



Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

Kentucky Tree Farm Program to Undergo 3rd Party Certification Assessment

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) provides information and resources to help landowners reach stewardship goals and properly manage their woodlands. ATFS is the largest and oldest sustainable woodland system in America, and they offer resources to improve management and recognition for good forest stewardship on private forestlands to certified Tree Farms in Kentucky.

ATFS continues to seek international recognition for proper management practiced by all certified Tree Farmers. Harvested forest products from Tree Farms are also certified sustainable by international standards. ATFS is internationally endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC). Affiliation with PEFC strengthens ATFS by providing landowners increased opportunities in the sustainable forest products market.

As part of this recognition the Kentucky Tree Farm Program will undergo a third-party certification assessment during the summer of 2013. Each year a sample of state Tree Farm programs is selected for review. This annual assessment process helps ATFS better understand how to serve landowners, especially in their work to meet the 2010–2015 Standards of Sustainability. These assessments have consistently recognized the good forest management practiced by Tree Farmers. The standards cover all aspects of good forest management, which Tree Farmers must keep in mind when planning and conducting activities in their woods.

This assessment is important for the program in two ways. First, the assessment affirms the great work in managing forests. Second, the assessment is an

opportunity to review how well the program operates and how the organization can better serve the landowner. To perform the certification assessment of the Kentucky Tree Farm Program, a random sample of Tree Farms is selected for on-site visits by the professional foresters from Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC), the organization that gives ATFS third-party recognition in Kentucky. If a Tree Farm is chosen in the random sample for site visits, the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee will contact the landowner between February and April 2013.

As the assessment approaches, the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee urges all Tree Farmers to make sure that their property management plan is up to date along with the information pertaining to the proper contacts and acreage under management. If there have been any changes on the Tree Farm the local inspecting forester can be contacted to make sure that all information is correct. This is also a great time to update the forest management plan to reflect the 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability. If you would like a copy of the ATFS Management Plan Addendum, a tool to use while updating your management plan, you can contact your local forester or call Pam Snyder with the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee at (502) 564-4496.

If any landowners have a question concerning the Tree Farm Program or any forest management or private land issues you can contact your local Kentucky Division of Forestry office. The Division has a staff of foresters that can assist private landowners with development of a management plan for the property and offer advice on activities to meet landowner objectives for their forestland.

Tree Farmer and Logger of the Year Finalists for 2012 Named

Representatives of the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee are performing site visits to all the finalists over the winter and the winners will be announced in April at the Kentucky Forest Industries Annual Meeting.

We would like to congratulate all the nominees and the finalists!

Tree Farmer of the Year Finalists:

- Harry & Karen Peele (Taylor County)
- Perry & Margaret Sebaugh (Edmonson County)

Logger of the Year Finalists:

- Marion and Ronald French Logging (Breckinridge County)
- Dwayne Wilson Logging (Allen County)



Photo courtesy: Billy Thomas

A field day was recently held at the Mike and Cindy Harvey Tree Farm to celebrate their winning the Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year award in 2011. A big thanks to Mike and Cindy for hosting the event and to the Taylor County Extension Office, UK Forestry Extension, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, Kentucky Forest Industries Association, and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources for helping the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee put on this event.