commercial and recreational vessels.

Concerning lost revenue in various segments, soybeans appear to be the hardest hit, with an estimate of approximately \$153 million in lost revenue for the year. Other losses include cotton, \$137 million; timber, \$92 million; sugarcane, \$87 million; corn, \$66 million; rice, \$34 million; sweet potatoes, \$34 million; and shrimp, \$31 million.

LSU AgCenter faculty members began assessing damage shortly after the storms and will continue to do so in the weeks and months to come. They say weather will continue to be a factor even if there aren't additional storms. "We really won't know the exact nature and scope of the impact of the 2008 storms until sometime later this year," Guidry explained. "A lot still depends on whether wet conditions persist and delay harvest of some crops—or whether we see really favorable weather and things get better than expected. Either way, it's probably going to be after this year's growing season before the final figures are known."

For more information on agriculture and natural resources, as well as details on storm damage and a host of other topics, visit [www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com).

<b>Estimates of Lost Revenue to Selected Commodities From Hurricanes Gustav and Ike</b>			
<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Estimated 2008 Farm Gate Value Prior to Hurricane Gustav</b>	<b>Estimated Lost Revenue Due to Hurricanes</b>	<b>Estimated Percentage Of Annual Revenue Lost</b>
Aquaculture & Fisheries*	\$413,958,016	\$126,690,340	30.60%
Beef Cattle	\$356,254,535	\$1,666,664	0.47%
Citrus	\$6,431,100	\$1,574,764	24.9%
Corn	\$426,870,000	\$66,402,000	15.56%
Cotton	\$237,249,000	\$136,640,596	57.59%
Dairy	\$85,033,608	\$2,318,760	2.73%
Forage/Hay	\$140,217,945	\$6,220,883	4.44%
Nursery Crops	\$160,000,000	\$6,500,000	4.06%
Pecans	\$12,036,016	\$6,018,0008	50.00%
Poultry	\$794,988,118	\$25,275	0.00%
Rice	\$387,655,000	\$33,571,911	8.66%
Sorghum	\$46,550,000	\$3,562,500	7.65%
Soybeans	\$416,500,000	\$153,455,940	36.84%
Sugar	\$582,609,720	\$87,391,458	15.00%
Sweet Potatoes	\$65,548,000	\$33,540,019	51.17%
Timber	\$1,092,538,858	\$91,737,294	8.40%
Vegetables	\$45,332,680	5,544,561	12.23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,269,772,596</b>	<b>\$762,860,973</b>	<b>14.48%</b>
<p>*Losses in aquaculture and fisheries cover crawfish, catfish, alligators, turtles, shrimp, crabs, oysters and other fisheries enterprises. Estimated revenue based on 2007 estimates from LSU AgCenter and National Marine Fisheries Service.</p> <p>Losses shown here include only the potential lost income for the year and do not show up to \$178 million in infrastructure damage (docks, marinas, vessels, etc.) for aquaculture and fisheries, as well as another \$10 million in infrastructure damage for other agriculture enterprises.</p>			

9/24/08

### **Jack McFarland Named Outstanding Logger of the Year**

Jack McFarland of Winnfield was named the 2008 Louisiana Outstanding Logger by the Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA) and the Louisiana Logging Council. The award was presented August 27 at the annual convention at Paragon Resort in Marksville.

McFarland and his crew of six were judged statewide winners by a team led by Dr. Clyde Vidrine, retired professor from the Louisiana Tech University School of Forestry. Other judges were Greg Williams, the 2007 winner, and Ed Hunter of the U.S. Forest Service.

McFarland is also the president of the Winn Parish Police Jury. "We have an abundance of timber in our parish; it's our largest resource," he said. McFarland specializes in first thinnings of timber working on Plum Creek lands. He is also one of the few loggers using a new computer generated system in the equipment to optimize production and decrease fuel use. "We've seen a 25 percent reduction in off-road fuel use (since using the new technology)," said McFarland. "This crew is great to work with," said Jamie Daughtry, forester with Plum Creek. "Jack is continuously improving his job both in quality with the work and production."

McFarland has a degree in industrial technology from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He worked at the Georgia Pacific mill in Arkansas and the Martin mill at Chopin before joining his late uncle Alon Johnson's contracting business. He bought his uncle's business in 1999.

### **Thomas McClellan Named Future Forest Winner**

Thomas C. McClellan was named the 2008 Future Forest Winner for his 140-acre Tree Farm in DeSoto Parish. The award was presented by the Louisiana Forestry Association August 27 during the annual convention at the Paragon Resort in Marksville. The award is given to recognize outstanding forest regeneration accomplished on land owned by small private landowners. McClellan was nominated for the award by Mahlon Ayme, forester with Smurfit-Stone Container.

McClellan is the third generation of his family to own the land near Benson. McClellan said he recognizes the economic benefit of the tree farm but he also has a deep family attachment to the land. He has registered it as a Centennial Forest through the Louisiana Forestry Association, which recognizes 100 years of continuous family ownership. He resides in Dallas.

