

# The South Carolina Forest Steward

Spring 2007



## In Memoriam

Dr. Larry Nelson, Associate Professor, Extension Forester and longtime Forest Stewardship newsletter editor passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on August 26, 2006. Larry was best known to many South Carolina landowners and foresters as our forest herbicide specialist. He worked all over our state and region sharing the latest technological advances in forest vegetation management. He had recently begun education efforts to call attention to the problems of nonnative invasive plant species and how to combat this growing problem. Larry's quick smile, words of encouragement and selfless assistance to colleagues and the people of South Carolina will be sorely missed.

Bob Franklin, Editor

## Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2006 Tax Year

by Linda Wang, Forest Taxation Specialist and John L. Greene,  
Research Forester, Southern Research Station, USDA Forest Service

This bulletin summarizes key federal income tax provisions related to owning and managing forest land. It is current as of December 1, 2006, and supersedes Management Bulletin R8-MB 126. But it is only an introduction. Consult the references for more complete information on the topics, and consult your tax and legal advisers for advice on your particular tax situation.

### Basis and Record-keeping

Basis is a measure of your investment in timber and forest land. The total cost of acquiring purchased forest land should be allocated proportionately among capital accounts for the land itself, the timber and other capital assets associated with them. The fair market value of inherited forest land should be allocated similarly (the fair market value of inherited property is usually higher than the decedent's basis in it, resulting in a **step-up** in basis). The best time to determine and allocate basis is immediately after you acquire forest land, although a forester can help you determine the basis of timber and forest land that you have held for several years. Adjust your basis up for new purchases or investments, and down for sales or other disposals. (See Timber Sales and Timber Losses.)

Good records include a written management plan, which should include a statement that you are growing timber

for profit and a map of your forest land. Keep a copy of every tax return that you file. Keep records that support current deductions for six years beyond the date the return was due. Keep records that support capital accounts for six years beyond the period of ownership.

### Reforestation Tax Incentives

For 2006, you can deduct outright the first \$10,000 of qualifying reforestation expenses that you incur and amortize all additional amounts over 84 months. (Due to an accounting convention, it takes 8 tax years to recover the amortizable amount.) For example, say you spent \$14,000 to reforest a tract in 2006. You can claim a \$10,000 reforestation deduction on your 2006 tax return. In addition, you can amortize the remaining \$4,000 over eight tax years: deduct  $\$4,000 \div 14 = \$287$  on your 2006 return,  $\$4,000 \div 7 = \$571$  on your returns for 2007 through 2012 and the final  $\$4,000 \div 14 = \$287$  on your return for 2013.

The reforestation provisions apply to both the cost of establishing a plantation and practices to encourage natural regeneration. They also apply to reforestation expenses reimbursed under an approved cost-share program (see Cost-share Payments below) *if* you include the payment in your gross income. To qualify, the reforested tract must be at least one acre in size, located in the U.S. and held to produce commercial timber products. Individual taxpayers, estates, partnerships and corporations are eligible for both the deduction and amortization provisions. Trusts are not eligible for the deduction, but they can amortize.

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## Cost-share Payments

If you receive a cost-share payment from a federal or state conservation program, you *must* report it. But if the program qualifies for exclusion, you can choose either to include the payment in your gross income and make full use of beneficial tax provisions or to calculate and exclude the excludable amount. Federal cost-share programs that qualify for exclusion include the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cost-share payments only, *not* annual rent or incentive payments, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Several states also have cost-share programs that qualify for exclusion.

The excludable amount of a qualifying cost-share payment is the present value of the greater of \$2.50 times the number of affected acres or 10 percent of the average annual income from the affected acres over the last three years. Calculating the excludable amount is a four-step process:

1. Multiply \$2.50 times the number of acres treated.
2. Calculate 10 percent of the average annual income from the treated acres over the last three years.
3. Calculate the present value of the right to receive annual payments equal to the larger number from steps 1 and 2 (that is, divide it by a rate of interest such as the average annual rate charged by the Farm Credit Bank in your region).
4. Compare the number from step 3 with the cost-share payment – the smaller of the two is the excludable amount.

If you have harvested the treated area within the last three years, it is likely the entire amount of a qualifying cost-share payment will be excludable; if not, it is likely only part of the payment will be excludable. The only way to determine whether it benefits you more to include a qualifying cost-share payment in your gross income or to exclude the excludable amount is to figure your tax both ways.

