

# Supporting Local Business Through Timber Harvesting

We are currently going through difficult times, and finances are no exception for businesses and individuals alike. If you are one of the many forest landowners of Barry County, you may be able to look to the woods for help! The timber industry is robust in Barry County, a multi-million dollar value-add to the community, covering our 130,000 forested acres. Planning sustainable harvests can provide a regular source of income for the lean years, making them a boon for the landowner and local businesses. That's not to say you should rush in and sell all your trees! Taking time to think of what could be done in your woods is always the right choice. When harvesting timber is up for debate, it's always best to have a plan.

Fortunately, there are a lot of people and programs out there to help with planning. Consultant Foresters are your friends in the forestry business, working on your behalf to get your woodlot into its best shape, as well as negotiating the best price for your valuable trees. Not only that, but they provide their oversight and expertise during harvest, making sure you have the peace of mind of a job done right. These foresters are often able to help you save money on your property taxes as well. Through the Qualified Forest Program, eligible wooded parcels that are covered by a management plan can save up to 16 mils on their tax bill.

There are many benefits to harvesting timber, besides simply financial. In many cases an landowners woodlot may not have had a harvest in many generations of ownership. This type of passive ownership doesn't lend itself to keeping our forests healthy. Cramped conditions, lack of vigor, and a lack of new seedlings are all symptoms of letting your forest sit undisturbed. A properly planned harvest can increase the vigor of remaining trees and promote new growth. Forest's in Southern Michigan are historically used to a lot of disturbance in the form of low-burning fires. Timber harvests can simulate this kind of disturbance without the fiery side effects, and give the native species that make Barry County special a chance to thrive.

The forests we have are valuable to the community, not just in the value of the timber, but also the other services they provide. The animals that call them home, to the clean water and air we enjoy, and as an escape from home during a global pandemic. Your woods are valuable, so treat them like it! If you are unsure about what your forest can provide to you, the Barry Conservation District has some advice to get you started. District Forester Ben Savoie, through the Forestry Assistance Program, is able to provide on-site assessments and referrals to local professionals to make sure all your forestry questions are answered. You can reach Ben at 269-908-4134, or by email at [ben.savoie@macd.org](mailto:ben.savoie@macd.org).



## This month by the numbers:

**Private Sector Referrals - 5**  
**Public Sector Referrals - 4**  
**Media Occurrences - 5**

### Training

**Full SAF CF Credentials**  
**HWA and Forest Health**

### Other Events

**Ottawa, Allegan, and Barry**  
**Tree Sale**

### Open Referrals:

08-20-24

Family seeking to enroll 2 parcels into QFP. Total 100 acres of forest land in Baltimore Township, Barry County. Mixed hardwoods with significant oak and maple component.

