

TEXAS CLIMATE SMART INITIATIVE



CARBON-FOCUSED FORESTRY COST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CLIMATESMART.TAMU.EDU

CHEMICAL COMPETITION CONTROL REIMBURSEMENT RATE = \$105/ACRE

OVERVIEW

The Texas Climate-Smart Initiative is a 5-year financial incentives program made possible by the USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities grant. The incentives program provides funds to non-industrial, private, small-acreage landowners to conduct science-based, **Carbon-Focused Forest (CFF)** management practices to establish new forest stands, improve the health and vigor of existing stands, and/or encourage holistic forest management upon the landscape.

CLIMATE-SMART

The term climate-smart commodity refers to an agricultural commodity that is produced using farming practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon. Sustainable forest management is climate-smart, but there is always room for improvement. CFF focuses specifically on those improvements required to maximize carbon capture while, at the same time, producing quality wood fiber for the timber industry.

This program serves as a financial incentive to landowners to implement the following CFF practices at the stated reimbursement rates.

Controlling unwanted competition is an essential management operation. Forest research shows that competition control provides the greatest benefit to the survival and growth of planted seedlings relative to any other silvicultural (forest management) methods available. One of the primary methods to control competition is through the use of chemical herbicides.

Knowing whether your crop species is hardwood or pine is simply not enough to determine an herbicide prescription. Determining the exact species is crucial. Understanding that differences exist between pine species regarding establishment methods, response to competition and variation in sensitivity to herbicides is essential to selecting a proper prescription. Similarly, different hardwood species respond differently to herbicides. Several herbicides have been evaluated for use with oaks. However, less information is available for other hardwood species.

Just as with knowing the crop species, the proper herbicide prescription requires proper identification of the competing weed species which fall into four

primary groups: grasses, woody plants, broadleaf weeds, and vines. Herbicide treatments may be conducted

- During site preparation prior to the planting of the crop trees;
- As a Herbaceous Weed Control (HWC) during the first growing season following planting;

TEXAS
CLIMATE-SMART INITIATIVE
CROPS · FORESTRY · LIVESTOCK

- as a Early Rotation Release from Woody Plants made in young, pre-commercial stands;
- Mid-Rotation or Late-Rotation Release from Woody Plants to benefit tree growth and/or reduce site preparation intensity following the final harvest; or
- Any combination of the above.

CHEMICAL COMPETITION CONTROL CRITERIA

This Forest Management Reimbursement Program requires that the landowner agrees to the following:

- Use an approved prescription such as those provided in the Forestry Herbicide Prescription: Western Gulf Region manual (MP553) or the corresponding website <https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/HerbicideDSS/>
- Banded and ground applications will be prioritized. Vendors should specify the herbicide application process (e.g. broadcast vs. banded).
- Demonstrate that the use of heavy equipment will be minimized.
- Follow the manufacturer's label and Texas Forestry Best Management Practices
- Herbicide applications must be applied by a Texas Licensed Pesticide Applicator.
- Work with a degreed/certified consultant forester.
- Follow Best Management Practices.



GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Participants must

- Be a private, non-industrial, small-parcel landowner with a total treatment area between 15 and 125 acres in one of the counties identified on the following map. Priority will be given to small-acreage landowners with a total ownership of 50 acres or less,
- Have a Farm Service Number, meet environmental compliance, and provide required documentation,
- Allow for scheduled soil sampling before, during and after practice implementation,
- Maintain treatment area for a period of 5 years,
- Enroll in one and only one practice per application,
- Not begin work until “Approval to Perform Letter” is provided to the participant, and
- Not apply for Texas Climate Smart Initiative funds and other state/federal funds for the same practice on the same acre.

