The American Tree Farm System

Mission

To promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.

The American Tree Farm System grows stewardship from the roots
Inspector Training Agenda

• Introduction to Tree Farm
• 2015 – 2020 Standards & Guidelines
• The Inspection Process – applying the Standards
• Tools & Benefits of Tree Farm
American Tree Farm System (ATFS)

• Program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF)
American Tree Farm History

- “Tree farming” term – 1940 and The first Tree Farm was established in 1941 by Weyerhaeuser in Montesano, WA.
- The Montreal Process is the basis for all current forest certification systems.
- By 1998, the Tree Farm System needed to become a certification organization, and the 2000 Standards of Sustainability were developed.
ATFS History

Clint Bentz, Chair, AFF Board of Trustees
Barbara Bentz, Tree Farmer
# Tree Farms Per County

As of March 30, 2015

163,287 Total Acreage

720 Tree Farms Statewide

65 Tree Farm Inspectors

As of March 30, 2015
Why become a tree farmer?

- Certification
- Recognition
- Resources
Chain of Custody

A 3rd-party verified unbroken trail of accountability that confirms the share of wood from certified sustainable sources.

Forest → CoC → Mill → Customer → Printer

Forest certificate → CoC → CoC → CoC → CoC

GROWING STEWARDSHIP FROM THE ROOTS
Landowner Eligibility

- Private or public ownership
- No publicly traded companies
- Nonindustrial (small business exception)
- Agree to conform to Standard
- Agree to participate in assessments
Landowner Acreage Eligibility

- 10 – 10,000 contiguous acres for certification through a State Tree Farm committee
- Contiguous parcels defined as boundary line or corner point held under the same ownership name.
- Forested acres may include non-forested features (food plots, water resources) that are integrated with the forest system
- 10,000-20,000 parcels may be eligible under IMG or individual 3rd party certification.
## ATFS Certification Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership Type</th>
<th>ATFS Program Enrollment Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual owner - 10 to 10,000 ac.</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual owner - 10,000 to 20,000 ac.</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government – 10 to 20,000 ac.</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIMO/REIT - 10 to 20,000 ac.</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability Development

• 2015-2020 Independent Standards Review Panel (ISRP)
  o At the direction of the AFF Board of Trustees
  o Two rounds of comments
• Sustainable Forest Management
• Credibility
  o PEFC endorsement
Highlights of Changes

• Standardized language
  • “Must” replaced with “Shall”

• Emphasis on objectives and activities
  • Related to management plans
  • Use of adaptive innovative approaches

• Expansion of BMPs
  • Standards and guidance enhanced
  • Related to air, water, soil, and site quality
Highlights of Changes, Cont’d

• T&E species
  • Clarified obligations for protection

• Forest Health
  • Promote broader understanding
  • Stresses resilience to multiple stressors and disturbance

• Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI)
  • Formerly High Conservation Value Forests

• Use of Contracts
  • Should seek and engage qualified contractors
  • Should use and retain contracts
2015-2020 AFF Standards of Sustainability & Guidelines

- Standards Prologue & use
- 8 Standards and Standards of Sustainability Document
- Glossary
- 2015 Eligibility Guidance Document
- Responsibility for Conformance
Standard 1 – Commitment to Practice Sustainable Forestry
Standard 2 – Compliance with Laws
Standard 3 – Reforestation and Afforestation
Standard 4 – Air, Water and Soil Protection
Standard 5 – Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Health
Standard 6 – Forest Aesthetics
Standard 7 – Protect Special Sites
Standard 8 – Forest Product Harvest and Other Activities
The Standard is the overarching guiding principle.

The Performance Measure is the conformance shown through Tree Farmer’s actions.

