

Procedure for switching from the Commercial Forest Program to the Qualified Forest Program, valid until **September 1, 2015**.

Landowners with property in the Commercial Forest (CF) program may withdraw from CF without paying the withdrawal penalty if the property is enrolled in the Qualified Forest (QF) program.

QF is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

Landowners must apply to withdraw from CF **and** apply to enroll in QF by September 1, 2015.

The procedure for moving land from the CF program to the QF program without paying the CF withdrawal penalty is as follows:

1. Submit a CF withdrawal application (form enclosed) and the application fee to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) no later than September 1, 2015. Indicate on the application form that you are enrolling in the QF program.
2. Apply to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the QF exemption no later than September 1, 2015.
3. Submit a copy of the recorded QF affidavit to the DNR, evidencing DARD approval of the QF application, no later than December 1st of the year in which the withdrawal occurs.
4. The DNR will issue a withdrawal certificate with waiver of penalty payment.
5. Sign the withdrawal certificate and return it to the DNR. The DNR will sign the withdrawal certificate to complete the process.

For information on the QF program, including the application process, visit the DARD Web site at: <http://www.michigan.gov/qfp>, or contact Mr. Scott Zeeb at MDARD-QFP@michigan.gov, or by telephone at 517-284-5630. You also may contact your local conservation district office.

Until the CF withdrawal process is complete your property must remain in compliance with the CF statute and administrative rules, including being open to the public for hunting and fishing.