

# Why Become a Certified Tree Farm?

## *Enjoyment*

Tree farmers achieve personal satisfaction by sustaining a healthy forest, enhancing wildlife habitats, and offering recreational opportunities.

## *Professionalism*

Becoming a certified Tree Farm identifies your land as a place where excellent forest management is practiced. Tree farmers share the satisfaction and recognition that comes from managing their property to the highest standards of good stewardship. ATFS certification is internationally recognized and meets strict third-party verification and assessment.

## *Revenue*

Sustainably managing your forest as a Certified Tree farm often produces timber for forest products. Some companies prefer to purchase wood from certified sources and becoming certified may increase the marketability of your timber.



Mix of Pine and Aspen, Sawyer Memorial Tree Farm, Black Hills

**The South Dakota Tree Farm Committee is a subsidiary of the South Dakota Family Forest Foundation, a 501c3 organization, and managed by an advisory committee. To find out more about the Tree Farm program, or to request an initial inspection, contact the South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry and a qualified Tree Farm inspector will contact you and arrange a visit to your property.**

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# South Dakota Tree Farm

## *CERTIFIED TREE FARMS*

*A Pathway to  
Sustainable Forestry*



*South Dakota Tree Farm works to provide members the tools, voice and network to practice stewardship of natural resources for sustainable forests.*

# The American Tree Farm System

As a forestland owner, you know that your forests are an extension of you and your family. Keeping your forests healthy is critical! The ATFS supports you in your goals to manage your property. Managing your forestland in a sustainable manner helps keep forests forested and a part of families for generations to come.



For 75 years, the ATFS has enhanced the quality of America's forestlands by giving land owners the support and tools to keep their forests healthy and productive. Privately owned forestlands are vital to our country's clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational activities, and producing the jobs, wood, and paper products we all need.

# Tree Farm Member Benefits

-You are not alone as a landowner!

**Knowledge/ Education/ Training:** New tree farm members receive a one year complimentary subscription to *"Woodland-Sustaining America's Family Forests"* magazine. Additionally, members receive a semi-annual newsletter of national, state, and Black Hills area interest, including opportunities to participate in local workshops.

**Networking:** One on one knowledge and advice available from other tree farmers and Forestry professionals.

**Advocacy:** Participation in a group supporting private, forest-owner issues at the state and local levels.

**Certification:** Standards based criteria certifying that a forest is managed for long term sustainability.

**Certification Cost Share:** Prospective tree farm members will receive cost share on the preparation of their initial Tree Farm Management Plan by a professional forester.

## "No Charge" Recertification

**Inspection:** A follow-up inspection by a professional forester is required every five years and provides the tree farmer a free consultation session.

**Tree-Farm Proud:** Members receive a complimentary Tree Farm sign, which publically acknowledges a landowner's commitment to stewardship excellence.

# Tree Farm Requirements

Woodland tree farmers must own a minimum of ten acres of forested land. Tree farmers must manage their property in accordance with their approved Tree farm Forest Management Plan.

