

Fourteen industry enterprises are conducting an experiment in introducing contract principles of organizing labour in forest districts and workshops. The organizations involved include the Kurlovskii logging enterprise of Vladimir Oblast, the Bilimbay forestry enterprise of Sverdlovsk Oblast, the Shepetovka forestry enterprise of Khmel'nitskiy Oblast; the Telekhany forestry enterprise of Brest Oblast, and others. These employee bodies are establishing a single wage fund and guaranteeing a total wage sum for performing a prescribed amount of work. They are increasing the workers' financial concern in the final result of their labour and in operating with fewer personnel.

The key occupation in the industry is that of the forestry expert. In all areas - the forest district, the nursery, the local timber conversion point, the workshop, and in collecting and processing by-products - he is the chief official. For a long time, few volunteered for this position, since the salary was only 105 roubles. The wage rates have now risen, but, as before, they are not all that high. Certification of ranks by classes - "Expert Forester II, Class I" - should increase personal commitment. In this case, the salaries rise by another 10 to 20 percent. Meanwhile, many enterprises are belittling the role of forestry experts and establishing for them a minimum wage of 130 roubles; these organizations neither certify nor make provision for bonuses, all of which leads to the same lack of personal responsibility.

The forest industry now has about 109,000 forest wardens. Their salaries have risen by an average of 35 percent, requiring over 40 million additional roubles. How are we to find these funds? Here we can have no single approach, but shall rather take a look at what the regions are doing.