Career Readiness Indicator Questionnaire

Auburn University at Montgomery

Green Industry Career Readiness Indicator Application

Title of CRI Requested: Forestry Worker Certification

Why do we want this CRI?
1. What industry is asking for the CRI? Alabama Forestry Industry
2. What companies within the industry are requesting this CRI? Alabama Forestry Association, International Paper, Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, Potts Brothers Logging, Scotch Plywood Company, Inc., The Westervelt Company and the Alabama Loggers Council
3. What entity, company, or testing agency is the “owner” of the CRI? Auburn University at Montgomery and the Green Industry Web Portal with oversight from the Alabama Forestry Association and industry leaders and educators.
4. For what career/technical program(s) is the CRI being requested? Agriculture/Forestry

How does one actually get the CRI?
5. How long does it take for a student to earn this CRI? A minimum 40-50 hours of instruction and related hands-on labs for an average student.
6. How does the student earn the CRI? Pass a written and practical lab with a minimum grade of 70%.
7. Is there a minimum age requirement for gaining the CRI? No
8. Are students required to be graduates before earning the CRI? No
9. Are there minimum pre-requisite course requirements for earning the CRI? No
10. What equipment is required to train for this CRI? Standard Ag program tools and materials
11. Does the earning of the CRI require the student to have computer access for the testing? Not at this time, but we are moving toward web-based testing.

How much does it cost and what resources are required?
12. What is the cost of the exam for earning this CRI? Exam cost is covered by existing grants and donations, eventually the cost will be around $25 per exam.
13. Is there a practice test available from the CRI issuer or from other parties?
   a. If yes, does it have a cost in addition to the actual exam? Free practice tests
   b. Can rights to the practice exam be purchased once or is there a recurring fee? Free
14. Who can administer the exam? At this time, teachers are allowed, but moving toward web-based with proctor
15. Is special certification or licensure required for a teacher to administer the CRI? The teacher must attend formal training and pass the exam.
   a. If yes, what is the cost for gaining the appropriate licensure? Free at this time.
   b. Is this a one-time or recurring fee? One time.
16. Is site, facility, or equipment certification required for administering the CRI? Standard campus lab trees and samples procured from neighboring properties.

Rev: 6/19/15
a. If yes, what costs are included? N/A
b. Is this a one-time or recurring fee? N/A

Please note: In addition to a fifty-page study guide for this CRI, all students will have free access to hundreds of web-based study support videos on the Green Industry Web Portal. Teachers will also be given hundreds of Power Points and reproducible files, at no cost to the teachers or schools. Teachers also have free access via phone or e-mail to a team of licensed, degreed educators and allied association officers as mentors.
November 11, 2015

Mr. Josh Laney
Assistant Director for Workforce Development
Alabama Department of Education
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Dear Mr. Laney and CRI Committee Members,

Westervelt is one of West Alabama's largest forestry employers with a sawmill in Moundville and a wood pellet manufacturing facility in Aliceville. We are also one of West Alabama's largest landowner with 15 contract logging crews harvesting timber from our land-base.

Like many other forestry employers, we often find it difficult to find qualified workers for both our manufacturing and land management operations. In addition, one of the biggest challenges for our contract logging crews is filling open positions for equipment operators and log truck drivers.

For this reason, we support the efforts of Auburn University - Montgomery's Green Industry Web Portal to credential students in the new Forestry Worker Certification Program. We also recommend that you approve this certification as a Career Readiness Indicator.

We appreciate the Department's efforts to prepare students for jobs in our industry and look forward to interviewing future graduates for positions as they open in our company.

Sincerely,

Jim King
Vice President

Post Office Box 48999          Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404-8999          205.562.5207          westervelt.com
Mr. Josh Laney  
Assistant Director for Workforce Development  
Alabama Department of Education  
P.O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

November 11, 2015

Dear Mr. Laney and CRI Committee Members,

Scotch Plywood is a major forestry employer in the two South Alabama counties in which we operate. We have two manufacturing operations in Alabama, one in Clarke County and the second in Monroe County. In addition, our family owns and operates several large logging crews that deliver timber to our mill as well as other mills in the area.

Like many of the forestry operations in south Alabama, we are constantly challenged to recruit and retain qualified workers. For this reason, we support the efforts of Auburn University at Montgomery’s Green Industry Web Portal to credential students in the new Forestry Worker Certification Program. We also recommend that you approve this certification as a Career Readiness Indicator.

We appreciate the Department’s efforts to prepare students for jobs in our industry and look forward to interviewing future graduates for positions as they open in our company.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gray Skipper  
Vice President

SOUTHERN YELLOW PINE LUMBER AND PLYWOOD
Josh Laney  
Assistant Director for Workforce Development  
Alabama Department of Education  
P.O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

November 10, 2015

Dear Mr. Laney and CRI Committee Members,

The Alabama Forestry Association was formed in 1949 to represent the interests of Alabama's forestry community and address the significant issues that threaten the industry. One of those threats is the lack of workers in almost every segment of our industry. From loggers to land management companies to forest products mills, companies are finding it increasingly difficult to find qualified workers. As a result, productivity is suffering and the contribution of the second largest manufacturing industry to the state's economy is being diminished.

