

# Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center

## Discovery

The Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center is the only facility in the University of Tennessee AgResearch system dedicated exclusively to the advancement of forest science, natural resources and wildlife management. The center is a field laboratory that provides the land and supporting resources necessary for effective, science-based forestry, wildlife and associated natural resources, social, biological and ecological research.

The center supports UT faculty, students and cooperating partners who are discovering better, more sustainable ways to manage forests and natural resources to benefit humans and the environment.

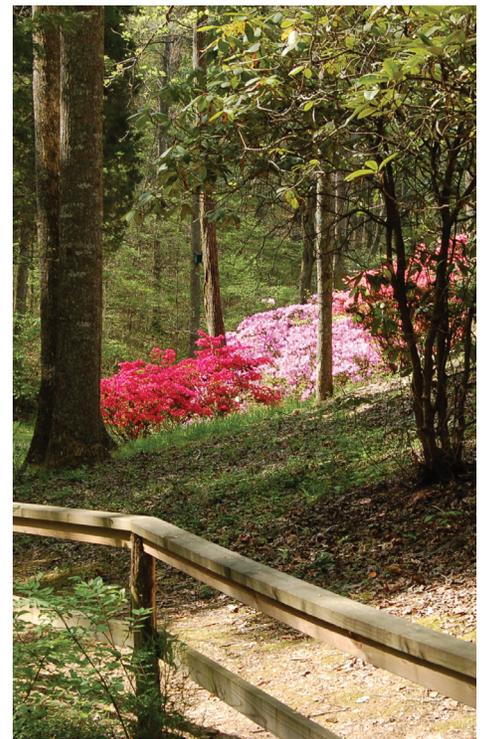
## Innovation

The center is recognized as a leader in developing new technologies applicable to modern forestry and wildlife management, forest health, and environmental stewardship. Efforts are leading to advancements in forest productivity, tree improvement and sustainable practices that benefit landowners, the industrial forest products sector and the citizens of Tennessee. The center helps scientists address concerns that reach beyond traditional forestry issues. Examples include examining the environmental effects of woody biomass removal for biofuels production, migratory songbirds and their communications strategies, best management practices for storm water, herbicide control of invasive plants, and integrated pest management control techniques.

## Application

Transferring new technologies and management techniques to forest landowners and industries is essential to the center's mission. Programs such as field days and on-site workshops and continuing education courses help communicate the results of research to stakeholders. The center strives to be a leader in promoting continuous improvement for safe operations, innovative natural resources research and educational outreach.

The UT Arboretum serves as an educational and recreational venue for the local community. It provides visitors with opportunities to see the value of forests as ecosystems essential for a variety of plants and wildlife as well as a potential source of timber for wood-based industries.



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## Our Economic Impact

More than half the land in Tennessee is covered with forests, and some 102,000 jobs in the state rely directly or indirectly on forests and forest products. From the harvesting of timber to the manufacture of wood pulp, paper and solid wood products, forest-based industry annually accounts for about \$21 billion, or more than 4 percent, of the state's economy.

The research and outreach performed at the Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center help private landowners and forest-based industry operate successful, environmentally sustainable operations that benefit businesses and consumers. The economic impact extends into the state's \$13 billion tourism industry, which relies heavily on the value of scenic vistas and recreational opportunities afforded by our forests.

## Our Facilities

The 11,500-acre Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center is among the largest of the 10 field laboratories in the UT AgResearch system. It includes three forests located in East and Middle Tennessee and one arboretum on-site at the center's headquarters in Oak Ridge.

**Oak Ridge Forest:** Conveniently situated for researchers from the UT Institute of Agriculture, UT Knoxville and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, this 2,260-acre facility hosts studies that examine forest management practices including natural regeneration, timber harvests, road stabilization and tree growth. One effort is focused on carbon partitioning in ecosystems to better understand forest effects on climate change.

**The UT Arboretum:** Designated for public education and service, the 250-acre arboretum encircles the center's administrative offices. It features more than 2,500 woody plant specimens and enjoys support from the UT Arboretum Society. From Boy Scouts to school classes and individuals seeking a quiet respite, more than 35,000 people annually enjoy the arboretum's nature trails and ecological points of interest.

**Cumberland Forest:** The Cumberland Forest measures 8,000 acres in Morgan and Scott counties and facilitates several large- and small-scale forest and wildlife management research projects as well as ecological demonstration projects. The Cumberland Forest hosted some of the earliest strip mine reclamation research in Tennessee.

**Highland Rim Forest:** Located in Franklin County in an area known as "The Barrens," this 860-acre site is used to research optimum species and production systems to increase forest productivity.



Visit the AgResearch website at <http://agresearch.tennessee.edu>.

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