An Indicator is an example of Tree Farmer’s action.
Key Phrases

Shall vs. Should

Size Scale Intensity
Performance Measure 1.1 - Landowner shall have and implement a written forest management plan consistent with the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of the forest activities.
Indicator 1.1.1 – Management Plan

Requirements:

• Clearly stated objectives
• Active and adaptive
• Reflect current knowledge of forest science & management
Indicator 1.1.2a – Management Plan

Requirements:

- Describe current forest conditions
- Landowner objectives
- Management activities & schedule
- Map depicting all significant forest-related resources
Indicator 1.1.2b – Management plans

Required Plan Resource Elements

- Forest health
- Soil
- Water
- Wood & fiber production
- T&E species
- Special sites
- Invasive species
- Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI)
Indicator 1.1.2c – Management plans

Additional Plan Resource Element Considerations

- Prescribed fire
- Wetlands
- Desired species
- Recreation
- Aesthetics
- Biomass
- Carbon
Indicator 1.1.3 – Monitor for changes

- Monitoring
- Notes: Written Record
- Updates
  - Management Plan Addendum
- Plans considered current:
  - Landowner objectives
  - Conditions on ground
Performance Measure 2.1 - Landowner **shall** comply with all relevant federal, state, county and municipal laws, regulations and ordinances governing forest management activities.
Indicator 2.1.1

Landowner **shall** comply with all relevant laws, regulations and ordinances and will correct conditions that led to adverse regulatory actions, if any.
Indicator 2.1.2

Landowner should obtain advice from appropriate qualified natural resource professionals or qualified contractors who are trained in, and familiar with, relevant laws, regulations and ordinances.
Forestry Laws in Kentucky

http://forestry.ky.gov/forestrypublications
Performance Measure 3.1 – Reforestation or Afforestation shall be achieved by a suitable process that ensures adequate stocking levels.
Indicator 3.1.1

Harvested forest land **shall** achieve adequate stocking of desired species reflecting the landowner’s objectives, within five years after harvest, or within a time interval as specified by applicable regulation.
Performance Measure 4.1 - Landowner shall meet or exceed practices prescribed by state forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are applicable to the property.
Indicator 4.1.1

Landowner **shall** implement specific state forestry BMPs that are applicable to the property.
Indicator 4.1.2

- Landowner **shall** minimize road construction and other disturbances within riparian zones and wetlands.
Performance Measure 4.2 - Landowner shall consider a range of forest management activities to control pests, pathogens, and unwanted vegetation.
Indicator 4.2.1

Landowner **should** evaluate alternatives to pesticides for the prevention or control of pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation to achieve specific management objectives.
Indicator 4.2.2

Pesticides used **shall** be EPA-approved and applied, stored and disposed of in accordance with EPA-approved labels and by persons appropriately trained, licensed and supervised.
Performance Measure 4.3 - When used, prescribed fire shall conform with landowner’s objectives and pre-fire planning.
Indicator 4.3.1

Prescribed fire **shall** conform with the landowner’s objectives and state and local laws and regulations.
Performance Measure 5.1 – Forest Management activities shall protect habitats and communities occupied by threatened & endangered species as required by law.
Indicator 5.1.1

Landowner **shall** confer with natural resource agencies, state natural resource heritage programs, qualified natural resource professionals or review other sources of information to determine occurrences of threatened or endangered species on the property and their habitat requirements.
Indicator 5.1.2

Forest management activities **shall** incorporate measures to protect identified threatened or endangered species on the property.
Who to contact in Kentucky?
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
http://fw.ky.gov

US Fish and Wildlife Service
http://www.fws.gov/endangered

Invasive plants & insects:
http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/ky.shtml

Forest pests and pathogens:
http://forestry.ky.gov/foresthealth/Pages
Performance Measure 5.2 – Landowner should address the desired species and/or desired forest communities
Indicator 5.2.1

Landowner should consult available and accessible information on management of the forest for desired species and/or forest communities and integrate it into forest management.
Performance Measure 5.3
– Landowner should make practical efforts to promote forest health.
Indicator 5.3.1

Landowner **should** make practical efforts to promote forest health, including prevention, control or response to disturbances such as wildland fire, invasive species and other pests, pathogens or unwanted vegetation, to achieve specific management.
Performance Measure 5.4 - Where present, forest management activities should maintain or enhance forests of recognized importance.
Indicator 5.4.1

Appropriate to the scale and intensity of the situation, forest management activities should incorporate measures to contribute to the conservation of identified forests of recognized importance.
Performance Measure 6.1 - Landowners should manage for visual impacts consistent with size, scale and intensity of activities.
Indicator 6.1.1

Forest management activities should apply visual quality measures compatible with appropriate silvicultural practices.
Performance Measure 7.1 – Forest Management activities shall consider and maintain any relevant special sites.
Indicator 7.1.1

Landowner **shall** make a reasonable effort to locate and protect special sites appropriate for the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of forest management activities.
What is included in Special Sites?

