



Sightline *Express*

Sightline *Express* – The latest Tree Farm News

October 2009

1. **Changes to the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Recognition Program**

The 2010 Outstanding Tree Farmer process has been modified due to the early date for next year's National Tree Farmer Convention. **The state deadline has not changed**; regional nominations from the state will still be due February 1, 2010. We request that all nominations are submitted via email as we will be emailing all nomination packets to the judges for all rounds of judging. Inspecting judges will visit nominated Tree Farms in March and April and votes will be due May 3. After which the Operating Committee will determine the national winner.

Interested in becoming a part of the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year judging process? Potential judges must be a qualified Tree Farm Inspector, and have previously served or are currently serving on a State Tree Farm Committee. Potential judges must also have a very flexible travel schedule for the months of March through April. For additional requirements, see the National Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award Rules, Policies, and Procedures document on the Leaders Only section of the website (www.treefarmssystem.org/leadersonly). To request a copy of this document, or for more information, please contact us at inspectors@treefarmssystem.org or 202-463-2462.

2. **Inspector Survey**

ATFS staff is busy developing the new in-person and online inspector training course to coincide with the future release of the revised AFF Standards of Sustainability. Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve the training? We want to hear

from you; so send us your input! Please visit:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=y72OGmFStTlvDiQe6mucDA_3d_3d to provide us with your input on the program. Your feedback will help us make the Tree Farm program better! You can also access the survey at
<http://treefarmssystem.org/inspectorscorner/>

3. Technical Service Provider – Feedback Request

Many landowners are excited about the new opportunities for cost-share funds for forest management through the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). As a professional forester, have you looked into becoming a Technical Service Provider (TSP) to help landowners access these funds?

ATFS is working with NRCS on the national level to gather information from our foresters about how to improve the TSP program, making it more workable for professional foresters. Please send your feedback to vlockhart@forestfoundation.org.

4. Profile: Wayne Young, 2009 Inspector of the Year

We are very pleased to announce Wayne Young from New Hampshire as our 2009 Inspector of the Year! Wayne is a consulting forester from Cheshire County, New Hampshire, who is not only a dedicated volunteer inspector but he is also a Tree Farmer. Wayne has held several educational tours on his Tree Farm and has played a role in enrolling 81 landowners in the Tree Farm program.

To learn more about Wayne Young, 2009 Inspector of the Year, and our other recognition award recipients, please visit -
http://www.treefarmssystem.org/cms/pages/19_3.html

5. Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)

The new BCAP program supports the production of bioenergy by providing matching payments for biomass delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility by participating loggers. With the availability of matching payments, foresters and landowners could use the BCAP program to help entice loggers to work small thinning jobs. The materials must be delivered to an eligible biomass conversion facility and foresters should be involved to ensure loggers follow the forest management plan.

For more information, visit the Farm Service Agency's website on BCAP -
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&opic=bcap>

6. **Tree Farm Verification**

Make sure your Tree Farmers are telling their loggers that they are certified! ATFS has developed a verification database for companies who are interested in verifying the ATFS certification status of Tree Farms where they purchase wood. But this system only works if the landowner or foresters provide the logger and procurement foresters with the appropriate Tree Farm number.

7. **Need a 004 form?**

Electronic copies of the 004 inspector form and the auditor verification form are always available on the ATFS website. Visit <http://treefarmssystem.org/inspectorscorner/> for this and other resources for inspectors.

Or contact your state program if you are meeting with a specific landowner and you would like to have an electronic copy to print that is pre-populated with the Tree Farm and landowner information. All state contacts are listed on the Tree Farm website (www.treefarmssystem.org/stateleaders).

8. **Become a fan of ATFS on Facebook**

Tree Farm is on Facebook! Become a fan today and keep updated on news, events and check out the latest photos and videos. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/American-Tree-Farm-System/252960535555?ref=mf>

As always, check out the latest news of what's happening at the American Forest Foundation on our website – www.forestfoundation.org.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.

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