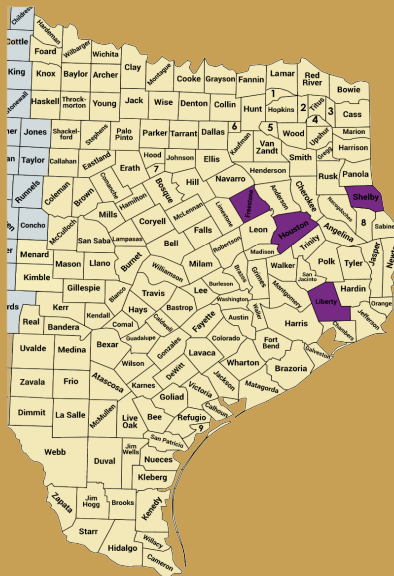


East Texas Counties
SFLR Counties



Forest Management Plan and Land Retention

African American forestland owners have been unable to participate in USDA programs for several reasons. One reason has been that they have been unaware of government programs, but another reason is Heir's Properties issues. The AgNR unit knows that the SFLR program can help African-Americans forestland owners address this issue through preventive education and resolution counseling. Therefore, our purpose is to ensure that African American forestland owners are not only profitable but more informed in ways to better position land for retention.



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Cooperative Extension Program

Agriculture and Natural
Resources

Prairie View A&M University's Cooperative Extension Program (CEP) Agriculture and Natural Resources (AgNR) unit seeks to empower farmers and ranchers to achieve their goals through education and technical assistance. AgNR aims to ensure a sustainable, profitable, and competitive food and fiber system in the State of Texas by addressing the knowledge gap in areas of crop production and utilization, forestry, livestock production, and economics and management for sustainable agriculture.

Part of the program will include legal education and services to assist with land retention, and working with the law firm of Phillips Kaiser PLLC.

To learn more, you can contact:
Clarence Bunch, Program Leader
Email: agnr@pvamu.edu

Barbara Lange, LAT-CBO,
(936) 587-4325, Liberty Co.
Email: babs15@aol.com

Kim Ratcliff, 100 Ranchers,
(214) 676-3357, Freestone Co.
Email: kimberly_ratcliff@yahoo.com

Lynn Wooten, Pineywoods,
(936) 222-0062, Houston Co.
Email: pwsfrltx@gmail.com

Igalious "Ike" Mills, Texas Agriforestry
(409) 543-1411, Shelby Co.
Email: tasfr.agriculture@gmail.com

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Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program Legal Support = (Heirs)



The Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention (SFLR) Program helps forestland owners manage their forestland for maximum production. It also offers legal education and direct legal services to help families develop wills, estate planning, and counseling with title clearing, developing trust, agreements and more to help landowners.



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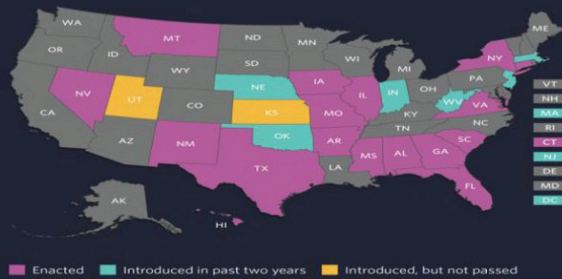


Agriculture and Natural
Resources



Heirs' Property Laws

Seventeen states have enacted the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act to protect family members who jointly own a property from having to sell the entire estate when one or more heirs want to force a sale. Six states and Washington, D.C., are considering legislation.



Note: The measure failed in Utah and died in committee in Kansas.
Sources: Uniform Law Commission, TrackBill.com and Lexis
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Program Legal Services Overview

The American Forestry Foundation (AFF) has awarded Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program Agriculture and Natural Resources Unit a two-year grant to help African American forestland owners maintain their forestland.

The law firm of Phillips Kaiser PLLC will assist in providing legal educational workshops and services to assist and educate families in retaining their land.

Legal Program - Services Provided

- Free heirs and legacy estate planning outreach workshop outreach meetings will be conducted for each Community Based Organization (CBO) partner
 - One 2–4 hour clinic will be organized for each CBO offering one-on-one heirs, and wills & estate education
- Free estate planning materials
- Simple free wills for landowners that qualify

Participants will receive information for land retention and ways to keep land in their family

Legal Services – Program Tips

- Free wills for landowners (as appropriate)
- Free wills & estate counseling for landowners
- Legal educational workshops and clinics designed for each individual



Legal Education Work to help under-served landowners acquire the knowledge for land retention and sustainability

- **PREVENTION EDUCATION:** Simple Wills Clinics and Estate Planning
- **RESOLUTION:** Counseling and Advice to help resolve heirs' property title issues

Partners

Our partnerships to help implement the SFLR program include several agencies and organizations. They are:

- Phillips Kaiser PLLC
- 100 Ranchers Inc.
- Texas AgriForestry Small Farmers and Ranchers
- Landowners Association of Texas
- Pineywoods Small Farmers, Ranchers and Landowners of Texas
- USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service
- USDA-Farm Service Agency
- Texas Forest Service
- Texas AgriLife
- Texas A&M University