

Timber Tellings

Funds Available for Forest Thinning Through 2020 Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program

Texas A&M Forest Service

COLLEGE STATION, Texas—Texas A&M Forest Service is now accepting applications for the 2020 Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Prevention Cost-Share Program. Through this program, eligible forest landowners can receive financial and technical assistance related to reducing the threat of future SPB infestations and outbreaks.

Funds provided by USDA Forest Service-Region 8 and Forest Health Protection can assist landowners with conducting first thin operations in overly dense, pulpwood sized pine stands in 21 East Texas counties.

“Our goal through this program is to reduce the potential for SPB attacks on our forests while simultaneously increasing tree growth and vigor,” said Shane Harrington, Texas A&M Forest Service Program Leader.

Since the inception of the SPB Prevention Program, over 100,000 acres have been treated throughout East Texas.

“This program has a successful history of assisting forest landowners by reducing their potential for hosting future SPB attacks as well as increasing overall forest health and resiliency, which is what sound forest management is about,” said Harrington.

Eligible landowners may receive up to \$50 per acre, with a 100 acre maximum, to assist in conducting first thin operations. The forested property must meet the set criteria and be located within one of the 21 priority counties which include: Angelina, Cass, Cherokee, Hardin, Harrison, Houston, Jasper, Liberty, Marion, Nacogdoches, Newton, Panola, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler and Walker.

Applications are due by November 1, 2020 and can be submitted through local Texas A&M Forest Service offices for the eligible counties. Additionally, all approved thinning projects must be completed within 12 months of the approval date.

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Market Report- July/August 2020

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/ Ton Difference	
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume		
Pine- Sawlogs	\$22.22/Ton	\$177.74/MBF	\$21.01/Ton	\$168.04/MBF	6%	↑
Pine-Pulpwood	\$6.87/Ton	\$18.55/Cord	\$7.17/Ton	\$19.35/Cord	-4%	↓
Pine-Chip-n-saw	\$13.67/Ton	\$36.91/Cord	\$11.75/Ton	\$31.73/Cord	16%	↑
Mixed Hardwood- Sawlogs	\$31.64/Ton	\$284.77/MBF	\$33.28/Ton	\$299.49/MBF	-5%	↓
Hardwood- Pulpwood	\$9.21/Ton	\$25.78/Cord	\$9.81/Ton	\$27.46/Cord	-6%	↓

Texas Timber Price Trends is a bimonthly publication reporting average prices paid for standing timber in Texas. This report is intended only as a guide to general price levels. It should not be used to judge the fair market value of a specific timber sale, which may vary considerably due to many factors. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale or is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/timberpricetrends>.

Funds Available for Forest Thinning Continued

For program criteria, requirements and an application, interested landowners can visit <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/SPB> or contact their local Texas A&M Forest Service office.

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Texas A&M Forest Service Communications Office, 979-458-6606, newsmedia@tfs.tamu.edu



Websites of Interest

<https://TexasForestInfo.tamu.edu>

Check out these FREE landowner tools that can assist you in making land management decisions on your property.

<https://www.TexasForestry.org>

Lobbying on various forestry and environmental issues that directly affect you, publishing and sponsoring educational events are just a few of many things that Texas Forestry Association does. Find out more about what Texas Forestry Association does for you and why you should be involved!

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu>

Find a plethora of forest management resources and many people that can assist you in your forest management goals.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov>

Find out more information on wildlife management, hunting and fishing regulations and much more!

<https://nrcs.usda.gov>

Find out more information on natural resource conservation and federal programs in your area.

MyLandManagementConnector.com

Find and connect with service providers in your area to get assistance with land management practices on your property

NRCS Announces Second Round of Funding for Feral Swine Program in Texas

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Temple, Texas, *September 25, 2020* – USDA is accepting applications from non-federal, not-for-profit partners for projects to help agricultural producers and private landowners trap and control feral swine, which is part of the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP). USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is making \$12 million available and will accept applications through November 5, 2020, in eight priority states – including Texas – during its second round of project funding.



Photo Credit: Natural Resource Conservation Service

FSCP is a joint effort between NRCS and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The program was first announced in [June 2019](#), and in the first round of funding, NRCS allocated almost \$17 million for 20 pilot projects across 10 states, which included Texas. Those projects will continue through the life of the 2018 Farm Bill in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas.

"The 2018 Farm Bill created this new pilot program to enable us to address threats to natural resources and agriculture posed by feral swine," said Clint Evans, NRCS acting state conservationist in Texas. "This second investment will play a crucial role in getting Texas landowners assistance they need to help reduce the destruction of crops and damage to natural resources on their property."

The second round of funding is for partners to carry out activities as part of the three new identified pilot projects in select areas of Texas. The include Dallam County in the northwestern corner of the Texas Panhandle, Nueces County, San Patricio County and Bee County in the coastal bend of Texas and Williamson and Milam Counties in central Texas. These new pilot projects and areas were selected in coordination with NRCS state conservationists, APHIS state directors, and state technical committees to address feral swine issues and damage in areas with high densities.

