



## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA TREE FARM PROGRAM

January 2016



### Nationwide ATFS Certification Assessment

Price Waterhouse Coopers is conducting the periodic third party assessment of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) certification nationwide. This is important because it is required to validate our certification system and provide absolute assurance of the great work you do to manage your forest in accordance to the highest conservation standards.

During the first half of 2016, seventeen Tree Farms among the 689 across the State will be selected for this assessment. "If" your Tree Farm is picked, the assessment team will visit you for an inspection, very similar to your regular Tree Farm inspection. They will need to see your management plan and ask you a few questions about how your land is managed. You need to ensure that your forest management plan follows the 2015-2020 ATFS standards, for which an addendum to your plan may be required. You can find the ATFS standards here: <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/view-standards> and the management plan addendum form here: <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/atfsaddendum>. Your forester is prepared to help you so please reach out to him/her if you need to.

### PA Tree Farm State Program Reorganization

Your State Tree Farm Program Committee is committed to provide affordable Certification along with all other benefits of the ATFS to all Family Forest landowners in Pennsylvania. We are working very hard to find effective ways to maximize the use of our resources to grow our program while minimizing the costs. The ATFS National Office is helping us develop a 5-year strategic plan to: 1) communicate more clearly the value of being a Certified Tree Farm in PA while developing opportunities for additional value and incentives, 2) create efficiencies in the administration of the program, including certification inspections and 3) build capacity by perfecting the relationships with our partners and increasing Tree Farmer involvement and representation on the Committee. You will be hearing from us to keep you informed of our progress and at the same time we want to hear from you.

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Tree Farm System

Get out the word... 2016 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Tree Farm System, the nation's largest and oldest sustainable woodlands program, and by the way, the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Program. We have a lot to be proud of and celebrate. We'll keep you posted.

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