



## What is a Tree Farm?

The term “tree farming” was first used in the 1940’s to introduce the public to sustainable forestry terminology which could easily be understood. Farming implies continual stewardship and production of goods year after year. By linking the term “farming” with trees, foresters could communicate the concept of sustainable production of forest products over time.

Tree Farming implies commitment to the land. The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) was established in response to concerns that America’s private forests were being cut at unsustainable rates without reforestation.

## Kentucky Tree Farm Committee

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee works to carry out programs that attract, encourage and support Tree Farmers in Kentucky. We bring Tree Farmers, foresters, consultants, university, and government agencies together. We plan and administer the ATFS program in Kentucky through the following efforts:

- Certify and re-inspect Kentucky Tree Farms.
- Provide Tree Farm certificates and recognition signs for Tree Farms.
- Annually, recognize the Kentucky Tree Farmer, Kentucky Logger, and Kentucky Tree Farm Inspector of the Year.
- Sponsor Tree Farm field days and other educational programs throughout the state.
- Develop special projects designed to educate woodland owners on sustainable forest management.

## What is ATFS forest certification?

Forest certification is a system that provides society and forest products consumers a pathway to sustainably managed forests. The ATFS forest certification requires a written management plan that is being implemented and is documented by an inspecting forester through verification of specific performance measures and indicators.

## Benefits of a Certified Tree Farm

The ATFS has always brought a wide variety of environmental benefits to woodland owners. The recent transition from a recognition program to a certification system now brings monetary benefits. Tree Farm benefits include:

- Potential to increase timber bids and bidding competitiveness.
- Provides an opportunity to participate emerging carbon credit and other ecosystem services markets.
- Provides the foundation to meet the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) requirements in applying for forestry cost share programs.
- Be sure to tell the logger you are a Tree Farmer.
- Free advertising for your Tree Farm products.



## How can I get my woodland to be a Certified Tree Farm?

The ATFS is open to private (non-industrial) woodland owners with property sizes from 10 to 10,000 acres. Woodland owners should have an approved written management plan for their property. In addition, woodland owners interested in becoming a Certified Tree Farmer should:

- Demonstrate a commitment to sustainable, long-term forest management
- Maintain ownership goals and objectives that do not compromise the ATFS mission
- Allow Tree Farm Inspectors/Auditors to verify that the ATFS Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification are being met ([www.forestfoundation.org/cff\\_standards.html](http://www.forestfoundation.org/cff_standards.html))
- If a woodland owner’s property does not meet the standards, the inspecting forester may recommend the woodland owner become a Pioneer Tree Farmer, a non-certified status that allows up to five years to bring the property into conformance.

For information about developing a management plan please contact:  
**Kentucky Division of Forestry**  
502.564.4496 -- [www.forestry.ky.gov](http://www.forestry.ky.gov)

For information about the Tree Farm Program please contact:  
**Kentucky Tree Farm Committee**  
502.695.3979 -- [www.KyTreeFarm.org](http://www.KyTreeFarm.org)

### AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

I would like to receive advice on how to manage my woodlands to qualify for Tree Farm status. Please make arrangements for an inspecting forester to contact me. I own approximately \_\_\_\_\_ acres of woodland in \_\_\_\_\_ county, KY.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## Kentucky Forestry Facts

Kentucky's forests provide numerous benefits to their owners as well as society. These

benefits include more than wood products, habitat for wildlife, water filtering, carbon storage, countless recreational opportunities, and a scenic backdrop that will rival that of any in the world. Did you know the following facts about Kentucky forests?



- Nearly half of Kentucky is covered in forests (12.4 million acres)
- Eighty-nine percent of Kentucky's forests are privately owned
- There are over 460,000 woodland owners in the state
- There are more than 28,000 forest industry jobs in Kentucky
- Kentucky's forest industry provides an economic impact of \$19 billion annually
- Kentucky annually ranks in the top five hardwood producers in the United States
- The state tree is yellow-poplar
- The state heritage tree is Kentucky covee tree

## Tree Farms —

### Our Mission is Growing!!!



The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) Mission is to promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive sustainable forestry.

#### Core Values of the ATFS:

- The health and well-being of America's family forests is our goal.
  - We will work to reach America's family forest owners and educate them about sustainable forestry.
  - America's family forest owners have the right to practice sustainable forestry.
  - We will help family forest owners manage their forests consistent with their goals while ensuring the environmental integrity of the forest.
  - We will recognize and reward family forest owners for their outstanding demonstrations of commitment to practice sustainable forestry.
- Tree Farms approved by the ATFS are recognized by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and are endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC).



# Kentucky Certified

# Tree Farms



The Sign of Good Forestry

[www.KyTreeFarm.org](http://www.KyTreeFarm.org)

#### Brochure Courtesy:

Kentucky Division of Forestry  
Kentucky Tree Farm Committee  
Kentucky Forest Industries Association  
University of Kentucky Forestry Extension

Kentucky Tree Farm Committee  
c/o Kentucky Division of Forestry  
300 Sower Blvd.  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Place  
Stamp Here