"What impressed me is his belief in the forest management system," said Ayme. "Our objective was to convert low quality natural field pine areas to higher quality fully stocked productive pine stands while achieving diversity with different age classes." The property also has hardwood streamside management zones. "It's great to be able to regenerate," said McClellan. As a retired attorney from the oil and gas business, he appreciates the renewable quality of forestry. "Small family forest landowners like Thomas McClellan are the lifeblood of the association and of our forest industry," said C.A. "Buck" Vandersteen, executive director of the LFA. A sign will be erected at their land on La. Hwy.171 announcing the award.

### **Haydens Named Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year**

Brookie and Lindy Hayden of Amite are the 2008 Louisiana Outstanding Tree Farmers for their 400 acre Beechwood Farms in Wilmer. The award was made to the Haydens during the annual convention of the Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA) August 27 in Marksville, Louisiana.

The Haydens are active in managing their property from mowing trails to pruning trees and even maintaining wildlife habitat. Their enthusiasm continued even after Hurricane Katrina destroyed 80 acres of mature pines, a few buildings and damaged other trees. The Haydens worked to reclaim the damaged acreage and reforest the plots.

Brookie and Lindy involve their children and grandchildren in the tree farm passing on the value of good land stewardship. They are also active in the Louisiana Forestry Association and the Tangipahoa Parish Forestry Association where they have used their land as a demonstration site.

"I feel the Haydens are different from the average tree farmer in that they are still excited about their land, trees, wildlife habitat, aesthetics and water, basically, the overall stewardship of their property," said Epney Brasher, an employee of the La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry who nominated the couple.

"Forestry is a \$4.4 billion industry in Louisiana," said C.A. "Buck" Vandersteen, LFA executive director. "Family forests are the lifeblood of our state where 81 percent of the forestland is owned by private non-industrial landowners like the Haydens."

**FUEL VALUE OF FIREWOOD**  
**Available Heat in a Standard Cord of Firewood**  
**At 12 and 30 Percent Moisture Content**

Species of Wood	Million Btu's per cord for wood and bark at moisture contents of:	
	12%	30%
Live Oak	38.462	30.887
Osage-Orange	34.732	29.087
Hickory	34.292	26.897
White Oak	32.502	25.327
Persimmon	32.242	24.697
Dogwood	31.822	24.697
Black Locust	30.172	25.407
Red Oak	29.752	24.107
Honey Locust	29.342	23.217
American Beech	28.792	22.207
Red Maple	23.942	19.217
Hackberry	23.532	19.217
Slippery Elm	23.532	18.867
Sweetgum	23.122	18.147
Black Cherry	22.292	18.507
American Elm	22.292	18.147
Magnolia	22.292	18.147
Sassafras	20.222	16.707
Yellow-Poplar	18.972	15.947
Cottonwood	18.142	14.867
Willow	16.962	13.797

**Events, Thoughts and Tidbits**

\*\*\*Precommercial Thinning Field Day scheduled for Thursday, November 13, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Webster Parish. For more details and how to register, refer to the article on the first page.

\*\*\*The Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum is set for Thursday, March 12, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Financial Plaza. Register by March 9th for \$20! (See details on last page.)

Sincerely,

*Ricky Kilpatrick*

Ricky Kilpatrick  
Area Forestry Agent

It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability. If you have a disability which requires special assistance for your participation in a meeting, please contact the Bossier Parish Extension Office at (318) 965-2326 three days prior to the meeting.

**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ARK-LA-TEX FORESTRY FORUM  
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009  
8:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.**

**HOLIDAY INN FINANCIAL PLAZA  
5555 FINANCIAL PLAZA  
SHREVEPORT, LA**

The program is currently being planned and speakers are being contacted. Planned topics include:

- Timber tax laws and mineral rights issues
- Other forestry issues such as carbon credits
- And other forestry topics

Door prizes will be given by several exhibitors.

Come and enjoy an excellent forestry meeting, great lunch and the fellowship of others interested in forestry.

If you pre-register by March 9<sup>th</sup>, the fee is \$20. After that date or at the door, registration will be \$25. Your fee includes lunch and a copy of program proceedings.

**ARK-LA-TEX FORESTRY FORUM  
MARCH 12, 2009**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

***This form may be duplicated. If more than one person shall be registered, please include names and addresses of the additional people.***

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of people registered @ \$20 per person (\$25 after March 9<sup>th</sup>)

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed

Make check payable and mail to: **ARK-LA-TEX FORESTRY FORUM  
P O Box 370  
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BENTON LA 71006-0370

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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



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# *Timber Tales*

**News and Ideas for Forest Landowners from Ricky Kilpatrick, Area Forestry Agent, serving:  
Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River and Webster Parishes**

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Dr. William B. Richardson, Chancellor  
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Dr. Paul Coreil, Vice Chancellor and Director  
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