## Timber Management Expenses

Generally, you can choose either to deduct the annual expenses for maintaining and managing your timber or capitalize them. In most cases you are better off to deduct management expenses on your return for the tax year they are incurred.

The passive loss rules determine what expenses you can deduct and where you take the deduction. If you hold your forest as part of a trade or business and qualify as a material participant in its management, deduct management expenses – including property taxes and interest on indebtedness – on Form 1040 Schedule C against income from any source. If you hold your forest as part of a trade or business but don't meet any of the tests for material participation; deduct management expenses, property tax and interest expenses on Form 8582. They are deductible only to the extent that their combined total does not exceed your income from passive activities for the year, although any unused amount can be carried forward to future years.

If you are an investor, deduct management expenses on Form 1040 Schedule A as “miscellaneous itemized deductions.” They are combined with other such deductions and only the amount that exceeds 2 percent of your adjusted gross income is actually deducted. An investor can, however, deduct property taxes against income from any source, and interest on indebtedness to the extent of net investment income.

If it is not to your advantage to itemize deductions, you can capitalize them. You cannot, however, capitalize expenses in any year your property is productive. Forest land is productive in any year that it produces income, including income from a hunting lease or other non-timber source.

## Timber Sales

Under current law, when you sell standing timber either lump-sum or on a pay-as-cut basis the net proceeds generally qualify as a long-term capital gain, provided you have met the 12-month holding requirement.

Another way to dispose of timber is to sell cut products directly to a mill (section 631(a) transaction). This transaction yields both a capital gain and ordinary income. Income that results from holding the standing timber is a capital gain – just as if you had sold it to yourself – and income that results from converting the timber and transporting it to the mill is ordinary income. By law, the fair market value of the standing timber is its value on the first day of your tax year, and you must specifically elect to have the income resulting from holding the standing timber treated as a capital gain on an original, timely-filed return.

When you sell or dispose of timber you can take a *depletion deduction* against the gross sale proceeds. To compute this deduction: (total basis in your timber

account ÷ total volume just before the sale) x number of units sold. Generally, you are required to file a Form T in years that you claim a timber depletion deduction, make a Section 631(a) election or sell timber outright under section 631(b). You can also use Form T in years that you have acquisitions, profits or losses from timber sales, reforestation and silvicultural activities or changes in land ownership.

### **Timber Losses**

You can only take a deduction for losses that are physical in nature and caused by an event or combination of events that has run its course. A *casualty loss* is caused by natural or outside forces and must be sudden, unexpected and unusual. This includes fires, floods, ice storms and tornadoes. It generally does not include maladies like disease, drought or insect infestation; although these may qualify as a *non-casualty loss*. It is important to note that your deduction for a casualty or non-casualty loss is limited to your timber basis, minus any insurance or other compensation.

To calculate a casualty loss deduction, first determine your basis in the “block” on which the loss occurred. If you keep track of the basis of all your timber in one account, use the total amount in the account. Next, determine the difference in the fair market value of the block immediately before and immediately after the loss. (The after figure should include the value of any salvageable timber in the block.) Your deduction is the lesser of your basis in the block or the decrease in fair market value.

### **Hurricane Relief Provisions**

In response to the devastation from the hurricanes of 2005, Congress extended three agricultural disaster recovery programs to forest land in certain counties/parishes in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Texas and North Carolina. The programs are the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP). EWP primarily supports removal of downed timber and construction of firebreaks; contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office to learn about program requirements and availability of funds. ECP and EFCRP primarily support removal of timber debris, restoration and replanting. Contact your local Farm Services Agency office to learn about program requirements and availability of funds. Cost-share payments from all three programs are approved for exclusion from gross income.

Congress also passed separate laws establishing Gulf Opportunity (GO) Zones for counties/parishes in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricane Katrina and for counties/parishes in Louisiana, Texas and Florida affected by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma. Included in the provisions for all three GO Zones are an increase in the reforestation deduction and enhanced provisions for deducting net operating losses. Included in the provisions for the Katrina GO Zone are four items for material participants in a trade or business that can benefit qualifying forest owners: an increase in the replacement period for property lost in an involuntary conversion, a depreciation bonus for qualifying property, an increased section 179 deduction and enhanced carryback provisions for net operating losses. See the Go Zone Guide website, [www.gozoneguide.com](http://www.gozoneguide.com) for details.

### **Reference**

Haney, H. L., Jr.; Hoover, W. L.; Siegel, W. C.; and Greene, J. L. 2001. Forest Landowners Guide to the Federal Income Tax. Agric. Handb. 718. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(The above handbook is available for sale from the U.S. Government Bookstore at 404-347-1900. The price is \$20.00 per copy. Major credit cards are accepted.)

