

# CHRONICLE

## The 75th Anniversary of Higher Forest Education in Latvia

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The forest Faculty of Latvia University of Agriculture (LUA) is the only higher institution of learning that deals with training of students for forest industry at BS and MS levels in Latvia. The program includes undergraduate (BS) and graduate (MS) programs in Forestry, Forest Engineering and Wood Processing, and a graduate program in Forest Economics. The Forestry program covers the following areas: forest ecology and silviculture, dendrology and forest tree breeding, reforestation, forest inventory and resource planning, forest management and economics. The study area in Forest Engineering includes forest harvesting and timber transport, landing and primary wood processing, complex wood utilization, forest products marketing and forest commodities, economics of forest engineering. The Wood Processing program covers sawmill industry, furniture industry, design of wood products and furniture, technology of glued materials and boards, forest products marketing, economics of wood processing. The area of Forest Economics, a graduate program, includes forest resource management and forest products marketing, forestry economics, entrepreneurship in forest engineering and wood mechanical processing.

Every year more than 100 full time students and 20 part time students attend the undergraduate studies in the Forest Faculty. Approximately 10 to 15 students are studying towards Master's degree.

Forestry department was founded in 1920 at the Faculty of Agriculture of Latvia University. On the basis of this department, the Forest Faculty of Latvia University of Agriculture (former Faculty of Forestry of Latvia Agricultural Academy) has been developed. Since

1920 more than 2,000 specialists of forestry have graduated. From 1949 students in Forest Engineering and Wood Processing began their studies at the Faculty. From this time to our days more than 1,200 engineers in Wood Processing and 300 engineers in Forest Engineering have graduated.

This year a lot of activities will be devoted to celebrate the 75th anniversary of higher forest education in Latvia. Tree planting in the frames of annual Forest Days in April was dedicated to this jubilee. President of Ministers of Latvia, governing body of LUA, students, graduates and staff members of the Forest Faculty participated in this event at the Training Forestry of LUA.

In the middle of May a scientific conference took place at the Forest Faculty. The main discussion was on forest ecology, forest engineering, forestry and safety measures in work environment. More than 50 reports were presented by scientists from LUA, other research institutions and abroad.

On September 21 the second "Wood Technology Days" will take place (the first ones were held in September 1994). Participants from the Baltic countries, Scandinavia, Germany, Poland and Russia are expected to participate. The preliminary program lists reports on the development of wood industries in Europe and Latvia, and presentation by producers of wood processing machinery.

The central event will be held on September 22 when the alumni of the Faculty, staff members and guests will come together and celebrate the 75th anniversary of higher forest education in Latvia.