



# Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee is responsible for administering the Tree Farm program in Kentucky. One of the most difficult but enjoyable responsibilities of the committee is selecting the annual Tree Farmer and Logger of the year award winners. Read on to learn about the most recent Kentucky Tree Farm Committee award winners.

## Tree Farm Awards Presented at the KFIA Annual Meeting

The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) took place in late March at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lexington, KY. The state tree farm committee presented a number of awards for outstanding work related to forest management during the meeting. The 2022 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year award

was presented to William Johnson, who manages a 153-acre tree farm near Olive Hill, KY. Johnson has treated all of his woodlands to increase the growth of existing trees and improve the health and value of his forest land. He also has treated and removed a wide range of invasive plants to prevent them from taking over sections of the property. In addition to all his management activity, he had a recent 70-acre timber harvest that left the area in great condition and supplied a source of income from the property. The property is also used as an educational tool to promote good sustainable woodland management by conducting field days. It also hosts educational events to encourage other woodland owners to improve their forests for a wide range of environmental benefits, including timber production and wildlife habitat.



The Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year award was presented to William Johnson.

Photos courtesy: KFIA

Also honored was William Knott, who works as a service forester for the Kentucky Division of Forestry in Morehead, KY, as the Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. Knott has spent his career working with woodland owners throughout Eastern Kentucky. He has made a major impact by



The Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year Inspector award was presented to Bill Knott.

advising and assisting private landowners by developing forest management plans to meet their goals, from increasing economic value to improving wildlife habitat and a wide range of other benefits from the woodlands. Knott has supported the Kentucky Tree Farm Program throughout his career and in the past year approved a number of new tree farmers into the program. He also followed up with existing tree farmers to update their management plans and keep them in the certified Kentucky Tree Farm Program.

The final award presented was the 2022 Kentucky Logger of the Year, presented to TNT Logging, which is a third-generation logging business located in Vanceburg, KY. The company is owned and operated by Tom Fetters, Jr., who works with his two sons, Jacob and John, who do outstanding work in properly harvesting and removing timber for landowners. TNT Logging operates a wide range of equipment, including dozers, skidders, trucks, knuckleboom loaders, and a cutoff saw to move the trees from the woods to the mill. The company works closely with the Kentucky Division of Forestry to make sure that all logging jobs are closed out to meet all state water-quality requirements and ensure that the landowner who sold the timber is completely satisfied with how the property looks when the logging is complete.



The Kentucky Logger of the Year award was presented to Tom Fetters, Jr.

The recipients were presented their awards at the KFIA luncheon during the annual meeting, which was attended by over 375 association members. All of the winners were given a plaque to show appreciation for their accomplishments and support of forestry in Kentucky. The Tree Farmer and Logger of the Year were also each presented a Stihl chainsaw, sponsored by Bryan Equipment Company, Loveland, OH, which is the Stihl distributor for Kentucky.

