American Tree Farm System Inspector Eligibility Requirements

The following minimum education and/or experience requirements are necessary for professionals certifying and inspecting Tree Farms.

➢ All inspectors must successfully complete the Certifier Training Program. Inspectors must complete the refresher training every five years, which will coincide with AFF Standard revisions.

All inspectors must meet at least one of the four recognized requirements:

➢ A Bachelor of Science, Forestry degree, or higher from a Society of American Foresters (SAF) accredited program.

➢ Two-year forestry technician degree from an SAF recognized program.

➢ Anyone already serving as a Tree Farm inspector prior to July 31, 1999 is grandfathered in as an inspector **provided** their names were included in a list of inspectors submitted by the State Tree Farm Chair to the American Forest Foundation by July 31, 1999 and has completed the Certifier Training Program.

➢ Anyone professionally practicing forestry and meeting the following minimum educational requirements.

Forest Ecology and Biology: A minimum of one course in each of the three broad subject areas of Dendrology, Forest Ecology and Soils is required. Each subject area is described as follows: **Dendrology** – taxonomy; distribution; tree physiology, including metabolism and growth. **Forest Ecology** -- ecological concepts and principles; characteristics of tree growth, including structure and function of ecosystems, wildlife/fish biology, and ecology. **Soils** -- soil formation, classification, composition, and properties.

Measurement of Forest Resources: A minimum of one course in each of the three broad   subject areas of Forest Measurements, Sampling Design and Techniques and Surveying and Mapping is required. Each subject area is described as follows: **Forest Measurements** -- forest inventory; growth and yield; volumetric, including measurement of trees, forests, and forest products; wildlife habitat assessment; measurement of water yields and quality. **Sampling, Design and Techniques** -- sampling theory and methods including statistics. **Surveying and Mapping** -- photogrammetry; remote sensing; land surveying, including mapping and area determination; geographic information system applications.

Management of Forest Resources: A minimum of one course in each of the three broad subject areas of Forest Management, Silviculture, and Forest Protection is required. Each subject area is described as follows: **Forest Management** -- integrated forest resource management on stand, system, and landscape scales, with consideration of wood, forage, water, wildlife, fish, recreation, cultural, educational, and aesthetic benefits; forest engineering, harvesting, and utilization. **Silviculture** -- to include methods of establishing and controlling the composition, growth, and quality of forest stands. **Forest Protection --** entomology and pathology, including the study of representative forest organisms and the application of integrated pest management; fire ecology and use of fire.

Forest Resources Policy and Administration: A minimum of one course in two of the three broad subject areas of Forest Policy, Forest Economics, and Business Management is required. This area integrates the understanding of the social, cultural, political, legal, economic, institutional, and historical influences of forestry. Each of the subject areas is described as follows: **Forest Policy** -- forest policy history and development; application and administration; land and resource planning; real estate law. **Forest Economics** --forest or natural resource economics. **Business Management** -- budgeting; financial, and personnel management; accounting.

Exceptions

ATFS may review petitions for exceptions, and make eligible to participate as an Inspector, following completion of the required ATFS inspector training program, individuals that have comparable competencies to those who meet the ATFS Inspector education requirements stated in the *American Tree Farm System Certifier Eligibility Requirements*. ATFS recognizes the value of on-the-ground experience.