



Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Newsletter

Kentucky Tree Farmer Profile

There are many great stories about Kentucky woodland owners and others involved with the Tree Farm program in Kentucky. From time to time we will use this space to share their stories.

Pete McNeill:

Pete was born on a small dairy farm in the Northwestern corner of North Carolina on the slope of Mount Jefferson. He was the second son of four brothers and five sisters. Pete joined the US Navy in 1944 and was stationed in the Pacific during W.W.II. After the war, Pete enrolled in Berea College where he met and married Anna Lou Planck in June 1950. After graduation with a degree in agriculture, they moved to Ashe County North Carolina and through the GI bill he taught modern farming practices to war veterans. In March of 1953, the McNeills relocated to Fleming County, Kentucky, purchased a farm and moved in with two children in tow. As the family grew, the farm was sold and Pete was employed for three years as a UK Extension Agent in training for Youth (4-H). In 1959 he took a



job as Assistant to the Manager of Fleming-Mason RECC, and again returned to a farm near Poplar Plains in Fleming County where both Pete and Anna Lou wanted to raise their children. Upon retirement from RECC in 1982, they moved back to the farm in Fleming County. Soon, Pete was recruited by Morehead State University to work in their rural development office. After retirement, this time from Morehead State University, Pete resumed farming full time which involved extensive management of the timber tracts that he had acquired and developed over the years.

Pete McNeill was one of the founders of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association which was organized in the 1980s. In 1988, he was recognized as the Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year, the Southern Region, and National Tree Farmer of the Year. He and Anna Lou remain as the only Kentucky recipients of the latter two awards. He has represented Kentucky forestry landowners at numerous national Tree Farm conferences and is an active KWOA board member, currently serving as treasurer of the board. Pete and Anna Lou have been married for 60 years. They have five children, twelve grandchildren, and four great-grand children. They currently own and manage over 1,000 acres of timberland in and around Fleming County. He is a member of the American Tree Farm System, KY Agriculture Water Authority, Kentucky Forestry Committee, and the Forestry BMP board.

Pete has not only done an outstanding job managing his Tree Farm, he has done a tremendous amount for Kentucky woodland owners.

Kentucky Tree Farm Committee District Chairs Directory

Would you like to know more about the Tree Farm program in Kentucky? Contact the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee district chair in your area.

