As of 2016, The Kentucky Master Logger Program has provided 224 three-day introductory training programs to 7,731 loggers since its inception in the fall of 1992.

Kentucky Master Loggers
Feed the $13.87 Billion Forest Industry in Kentucky

1,626 loggers were trained and obtained or maintained their Master Logger status by demonstrating knowledge of environmental protection, safe logging practices, and regulations impacting the timber harvesting industry.

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When you support Extension, Master Loggers are certified for employment in the timber industry, which contributes $190 million in direct timber revenue.
The Kentucky Master Logger program is a comprehensive state-wide education and training program for timber harvesting professionals. Kentucky Master Loggers feed the $13.87 billion forest industry in Kentucky. The Kentucky Master Logger Program is housed in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Department of Forestry Extension Program.

In 2016, 325 new loggers completed a three-day training program to earn their Master Logger designation. The participants were exposed to training in environmental protection, safe logging practices, and education in laws and regulations impacting the timber harvesting industry. Evaluations indicated:

- An average of 71% increase in knowledge
- 1,626 loggers were trained and obtained or maintained their Master Logger status in Kentucky
- These loggers included those starting 68 new firms

In FY 2016 there were 2,903 active Master Loggers that represent 1,663 small businesses employing 3,876 individuals. These firms harvested an estimated 762 million board feet of timber with a delivered mill value of $419.1 million providing rural economies with a total of $1.97 billion annually through the production of primary wood and paper products. This timber was harvested on 240,949 acres (in Kentucky and surrounding states) providing $190 million in direct timber revenues to 6,670 landowners in Kentucky.

Environmental assessment of program participants indicated that the usage of the individual best management practices taught in the training to protect water quality were used on 87% of logging operations. These practices included streamside management zones to protect stream temperatures and habitat and erosion control measures on haul roads and skid trails to reduce muddy water entering streams. The result was 443 perennial streams and 1,220 intermittent streams protected from potential impacts of non-point source pollution from improper timber harvesting.

Kentucky firms harvested an estimated 762 million board feet of timber with a delivered mill value of $419.1 million providing rural economies with a total of $1.97 billion annually through the production of primary wood and paper products.

Stream protection is a focus of the Kentucky Master Logger program.