**USDA Forest Service Websites:** [www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop) and [www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/taxation](http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/taxation)

**National Timber Tax Website:** [www.timbertax.org](http://www.timbertax.org)

**IRS Website:** [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) ▲

### **Carbon Trading Primer**

*Jennifer Wightman, M.S., Consultant, Central New York Resource Conservation and Development, Norwich, NY, [jw93@cornell.edu](mailto:jw93@cornell.edu)*

#### **What is Carbon Trading and Cap-and-Trade?**

Since the industrial revolution, extracting fossil fuels from deep within the earth and combusting it for energy has resulted in an increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Carbon trading is a strategy for mitigating these and other emissions through a Cap-and-Trade system.

The Kyoto Protocol is a global Cap-and-Trade program to mitigate the anthropogenic (man-made) production of greenhouse gases that is driving climate change. Cap-and-Trade systems are regulatory programs that 1) cap harmful emissions such as mercury, sulfur and carbon

by limiting them through a permitting system and 2) distribute the emissions permitted to different stakeholders (these rights are called allowances, permits or credits). These stakeholders can buy and sell the rights to the permitted emissions after initial distribution. The goal of the cap is to prevent further increases in **net** emissions. Therefore a given polluter may find it most economical to reduce emissions well below their cap and sell the resulting 'carbon credits' to a polluter that cannot easily modify their operations to meet the cap limit. The first company has set a new industry standard of feasible emissions reductions. Once the cap is achieved, it can be lowered to new industry achievable levels resulting in systematically reduced net emissions over time.

While the United States has not signed onto the Kyoto Protocol, individuals, companies and states are voluntarily making agreements to reduce emissions or purchase credits from others who have reduced emissions. Currently in the US, some entities are voluntarily buying and selling credits on a public exchange called the Chicago Climate Exchange ([www.chicagoclimatex.com](http://www.chicagoclimatex.com)). Also in December 2005, seven Northeast states agreed to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a Cap-and-Trade program that regulates carbon dioxide emissions from electricity production beginning in 2009 ([www.rggi.org](http://www.rggi.org)).

### *Is there opportunity for farmers, landowners and others in Carbon Trading?*

Currently, carbon-trading is a futures market in the United States. At the time of this writing, in Europe a ton of carbon is selling for approximately \$30/ton. In the US, it is selling for approximately \$2/ton. There may be some financial gain for those who invest in carbon trading before it is mandated. As such, farmers, landowners, and others should be cautious when signing a contract for \$2/ton over several years. The carbon-trading scene is rapidly changing, and there are many unknowns about how to quantify and verify tradeable units and ensure that these units do not leak back into circulation.

### *What is the difference between CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>e?*

Carbon-trading is a somewhat inaccurate term since there are other greenhouse gases that are not carbon based that contribute to climate change. However, since carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas, the term carbon trading is appropriate and is considered an

umbrella for the trading of all greenhouse gases. Other common agricultural greenhouse gases are methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). These gases are much more potent in their ability to retain heat in the atmosphere. Methane is 23 times more potent and nitrous oxide is 310 times more potent than carbon dioxide. As such, all other important gases are multiplied by their conversion factor to obtain carbon dioxide equivalents, or CO<sub>2</sub>e.

Carbon trading includes common agricultural gases such as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O can be traded on carbon trading markets.

### *What is Carbon Sequestration?*

Carbon sequestration is a term used to describe storage of carbon in a biological or geological sink. Biological sinks are soil, trees, and the ocean. There are many ways to capture carbon. For carbon sequestration to have a meaningful impact on the atmosphere it is necessary to ensure that the carbon remains sequestered and is not released back into the atmosphere through other biological processes.

### *What is Fossil Fuel Displacement?*

Fossil Fuel Displacement is engaging in an activity that reduces the amount of fossil fuel combusted for energy. Displacement of fossil fuels reduces CO<sub>2</sub> release the atmosphere. These absolute emission reductions are considered tradeable. Efficiency is also tradeable. Check out [www.icbe.com/carbondatabase/priceconverter.asp](http://www.icbe.com/carbondatabase/priceconverter.asp) to calculate the value of avoided fossil fuel.

