

FY 2010 PROPOSED WORK PLAN

As presented to the Forest Health Cooperative
Advisory Committee

Dr. Lori G Eckhardt - Director

11/17/2009

AUBURN UNIVERSITY - FOREST HEALTH COOPERATIVE

FY 2010 WORK PLAN

GOAL A: RESEARCH

Objective 1. Identify research projects

Proposed FY2010:

1. Delineating loblolly pine decline in the Southeast using FHM/FIA data – submitted to FHM, USFS for all travel and supplies associated with the project – \$34,592 - *Pending Decision*

Newly Funded FY2010:

1. Cogongrass and ecologically based weed management strategies: Impacts on insect diversity and pine decline in the southeastern United States – Funded through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant (3 years) \$490,000

Proposed and Approved FY09:

1. Delineating loblolly pine decline in the Southeast using county survey and FHM/FIA data
2. *Hylastes* population dynamics and forest health evaluation in association with thinning and harvesting
3. Resistance of *Pinus taeda* families under artificial inoculations with native and non-native *Leptographium* species involved in premature mortality

Funded FY09:

1. *Hylastes* population dynamics and forest health evaluation in association with thinning and fertilization – Funded through the Nutrition Cooperative \$16,230 and SFWS \$54,300
2. Blue-stain fungi associated with feral hogs causing rooting damage in longleaf and loblolly pine stands – Funded through US Army \$25,000, SFWS \$10,000 and FABI \$100,000.

Objective 2. Recruit graduate students

There were openings for 3 graduate students in the Coop: 1 provided by the Coop budget and 2 provided by SFWS for projects beginning FY09. Two of these positions have been filled.

1. Bikash Bhandari - Delineating loblolly pine decline in the Southeast using county survey and FHM/FIA data

2. Yuan Zeng - *Hylastes* population dynamics and forest health evaluation in association with thinning and harvesting
3. Open

There is a graduate student opening for the AFRI project which has been filled.

1. Yingqian Lin – Resistance of *Pinus taeda* families under artificial inoculations with native and non-native *Leptographium* species involved in premature mortality.

Objective 3. Initiate research projects

Determine location, cooperators, and set up research plots dependent upon projects chosen by the membership.

1. *Hylastes* population dynamics and forest health evaluation in association with thinning and harvesting. Plots have been installed in Georgia on Rayonier and F&W properties, in Alabama on Weyerhaeuser, Westervelt and Sizemore & Sizemore properties.
2. Cogongrass and ecologically based weed management strategies: Impacts on insect diversity and pine decline in the southeastern United States. Data about possible research stands is currently being collected. Stands will be visited in December and plots installed in January. Current members with possible available stands are Rayonier, Delaney Development Inc, Sizemore & Sizemore, Forest Investment Associates, and Westervelt.
3. Delineating loblolly pine decline in the Southeast using county survey and FHM/FIA data. Data retrieval has recently been approved by FIA and an account set up to access all FHM data from FIA database for the southeastern states.
4. Resistance of *Pinus taeda* families under artificial inoculations with native and non-native *Leptographium* species involved in premature mortality. Working with the Tree Improvement Cooperative to determine families to be tested for tolerance/resistance.

GOAL B: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Objective 1. Serve as a clearinghouse of information related to forest health issues.

The Forest Health Cooperative Staff will continue to update the Forest Health Cooperative website for use by Forest Health Cooperative Members.

Objective 2. Efficiently and regularly transfer the results of cooperative research to the membership.

Research Reports – We plan on producing Research Reports and Technical Notes in FY10 now that research projects are underway.

Newsletters – Newsletter distribution will be planned for March and September FY2010. Members are encouraged to submit articles.

Objective 3. Provide a limited consultancy function to the membership in the area of forest health.

Individual and Organized Contacts – Will be handled as individual situations and cases arise.

Short Courses – Forest Health Short Course will be offered in odd years starting with FY2009. Not enough members signed up for the course in FY2009 and if there is enough interest, a Short Course in Forest Health will be planned for August 2011.

GOAL C: COOP DEVELOPMENT

Objective 1. Provide for the continual relevancy and efficiency of the Cooperative research and technology transfer programs.

Advisory Committee Meeting – The FY10 Advisory Committee Meeting will be held the third week in November 2009. A 2 day meeting will be planned. If there are any meetings that conflict with this time frame, let us know and we can try and accommodate Advisory Members.

Forest Health Cooperative Membership – The Forest Health Cooperative staff should make an effort to recruit new members.

Update the Coop Membership Directory – An on-going activity.

Objective 2. Increase the visibility and effectiveness of the Cooperative as a source of information on issues related to forest health.

Presentations at Meetings – Forest Health Cooperative staff will continue to be encouraged to participate as a speaker or attendee in regional and national meetings.

Publications – Forest Health Cooperative staff are encouraged to publish research results in scientific journals.