Pilot projects consist broadly of three coordinated components: 1) feral swine removal by APHIS; 2) restoration efforts supported by NRCS; and 3) assistance to producers for feral swine control provided through partnership agreements with non-federal partners. Projects can be one to three years in duration and are planned to conclude at the end of Fiscal Year 2023 (September 30, 2023). Continued on Page 6.

Post Storm Timber Salvage and Forest Health Considerations

Texas A&M Forest Service

From time to time nature can be very unkind to our forests. Wind, hail, ice, insects, diseases, fire, and other natural agents can cause devastating losses. Uprooted and broken trees can cause loss of life, damage property, and disrupt electrical and phone service. Homeowners often ask what can be done to save damaged shade and ornamental trees and forest landowners are interested in how to assess the damage to their timber and minimize losses. In addition to the direct damage caused by the storm, insects and fungi often cause additional losses. Recently-cut trees and logs, trees damaged by storms or other causes, and dying trees are very susceptible to insect attack. Following weather event such as hurricanes, tornados, wind events, etc., storm damaged timber should be salvaged as quickly as possible to prevent serious degrade from insects. The most damaging insects that initially attack downed pine trees and logs are ambrosia beetles and wood borers.

AMBROSIA BEETLES

Ambrosia beetles will attack trees and logs of pine and hardwood and can cause serious degrade of lumber and plywood products. The galleries (about the diameter of the lead of a wood pencil) not only make a physical hole in the sapwood and heartwood, but the “ambrosia” fungus will cause a black stain on the wood around the gallery. In the South, the ambrosia beetle known as *Platypus flavicornis* can infest dead and dying pine trees, stumps, logs, and unseasoned pine lumber, especially during the warm months of the year. Wood that has a moisture content below 48% is seldom attacked by these beetles. They may also attack, but not kill, living trees in areas where the cambium and bark have been damaged. The adult ambrosia beetles typically colonize the lower 6-8 feet of the trunk of the tree. As they construct their galleries, they expel (sometimes in large quantities) creamy-white, fluffy “sawdust.” This sawdust that collects around the base of the tree is very characteristic of their attacks.

ROUNDHEADED WOOD BORERS (SAWYERS)

Wood borers (called sawyers) will also infest dead and dying pine trees and logs. They require the presence of bark on recently cut or dead trees to initiate an infestation. Eggs are laid on the bark and the larvae or grubs begin feeding between the bark and the wood. After a month or so, the larvae cause damage by boring into the wood to complete their life cycle. Tunnels in the wood may be over one-quarter inch in diameter.

REDUCING DAMAGE

Damage caused by ambrosia beetles and wood borers can be reduced by prompt utilization or by keeping decked logs under a water sprinkling system. Rapid drying of green lumber is also encouraged. Use of insecticides is generally not recommended. Infested wood that is used for oriented strand board (OSB) is not impacted by these insects.

PINE BARK BEETLES AND STORM-DAMAGED TIMBER

Not only are ambrosia beetles and wood borers a concern, but forest landowners often expect a build-up of pine bark beetle populations, in particular the dreaded southern pine beetle, after timber is damaged by storms. In East Texas and across the South, storm damage to timber has not caused southern pine beetle outbreaks. A brief comment about pine bark beetles needs to be made. Continued on Page 5.



Image of Ips beetle and its galleries.

Post Storm Timber Salvage and Forest Health Considerations Continued

There are five different pine bark beetles that attack and kill pine trees in East Texas (as their name implies, they do NOT attack hardwood trees). The southern pine beetle (SPB) is the most serious because it alone is capable of killing healthy trees and can kill large areas of pine timber (Texas has not had an SPB infestation since 1993). The other four pine bark beetles (three species of engraver or Ips beetles and the black turpentine beetle) attack weakened, injured, and stressed pines and individual infestations seldom encompass more than 10-20 trees. They usually attack scattered single trees or two or three trees in a group. Salvaging beetle-infested trees, especially after a storm, is the recommended way to minimize losses caused by pine bark beetles.

REDUCING TIMBER LOSSES FOLLOWING STORMS

Forest landowners with storm-damaged timber should consider salvage logging as a way to utilize the timber rather than letting it go to waste. Timber salvage operations are more time consuming than regular logging, therefore the prices paid for the damaged timber will be lower than standing, green timber prices. Salvage should be conducted as soon after the damage as possible before various wood boring insects and decay and stain fungi further degrade the timber. Also, dead timber often dries out rapidly and has less dollar value if weight scaled. Large volumes of harvested pine logs that will not be immediately processed at a mill can be kept under a water sprinkler system or in a log pond to prevent invasion of insects and fungi

BLUE STAIN FUNGUS

When pine bark beetles attack pine trees, they introduce a fungus commonly called blue stain. This fungus grows into the sapwood and stains it a blue-gray color. It does not alter the strength quality of the wood. Wood products such as “2-by-4” studs and oriented strand board (OSB) would not be impacted by this fungus. It could have some impact on certain paper products. Dead timber left in the woods or on log decks for longer than two or three months are likely to be colonized by various decay fungi. These fungi can rapidly degrade the wood and render it unusable. Prompt utilization or storage under a water spray should keep decay fungi at bay.



