

IMPROVING LOG TRUCKING SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY IN GEORGIA



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
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& Natural Resources

A McIntire-Stennis project initiated to address a public safety and rural economic challenge

Several thousand log trucks share the road with millions of Georgians, meaning log truck safety is critical for public safety. Georgia log trucks supply raw material to a \$35 billion forest industry that employs 50,000 people, mostly in rural Georgia. A nationwide driver shortage and rising insurance costs are forcing many logging and trucking companies to consolidate or close.

Georgia log truck accidents declined since the 1990s and 2000s, especially in rural areas. The majority of log truck accidents now occur in urban areas, especially areas like Savannah and Macon that experienced population growth after mills were built. Log truck driver training programs are scheduled to begin at two technical colleges in rural Georgia; these programs could improve safety and increase the number of available log truck drivers. Increased implementation of technology such as GPS tracking and dash cameras could also improve safety and efficiency.



About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.



COLLABORATION

Support was provided by the Georgia Forestry Foundation. More than 20 businesses contributed time or data for the project.



6 States

Results have been shared with businesses from at least 6 states.

IMPACT

Research, safety regulations, and investments by loggers have reduced Georgia's log truck accident rate to below the national average 2011-2015.



Motor vehicle crashes cost society millions of dollars per year.



Log-truck specific driver training and implementing technology can reduce accidents and increase the number of qualified log truck drivers.



Forest landowners, loggers, and forest industry will have the log trucks and drivers needed to support thousands of rural jobs.