



Woodland News

Obtaining a Forest Stewardship Management Plan

The first step in becoming a forest steward is obtaining a Forest Stewardship Management Plan. Once a landowner has this

stewardship plan, he or she is able to participate in other cost-share practices available under the Stewardship Incentive Program. The stewardship plan will essentially describe the woodlot, help the

landowner know what practices need to be done, where these activities need to be done, and when they should be done in order to meet the objectives established for the woodlot.

To obtain a stewardship plan the first thing that a landowner needs to do is get in touch with the local Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry Service Forester. The service forester will discuss the woods with the landowner and will fill out a questionnaire with the landowner that will help in determining the appropriate objectives.

After meeting with the service forester and if cost share-assistance is desired through the stewardship incentive program, the landowner will need to complete the necessary paper work at

the county ASCS office. The service forester, meanwhile, will complete some preliminary information on the property that will be included in the final stewardship plan. When the landowner is notified that his or her application has been approved, the service forester will provide a list of resources professionals that have completed the necessary training and have met the educational and experience standards set by the Bureau of Forestry. The landowner will choose the resource professionals needed to complete the plan (a forester must be one of the individuals preparing the plan, other individuals such as a wildlife biologist can co-author a plan).

The landowner should meet with the resources professionals chosen to complete the stewardship plan and discuss with them

the goals he or she has. The landowner should meet with the professionals as often as needed in plan preparation. A landowner should never accept a plan he or she is not happy with.

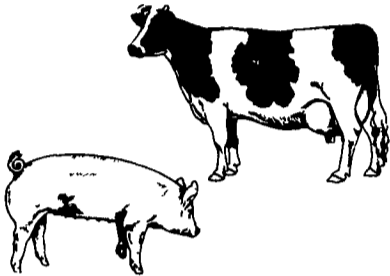
When the plan is completed the landowner should submit the plan to the service forester for approval. When it is approved the individual will pay the resource professionals in full and then the landowner will receive reimbursement from the ASCS according to the appropriate schedule. A landowner that has a completed approved stewardship plan will receive a Stewardship Forest sign that should be displayed at the entrance to the property. This completed plan should be referred to often, as it can only be a useful tool if its recommendations are carried out as much as possible.

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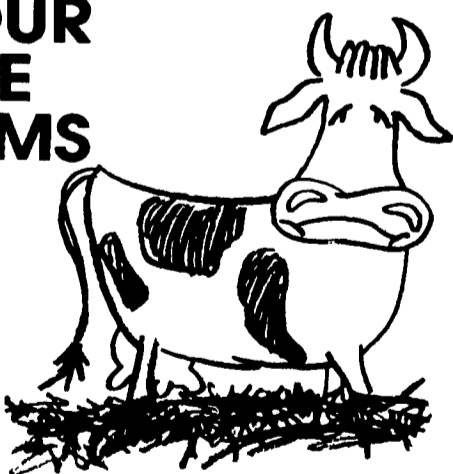
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