

By Rien Visser

Here are some updates from our IFO program.

2004 IFO COOP Meeting Date Set

We have set the 15th of September as the IFO Coop meeting date. An agenda should be attached (otherwise copies are on the website) and we hope you can make the meeting.

Rien Visser on Sabbatical in Italy / New Zealand

Starting in October 2006, I will be working with the Italian Federal forestry group, studying harvesting systems specifically designed for supplying their bioenergy power stations. It will include thinning fir stands in the Alpine region, as well as short rotation bio-energy crops (i.e. poplar) on their flat-lands. For the first half of 2007 I will be in New Zealand, working with forestry companies on their logging rate costing mechanism.



Harvesting 5yr old poplar for bio-energy in Italy.

Bill Lakel will teach the forest operations classes in my absence.

Three new Masters of Forestry students

While our M.Sc. program is designed for research, our M.F. program is focused on giving graduate students skills to succeed in industry or consulting. We currently have two M.F. students:

- **Joe Currie** is working on designing a business model for small landowners (VDOF funds)



With smaller landholdings and an increasing number of homes in the forest, different approaches are being considered to ensure these stands can still be managed for timber.

- **Ben Bradburn** is designing an on-line roads workshop course (FS funding).

Andy Horcher returns to San Dimas

Andy was seconded from the Forest Service for two years to start his PhD here at VT, his project focusing on helicopter logging and the integration of new technologies. He successfully completed his course work and pre-lims. He has returned to his San Dimas, where he takes up his regular duties in addition to finishing his analyses and writing his dissertation.

Brandon O'Neal



Brandon recently completed his Masters on the safety impact of Spanish speaking forestry and logging workers. He has accepted a PhD.

Position at Auburn University, where he will be working with our 'own' Dr. Tom Gallagher.

Forest Cooperatives - Sarah Ashton

Sarah Ashton just wrapped up her Masters. She was co-chaired by Bruce Hull and Rien Visser. Her thesis focused on the benefits of forest landowner cooperatives – through case studies establishing what can make them successful and how this can benefit the forest industry as a whole. Sarah has accepted a position in extension based at University of Georgia.

AVLO Road Costing Spreadsheet

The Aust/Visser/Lakel/O'Neal road construction and maintenance cost estimation spreadsheet was recently presented at this years COFE meeting and is now available from our website.

IFO Newsletter

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email in the future, and, or, if you have colleagues that would like to receive this update, please contact Tracey at (540) 231-7671 or email her at tracey@vt.edu.