

Logger Certification Program Promises To Be Forest-Friendly

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Lancaster Farming Staff
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — To counter a growing anti-logger sentiment prevalent with environmentalists and to help ensure an environmentally friendly approach which slowly earns the respect of woodland landowners, a new program helps to focus on improved training for loggers.

The program, called the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) of Pennsylvania, began in April last year. SFI, based in State College, is a program sponsored through the state's 140-member Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association in Lebanon. To date, 1,353 loggers have participated in some level of training, according to Ken Manno, SFI program manager.

The program is "trying to ensure the future well-being and viability of the forest products industry," noted Manno.

Manno indicated that the environmentally concerned program is put in place to ensure the vitality of the \$5 billion forest products industry — the fourth largest industry in Pennsylvania, he said, which employs a little less than 100,000 people.

The four-part program, for logging manufacturing representa-

tives, is underwritten by SFI at a cost of \$10 per course per person. Actual cost, with help from the industries, is about \$25 per person per course. The courses are divided into four parts, eight hours in length. The entire program takes about 18 months to complete.

"Timber harvesting can be done in an environmentally sound manner and provide a crop of timber for today and tomorrow," said Charles Brown, district manager for Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company in Spring Grove and training coordinator for the SFI in the state's southeast region.

Brown addressed some of the concerns the SFI has for landowners who are thinking about logging. Landowners should consider those best management practices (BMPs), the "scientific tools," the SFI noted, designed to help forest landowners, foresters, and timber harvesters practice good forest management.

Brown said that, sometimes, landowners don't "think through what they're doing," often randomly selecting timber to harvest and perhaps going about it the wrong way.

He noted that stumpage prices can be high for certain types of wood, such as red oak — a value

anywhere from \$500-\$1,000 or more on the stump. A landowner may enter the woodland and decide to harvest only the red oak and leave the red maple and other "junk" species behind.

How does the landowner log the area successfully? What's the owner to do to prevent soil erosion? What kind of shape should the area be left in — and what about the viability of other tree species? And can the landowner log it safely and correctly? Those are questions the SFI hopes to answer.

There are four components to SFI certification, said Brown:

- Safety. The training, an eight-hour course, discusses the hazards and provides detailed instruction on how to harvest timber safely.
- Business management and forestry. This eight-hour course details how to plan forest management and how to determine forest values.
- Environmental logging. This eight-hour session provides information on forest operations and the mandatory requirements which may apply. This course also provides information on erosion and sedimentation control.
- First aid and CPR. This last segment, also an eight-hour

course, shows what to do in an emergency.

The BMPs of forest management are provided by the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA), the national organization based in Washington, D.C. Other information is supplied by Penn State Cooperative Extension Forest Resources, University Park, the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Committee of the American Forest Foundation, Washington, D.C., and the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program or the DCNR Bureau of Forestry in Harrisburg.

According to Brown, one recent certification training seminar in Breezewood included a group of less than 30 loggers and foresters. Most of the group consisted of logging contractors, including the owner of a business, truck drivers, field operators, and others. Another session is scheduled on environmental logging in Chambersburg May 18.

Similar sessions are being conducted in Dauphin and other areas.

Brown noted that the SFI has not taken a "crash-type" mentality like other companies who mandate training to stay on the job. Instead, SFI has used a measured, flexible, open approach — encouraging loggers to become involved and

not mandating the program.

The program also uses the resources by various professionals, including foresters, conservationists, business managers, environmental loggers, and others to help those who enroll complete the program.

Additional training on top of the certification is being planned, according to Manno of SFI.

For more information, contact Charles R. Brown at The Glatfelter Pulpwood Company, 228 South Main St., Spring Grove, PA 17362, (717) 225-4711 or Ken Manno, SFI of Pa., 315 S. Allen St., Suite 222, State College, PA 16801, (814) 867-9299 or toll-free at (888) 734-9356.

Foundation Elects Chairman

ARLINGTON, Va. — Donald W. Hecht, director of sale and marketing for Elanco Animal Health, a subsidiary of Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, Ind., was elected by the Animal Industry Foundation (AIF) board of trustees to serve as chair at its April 23 meeting. Hecht takes over the reigns from Purina Mills, Inc.'s President David Abbott.

Hecht began his career with Elanco in 1971, and has a diverse background in sales, marketing, and corporate management. Having started in sales and marketing, he then became the director of personnel for Lilly's Geneva Switzerland Operations in 1985. He returned to the U.S. in 1987 to become the director of worldwide business planning for the Elanco Animal Health Operations



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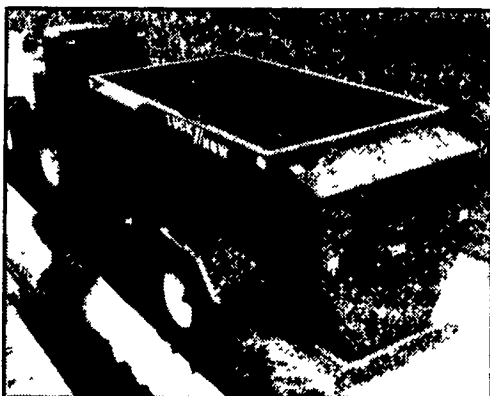
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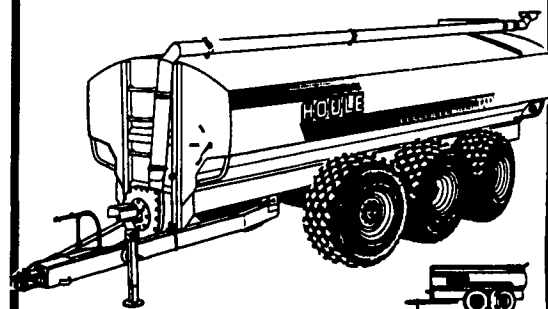
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