• Historical
• Archeological
• Cultural
• Geological
• Biological
• Ecological

Can also be designated by the landowner.
Performance Measure 8.1 – Landowner should use qualified natural resource professionals and contractors
Indicator 8.1.1

Landowner should seek qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors.
Indicator 8.1.2

Landowner should engage qualified contractors who carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state and local safety and fair labor rules, regulations and standard practices.
Indicator 8.1.3

Landowners should retain appropriate contracts or records for forest product harvests and other management activities to demonstrate conformance to the Standards.
Performance Measure 8.2 – Landowner shall monitor harvests and other activities to ensure conformance with objectives
Indicator 8.2.1

Harvest, utilization, removal and other management activities shall be conducted in compliance with the landowner’s objectives and to maintain the potential of the property to produce forest products and other benefits sustainably.
Conducting an Inspection
Two levels of Certification

Third-Party Certification (External Monitoring)

Accredited Certification Bodies

(PwC, BV, NSF)

Perform third-party certification assessments for the 4 Tree Farm regions

Internal Monitoring (REQUIRED Sample)

State Tree Farm Committee

Trained inspectors verify landowner conformance (You)
Tree Farm Inspections

Three Types of Inspection:
1. Initial
2. Required sample
3. 5 year interval or
   Adopted KY Telephone Inspection process

Inspections are essential to the ATFS Internal Monitoring System.
Tree Farm Inspection Protocol

Inspection protocol

1. Review Eligibility for Tree Farm Participation
2. Review AFF Standards
3. Inspect management plan
4. Inspect property
Tree Farm Inspection Protocol

1) Review eligibility criteria
   • Size?
   • Ownership?
   • Willing participant?
Tree Farm Inspection Protocols

2) Review 2015-2020 AFF Standards
   • Must meet all Standards to be certified
   • Record activities that support Certification
Tree Farm Inspection Protocols

3) Inspect Management Plan
   • All core elements addressed?
   • Additional considerations addressed if appropriate?
   • Schedule of activities still applicable?
   • Addendum or updates?
Tree Farm Inspections

4) Inspect the Property
   • Recent management
   • Unique features
   • Ground truth the map
   • Areas of emphasis
   • Landowner questions
   • Document findings
Tree Farm Inspections

When should a management plan be updated?

• Changes to forest condition
• Changes to landowner objectives
• Changes to owners, ownership or acres
• Natural disasters
• Insect and disease outbreaks
Tree Farm Inspections

Three Recommendation Options:

1. Certified Tree Farm (certification)
2. Pioneer Tree Farm (participation)
3. Not appropriate for certification through ATFS (de-certification) - specify

Wayne Young, 2009 National Tree Farm Inspector of the Year
Re-inspection by Phone can only be done using the following Rules.

- Permission of legal owner
- 004 Form completed
- On the ground within 180 days.
- No management activity since visit.
- KY Telephone Inspection Process
ATFS Tree Farm Inspection Record (004 Form)

- Key to Certification under ATFS
- Recently revised for the new standards
- All inspections must be done with this form starting 3/15
- You must be trained to the 2015-2020 Standards to use this form
Page One

- All about the Landowner and his/her property
  - Contact information is Key!
- Inspection outcome
- Signatures of approval
- All Sections on this page are REQUIRED
- Form will be returned to you if anything is missing
### Improved Standards Checklist

#### Standard 2: Compliance with Laws

**PM 2.1** Landowner complies with all relevant federal, state, county and municipal laws, regulations and ordinances governing forest management activities.

