

MARKING PROPERTY BOUNDARIES OHIO FOREST TAX LAW PROGRAM

It is highly recommended that before you have any timber harvesting or timber stand improvement practices performed in your woodlot, that you mark your boundaries. In fact, it is required by law before your property is entered or retained under the OHIO FOREST TAX LAW Program.

Boundary marking is for your protection, to avoid trespassing and timber theft problems. If you are unsure of exactly where the boundaries are located, first contact your neighbor for assistance. If it is still unclear, or if there is a discrepancy, then you should have a surveyor locate the lines for you. Having the boundaries surveyed is not specifically required for this program, but it could save you expensive litigation in the future.

By marking your property boundary lines properly the first time, you'll avoid delays in the application or recertification process and the possibility of losing your status under OFTL. The essentials for doing it right:

- 1) Mark trees and/or fenceposts no more than 66 feet apart along the boundary line.
- 2) Place your marks at about 4-1/2 feet above ground level on both sides of the tree or fencepost along the line of sight.
- 3) At property corners, place three marks, one atop the next, on two sides of trees or fenceposts along the line of sight.
- 4) If there isn't a tree in the right place along the boundary line, use a fencepost instead.
- 5) Follow the DOs and DON'Ts at the right.

Do:

- Use good quality high visibility oil based paint.
- If using spray paint, use tree marking paint.
- Mark Close enough to see from mark to mark **during the summer.**
- As a courtesy, notify your neighbors that you will be marking line for the OFTL Program.

- Mark no more than 66 feet between marks. Surveyor stakes are generally placed too far apart for this program and are easily removed.

Don't:

- Don't mark dead trees.
- Don't use cheap spray paint.
- Don't use ribbons, flags, wire flags, or anything easily pulled down, off, or out of the ground.

Paint on boundary trees is considered the minimal "permanent" marking tool allowable. Ribbons do not qualify as permanent marking of boundaries. Posts can also be used but avoid stakes that can easily be pulled out of the ground. Boundaries of the perimeter of the property need marked. Existing roads that are property boundaries do not need to be painted along the road, but any intersection of the property boundary with a road should be marked and easily seen from the road.

Purchase quality oil based paint. Machinery yellow is recommended, but blue, orange, and red work also. Boundary marking paint is available through some major paint suppliers, forestry supply companies, or farm supply stores. Don't use inexpensive aerosol cans of spray paint as they do not often last for very long.

Place the marks on either side of the tree in the direction the line is going. If there is no tree on the line, locate a tree that is within 6 feet of the property line without going over on your neighbor or place a post on the line and paint it.

You will probably have to refresh these marks after five years, but after the second painting, the marks may last for ten years.