



Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

2013 Third Party Certification Assessment on Kentucky Tree Farms

by Lloyd Foe

The American Forest Foundation's National Office coordinates Third Party Certification Assessments on Tree Farms annually. In 2013 nine (9) states were selected from the North, Central, West and South Regions of the United States. In Kentucky, an assessment was conducted during the week of June 4, 2013, on 18 Tree Farms located in 16 counties (see green shaded counties in the map below). The Forest Management Plans and associated documentation were reviewed in conjunction with the on-site visits.



Non-conformance issues were observed on some of the Tree Farms. In an effort to bring the Tree Farms into compliance with the American Tree Farm Standards of Sustainability, Performance Measures and Indicators, a letter and recommendations for corrective action were sent to each Tree Farmer and the inspecting foresters. Also, a required report was provided to the national office.

The assessment included several observations such as:

- Exceptional commitments to sustainable forestry by landowners through the application and execution of sound forestry practices.
- Many forestry operations were conducted with an acute awareness of other forest values such as water quality, wildlife habitat, ecosystems and biodiversity.
- All of the required annual inspections were consistently completed and optional telephone interviews were conducted with the Tree Farmers to ensure that contact is made at least every five years.

Woodland Owner Involvement in the Kentucky Legislative Session

by Bob Bauer

The Kentucky Tree Farm Program is co-sponsored by the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) and has a number of tree farmers and wood industry members involved with managing the Tree Farm program in Kentucky. In addition to woodland owners and industry representatives, the Tree Farm committee also receives support from a number of agencies and other groups including the Kentucky Division of Forestry and University of Kentucky Forestry Department, which provide much of the interaction with landowners through visits and educational programs.

KFIA has an office in Frankfort and is responsible for assisting members with all types of business and forestry issues. The Association is heavily involved in legislative matters with an emphasis on Kentucky state legislative issues. The Kentucky General Assembly comes into session starting in early January and concludes by the middle of April with 60 working days set aside for the session. Over two thousand bills will likely be introduced, and KFIA monitors all legislation and works hard to protect the interests of the wood industry and forest landowners when issues arise that could affect the management of forests and the bottom line of businesses that are related to the wood industry.

The 2014 Legislative Session will cover a wide range of issues with one of the major forestry issues likely to revolve around repeat bad actors in the logging community. The association is looking at possible legislation to provide assistance to state government to improve fine collection and make it harder for a repeat bad actor to operate unless they have paid fines assessed for past bad logging activities. The legislation would focus on a small percentage of loggers that have been through a four-step process, have not corrected water quality problems, and have been deemed a bad actor on more than one occasion. Since many of these repeat offenders have not paid fines and continue to operate, there needs to be improvement in bringing them into compliance.

KFIA works hard to protect the state's tree farmers and other forest landowners from overregulation and supports legislation that will help improve forest management in the Commonwealth. Landowners are invited to learn more about getting involved with legislative issues by contacting the KFIA office at 502.695.3979 or visiting www.kfia.org to find out the latest legislative issues.



***To learn more about the
Kentucky Tree Farm program
visit: www.KYTreeFarm.org***