### *What are Offsets?*

Offsets are greenhouse gas reductions achieved by non-regulated market participants. In the case of RGGI, the regulated parties are large electric power plants. Greenhouse gas mitigation achieved by non-regulated parties can be purchased as offsets by a regulated power plant to meet the required cap. Offset opportunities relevant to farms in the Northeast currently include methane capture from farming operations, end-use efficiency for natural gas, propane or heating oil, and afforestation (transition of land from a non-forested to a forested state). Others types of acceptable offsets may be added in the future. CCX has standardized offsets rules, see [www.chicagoclimatex.com/environment/offsets](http://www.chicagoclimatex.com/environment/offsets).

### *What is a saleable unit of carbon-credits?*

Carbon-credits on the CCX sell in 100 ton units. Often a single practice, farm or entity doesn't amass a sufficient

quantity of carbon-credits to merit a saleable trade. Often a middleman - an aggregator - is necessary to collect different farms credits. An aggregator is a person, firm or entity that collects credits from several individuals through contracts and aggregates the credits. These aggregated credits can be sold to a buyer. To see the rulebook for the Chicago Climate Exchange go to: [www.chicagoclimatex.com/info/rulebook.html](http://www.chicagoclimatex.com/info/rulebook.html).

### *What are some examples of tradeable carbon?*

There is still debate on what is tradeable and how concrete an emissions reduction a given practice achieves. To deal with uncertainty, some practices are discounted. Tradeable units might be achieved through the following practices:

- A) Capture methane from a waste lagoon/anaerobic digester and destroy it with a flare, for heat, or for generating electricity.
- B) Practice no-till to sequester carbon on large acreage.
- C) Reduce nitrogen application to reduce nitrous oxide emissions and energy.
- D) Practice Timber Stand Improvement in woodlands to sequester carbon in trees.
- E) Supply an energy processor with wood chips, grass for pellets, oilseeds for biodiesel, etc. to displace fossil fuels.
- F) Make significant improvements in efficiency, thus reducing energy use.
- G) Use wind, solar, or geothermal energy sources to displace fossil fuel use.

**SUMMARY:** While carbon trading is a futures market, the rules of the game are still being developed. Income generated from carbon trading could help pay for adoption of new practices and keep farms or land financially viable. Close attention should be paid to the language in contracts and the requirements (percentages, time commitment) of the contract to ensure flexibility to adjust to a changing regulatory system. ♣

## Cogongrass Found in South Carolina

*Vaughan Spearman, Former Area Extension Agent, Jasper County, SC*



Photo by Mark Atwater, Weed Control Unlimited, Inc.

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) is an aggressive, circular colony-forming erect perennial grass 1 to 5 feet in height. It has tufts of long leaves, yellow-green blades (each with an off-center midvein and finely saw-toothed margins), and silver plumed flowers and seeds in spring arising from sharp-tipped branching

rhizomes. Seeds and rhizomes can be easily transported on logging equipment and start new infestations. This is an extremely aggressive invasive. If you suspect you have an infestation, contact your local Clemson Extension office. This plant is on the Federal Noxious Weed List, and we will have more information in coming issues. We need everyone's help in eradicating this potentially devastating infestation. ♣

## Upcoming Events

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|----------|--|
| April 3  | Statewide Forestry Meeting. SC State Museum, Columbia. Designed for forest landowners by forest landowners. Topics include: deer management, planting for wildlife, forest herbicides, economics of hardwood management, managing pines, pinestraw management, surveying, estate planning, and property rights issues. Cost is \$20 per person and pre-registration is required. Make checks payable to Lexington County Forest Landowners Association and mail to Farroll Gunter, 136 Rose Lake Road, Lexington, SC 29072.                    |
| May 9-10 | Herbicide Applications for Wildlife Habitat Management. Clemson, SC. For more information, call Susan Guynn at (864) 656-0606 or go to <a href="http://www.clemson.edu/extfor/Continuing_Edu">www.clemson.edu/extfor/Continuing_Edu</a> .  |
| May      | Prescribed Fire and Longleaf Pine. One-day workshops to be held in the Aiken and Florence areas. Topics will include Burning Young Longleaf and Reintroducing Prescribed Fire in Fire-Suppressed Stands. For more information, contact Bob Franklin at (843) 549-2595 ext. 121 or <a href="mailto:rmfrnkl@clemson.edu">rmfrnkl@clemson.edu</a> . Also, watch for details on the Clemson Extension Forestry and Natural Resources website at <a href="http://www.clemson.edu/extfor/Continuing_Edu">www.clemson.edu/extfor/Continuing_Edu</a> . |

## Warm Season Food Plots

Marion Barnes, County Extension Agent  
Allendale, Colleton and Hampton Counties

Anyone who has hunted deer for more than 40 years as I have will most likely agree wildlife food plots were once planted solely to aid hunters in the harvest of deer and to some degree that holds true today. But more and more hunters are planting food plots with the intent of enhancing antler size, body growth and to provide supplemental nutrition to the deer herd. Wildlife managers as well as many deer hunters are taking a closer look at the “big picture” of food plot management. Supplemental food plots can provide deer with a year round source of palatable, nutritious food when native or natural food sources are at their lowest level quality wise.

