

Study on woody biomass complete



By Courtesy Photo

The LSU AgCenter report on woody biomass around Bastrop takes into account “logging slash” -- unused limbs, tree tops and cull sections of trees left behind in harvesting operations. Logging slash is illustrated in this photo from the completed report.

By Wes Helbling
Bastrop Daily Enterprise
Wed May 12, 2010, 06:00 AM CDT

Bastrop, La. -

Researchers with the LSU AgCenter have completed a study on woody biomass supplies in and around Bastrop. The collected data will serve as a valuable tool in marketing and promoting Morehouse Parish to biofuel and other industries.

Morehouse Economic Development Corp. CEO Kay King said the study was contracted by MEDC a few months ago at the recommendation of Tamerica Management Co., which identified biofuel as a target industry in its state-funded Recovery Plan for Bastrop and Morehouse Parish.

“There are many different types of businesses that use wood chips, wood shavings and wood fiber,” said King. “I’ve had companies ask me how many tons of wood chips we have available.”

In the past, King said she could only tell companies how much woody biomass was used by the International Paper Co.’s Louisiana Mill. The LSU study will provide a better resource for answering these questions in the future.

The report, “Woody Biomass Supplies in Vicinity of Bastrop, Louisiana” was written by Cornelis F. de Hoop and Charles E. Clement with the LSU AgCenter’s Louisiana Forest Products Development Center.

“[The authors] are experts in this field,” said King. “Companies like to have independent studies, from qualified people who do this for a living.”

The report addresses the wood-based biomass supplies within a 75-mile radius of Bastrop, and contains values from 14 parishes and eight Arkansas and Mississippi counties.

The biomass under consideration includes wood residues from mills - primarily bark, planer shavings, sawdust and wood pieces -- standing timber inventory and residues from timber harvesting operations, known as “logging slash.”

The report concludes annually renewable quantities of unclaimed woody biomass are 2,513 dry tons mill residues, 92,857 dry tons standing hardwood trees ingrowth, and 1,680,441 dry tons logging slash.

In addition, there are 1 million dry tons annually of mill residues and a standing inventory of 52 million dry tons of cull trees, pulpwood-size trees and topwood.

King said the data in the study will be incorporated by Tamerica into a Powerpoint presentation for marketing the parish, and will also be published on the MEDC Web site.

“It will become part of an overall presentation to prospective businesses,” said King. “I think it will definitely make us more competitive in the biofuel industry.”