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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Agricultural Use/Forest Combination for Enrollment in the Qualified Forest Program (QFP) (under authority of P.A. 107 (2015))

An enrollment scenario:

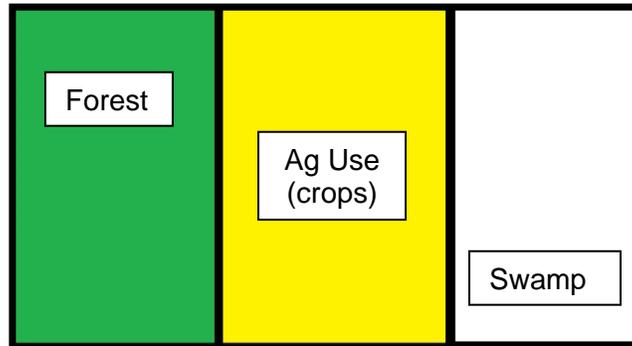


Figure 1. Example stands map for 60 acre parcel, indicating 20 acres of forest, 20 acres in ag use, and 20 acres of swamp.

Mr. John Smith owns a 60 acre parcel. Twenty acres of the parcel are forested and meet the QFP stocking density requirement (stocked with trees capable of producing 20 cubic feet of forest products, per acre, per year). Mr. Smith also has a lease agreement in place with his neighbor, Mr. Brown, covering 20 acres of the property. Mr. Brown has been planting/harvesting soybeans on the acreage, and plans to continue doing so into the foreseeable future. The remaining 20 acres of Mr. Smith's parcel is marsh/swamp.

Mr. Smith is unable to enroll the entire 60 acre parcel in the QFP due to low stocking (20 acres forested out of 60 = 33.3% stocked). He is also unable to have the parcel classified as Qualified Agricultural. A parcel must be over 50% agricultural use in order for the local assessor to classify it as Qualified Agricultural. This is where P.A. 107 (2015) can be utilized.

Mr. Smith decides to enroll his land in the QFP under the provision in P.A. 107 that allows for an agricultural use/forest combination for enrollment. Prior to submitting the standard QFP application documents to the QFP office, he completes Part 1 of Treasury Form 5020 (available from QFP staff and on our website), and sends the form to his assessor. The assessor completes Part 2 of the form. In Part 2, the assessor indicates the total number of acres in the parcel, the number of agricultural use acres in the parcel and provides his/her signature and date.

In this example, there are 20 acres of the 60 acre parcel currently in agricultural use. The assessor completes Part 2 and returns the form to Mr. Smith, who submits it to the QFP office along with the rest of the QFP application documents.

Upon receipt of the application materials, the QFP staff identifies that Mr. Smith's application is an agricultural use/forest application, and handles as if it were a typical application. The parcel is sent out for verification to the Conservation District (CD) with one change: the CD is only responsible for identifying the number of forested acres on the parcel that meet the QFP stocking density requirement.

In this example, the CD forester would indicate 20 acres are productive forest on the verification form, sign it, and send it back to the QFP office. The QFP staff then adds the 20 acres of productive forest to the 20 acres of agricultural use property for a total of 40 acres. The parcel is then determined to have 40 acres of combined productive forest and agricultural use on a 60 acre parcel, or 66.7% stocked. With the combination, the parcel now meets stocking density requirements (greater than 50%) for enrollment in the QFP.

Note: The Forest Management Plan (FMP) must identify the agricultural use portion of the parcel as a stand or management unit and indicate the location of the agricultural use on the stands map.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (517) 284-5630, or by email at MDARD-QFP@michigan.gov.