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<td>2.1.1:  Landowner corrects conditions that led to adverse regulatory actions, if any.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2.1.2: Landowner should obtain advice from appropriate qualified natural resource professionals or qualified contractors who are trained in, and familiar with, relevant laws, regulations and ordinances.</td>
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#### Standard 3: Reforestation and Afforestation

Has the property been reforested or afforested in the past 5 to 10 years? (If no, skip to Standard 4: Air, Water and Soil Protection)

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- Number of acres affected?
- Methods of regeneration?
- Species selected?

- **Example:** All questions in Standard 2 Section are required. All questions in Standard 3 are required if the property has been reforested or afforested in recent years.
Additional Tips

- Use State abbreviation in when asked for State. (Texas should be written as TX)
- Date format is always mmddyyyy
- Acres should be written as whole numbers
- When asked for a number of something (acres) do not use text, only numerical
- If the question is a yes or question, do not choose yes and no.
- Make sure to answer ALL of the required fields for the property
How To Obtain A 004 Form

• Several Options
• Online in the inspector’s corner-resources
  http://www.treefarmsystem.org/inspectorscorner
• Your local state committee representative
• ATFS Inspector’s app
The ATFS Inspection App

MEET OUR NEW APP
- A quick and easy way to complete your ATFS inspections
- Download it to your smartphone or tablet, then it's always with you
- Complete an inspection even if you don't have an internet connection, just synch the app when you are back online

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY
See our instructions for downloading the app for iPhone, iPad and Android.

DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS
Get instructions for downloading the app and configuring it for your smartphone or iPad.

STARTING THE APP
Learn how to launch and log in to the ATFS Inspection App on your iPhone, iPad or Android.

APP GUIDELINES
Before using the ATFS Inspector App, there's a few things you need to keep in mind. Please read and follow our best practices for using the new app.

treefarmsystem.org/app

GROWING STEWARDSHIP FROM THE ROOTS
Management Plan Template and Addendum

- ATFS offers tools for foresters and landowners:
  - Template (NRCS, Forest Stewardship, ATFS)
  - Management Plan Addendum
  - My Land Plan

Growing Stewardship from the Roots
Tools & Benefits
For Landowners and Foresters
Benefits for Landowners

• Education
• Information
• Communication
• Community
• Certification
• Representation
Tools to Share With Landowners:

• Management Plan Template & Addendum
• Woodland Owner Resources
• ATFS Webinars
• Family Forests Network & Online Updates
• Woodland Magazine
• Forests & Families Newsletter
• Brochures: Tree Farm, Farm Bill, etc.
• Tree Farm Signs
• ATFS Blog, Facebook, and Twitter
• My Land Plan
Family Forest Action Network

• Stay up-to-date on current legislation that will affect you and woodland owners
• Have your voice heard on Capitol Hill
• Join our Grassroots Action Network: http://www.forestfoundation.org/actionnetwork
Tree Farm Signs

• Two types available:
  • Certified Family Forest
  • Certified Tree Farm
• Landowners can purchase additional signs online: www.treefarmsystem.org/atfssigns
Benefits for Foresters

• Contacts
  • Landowners and foresters

• Recognition
  • Commitment to Sustainable Forestry

• Resource Efficiencies
  • SFI-SIC
  • Landowner outreach

• Communications
Volunteer Recognition

• Tree Farmer and Inspecting Forester of the Year
  • State
  • Regional
  • National
• Hard Hat Awards
• Field Leadership Award
What we covered:

- Tree Farm History & Overview
- 2015-2020 AFF Standards
- Conducting an Inspection.
- Tools & Benefits
Where to go with questions?

- Kentucky Tree Farm Program website
- ATFS website
- ATFS Inspector’s Corner
- Sightline & Sightline Express newsletters
- 2015 Eligibility Guidance Document
- 2015-2020 Standards for Sustainability
- Send Questions to inspectors@forestfoundation.org
Kentucky Tree Farm Committee Contacts

• Pam Snyder, Forest Management Chief, KDF
  pamela.snyder@ky.gov

• Michelle Brewer, TF Administrator, KFIA
  michele@kfia.org

• Bob Bauer, Executive Director, KFIA
  kfiabob@aol.com
Conclusion