

MINUTES
Tree Farm Committee
03/4/2015

The Arkansas Tree Farm Committee met Wednesday, March 4 at the AFA Office in Little Rock at 10:00 a.m. Chair John Cook called the meeting to order. Others present were: Caroll Guffey, Robert Murphy, Wade Hargrave, Josh Smith, John Beasley, Scott Youngblood, Jody Perritt, Matt Voskamp, Charlie Oholendt, James Donham, Shane Booth, and Jennifer Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Welcome and introductions ensued.

Minutes of the December meeting were emailed and distributed. Minutes were approved as distributed.

2015 Inspections

- 120 Required
 - District 1 – 21
 - District 2 – 7
 - District 3 – 3
 - District 4 - 27
 - District 5 – 39
 - District 6 – 10
 - District 7 – 10
 - District 8 – 3

- 1378 “Scheduled” – aka Optional
 - District 1 – 347
 - District 2 – 26
 - District 3 – 16
 - District 4 – 360
 - District 5 – 549
 - District 6 – 9
 - District 7 – 47
 - District 8 – 24

The 2015-2020 American Tree Farm System Standards of Sustainability went into effect on Jan. 1. These Standards serve as the basis of the ATFS certification program and replace the 2010-2015 Standards.

- All Inspectors **MUST** be retrained
 - All Tree Farm inspectors must update their credentials to the new 2015-2020 Standards via an online refresher course or classroom training. ***The online course is available to inspectors who conducted at least one inspection or were trained in 2013-2014.*** All other inspectors must attend classroom training.
 - Online course is available in database (www.atfsdatabase.org)
 - New 004 Form
 - Database entry – new submission/approval methods
 - Two inspector trainings scheduled
 - March 30 – Little Rock
 - April 9 - Monticello
- Every inspector to perform at least ONE inspection per year to retain certification status.
- 2221 Outdated Inspections – over 5 years

- District 1 – 444
- District 2 – 103
- District 3 – 34
- District 4 - 506
- District 5 – 738
- District 6 – 84
- District 7 – 243
- District 8 – 69

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING REQUIRED INSPECTIONS FOR 2015 IS: AUGUST 31, 2015

2015 Leadership Conference Update

- Jennifer, Caroll, John and Robert just came back from the National Leadership Conference. They discussed the implementation of “State’s Voice, State’s Choice” and how other states are going to fund it.
- 2016 Audit – the Arkansas audit will take place in 2016. Now is the time to start cleaning up the database. Ensure that all landowners have an up to date management plan. Please reach out to those who have not been inspected in more than 6 years to gauge interest in the program and to determine if they need assistance.
- Tree Farmer Convention - As part of the landowner engagement strategy, a meeting of Tree Farmers was discussed. The 2015 Tree Farmer Conference is scheduled for Thursday, June 18 in Benton. All District Chairs are encouraged to attend.

State’s Voice/State Choice

- John talked about the proposed implementation strategy for the Arkansas TF program.
- A discussion of landowner engagement strategies took place by attendees.
- Newsletter topics were discussed, with Tax Tips, Cost Share updates and Seasonal topics such as wildfires.

Other Business

- John talked about his desire to have District meetings so that inspectors could ask questions and feel more engaged. District chairs decided dates and scheduled some with Jennifer. More to be scheduled.

Adjourn at 12:10 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday June 3 at the AFA Offices.