Much research has been conducted and data compiled to show that deer experience two stress periods, late winter/ early spring and late summer. Here in the southeast the late summer stress period can have the greatest negative effect on our deer herd for several reasons. First, native/natural food sources such as forbs (broadleaf, non-woody herbaceous plants) are reaching physiological maturity when lignin content (indigestible portion of plant cell wall) of many plants are increasing making them less digestible for deer. Secondly, late summer droughts which are quite common in South Carolina reduce the growth and availability of native/ natural foods as well as agricultural crops that deer depend on. And third, mast (fruit from oaks and other trees) are scarce. During this time period both bucks and does are experiencing their highest nutritional requirements for antler growth (bucks) and gestation or lactation (does). Bucks need diet levels of at least 16 percent protein for optimum antler development. Research also indicates that weaned fawns require a minimum of 14 to 18 percent protein in their diets for average growth and future antler development.

Establishing warm season food plots can be difficult. Having adequate moisture for germination and growth, controlling weed competition, and limiting browsing by deer until the crop is up and growing are some of the challenges to warm season food plot establishment. The first step in warm season food plot establishment is amending the soil with the proper amounts of lime and fertilizer prior to planting the crop. Follow soil test recommendations and shoot for a soil pH of 5.8 to 6.0. If legumes are to be established a soil pH of 6.2 to 6.5 is recommended. Remember a soil test is one of the most cost effective management practices the food plot farmer has. You get a whole lot of information for six

## Warm Season Wildlife Food Plot Mixes

Species	Seeding Rates Lbs/A
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### Mix #1

Cowpeas	50-60
Soybeans	50-60
Buckwheat	20-25

### Mix #2

Alyceclover	10-12
Aeschynomone	10-12

### Mix #3

Lablab	8-10
Soybeans	50-60
Sunflower *	15-20

\*Grain sorghum may be substituted for sunflowers @ 8-10 lbs/A.

bucks (current cost of a C.U. soil analysis)!! No pun intended.

The list of potential warm season food plot species is not nearly as long as compared to cool season species but one can argue that the warm season species are more important nutritionally to the deer herd, at least in the southeast. The warm season list includes alyceclover, aeschynomene, lablab, buckwheat and the old standbys cowpeas and soybeans as well as a few others.

Alyceclover is not a true clover but a broadleaf legume with upright growth habits that stands browsing well. This annual has thin stems, rounded leaves and pink flowers. Alyceclover is best adapted to sandy soils but will produce on clay soils as well. Greatest production comes June through September and maintains quality well into late summer.

Alyceclover requires inoculation and works well in a mix. I have found it moderately preferred by deer, and it is not one of the forages that will be totally consumed by deer as it comes out of the ground. Avoid rootknot nematode infested fields. This small seeded annual legume reseeds well but can be a weed in agricultural fields.

Aeschynomene or American joint vetch is another warm season annual highly preferred by deer. This tropical legume is native to the Southeastern U.S. and is best adapted to wet soils but will grow on some upland, well

drained sites. Aeschynomene is sensitive to low soil pH and does not compete well with weeds and grasses but once established can withstand heavy grazing pressure. Another important attribute of this plant is its high palatability and nutritional value (20 plus percent protein content) to deer. Aeschynomene works well in a mix and also requires inoculation.

Lablab is a warm season legume with viney growth habits and similar in appearance to cowpeas or kudzu. This annual (some claim it to be a weak perennial) grows well on sandy soils and is extremely drought tolerant. Developed in Australia as forage for cattle, lablab is highly nutritious (30 to 40 percent protein and 70 plus percent digestibility). Lablab should be protected from overgrazing for 4 to 5 weeks after establishment, thereafter it stands browsing very well. Greatest production June through September but is easily killed with the first hard frost. It too requires inoculation for optimum growth. Lablab should be planted with crops like sunflowers or grain sorghum to enhance its trailing growth habit.