For this reason, we were excited when Jacob Davis contacted us and requested that we work with your department to develop a Forest Worker Certificate Program. As I have shared the details about this program with forest products companies around the state, I have received overwhelming support for the effort. In fact, this program was the impetus for the development of our Forestry Workforce Development Initiative where we are working to educate students and other prospective employees about career opportunities in forestry, coordinate efforts to match interested students to additional training and education opportunities and recruit those students for available jobs.

On behalf of all of our member companies, I want to offer my endorsement for the efforts of Auburn University at Montgomery's Green Industry Web Portal to credential students in the new Forestry Worker Certification Program. Further, I would like to recommend that you approve this certification as a Career Readiness Indicator.

Whether the students that complete this program pursue further education or go straight into the workforce, they will find many opportunities to interview for open jobs with forestry companies around the state.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Best Regards

Chris V. Isaacson

Chris V. Isaacson

555 Alabama Street  ~  Montgomery, Alabama  ~  36104-4395  ~  t: (334)265-8733  ~  f: (334)262-1258  ~  alaforestry.org

the Voice of Forestry in Alabama
Dear Mr. Laney and CRI Committee Members,

Potts Brothers Logging, Inc. is a logging company based in Chambers County and operating throughout east Alabama. In addition to my role as President of my company, I serve as the Chairman of the Alabama Loggers Council as well as serving on the Executive Committee of the American Loggers Council (the national organization representing loggers).

One of the biggest challenges for loggers today is finding an adequate supply of qualified workers. This shortage of workers has a direct impact on the productivity and, as a direct result, the profitability of our operations.

For this reason, I wanted to offer my endorsement for the efforts of Auburn University at Montgomery’s Green Industry Web Portal to credential students in the new Forestry Worker Certification Program. Also, I would like to recommend that you approve this certification as a Career Readiness Indicator.

I and many of my fellow loggers look forward to interviewing future graduates for positions as they open and appreciate your efforts in preparing these students for the jobs available.

Sincerely,

Chris Potts, President
Mr. Josh Laney  
Assistant Director for Workforce Development  
Alabama Department of Education  
P.O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

November 11, 2015

Dear Mr. Laney and CRI Committee Members,

Louisiana Pacific is a major forestry employer in Alabama currently operating two oriented strand board (OSB) manufacturing facilities in Alabama, one in Clarke County and the second in Cullman County.

We support the efforts of Auburn University at Montgomery’s Green Industry Web Portal to credential Ag students in the new Forestry Worker Certification Program. We, like many other forest products companies across Alabama, are finding it increasingly difficult to find qualified workers to fill open positions. In addition, loggers who supply our mill consistently identify lack of available workers as one of their biggest challenges.

We recommend that you approve this certification as a Career Readiness Indicator. Additionally, we look forward to interviewing future graduates for positions as they open in our company and appreciate your efforts to provide technically correct information in your classes.

We greatly appreciate the effort by the Department of Education and local schools to prepare students for the jobs our industry provides.

Best Regards,

Tommy Thompson, CF  
Resource Manager III  
Clarke County OSB
November 11, 2015

Josh Laney
Assistant Director for Workforce Development
Alabama Department of Education
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Dear Mr. Laney and CRI Committee Members,

International Paper is a major forestry employer in Alabama operating three pulp and paper mills in central and west Alabama. In addition, we provide markets for timber that is produced by independent loggers and wood suppliers across the state.

As with any manufacturing operation, a reliable supply of qualified workers is critical to our operation. In addition, our wood supplier force requires an available supply of workers in order to produce the raw material vital to our business.

As a result, we strongly support the efforts of Auburn University at Montgomery’s Green Industry Web Portal to credential students in the new Forestry Worker Certification Program and recommend that you approve this certification as a Career Readiness Indicator.

We look forward to interviewing future graduates for positions as they open in our company and appreciate your efforts to provide technically correct information in your classes.

Thanks for your efforts to prepare students for the forestry workforce.

Best regards,

[Signature]

Paul Lohman
Fiber Supply Manager
Josh Laney  
Assistant Director for Workforce Development  
Alabama Department of Education  
P.O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

November 10, 2015

Dear Mr. Laney and CRI Committee Members,

The Alabama Loggers Council represents Alabama’s logging professionals and all of their employees. In this role, we work to maintain a favorable environment for Alabama’s logging companies to operate as well as provide training and education needed to maintain safe operations, improve productivity and protect environmental quality.

For a number of years, we have been concerned about the health of the state’s logging force. Operating costs have increased significantly and margins have been continually squeezed. As a result, most logging firms are highly sensitive to any factor that might impact productivity. One of those factors that is a growing problem for these companies is a reliable supply of trained workers.

On behalf of the more than 600 logging companies around the state, I wanted to offer my endorsement for the efforts of Auburn University at Montgomery’s Green Industry Web Portal to credential Ag students in the new Forestry Worker Certification Program. It is our sincere hope that this will encourage graduating high school students to consider a career in logging and will provide them the basic knowledge to become productive workers. Further, I would like to recommend that you approve this certification as a Career Readiness Indicator.

