



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.

Program to Undergo Third-Party Certification Assessment this Summer

The Kentucky Tree Farm Program will be undergoing another third-party certification assessment this summer. The assessment process is important in two ways. First, it affirms the great work that landowners are doing in managing their woodlands. Secondly, the assessment reviews how the Kentucky Tree Farm Program is operating and how the committee can better serve tree farmers. The tree farm inspectors will be working with the

tree farmers who have been randomly selected by the third party. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) will set up Zoom meetings or conference calls with the landowners to conduct the assessments. The findings will be processed and brought before the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee. You may contact the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee through the Kentucky Forest Industries Association at 502-659-3979 if you have any questions.

Tree Farm Awards Presented at the KFIA Annual Meeting



The 56th annual meeting of the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) recently took place, and the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee presented a number of awards for outstanding work related to managing our forests. Traxler Farms, located near Vanceburg, KY, was honored as the 2021 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year. Phil Traxler and Laurie Yanoshek have completed a wide range of management activities on their woodlands, including field days, demonstrations and timber stand improvement on nearly all of their 321-acre tree farm.

Also honored at the meeting was past Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year winner Taylor Tree Farm from Danville, KY, which was named the national North Central Region Tree Farmer of the Year in 2021 by the American Tree Farm System, making it only the third tree farm from Kentucky to receive this prestigious award. The Taylor Tree Farm is one of only a handful of tree farms in Kentucky that has been certified for 50 years. Clifton Taylor and his sons have completed all types of management activities to improve their woodlands along with a number of timber sales, including a recent harvest that resulted in certified white oak being sold to make whiskey barrels in Ireland.



James Baunach was honored as the Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. He works as a service forester for the Kentucky Division of Forestry in Campbellsville, KY. Mr. Baunach works closely with woodland owners, providing advice on how to manage their woodlands. He has also completed a number of inspections of tree farms and is involved with promoting the Kentucky Tree Farm Program to interested landowners.



The final award was presented to Kenny Smith of Collett & Smith Logging in Roark, KY, who was named the 2021 Kentucky Logger of the Year for his outstanding work in properly harvesting and removing timber for landowners. Mr. Smith operates two mechanized logging crews that follow good logging practices that protect water quality and leave woods in good shape for future timber production. Both the Logger and Tree Farmer of the Year winners were presented with Stihl chainsaws sponsored by Bryan Equipment Company of Loveland, OH, the Stihl distributor for Kentucky.