Buckwheat, not a legume but a broadleaf annual species with a single upright hollow stem, heart shaped leaves and produces brown triangular shaped seed in about 40 to 50 days after emergence. Long grown as a grain crop in the U.S., buckwheat has caught the attention of wildlife managers and food plot farmers. This warm season broadleaf species will grow on a wide variety of soil types and conditions. Its deep taproot makes it fairly drought tolerate but produces best on moist soils and cooler temperatures. It is moderately to highly preferred by deer and works well in a mix.

Cowpeas are annual broadleaf legume with a viney stem and triangular shaped leaves that grows on a wide range of soil types. Its deep taproot makes it tolerant of drought and a good choice for sandy soils. Also known as iron and clay peas as well as several other common names, this warm season species is at the top of the list as one of the most preferred deer foods. Although a legume, this plant tolerates slight soil acidity and low fertility. If properly inoculated cowpeas will produce their own nitrogen. Works well in a mix but is subject to over browsing by deer.

Soybeans are another highly preferred food for the white-tailed deer. If you don't think so just ask any soybean farmer in South Carolina. This annual broadleaf legume grows best on well drained soils with a soil pH of 5.8 to 6.2. Soybeans are somewhat sensitive to drought and highly susceptible to nematodes. Being

extremely palatable they are subject to over browsing and small plots can be completely wiped out by deer shortly after emergence. If allowed to produce foliage, soybeans are highly nutritious (25 plus percent protein). Soybeans were originally brought into this country as a forage crop. Until recently most soybeans varieties were developed to produce seed for the oil and meal market. However, there are some varieties that are developed for their forage producing attributes. Wildlife managers may want to try forage type soybeans in lieu of conventional varieties in their food plots.

This article gives a brief look at some of the most popular warm season food plot species in use today. To be successful in establishing wildlife food plots pay attention to site selection, soil fertility, variety selection, plant growth characteristics, planting methods, planting dates and pest control.

The above suggested seeding rates can be modified to better match deer density, seed cost and availability, equipment and personal preference. ♣

## Timber Mart-South

As a new item in the Forest Stewardship Newsletter, we will begin running quarterly summaries of timber prices from TimberMart-South, published by the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. The prices shown will be **statewide** ranges of stumpage (standing timber) and the trend (Up or Down) from the previous quarter. These prices reflect the average range of stumpage prices reported to TimberMart-South for the quarter. The price you may receive for your timber can and will vary due to factors such as size of timber, amount, location to mills, access and demand. If you'd like more information on the TimberMart-South price reporting service, contact: TimberMart-South (706) 542-4756 or visit the website at [www.TimberMart-South.com](http://www.TimberMart-South.com).

### Timber Mart-South 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2006, SC

**Pine Sawtimber:** \$276—\$314/MBF (per thousand board feet Scribner log scale) (\$36.78—\$41.81/Ton). Trend is **Down**.

**Pine Chip-N-Saw:** \$49.20—\$62.86/Cord (\$18.36—\$23.46/Ton). Trend is **Down**.

**Pine Pulpwood:** \$15.81—\$21.12/Cord (\$5.90—\$7.88/Ton) Trend is **Up**. ♣

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## The Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is a **FREE** technical service program designed to encourage multiple resource management on private non-industrial forestlands. **FSP** encourages wise use of all forest-related activities including timber management, wildlife habitat management, recreation, aesthetics, grazing, and soil and water conservation.

### Who is Eligible?

Private landowners who own more than 10 acres, with at least 5 acres of the tract in forestland.

### Services Provided

**Free** technical assistance from a professional forester and wildlife biologist, a 10-year written management plan, subscription to the South Carolina Forest Stewards newsletter, and recognition as a Stewardship Forest landowner.

### Contact:

The South Carolina Forestry Commission Forest Stewardship Coordinator, Ron Ferguson, at (803) 276-0205.

Questions about this newsletter, submissions and requests for subscriptions should be directed to: Editor, *Forest Steward* Newsletter, Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, Department of Forest Resources, 272 Lehotsky Hall, Box 340317, Clemson, SC 29634-0317. Phone: 864/656-2479.

### The Forest Steward

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The South Carolina Forest Steward Newsletter is sponsored by the Forest Stewardship Program in South Carolina. For more information on the Forest Stewardship Program, contact Ron Ferguson at the South Carolina Forestry Commission, 803/896-8846. The South Carolina Forest Steward is compiled and edited by Larry Nelson, Extension Forester at Clemson University, and Bob Franklin, Area Forestry & Wildlife Agent, Walterboro, South Carolina.

