

TEXAS CLIMATE SMART INITIATIVE



CARBON-FOCUSED FORESTRY COST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CLIMATESMART.TAMU.EDU

PRESCRIBED BURN

REIMBURSEMENT = \$2,250 / APPLICANT

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.

East Texas forests are fire-adapted ecosystems dependent on a frequent, low-intensity fire regime. While a prescribed burn does release some carbon into the environment, prescribed fire when implemented by a skilled and trained professional can be used to manage undesirable vegetation, improve wildlife habitat, soil health, and forest health while reducing the risk of a catastrophic wildfire.

After many years of fire exclusion, many forests have become unhealthy. Trees become stressed by overcrowding, fire-dependent species disappear, and flammable fuels build up and become hazardous. The proper and prudent management of these flammable fuels is key to maintain forest health.

Prescribed burns mimic the natural process of fire dependent ecosystems but in a controlled and planned manner. Over the life span of a typical forest, regular prescribed burns sustains the forest's carbon sequestration potential while, at the same time,

nurturing high-quality timber that is used for long-lived lumber products storing the captured atmospheric carbon for a long time.

TEXAS
CLIMATE-SMART INITIATIVE
CROPS · FORESTRY · LIVESTOCK

Carbon Focused Forestry Prescribed Burn treatments follow the basic criteria set forth under Conservation Practice Standard (CSP) Code 666-Forest Stand Improvement and CPS Code 338 Prescribed Burning as defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These criteria will be used in conjunction with the Carbon Focused Forestry Prescribed Burn Criteria.

PRESCRIBED BURN CRITERIA

This Forest Management Reimbursement Program requires that:

- Participants work with a licensed Texas Department of Agricultural (TDA) Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager (CIPBM).
- CIPBMs notify Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) at least 24 hours prior to the prescribed burn ignition. Contractor should email txclimatesmart@tfs.tamu.edu with notification. This notification does not represent: an approval by TAMFS of the safety of the project, any review of environmental conditions, or liability for the burn manager's decision to conduct the prescribed burn.
- CIPBMs notify TAMFS immediately after the prescribed burn and provide the number of acres that was treated and will be billed to the landowner. TAMFS will conduct a post burn inspection to verify the treatment acreage.
- All parties follow Texas 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.

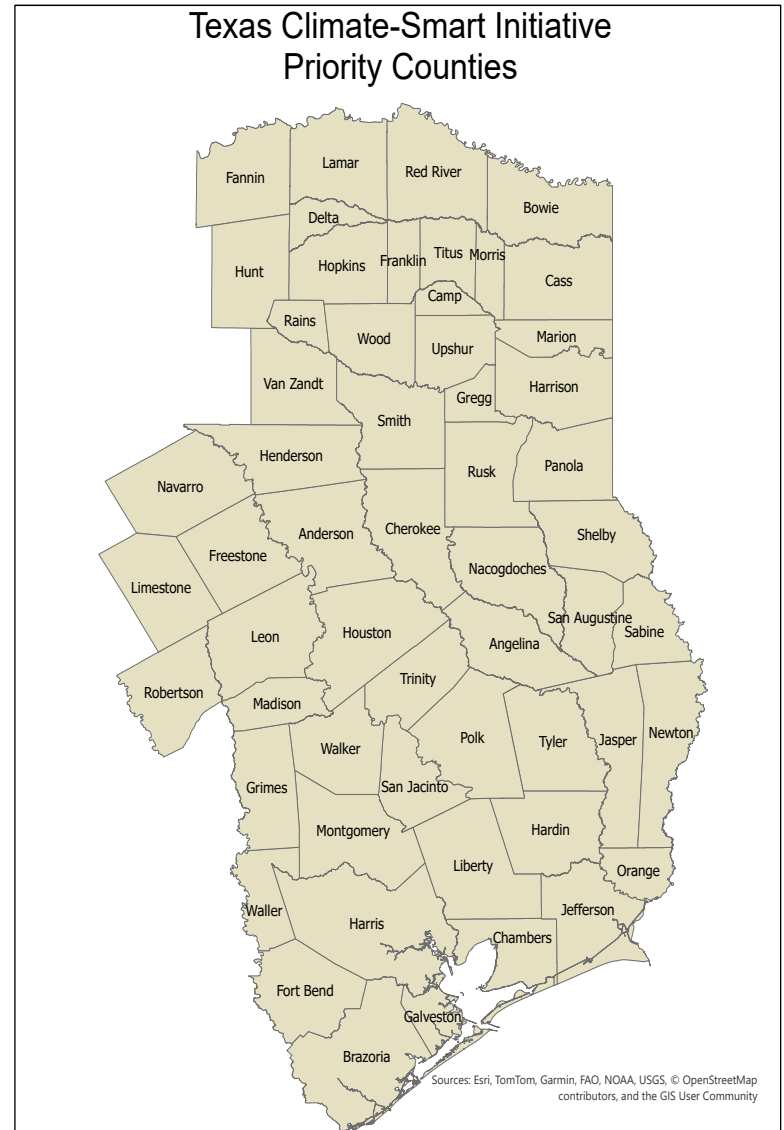
ESTABLISHING FARM RECORDS WITH THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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**

PRESCRIBED BURN

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	CERTIFIED BURN MANAGER'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	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)			
GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION AND CURRENT CONDITIONS (understory vegetation composition and fuel loading)			

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Utilize the area provided to outline the proposed activities for this management practice. Descriptions should adhere to the prescribed burn criteria.

Note: Although this program does not require the submission of a prescribed burn plan with the application, it does require the use of a Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager (CIPBM). Before each prescribed burn, a CIPBM must draft a plan, ensuring the burn remains within the designated area and aligns with management goals. Failure to utilize a CIPBM results in application rejection and/or forfeiture of reimbursement rights.

DESCRIBE THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THIS ACTIVITY:
HOW WILL THIS ACTIVITY IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND VIGOR OF THE STAND?
WILL THIS BE A WARM SEASON OR COOL SEASON BURN?
LIST POST-BURN SILVICULTURAL ACTIVITIES:
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SITE OR HOW THE PRACTICE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:
HOW WILL THE PRESCRIBED BURN CRITERIA BE IMPLEMENTED?

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

- I worked with a degreed/certified 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's 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