ENROLLMENT STEPS

- Submit an application at <https://climatesmart.tamu.edu>
- Work with a degreed/certified forester to create a Forest Practice Plan of Work and a treatment area map.
- Obtain a Farm Number with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and acquire copies of a FSA Tract Map and a FSA Subsidiary Print.
- Submit the following four documents to txclimatesmart@tfs.tamu.edu.
 1. Forest Practice Plan of Work.
 2. FSA Tract Map.
 3. Treatment area map.
 4. FSA Subsidiary Print
- Schedule a site visit with the Texas A&M Forest Service.

All applications must be scanned and submitted as a single PDF. Paper, faxed, mailed applications, and JPEG images will not be accepted. Please ensure all required documentation is included. The treatment area map must be current and feature base satellite imagery.

IF APPLICANT IS SELECTED

- An Environmental Evaluation will be conducted which does not usually require a site visit,
- The applicant will receive a contract to be reviewed, signed and returned,
- The applicant will receive an “Approval to Perform” letter which requires the treatment be completed within 12 months,
- The applicant will work with a forester and submit a Forest Stewardship Plan during the open contract, and
- The completed work will be inspected and verified before an incentive payment will be processed.

The content provided above lists only general information about the Texas Climate-Smart Initiative financial assistance program. The official contract agreement supersedes any information provided in this document.

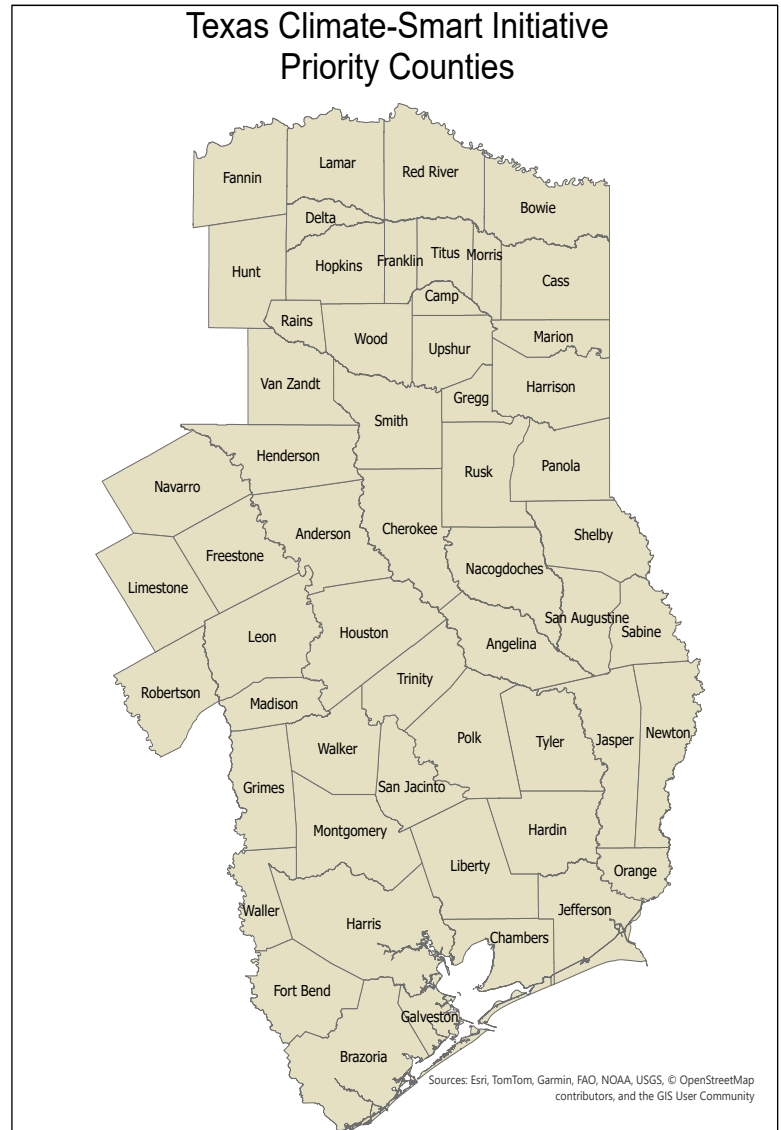
ESTABLISHING FARM RECORDS WITH THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Texas Climate Smart Initiative requires landowners to have or establish farm records with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency. A farm record creates a unique farm and tract number for your agricultural operation and ensures environmental compliance is met.

