

Decision-Making Software Tools

Researchers and computer scientists at the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station have developed two free software tools to help sawmill owners and managers easily access information on sawmill operating costs as well as to provide detailed information on key operational factors such as the break-even costs of logs.

The free software package includes the **COST** (Cost Of Sawing Timber) program and **SOLVE** (a sawmill efficiency study and analysis program) which has recently been updated to a more user-friendly Microsoft Windows format. The programs are designed so that they can be used by sawmill owners & managers to analyze their own operations.

This workshop will provide an introduction to the programs, data entry, data processing and analysis of the results. Participants will be able to use the software themselves and ample time will be allowed to create a “hands-on” learning experience. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their own laptop computers to load the software and enter their own cost data.



Financial and staff support for this workshop has been provided by the USDA Forest Service Wood Education Resource Center and the USDA Forest Service Forestry Sciences Lab, Princeton, WV.

NR6
 Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
 Department of Forests, Parks & Rec.
 103 South Main Street, 10 South
 Waterbury, VT 05671-0601

Decision-Making Software Tools for Sawmills

A Workshop for Sawmill Owners and Managers

May 20, 2008
 Chesterfield, NH



Sponsored by:



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



dcr
 Massachusetts



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Northern Vermont Resource Conservation
 & Development Council
 Vermont Forestry Foundation

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

- An introduction to COST.
- Using COST to analyze your operation.
- Conducting your own COST assessment using your own data.

- An introduction to SOLVE.
- “Test-Driving” the program.
- Interpreting the output tables.
- Data entry and analysis practice.
- Conducting your own studies.

INSTRUCTORS:

Dr. Janice Wiedenbeck: Jan is a research forest products technologist with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station in Princeton, WV. She received a B.S. degree in forestry from the University of Michigan in 1980, a M.S. degree in forest products from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1988 and a Ph.D. in forest products also from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1992. From 1981 to 1986, she was employed by Crown Zellerbach, Inc. as a forester and supervisor of sawmill quality control and production. She joined the USDA Forest Service’s Princeton, WV research team in 1994.

Jeffrey Palmer: Jeff is an information technology specialist with the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station in Princeton, WV. He received a B.S. degree in business management and computer science from Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West Virginia. He joined the Princeton, WV research team in 1991.

WHEN: May 20, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WHERE:
Stonewall Farms, Chesterfield, NH

From Keene, follow Rt 9 about 3 miles. At blue state sign “Stonewall Farms”, Take a right onto Chesterfield Rd. Farm is about 1 mile on right.

From Vermont and I91, follow Rt 9 East for about 11 miles. At blue State sign “Stonewall Farms”, take a left onto Chesterfield Rd. Farm is about 1 mile on right.

COST: \$30 per person
(Includes coffee breaks and lunch)

REGISTRATION:
Pre-registration is required and class size will be limited to the first fifteen participants to register.

*Participants are encouraged, but not required, to bring laptop computers to enter their own company financial data into their own copy of the **COST** program. Computers will be available for each participant to use during the workshop.*

*The **COST** and **Solve** software requires Windows 2000 Professional or Windows XP Professional.*

QUESTIONS?

About program:
Paul Frederick, 802-241-3698

About registration:
Wendy Richardson, 802-241-3678

Please enroll the following persons in:

Decision-Making Software Tools for Sawmills May 20, 2008 Chesterfield, NH

Name(s), Company & Address:

Phone: _____

FAX: _____

#_____ Persons @ \$30.00 each*

Total Enclosed: \$_____

**Please make checks payable
to:
Northern Vermont
RC&D**

***Registration Fees are Non-
Refundable**

Registration Deadline: May 12, 2008

Return registration form & check to:

Wendy Richardson
VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Rec.
103 South Main Street; 10 South
Waterbury, VT 05671-0601
wendy.richardson@state.vt.us