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# **The Forest Focus**

*Summer 2009*

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## **Timber 2009 – Forest Products Equipment and Technology Exposition**

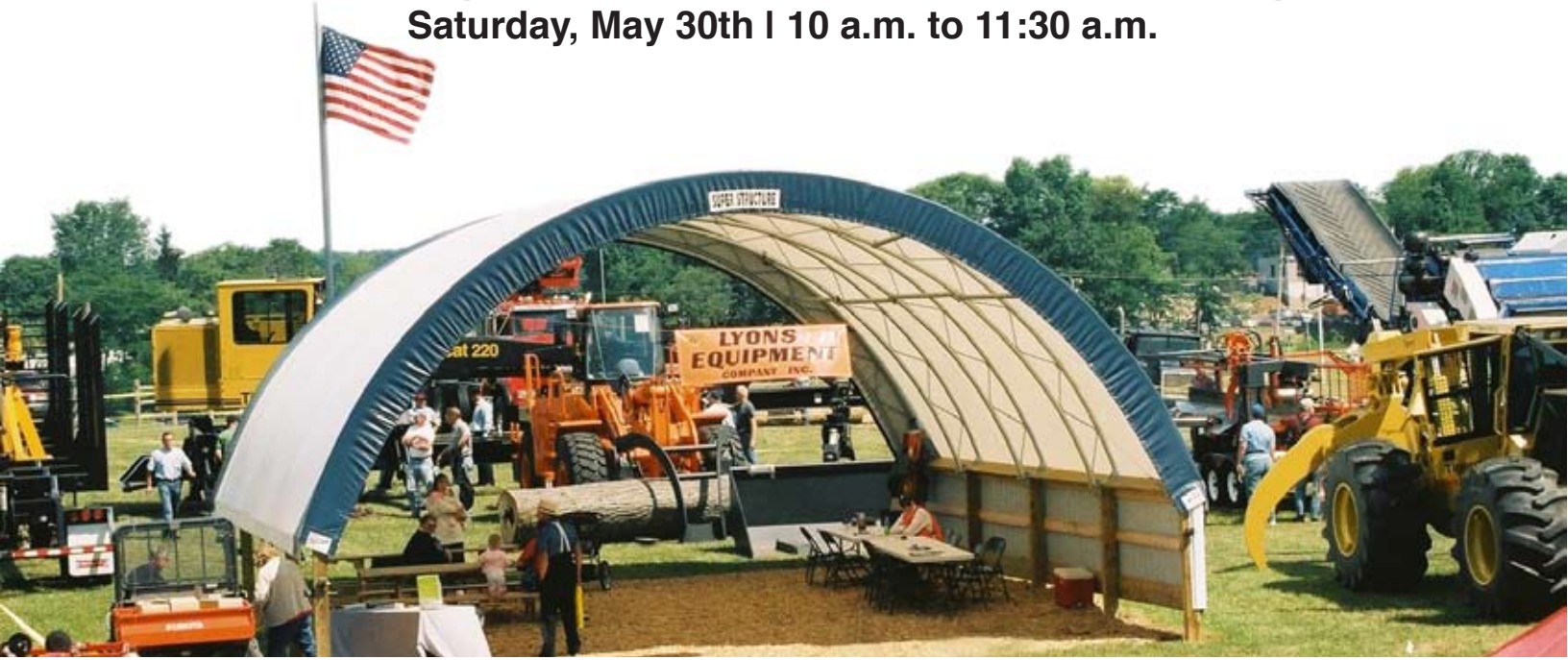
Ag Progress Days site at Rock Springs, Pa.

Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> | 9 a.m to 4 p.m.

**Survival Tips for Forest Products Businesses Workshop**

Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> | 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.



## The Historical Timeline of Forest Management in Developing Countries — The Macro View

Over the years, history has revealed that many countries have followed similar patterns in the development and use of forest resources. Forestry in the United States and many other countries follows the three distinct stages described below:

**Settlement** — Robert J. Marty, author of *The Economics of Forestry—Forestry and Economic Development*, indicates that the Settlement stage involves using timber resources to create lumber and other wood products that help society develop and expand its frontiers — that is, fulfill its “Manifest Destiny.” During this stage, many jobs and income are produced and land is cleared for agriculture. However, the Settlement stage is often distinguished by destructive logging, uncontrolled forest fires and the conversion of unsuitable forest land to croplands. The United States experienced this stage during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and in some areas, the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Numerous developing countries are currently in this stage or just emerging from the Settlement stage.

*Did you know—lumber was first exported to England in 1621, one year after the Mayflower arrived?*

**Protective Custody** — Frederick W. Cabbage, author of *Forest Resource Policy*, states Protective Custody follows Settlement and is a constructive response to previous destruction. During this stage, conservation of forest resources is recognized. A decline in the forest-based industry occurs because timber supplies have become limited. Forest land is placed under professional management and the rebuilding of the forest begins. Countries tend to develop schools of forestry, forestry agencies and national forests. Successful conservation efforts during this stage can be very difficult when citizens of a country are still in need of food and shelter.

*Did you know—Gifford Pinchot was America’s first professionally trained forester and became the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service in 1905?*

**Management** — According to Cabbage, this stage flows from the Protective Custody stage, and forests can once again fully support forest-based industry. Management of the forests includes: planned or natural reforestation, timber stand improvement, timber harvest

Today’s featured writer:



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Vice President

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scheduling and forest protection. Also during this stage, forest recreation begins to become more developed. The Management stage can go through many phases until it reaches a Fully Planned stage of management.

*Did you know—forest growth has exceeded forest harvest since the 1940s in the United States?*

What stage of forest management would you classify Russia, Brazil, Angola, Germany, Indonesia and Sweden? These countries fall on all spectrums of: Settlement to Protective Custody to Management. With improved technologies and communication, a developing country has the opportunity to quickly go from Settlement to Management.

The United States is currently in the Management stage; however, which phase of the Management stage we are in is up for debate. There are numerous indicators that the forests in the United States are moving towards Fully Planned including:

- Public and private third party certification (Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council and the American Tree Farm System)
- Intense forest management throughout the rotation of the stand
- Utilization of all material on a timber sale
- Carbon sequestration payment opportunities
- Professional timber harvesting operations — highly skilled and continual training
- Wood energy demands by individuals, communities, businesses and government
- Hunting leases becoming the norm

Take some time and determine how you can benefit from forests that are Fully Planned in the United States. Some areas that you may want to focus on include:

- Investing in your greatest asset and continually educating yourself;
- Researching and embracing new technologies that have the ability to take your business forward; and
- Looking for and gathering new information about what’s being done in another county, state or country.

The demands and requirements that are going to be placed on our forest resources will continually grow and we (the U.S. Forest Products Industry) need to be ready to answer the call. A Fully Planned U.S. forest will be the way we meet these demands.



*Knowing you makes the difference.™*

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