The following information is a guideline to establishing farm records. For complete information visit <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers>

Steps to Creating a Farm Service Number:

- Find Your Local Service Center. Visit <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers>
- Call or email your Service Center to make an appointment.
- Ask what documents to bring to your appointment.
- During your appointment make sure to register for a farm number and file form AD- 1026 (Wetland Conservation and Highly Erodible Land Conservation).
- Obtain a copy of a Farm Tract Map and a copy of a Subsidiary Print. These copies are required for the Texas Climate Smart Initiative.



For detailed information visit: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/climatesmart.aspx>

Questions: txclimatesmart@tfs.tamu.edu





TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE

FOREST PRACTICE PLAN OF WORK

CHEMICAL COMPETITION CONTROL

For TAMFS use only	
Project name:	
Received Date:	
TAMFS Forester:	
Pretreat Date Inspected:	
Post-Treat Inspection Date:	

CONTACT INFORMATION

LANDOWNER'S LEGAL NAME	MANAGER'S NAME	CONTRACTOR'S NAME
COMPANY NAME	COMPANY NAME	COMPANY NAME
MAILING ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP	CITY/STATE/ZIP	CITY/STATE/ZIP
PHONE	PHONE	PHONE
EMAIL	EMAIL	EMAIL

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

TRACT NAME	ADDRESS	COUNTY	TOTAL ACREAGE
PERCENT PINE COMPONENT	CURRENT BASAL AREA	PRIMARY SOIL TYPE	STAND AGE / SITE INDEX
		TREATMENT ACRES	TOTAL REQUESTED
PROPERTY LOCATION (Include the nearest cross roads, how to access, and lat/long coordinates to tract center)			
SITE DESCRIPTION AND CURRENT CONDITIONS (Understory composition, structure, ladder fuels, target weed species)			

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PLAN OF WORK

In the space provided, list the management activities addressing the Chemical Competition Control Criteria. Prioritize carbon-focused strategies where applicable. Explain deviations from above listed criteria if necessary.

DESCRIBE THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY OBJECTIVE OF THIS ACTIVITY: (Reduce understory fuel loading; reduce competition for nutrients, light, space, and water; decrease wildfire risk; increase health and vigor of stand)
DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF TREATMENT: <input type="checkbox"/> Herbaceous weed control during first growing season <input type="checkbox"/> Early rotation release from woody plants in young pre-commercial stands <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-rotation or late-rotation release from woody plants <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please describe:
DESCRIBE THE APPLICATION PROCESS: (Refer to outlined Criteria) <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast <input type="checkbox"/> Banded <input type="checkbox"/> Single Stem <input type="checkbox"/> Other- Please Describe
DESCRIBE APPLICATION EQUIPMENT: (Refer to outlined Criteria) <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack <input type="checkbox"/> UTV/ATV <input type="checkbox"/> Skidder <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial <input type="checkbox"/> Other- Please Describe
DEFINE THE HERBICIDE PRESCRIPTION: (Visit https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/HerbicideDSS)
DESCRIBE THE TIMING OF APPLICATION:
WILL A TEXAS LICENSED PESTICIDE APPLICATOR BE OVERSEEING THE APPLICATION? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
LIST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BE CONDUCTED FOLLOWING THIS ACTIVITY:

By signing this document in the space provided below, I'm acknowledging that I agree with the following:

- ✓ I worked with a degreed forester to complete this forest practice plan of work, and
- ✓ To the best of my knowledge, this plan of work accurately represents the work that I intend to conduct on the property.

Landowner Signature: _____



Please submit the following to txclimatesmart@tfs.tamu.edu

- Forest Management Plan of Work
- Treatment Area Map
- Farm Service Agency Tract Map
- Farm Service Agency Subsidiary Print