



December 14, 2020

Welcome to the first Bertie County Woodlands newsletter! My name is Billy Barrow, and I am the County Extension Director in Bertie County. I will be writing this letter along with the input from Mike Hoggard, Bertie County Ranger, N.C. Forest Service. The intention of this letter is to inform Woodland Owners of upcoming events and timely educational topics. You can expect it to evolve over time as we get input and feedback from you, the community.

Annual Meeting Goes Virtual! That's right, given the current impact COVID is having on our county and state, the forestry planning committee decided it was best to cancel our in-person meeting (and dinner) and to move to a live video format. Mark your calendars, for January 21st, at 10 a.m. Our meeting will be held through Zoom (see below on how to sign in). The N.C. Forest Service will recap activities of the past year and N.C. State Extension Forestry Specialists will present information on selling your timber, market conditions, local prices and timberland valuation. This will be followed by information on forestry plans and why they are important. Each session will last about 20 minutes and be recorded for viewing at a later date for those unable to attend at the designated time.

What is Zoom and how do I find it? In order to attend the live virtual Zoom meeting, you will need several things. First you will need a computer or a smart phone and internet access. Second you will need to download Zoom, the program over which the meeting will be delivered. You can download this for free by going to <https://zoom.us/download>. If you have used Zoom before then you can skip this step. Next you will need to register for the session. Please call our office for the registration link. You will be asked to enter your name and an email address. With that you are set. On January 21st, click on the supplied link and you will be asked if you want to join the session. Just accept and you should be set. Please login to the meeting about 10 minutes before the 10:00 hour. This will give time to correct any issues that may pop up. We are planning to record the sessions and will make available soon after the event. This information will be emailed so please return the enclosed card.

Updated mailing list. Each year we get several letters returned for various reasons or find that there are duplications sent out. To help us get a more accurate mailing list please fill out and return the enclosed card to our office or call us at 252-794-5317 or email us at scpowell@ncsu.edu. While we will continue to send out paper notices, one item we are asking for is an **email address** which is a quicker, more efficient way to send you updates. **Please give us a call at 252-794-5317, email us at scpowell@ncsu.edu, or return the cards by January 15, 2021.**

Billy Barrow

Billy Barrow
Bertie County Extension Director

Mike Hoggard

Mike Hoggard
Bertie County Ranger



Timber Prices. Timber prices continue to vary by season, type, species and location. Listed below is a recap of timber prices in eastern NC over the last 20 years. Eastern NC is defined as the area east of and including Granville, Wake, Lee, Moore, Richmond and Anson counties. Highlighted in each column are the highest and lowest prices for that type. The average for each category is also calculated as well as the percent of the highest price represented by the average in each category. Final figures for 2020 are not yet available but the average for the first three quarters is also listed.

	Pine Saw Timber \$ per 1000 bd feet	Pine Pulpwood \$ per cord	Mixed Hardwood \$ per 1000 bd feet	Hardwood Pulp \$ per cord
2000	345	19.56	176	9.26
2001	332	17.25	202	8.87
2002	317	15.25	194	7.7
2003	292	17.62	206	13.18
2004	286	16.94	203	8.63
2005	299	17.46	199	9.43
2006	309	17.25	221	8.98
2007	297	18.25	195	12.83
2008	262	18.42	168	15.18
2009	220	18.94	157	14.43
2010	247	23.9	190	16.3
2011	209	19.1	177	13.43
2012	203	20.53	175	10.43
2013	217	24.81	232	13.82
2014	212	24.09	242	14.92
2015	201	25.69	249	17.92
2016	221	34.44	241	12.93
2017	205	36.71	229	9.54
2018	211	36.7	237	7.86
2019	254	28.47	233	14.08
AVG	256.95	22.569	206.3	11.986
Percent of High	74	61	83	79
1st 3 qtr. 2020	171.7	23.38	194.19	14.47

Source: Timber-Mart South

Volunteer Ag District. Did you know Bertie County is considered a Volunteer Ag District? That's right the whole County. Agriculture is an important part of our heritage and economic growth and its worth protecting. By participating in this program, you identify your farm or woodland in such a manner that anyone moving into the area is aware of your operation and the operational aspects i.e., harvesting noise, livestock production odors, dust etc. that typically go along with farming crops and timber. Having done this there should be no surprises or complaints from any new neighbors moving to your community. If you would like more information please call our office at 252 794-5317.

