



# Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

## Looking Back and Ahead

by Pam Snyder, Forest Management Chief, Kentucky Division of Forestry

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee (KTFC) made the big decision to remain in the third-party certification system utilizing the state voice–state choice process developed by the American Tree Farm System. The KTFC had prerequisites to complete and developed a memorandum of agreement between the state program and the American Forest Foundation (AFF), a written strategic plan, a state leadership manual, a Tree Farm interest response plan, and a communication/outreach plan. The KTFC sent out a comprehensive contact letter to every Kentucky Tree Farmer to encourage engagement/interest and to verify landowner information within the national database.

The KTFC continues to administer the following: the state and regional tree farmer of the year and inspector of the year contests, training Tree Farm inspectors, participating in fundraising programs with AFF, educational grants, financial reports, state assessments and audits, required Tree Farm inspections, setting goals, and achieving the Tree Farm mission and promoting forest sustainability. I want to thank every one of the committee members who has assisted in the year-long process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bob Bauer or Michele Brewer at the Kentucky Forest Industries Association concerning the state voice–state choice process at 502.695.3979 or Michele@kfia.org.

## Kentucky Legislative Session & Forestry Issues

by Bob Bauer, Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Treasurer & Kentucky Forest Industries Association Executive Director

The 2016 Kentucky Legislative Session has concluded and the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) who co-sponsors the Tree Farm Program in Kentucky followed a number of issues that could potentially impact Tree Farmers. KFIA tracked legislation that affects all forestry interests and has started to update tree farmers by email concerning legislation. The state budget dominated the session and resulted in cuts to many agencies including the Division of Forestry but on the positive side we were able to get some existing money set aside for the two state nurseries which will hopefully keep them operational. House Bill 208 passed and was signed into law by the Governor and allows burning during fire season for those certified with proper training and requires burning notification to the Division of Forestry. Once again a Resolution was introduced in the House to establish a Timber Theft and Trespass Task Force to develop recommendations to address

related issues but it did not get a hearing in the Senate. KFIA will be working to bring forestry partners together to see how this issue can be addressed to find potential solutions. Repeat Bad Actor Legislation that was introduced and passed by KFIA during the 2015 Legislative Session is now in full effect. The law requires all loggers on the bad-actor list who have not paid fines and fixed sites to notify the Division of Forestry before logging and any logger on the list three or more times are not allowed to log in Kentucky until they fix sites and either pay all fines or abide by a payment plan. Interested Tree Farmers can contact the KFIA office with any legislative concerns or questions at 502.695.3979.

## Congratulations!

Please join the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee (KTFC) in congratulating the recently announced KTFC award winners. The award winners were announced at the 2016 Kentucky Forest Industries Association annual meeting.



### Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year

Herbert Davis (2nd from left) of Casey and Taylor counties was honored as the 2015 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year. Accompanying Mr. Davis is KDF Service Forester Amy Carmicle-Rabich (left), Mr. Davis' wife Wanda, and KDF Chief Forester Robert Bean (right).



### Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector of the Year

KDF Service Forester Tammy Rodgers (right) was honored as the 2015 Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector of the Year. Presenting the award is KDF Forest Management Chief Pam Snyder.

### Kentucky Logger of the Year

Sutton Logging was honored as the 2015 Kentucky Logger of the Year. Pictured are outgoing KTFC Chairman Lloyd Foe (left), Mike Sutton (center), and Justin Sutton.

