



NEWS RELEASE

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FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK IN VIRGINIA OCTOBER 16-20

Celebrating the people and products of Virginia's forest industry

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA – Governor Glenn Youngkin has proclaimed Oct. 16-20 Forest Products Week in Virginia. The proclamation recognizes the numerous products that come from our forests, the vital role they play in our lives, and the more than 100,000 men and women in Virginia who work in the forest industry.

A [November 2022 economic impact study](#) from the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service reported that Virginia's forestry industries created \$23.6 billion in total industry output, including 108,451 jobs and \$11.3 billion in value-added.

"Virginia's Forest Products Week celebrates the essential role forests play in our environment and economy," said Governor Youngkin. "Our forestry industry in the Commonwealth is critical to our economic success, generating thousands of good jobs all across the state. Join us this week as we celebrate our forests, recognize the importance of their sustainable use and the Virginians who manage and work in them."

"Our third largest private industry in the Commonwealth, forestry supplies a network that provides essential raw materials used to make products we all use every day," said Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Matthew Lohr. "Goods and materials derived from the forest are an environmentally friendly option as they are less carbon-intensive to produce, and all carbon stored in wood products – such as lumber used in construction, pallets, paper, cardboard and packaging materials – remains sequestered throughout the product's lifetime."

"Clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, timber, outdoor recreation and of course, economic development, are all byproducts of forestry," said Rob Farrell, State Forester of the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF). "Virginia Department of Forestry's Utilization and Marketing program ensures we support sustainable practices while balancing their use. We support a vibrant industry while driving innovation to find the next renewable product. Forest Products Week celebrates Virginia's working forests, the professionals who work in them, and the sustainable products they provide."

To learn more about Virginia's forest markets and sustainability, visit DOF's website:
<https://dof.virginia.gov/forest-markets-sustainability/>.

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About the Virginia Department of Forestry

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) protects and develops healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians. With nearly 16 million acres of forestland and more than 108,000 Virginians employed in forestry, forest products and related industries, Virginia forests provide an overall economic output of more than \$21 billion annually. Headquartered in Charlottesville, the agency has forestry staff members assigned to every county to provide citizen service and public safety protection across the Commonwealth, which it's been doing now for more than 100 years. DOF is an equal opportunity provider.