

# Family Forest Carbon Program

# Practice Overview

Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia & Virginia

The **Family Forest Carbon Program** provides America's family forest owners with resources and payments to manage their land with climate-friendly sustainable practices that help grow more resilient forests, conserve biodiversity, add value to timber stands, and mitigate climate impacts. The practice available to landowners in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia is called *Growing Mature Forests*.

## Premium Program Option Available:

Interested in receiving higher payments and access to federal assistance programs? If you have a Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm & Tract Number or are willing to get one, you can qualify for our premier practice option. Getting an FSA number increases the dollar amount you receive through the Family Forest Carbon Program, and we can help you find even more programs that may benefit you.

## Benefits of Enrollment:

- Expert guidance from a professional forester to help you achieve your goals for your woodland.
- Financial assistance to develop a forest management plan, or update your existing plan to comply with the program.
- Annual payments that can help cover the cost of owning and maintaining your land throughout the 20-year contract term.
- Management flexibility to harvest sustainably, including a firewood allowance based on acreage.
- Continued privacy and ownership of your land, without restrictions on recreational activities such as hunting and fishing.
- A community of likeminded landowners committed to caring for their forests and the planet.

## Payment Terms & Calculations:

- **Contract Term:** 20 years
- The current payment for this practice is \$230/acre over the contract period.

*\*For landowners with an FSA Farm & Tract Number, we can offer a 20% higher premium payment to help you reach your woodland goals. Our team can provide more details and advise you on the process when you schedule a call.*

- **Program Payment Schedule:**

Project Year	% of Total
Payment 1 (issued within 60 days of signature)	20%
Annual Payment in Years 2-8	3%
Annual Payment in Years 9-14	4%
Annual Payment in Years 15-19	5%
Payment in Year 20	10%

- **Forest Management Plans:**

- If you don't have a plan, the Family Forest Carbon Program will provide you with financial support to develop a plan that is consistent with the program.
- If you already have a forest management plan, the Family Forest Carbon Program will support you in updating your plan when it is 10 years old.

*\*Disclaimer: This practice overview is not intended to address every aspect of enrollment in the Family Forest Carbon Program. Complete terms and conditions are detailed in the enrollment contract.*

1

### Confirm Eligibility

Use our secure online mapping tool to find your property and learn whether you are likely to qualify.

2

### Meet Our Team

Schedule a call with our team to discuss your goals, answer any questions you have, and determine next steps for enrollment.

3

### Offer and Enrollment

You'll receive payment terms and a complete contract to review before enrollment. Then, we'll send you your first payment!

Learn more and get started at [familyforestcarbon.org](http://familyforestcarbon.org)



American Forest Foundation

The Nature Conservancy  
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

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### Growing Mature Forests:

The Growing Mature Forests practice is designed to allow your forest to grow older and larger trees than average forests in your local area. This practice promotes long-term forest health improves habitat for the numerous wildlife species that rely on mature forests, and increases the commercial and environmental value of the woodland while allowing you to maintain a working forest.

### General Eligibility Requirements:

- Enroll at least 30 acres of forest land in the project. You may enroll all or part of your property.
- Hardwood forests must be naturally occurring (i.e. no plantations).
- Forests must meet stocking level required of 4 MBF (4,000 board feet) per acre.
- The project area cannot be subject to any existing legal encumbrance that restricts timber harvest activity.

### Firewood Allowance:

Project Area Size (Acres)	Max Cords Per Year
30-199	5
200-299	10
300-299	15
400-499	20
500+	25

### Management Requirements:

- Harvesting is not required. If you choose to conduct a timber harvest, it must not remove more than 25% of the basal area per acre. Basal area is measured by your forester and is the cross-sectional area of trees at breast height. If multiple harvests occur, the cumulative percentage of basal area removed shall not exceed 25% of the initial basal area per acre.
- High-grading is prohibited during the contract period. high-grading is defined as a reduction in quadratic mean tree diameter of more than 10% from the pre-harvest condition.
- In a year in which a commercial timber harvest has taken place, you will provide the Family Forest Carbon Program with pre- and post-harvest basal area stocking and quadratic mean diameter. Your forester can help you submit this report.



Learn more and get started at  
[familyforestcarbon.org](https://familyforestcarbon.org)



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