Our member logging companies look forward to interviewing future graduates for positions as they open. We appreciate your efforts in preparing these students for the jobs available. If I can provide additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bill Harris  
Executive Director
Jacob Davis  
Education Administrator/State FFA Advisor  
Alabama Department of Education  
P.O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Dear Mr. Davis,

This letter is to let you know that TRUGREEN is in support of the efforts of the Green Industry Web Portal to provide career training and certification support to the teachers and students of Alabama.

We believe the training and testing to be correct, current and practical and would encourage it as an entry to our industry.

As a large Green industry employer, we have encouraged our employees to gain the certifications and would be happy to interview your students for possible job openings in the future. We really appreciate the time and effort that is dedicated to helping our industry train current employees and find future qualified employees.

Respectfully,

Randy Wells  
TRUGREEN

04/27/15
May 7, 2015

Mr. Jacob Davis
Education Administrator/State FFA Advisor
Alabama Department of Education
P. O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Dear Mr. Davis:

This letter is in support of the efforts of the Green Industry Web Portal to provide career training and certification support to the teachers and students of Alabama.

We believe the training and testing to be correct, current and practical and would encourage it as an entry to our industry.

As an industry employer, we have encouraged our employees to gain the certifications and would be happy to interview your students for possible job openings in the future.

Respectfully,

ASPLUNDH TREE EXPERT CO.

Rickey Bailey
Regional Manager

RB/sls
September 22, 2015

Mr. Fred Kapp
Green Industry Web Portal
PO Box 382213
Birmingham, AL 35238

Dear Mr. Kapp:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS), it is my pleasure to advise you of our support for the Green Industry Web Portal.

A 501(c)4 non-profit organization as recognized by IRS, the core function of PGMS is to create and maintain beauty, safety and sustainability through the education of grounds managers and the cultivation of respect and understanding for the grounds management profession. We see the Green Industry Web Portal as a perfect opportunity for PGMS to advance this mission.

Our members represent large campus landscape/ground service departments and employers across the United States, and are excited to work with certification programs that will help assure us of quality entry-level employees in the future. We hope to offer the expertise of many of our members who are Certified Grounds Managers (CGM) in participating with the Green Industry Web Portal in the development of training programs.

We are looking forward to a long and mutually-beneficial relationship between PGMS and the Green Industry Web Portal.

Respectfully,

John A. Burns, CGM
President
May 11, 2015

Jacob Davis  
Education Administrator/State FFA Advisor  
Alabama Department of Education  
P.O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Dear Mr. Davis,

We are a local professional plant health care company in the Shelby County area. Over the years we have integrated the tools and resources provided by the Green Industry Web Portal. This is an invaluable asset to the industry, community, and education system.

Formally, this letter should serve as our expressed support of the efforts of the Green Industry Web Portal to provide career training and certification support to the teachers and students of Alabama. We identify and believe the training and testing to be whole, correct, relevant and practical. We encourage it to be utilized as an entry to our industry.

In closing, as an industry employer, we have encouraged our employees to gain the certifications and would be happy to interview your students for possible job openings in the future.

Respectfully,

Jim Paramore  
Owner & President  
American Tree Maintenance, Inc.
May 8, 2015

Jacob Davis

Education Administrator/State FFA Advisor
Alabama Department of Education
P.O. Box 302101 Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Dear Mr. Davis,

This letter is in support of the efforts of the Green Industry Web Portal to provide career training and certification support to the teachers and students of Alabama. We believe the training and testing to be correct, current and practical and would encourage it as an entry to our industry. As an industry employer, we have encouraged our employees to gain the certifications and would be happy to interview your students for possible job openings in the future.

Respectfully,

Tim Kendrick
Technical Leader
September 14, 2015

Jacob Davis
Education Administrator/State FFA Advisor
Alabama Department of Education
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101

Dear Mr. Davis,

My husband has been in the landscape and lawn maintenance industry since 1998. He started this business before graduating from the University of Alabama. As you know, Alabama doesn't have an agriculture school, so, once he graduated he had to pursue all his professional training elsewhere. He met Fred as an instructor at Lawson State, and, from there, he has continued all his ongoing training/education with Fred. I joined my husband in the business in 2010 and got my OTPS and LD licenses and all of my training/education has been with Fred. We follow him wherever he goes, not only because of his knowledge and experience in the industry, but, because of his ability to actually teach the material on a level that all people can understand. He is an asset in our industry and the state.

We are reaching out to you in an effort to support the Green Industry Web Portal to provide career training and certification support to the teachers and students of Alabama. We identify and believe the training and testing to be whole, correct, relevant and practical. We always recommend this program to young, new professionals that come to us for advice and seeking learning and growth opportunities.

As business owners in this industry, we encourage all employees to further their knowledge in this profession and fully support them. We also invite you to let us know when you have willing and able students looking for a job. We are always looking for potential new candidates to interview.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jennifer Lindsey Wilson
Landscape Designer & Business Manager
Green Acres Landscape Service, LLC
PO Box 1112
Northport, Alabama 35476
205.752.0281