



THE REGISTERED FORESTER

Spring 2010

BCAP — Biomass Crop Assistance Program

Is the Biomass Crop Assistance Program the future or a flash in the pan? My father once told me to watch out for things that were too good to be true. The BCAP was authorized by Congress in 2002 as part of the farm bill and was later amended by the Energy Act of 2008. It had two main purposes, one to assist agricultural and forest landowners with matching payments for the amount paid for collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) of eligible material to a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF). (A BCF is a facility that converts eligible materials into heat, power or advanced biofuels.) The second purpose was to support the establishing and producing eligible crops for the conversion to bioenergy. In 2008, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the cost of the program at 70 million but by the middle of 2009 that figure grew to 2.6 billion dollars. That's right - 2.6 billion, almost 400 percent higher than first believed! The Biomass Conversion Facilities had grown from 5 in early 2009 to over 300 by the end of December 2009. The BCF came from plants that were originally pellet producers or biomass power plants or pulp and paper mills. This eligible material is paid at the rate of \$1 for each \$1 per dry ton paid by the CHST-qualified BCF to the owner of the material, limited to a maximum of \$45 per dry ton and a limit of 2 year payment duration. This eligible material would include pre commercial thinning or any organic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis, including wood waste, wood residues, animal waste and byproducts.

In the last two years, paper mills, sawmills and landowners have been beaten up by the crash in our economical markets. Why would we not want to be paid a higher price for our product, which has taken tens of years to grow and mature? I have no problem in letting the free markets pay for our forest products but our government cannot continue to give away money that they don't have. Even though I would like to believe that our grandchildren will have a better life than we had, I am not convinced of that today.

It is our understanding that the current status of the program is: 1) currently approved suppliers have until the end of April to make shipments and then the program will be closed at this time and 2) a public comment period is open and the interested public is welcome to make comments on similar programs that may be open at a later date.

Gerald L. Schwarzauer

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Definition of a Consulting Forester

In an earlier edition of our newsletter I wrote that the Board was considering the possibility of having a definition for Consulting Foresters. My rationale was that other State Boards and some Government entities have adopted a definition in response to perceived conflicts with those who call themselves Consulting Foresters and who also purchase timber.

As it currently stands there is not a consensus among Board members as to how or even if this issue needs to be addressed.

The Board appreciates all those who took the time to send in their comments.

Darrell Gates

New Registered Foresters

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Foresters Granted Reciprocity in Alabama

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EXPIRED LICENSES

(As of September 30, 2009)

Name	License No.	City, State
Timothy S. Allen	MS2023	Philadelphia, MS
William C. Baisden	2071	Savannah, GA
James L. Bell	MS1296	Columbus, GA
William M. Boozer	1905	Enterprise, AL
Timothy C. Boyce	0653	Millbrook, AL
Gary W. Braddick	1306	Florence, AL
John O. Bridges Jr.	0909	Jasper, GA
Arnold M. Brodbeck, IV	1918	Fairhope, AL
Robert E. Brogden	0800	Tuscaloosa, AL
William D. Bryant	1659	Brewton, AL
Aaron J. Burton	1993	Statesboro, GA
Norman L. Burton	0747	Cedar Bluff, AL
Charles E. Bush III	1466	Washington, GA
Richard S. Caldwell	1853	Fairhope, AL
James R. Cannon	1824	Andalusia, AL
Eric E. Clark III	MS2182	Laurel, MS
Shelby C. Daniel	MS0440	Iuka, MS
Edward L. Eldredge	1109	Cleveland, TN
Frederick H. Frengel	0535	Leeds, AL
Steven W. Gardiner	1123	Eutaw, AL
Jeffrey L. Green	1385	Prattville, AL
Robert D. Heeren	0579	Franklin, VA
Donald W. Hendrix	GA2779	Black Creek, GA
Abb M. Henry, Jr.	MS1273	Kosciusko, MS
Charles D. Johnson	0297	Hattiesburg, MS
Froman B. Johnson, Jr.	1534	Prattville, AL
Barry L. Lawrence	0712	Ozark, AL
Walter R. Lovelace	1087	Auburn, AL
James R. Lowe	0492	Auburn, AL
Daniel W. Milburn	1737	Pittsview, AL
Jeremy K. Moore	2021	Flat Rock, AL
Ronald Neal	1211	Southaven, MS
Ivan R. Pilcher	1748	Ozark, AL
Jack E. Reichert	1708	Andalusia, AL
W. R. Richerson, Jr.	0753	Fulton, MS
Craig N. Russell	GA2302	Richmond Hill, GA
Guy E. Slayden, Jr.	0954	Jacksons Gap, AL
Dalton J. Smith	0503	Jackson, AL
Jerry W. Snead	0600	Sterrett, AL
Steven C. Stallworth	1023	Greenville, AL
Harold P. Taft	0663	Montgomery, AL
Cory C. Trawick	2078	Newville, AL
Francis T. Troskey	1292	Columbus, MS
Keith B. Ward	1649	Jackson, MS
Edward J. White	MS1155	Bay Springs, MS
Douglas E. Yeatts, Jr.	1510	Soddy Daisy, TN

Current Status of the Legislative Sunset Review Committee

The Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters, like all similar arms of state government must undergo a process every four years whereby the state legislature looks over the procedures, policies and operations of the board to ensure that it is working within the confines of the law that created it. A special legislative committee, called the Sunset Committee, made up of members of both the Alabama House of Representatives and the State Senate does this work and makes a recommendation to the state legislature in the form of a piece of legislation called a "Sunset" bill.

This year the Board and its auditors prepared a report for the Sunset Committee which described the full operations of the Board. It details the make up of the Board and its administrator; examination procedures and pass fail rates, board finances and many other pertinent facts. As part of this, the Board undertook a random survey of Registered Foresters to get their opinions of the Board's operations. One hundred surveys were sent and 69 responses were received. This feedback was vital to help the Board understand how its clients view the role of the Board. These results were shared with the Sunset Committee.

The committee was pleased with the report and recommended that the Board be continued. Senator Dixon from Montgomery sponsored the necessary legislation to get the process started. At this writing, the sunset bill has passed both houses of the state legislature. However the bill was amended in the house and now the full senate must concur with the changes. The original bill basically says that the Board of Registration for Foresters can continue operating for another four years. The bill was amended to say that members of the board must be United States citizens and the board must reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural and economic diversity of the state. If the senate concurs with these changes the bill will go to the governor for his signature.

UPDATE YOUR ROSTER INFORMATION

Please take a moment to review your current roster information online at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/rosterofforesters.asp>. To submit changes, fax the form below to 334-353-3641 or submit the online Change of Address form at <http://asbrf.alabama.gov/vs2k5/changeofaddress.aspx>.

Change of Address Form

Full Name _____ License Number: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Business Address: _____

Business City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County _____

Business Phone: _____ Business Fax: _____

Business E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

Home City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Fax: _____

Home E-mail: _____

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