

# Program Provides Forest Management Help

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvanians now have an opportunity to contribute to the perpetual health and productivity of the state's 16 million acres of forestland through Pennsylvania's Forest Stewardship Program.

"Forest Stewardship is a relatively new program in Pennsylvania — less than a year old," said Dr. Stephen Jones, assistant professor of forest resources at Penn State and one of the program's educational directors. "But if peo-

ple's response to the program approaches our expectations, it will have a highly positive impact on the future of the state's forests."

The Forest Stewardship Program provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to those who own or use the 12.5 million acres of privately held forestland throughout the state.

"Our theme, Forests for Life, is intended to make people aware of the many life-sustaining benefits that forestland provides and to

show them how forests can be managed to preserve those benefits both for today and for future generations," Jones said.

By enlisting the expertise of natural resource managers from diverse backgrounds, the program can show landowners how to manage their forests for multiple uses while preserving the land's productivity. "Over the years — and sometimes through past mistakes — we've learned a great deal about using forests for multiple benefits without destroying the complex and delicate balance among the plants, animals and natural forces in a forest ecosystem," Jones said.

"A forestland owner can reap the economic benefits from timbering without sacrificing the forest's other benefits, such as air and water purification, soil conservation, wildlife habitat and recreational and aesthetic values."

Jones hopes the program will bring at least a million acres of private forestland under stewardship management by the mid-1990s. "We are making people aware of the program and spreading the message that forests can be managed wisely for diverse benefits," Jones said.

"Another program component gives forestland owners technical and financial assistance in designing and implementing sound forest management plans. The more people who get involved in the program, the better chance Pennsylvania has to leave a legacy of healthy,

productive forests for future generations."

The Forest Stewardship Program is administered nationally by the USDA Forest Service. Pennsylvania's program is directed by the Department of Environmental Resources Bureau of Forestry with guidance from a statewide Forest Stewardship Steering Committee made up of representatives from cooperating public and private organizations throughout the state.

Penn State is developing the public awareness and educational aspects of the program.

Anyone who wants more information on Pennsylvania's Forest Stewardship Program can call a toll-free number, (800) 235-WISE, or write to Pennsylvania's Forest Stewardship Program, c/o Forest Resources Extension, The Pennsylvania State University, 110 Ferguson Building, University Parks PA 16802-4300.

## Fish, Wildlife Seminar

FOREST HILL, MD. — The Harford County Office of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service is sponsoring a Fish and Wildlife Management Seminar at the Southhampton Middle School on Saturday, March 7.

Robert Halman, county extension director and chairman of the seminar organization committee, said "Wildlife management is particularly important in areas like Harford County where increasing urbanization has reduced availability of habitat but residents still consider wildlife an important part of environmental quality."

Registration begins at 8 a.m. A \$5 fee covers program and literature expenses.

The morning program includes presentations on wildlife management and ecology, improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management incentive programs, and

planning for wildlife management on farms.

Topics for the afternoon program include pond management, income opportunities and insurance considerations, managing streams for trout habitat, and management of deer and turkey, waterfowl, and upland game.

The seminar will close with a panel discussion and question and answer period.

"This program will provide interested landowners with the information needed to make decisions about planning, and implementing and financing a wildlife management program," said Halman. "We encourage interested farmers, property owners, and anyone interested in wildlife and the environment to attend."

Further information can be obtained by calling the Harford Extension Office at (410) 838-6000, ext. 255.

## Pork Prose

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Dr. T. Veum and others at the University of Missouri recently demonstrated that composting works for dead hogs. They utilized empty pens (approx 6.5 feet x 9.5 feet) in an open front hog building. To each pen they added a layer of straw (about 5 pounds per square foot), then a layer of dead pigs, followed by a dry manure-straw mixture and another layer of straw equal to one half of the weight of dead pigs. The layers were repeated until a final depth of about 3 feet was reached.

During a recent phone conversation, Dr. Veum shared the positives and negatives of their results. Composting was complete with smaller pigs (only a brown spot remained); however, larger hogs and sows did not break down completely, he believes, because the mixture may have gotten a little too dry. Not a single rodent was observed, but when the mixture was loaded onto the spreader at the end, there were lots of cockroaches.

He thought that 30 days would be enough to compost a batch after the last material is added, and he was even optimistic that the process would generate enough heat

to keep it going through the winter months.

### Summary

1. For large operations, sending pigs to the renderer continues to be the most economical and practical means for dead animal disposal. However, as rendering costs rise and the market value for rendered material shrinks, producers may need to consider alternatives.

2. Incineration is both effective and convenient, but it's also costly.

3. Burial is currently legal, but when done on a large scale, it probably threatens our ground water supplies.

4. Composting works, and with a little innovation, it may catch on in the years to come.

### References

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Ramamurthy, K. 1989. Recommended Criteria for Crematory Incinerators. Internal memo to Engineering Service Chiefs, Department of Environmental Resources, April 17, 1989.



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