Farmland Preservation Program. Do you have the dream of keeping your property in agricultural production forever? North Carolina ranks 30th in the nation in total agricultural acreage but 2nd in the number of agricultural acres lost compared to all other states. Granted a lot of this is lost in more urban counties to development but there are losses in Bertie as well. One of the fastest growing trends is the loss of land to large lot housing developments or mini farms. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA &CS) offers assistance to keep land in agricultural production (row crop as well as timber production) through the purchase of conservation easements. With this program, property owners convey a permanent easement to the state in return for predetermined compensation. This compensation is based on the value of the potential development rights of the individual tract. In some cases, NCDA&CS may partner with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Air Force to increase the compensation amounts if the property's location is favorable. If you would like to learn more about this program or the Bertie County Voluntary Ag District, please give our office a call at 252 794-5317.

Financial Assistance. Financial Assistance is available to woodland owners through several programs. These are listed below. For information on these programs contact Alton Perry, Program Manager, Roanoke Electric Cooperative's Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project, at 252 539-4614. In addition, U.S. Department of Agriculture **Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)** is accepting applications for their Conservation Stewardship Program. These can be used to install conservation practices on your property. You can contact them directly at 252 794-5305. Ask for Mike Champion, Resource Conservationist (USDA-NRCS), or Vic Thompson, Bertie County Soil and Water Conservation District Ag Cost-Share Technician.

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FORESTRY NEWS



Information for You to Use and Share

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance for forest landowners is available through several programs at this time.

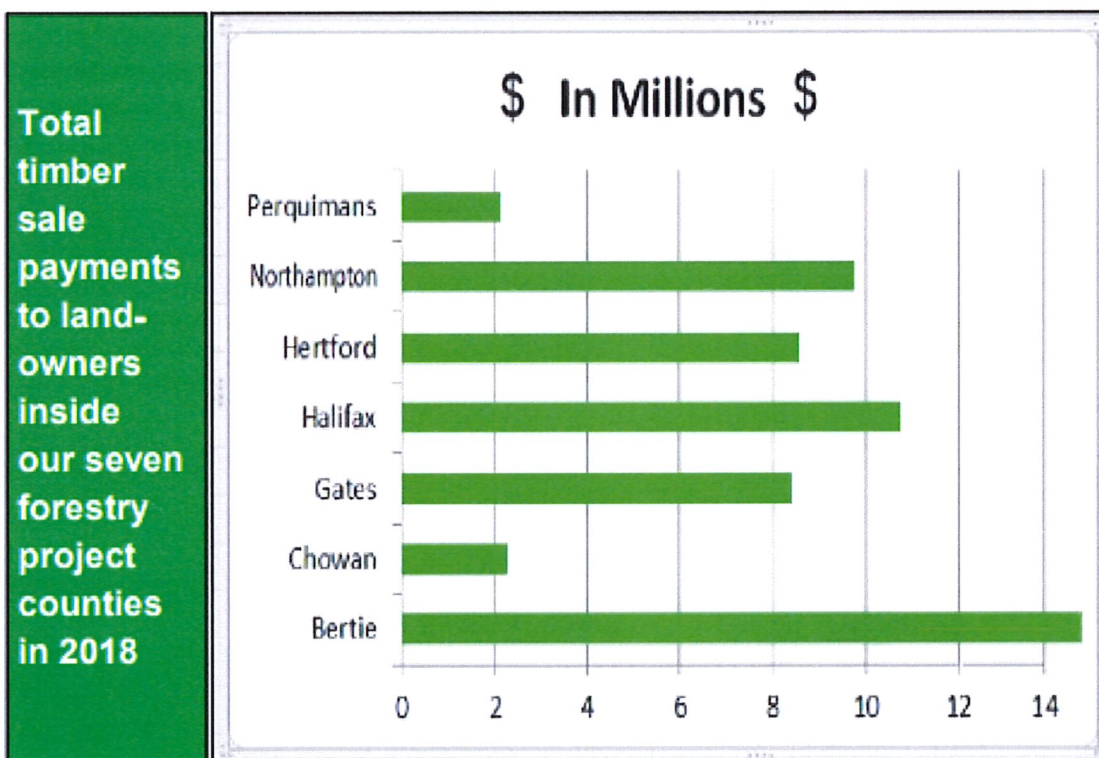
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- NC Forest Service Stewardship Incentive Program
- AgPrime Grant through the University of Mount Olive
- Forest Stewards Guild and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Program
- Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project

For details on these opportunities, phone **252-539-4614**
or email Program Manager Alton Perry
aperry@roanokeelectric.com

Quick Forestry Facts. Below are several interesting facts about the forestry industry in the seven-county areas surrounding Bertie County provided through a news release from Alton Perry.

Did You Know...?

- ◆ Private landowners in our seven-county area received about \$56 million for their timber sales in 2018
- ◆ The forest sector contributed nearly \$700 million to the economies of the counties in our project area in 2018
- ◆ Nearly 2,500 forestry jobs existed in our project area in 2018



Source: North Carolina State University Extension Forestry, <https://forestry.ces.ncsu.edu/economic-impact-data/> ; <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/nc-timber-income-2018>