EXOTIC INVASIVE PLANTS

Another consideration related to storm-damaged timber is exotic invasive species. At least two alien plants that have become established in parts of East Texas may present additional concern following Hurricane Rita. Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) is well established in most East Texas counties. Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) is not as wide spread as Chinese tallow, but is spreading. Both plants are known to invade disturbed sites that are open to abundant sun light. The areas where timber stands were heavily damaged in southeast Texas will be especially vulnerable to invasion by Chinese tallow. Fire and herbicides will slow the spread and invasion of both of these species, but repeated treatments are required for complete control.

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NRCS Announces Second Round of Funding for Feral Swine Program Continued

Natural Resource Conservation Service

More Information

NRCS is now accepting proposals from non-federal, not-for-profit partners to provide landowner assistance for on-farm trapping and related services as part of the pilot projects described on the FSCP webpage NRCS will provide funding for these services through partnership agreements. The funding limit for a single award is \$1.5 million. NRCS may provide up to 75 percent of the costs for the partnership agreement. The remaining 25 percent must be committed by the partner through cash or in-kind contributions as listed in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Additional information on specific pilot projects, including target areas and the roles for which partner assistance is being requested, can be found on the [FSCP](#) webpage.

Applications must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#) by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Nov. 5, 2020. The opportunity number is USDA-NRCS-MULTI-FSCP-20-NOFO0001036.

Upcoming Events

October 28-29, 2020 Texas Forestry Association Virtual Annual Meeting- Register today at <https://tfaannualmeeting.com/>

November 1, 2020- Applications for forest thinning through Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program- Visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/SPB/> for more information

November 19-20, 2020- Texas Pro Logger Training- To register or find out more information visit https://www.texasforestry.org/news/texas_pro_logger_training_november_19_20_2020

What Texas Forestry Association (TFA) Does for You

TFA is a private, non-profit trade organization whose members grow, harvest and process forest resources. TFA works for your interests, your forests, your future. As your voice in Texas, TFA supports tax policies and legislation that encourage reforestation, ensure proper management practices and stabilize forestland ownership, and support private property rights. Primary activities are:

- Lobbies in Austin for environmental, forestry, and other regulatory issues affecting you and your timberlands.
- Supports pro-forestry state legislators through the Forestry Political Action Committee (FORPAC) and keeps contributors informed with government affairs updates.
- Assists with preserving the forest productivity tax law of Texas, and helps with timber classifications for taxation. Supports fair competition for your forest products at home and abroad.
- Provides rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing or vandalizing a TFA member's equipment, property or timber; or for arson in the forests.
- Publishes a monthly newspaper to keep you informed on forestry issues.
- Sponsors meetings and workshops to provide you with the latest information on forestry and related subjects.
- Provides education and offers youth programs to help teach our leaders of tomorrow that the forest community is environmentally responsible and an integral part of our daily lives.

Interested in joining? Contact TFA at www.texasforestry.org or 1903 Atkinson, Lufkin, TX 75902

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NETFLA WEB SITE

www.netxforest.org

Membership Meetings Are Being Postponed Due to the COVID-19 Virus

The health and well-being of every member is our first priority. Meetings will be rescheduled when conditions permit. We still plan on having Texas A&M Forest Service Law Enforcement present the next Program. The primary topic addressed will be "Timber Theft". The goal of the program will be to inform landowners of new regulations for selling timber in Texas, examples of how timber is being harvested without the landowner receiving full compensation, and best practices for minimizing the risk of theft.

The date and location of the next meeting will be communicated in a future Newsletter. Please do what you can to protect your health.

2021 Programs:

The Board is exploring several topics including pine seedling genetics, a tour of the Hixon lumber mill in Gilmer, feral hogs and an update of the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir for these meetings. Please contact an Officer or your County Director if you have an issue that you would like addressed at a future meeting.

NETFLA Contact and Membership Dues Information

Thank you for your NETFLA membership in past years. We hope that Newsletters, Programs and Quarterly Meetings have provided you with useful information that has helped you manage your timber property. We encourage you to continue your membership. Membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2020, you can renew at a meeting or mail your check to: **NETFLA, P.O. Box 343, Daingerfield, TX 75638-0343.** Thank you.

Contact: Judy Weiss (903) 645-3782, or e-mail gjweiss@windstream.net

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Social Media Resources

Texas A&M Forest Service on Facebook - @texasforests-service

Texas A&M Forest Service on Twitter - @TXForestService

TFS Pittsburg District on Twitter - @TFSPittsburg

Texas Forestry Association on Facebook - @TexasForestryAssociation

Texas Forestry Association on Twitter - @texasforestry

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