

Forests are a valuable resource in Nova Scotia. If your farm includes a forested area, you may be interested in learning how to manage the woodlot in order to optimize the benefit to your farm.

Some indirect benefits from forests are the regulation of soil moisture, trees acting as a windbreak, and providing habitat for beneficial organisms. Woodlots can also have direct benefits for farmers.

- Many Nova Scotians heat their homes with wood furnaces, so your woodlot can be a source of wood to heat own home and/or you can sell wood to nearby homeowners.
- Forest land can be used to produce Christmas trees.
- If your woodlot has a good maple stand, you can become a maple syrup producer.
- Your woodlot may contain valuable non-timber forest species.

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources has a great deal of information on woodlot management, including a free, online study course: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/Education/woodlot/default.asp For more information, contact the Stewardship and Outreach Division of the Department of Natural Resources: 1-866-226-7577 or email woodlot@gov.ns.ca

The Department of Natural Resources has staff in 24 field offices located throughout the province who can assist you in managing your woodlot. It also offers regular courses on chainsaw operation. To contact a Natural Resources office, see the following directory: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/staffdir/offices.asp

The Ecology Action Centre has a resource page for woodlot owners: www.novascotiaforests.ca/

Information is also available from the Nova Forest Alliance: www.novaforestalliance.com

For more information on Christmas tree production, contact the Christmas Tree Council of Nova Scotia: www.ctcns.com/

For more information on maple syrup production, contact Dale McIsaac, Agradpoint maple production specialist at 902-896-0277; dalemcisaac@eastlink.ca or the Maple Producers Association of Nova Scotia: www.novascotiamaplesyrup.com

If you are interested in having your management practices certified as sustainable, contact the Forest Stewardship Council Canada (www.fsccanada.org) or the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners (www.fnswo.ca).

For information on Silviculture Funding, see: www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry/registry/wap/silv-assistance.asp

Other forestry associations in Nova Scotia include:

- The Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia – www.fplans.ca
- The Association for Sustainable Forestry – www.asforestry.ca
- Woodlot Info Shop – www.woodlotinfo.ca (this site includes a directory of woodlot owner organizations - www.woodlotinfoshop.ca/resources.asp?cmPageID=103)

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