



**Title:** Development, Delivery and Evaluation of a Multi-Client Forestry BMP Education Program

**Name:** Jeffrey Stringer

**Email:** stringer@uky.edu

**Organization:** University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry

**State:** KY      **Region:** Southern

**Year of Funding:** 2000

**Theme:** Water Conservation and Agricultural Water Management

**Situation:** Legislative initiatives in Kentucky require that both landowners and loggers implement Agriculture and Forestry Best Management Practices for water quality protection. Education programs were required to quickly bring landowners, loggers and technical assistance providers up to speed on BMP issues. A coordinated education and training effort was developed and delivered to provide a common platform of understanding for all parties involved so that BMPs were effectively implemented.

**Objectives:** The overall objective of the project was to provide a coordinated education effort to increase the knowledge base of landowners, technical assistance providers and contractors regarding water quality, aquatic habitat, and best management practices in forestry. Working objectives include developing a coordinated educational program for each of the clientele groups with impacts geared towards behavioral change of landowners and loggers.

**Methods:** A specific educational program was developed for each clientele group including technical service providers, forest landowners, and timber harvesting contractors. BMP manuals and self-assessment guides were developed and a core curriculum was used in all programs to provide a unified platform of the issues for all parties engaged in forestry operations. Six regional training sites were developed for logger training and one statewide site was developed for technical service provider training.

**Partnerships:** Partners included the University of KY CES, both the Division of Forestry and Division of Water, and the KY Forest Industries Association. Associated partnering included associations of woodland owners and consulting foresters and US EPA.

**Research:** Included in all programs are research results from state and regional water quality and BMP research programs. Research findings were used to develop both mandated BMP standards and educational materials. As research is completed results are funneled directly into the curriculum of the programs and into Cooperative Extension Service publications. In the case of the Timber and Water training program for natural resource professionals the training incorporates visits to active research sites.

**Resources:** The project involves in-kind contributions from forest industry and private landowners. Forest industry provides \$35,000 annually, NIPF owners provide lands, and agencies and UK CES contributes approximately \$50,000.

**Results:** Instructional evaluations, pre- and post-program tests and post-program questionnaires are used to determine knowledge and behavioral change impacts. In total 5,256 loggers, 350 natural resource professionals and 400 landowners received on average 2.5 days of education and training. The program annually impacts 436,248 acres of NIP forests owned by 12,088 individuals, over 1.13 billion board feet of standing timber worth 164.7 million dollars to NIPF owners.



*The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the Environment, human health and well being, and communities.*

