The SC Tree Farm Program was established in 1946 as recognition for good forest practices by volunteers from the wood supply chain with the addition of third party verified certification in 2003.

The landscape has changed over the years as forest industry volunteers and funding has drastically dwindled. In 2012, The National Tree Farm System launched a pilot program in 4 states seeking financial support from Tree Farmers. In 2013, the Board of the American Forest Foundation decided not to pursue this project on a national basis, but let individual states determine a financially sustainable program to benefit their Tree Farmers. States must elect by 2015 to be a recognition only program or a recognition and certification program and be financially self supporting by 2018.

After meeting with forest landowners and foresters in focus groups around the state, our SC Tree Farm Committee determined that the recognition and certification program option is best for South Carolina. This will provide greater access to markets, preference in times of quota restrictions, with the possibility of more bids for Tree Farm certified wood resulting in potentially higher prices.

The South Carolina Certified Tree Farm Program (SCCTFP) has several key goals including membership activity in advocacy, networking and strengthening the capacity of the state committee with a part time paid administrator (Contact Guy Sabin at: treefarm@scforestry.org or 803/798-4170); and providing landowner communications -- email and printed, outreach and education opportunities and on the ground services to woodland owners.

The Certified Tree Farm Program is establishing a group of Tree Farmers who know and care that they’re part of the Tree Farm community, value their membership in the program, proudly display the Tree Farm sign, and are actively engaged in sustainable forestry and wildlife habitat and diversity while managing to American Tree Farm System standards for certification.

REQUIREMENTS
Ten forested acres with approved Tree Farm/Stewardship management plan and Tree Farm Inspection.

TREE FARMER MEMBERSHIP
Membership will be for a one year period.

- **Certified Tree Farmer**
  Has a current management plan and a Tree Farm Inspection completed in 2010 or later.

- **Certified Tree Farmer for one year**
  Needs an upgraded management plan and a Tree Farm Inspection within a year to continue as Certified.

- **New Tree Farms**
  Have all benefits except Certification. Needs a management plan and a Tree Farm inspection within two years of joining to move from Pioneer status to Certified Tree Farmer.

**CURRENT TREE FARMERS**
who elect not to be paying members will not be certified after Dec. 31, 2015. Sign up now and ask your neighbor/fellow forest landowner to also sign up.

**FEE CALCULATION**
$60 for the first 100 forested acres and 10 cents per acre for all additional forested acres up to a maximum annual fee of $1050.

**ENROLLMENT**
Mail your enrollment form to:

SC Tree Farm
P O Box 211173
Columbia, SC 29221

**PUBLICATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS**
You’ll receive:
- Quarterly Woodland Magazine
- Semi-Annual South Carolina Tree Farm News
- Emails on forestry issues (provide us with your current email)

**MAIN CONTACTS**
- George D. Kessler
  GKsslr@Clemson.edu, 864/868-9487
- Walt A. McPhail
  TreeVetSC@aol.com, 864/288-7618
- Scott Phillips
  sphillips@scfc.gov, 803/667-1067
- Eric W. Smith
  Eric.Smith@kapstonepaper.com
  843/745-3258
- Ken Leach
  Ken.Leach@paper.com
  843/520-5657 (O), 843/344-0400 (C)

**How Your Dues Are Allocated**

- Advocacy 2%
- Outreach & Education 5%
- Woodland Magazine 20%
- National Certification 20%

- SC Program Services 40%
- SC Publications/Misc. 3%
- Education 10%
BENEFITS of Being a Tree Farmer: **What The American Tree Farm Program Does For You**

**MEMBERSHIP:** Provides you with membership in a national organization that is a leader in representing private landowners, keeps you abreast of new developments and political trends, gives you a voice in decisions affecting land management, and provides you with an opportunity to shape the future.

**NETWORKING:** Making connections with other landowners, sharing ideas, learning from each other, connecting with professional foresters, avoiding problems others have had, becoming part of a community that works together for better land management.

**RECOGNITION:** The green and white diamond shaped Tree Farm sign recognizes Tree Farmers for meeting the standards of the Tree Farm System with a written, approved management plan. We’re proud to be Tree Farmers.

**CERTIFICATION:** Tree Farm Certification that meets international, third party standards of sustainable forest management may provide greater access to markets with more bids on your timber, potentially higher timber prices and preference when mills are on quota.

**EDUCATION:** Landowner education programs, tours, and field trips are provided for forest landowners. Tree Farm foresters provide on the ground assistance during initial and re-inspections. *Woodland* magazine (quarterly) and semi-annual *South Carolina Tree Farm News* are provided.

**ADVOCACY:** Tree Farm advocacy protects your property rights and the right to grow timber in South Carolina. Federal advocacy by National Tree Farm staff and local SC grassroots efforts have been instrumental in keeping the current capital gains tax and raising the estate tax exemption levels to help keep your farm in the family.

The National Tree Farm staff works on issues related to Tree Farming, soil and water conservation, and much more. Notable success includes the $5.43 million estate exemption and the Farm Bill making Tree Farmers equal to farmers and ranchers for government programs.

**PRIORITY STATE ISSUES:** Recent priority state issues that Tree Farmers and the SC Tree Farm Committee successfully advocated for:
- The Trespasser Responsibility Act (H. 3266) protects landowners from lawsuits from trespassers.
- Protected the Agriculture Use Exemption for forest lands by advocating that SC maintain the current system of taxation of agricultural and forest lands based on use value.
- The Right to Practice Forestry Act (H. 3651) prevents local governments from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or permit related to the practice of forestry on forest lands.
- SC Tree Farm supports Private Property Rights because ownership of private property is specifically protected by the Constitution of the United States.

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**APPLICATION**

Contact Name ________________________________________________________________ Tree Farm or Organization Name ___________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip _______________________

Home Phone __________________ Work Phone __________ Cell Phone ___________

County that Tree Farm is located in __________________________________________

(Print) Email Address _______________________________________________________

Membership Categories:
- [ ] Individual Family Unit - Husband/Wife/Children
- [ ] Business or Organization

**I would like to join the South Carolina Tree Farm Grassroots Advocacy Group on forestry issues**  

- [ ] Yes  
- [ ] No

Do you have a Tree Farm management plan?  
- [ ] Yes  
- [ ] No  

Date plan was prepared and/or updated _______________________________________

Number of forested acres __________________________________________________

Do you have a Tree Farm number?  
- [ ] Yes  
- [ ] No  

If yes, please provide your Tree Farm number __________________________________

Fee Calculation: $60 for the first 100 acres and 10 cents per acre for all additional acres up to a maximum annual fee of $1050.

**Payment** 

- [ ] Total amount submitted ________________________________________________

Check (payable to SC Tree Farm Program)

Credit Card:  
- [ ] Visa  
- [ ] MasterCard  

-- (Processing fee of 2% + 15 cents will be applied for credit card payments.)

Card # ___________________________ Exp. ____________ Security Code ___________

Name (as it appears on card) __________________________________________________

Do you have a forester you consult?  
- [ ] Yes  
- [ ] No

Forester’s Name and Address __________________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip _______________________

Home Phone __________________ Work Phone __________ Cell Phone ___________

Send completed form and payment to:  

**South Carolina Tree Farm, P O Box 211173, Columbia, SC 29221**

Ask your fellow woodland owners to join! Additional forms are available from treefarm@scforestry.org

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**PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY RIGHTS. JOIN TREE FARM.**

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