



ARKANSAS TREE FARM PROGRAM

www.arkforests.org
501-374-2441

FAMILIES & FORESTS

A NEWSLETTER FOR ARKANSAS TREE FARMERS

JANUARY 2020

Tree Farm Standards Revision Comment Period Open

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF), recently launched a 60-day public comment period on AFF's current Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification (Standards) and announced the 13 members of a new Independent Standards Review Panel (ISRP). The Standards are the benchmark for all ATFS forest certification, which are third party audited. The ISRP will also be responding to evolving international requirements while ensuring the Standards are a good match for the constraints, abilities, and resources of family forest ownerships in America.

During this first of two public comment periods in 2020, interested members of the public are invited to participate by submitting comments and suggestions here, <http://www.tfaforms.com/330231>. Submissions will be accepted January 2, 2020 through March 2, 2020.

The following list of candidates will serve on the ISRP in 2020:

Candidate	Stakeholder Group	Organization/Representation	Geographic Focus & Physical Location
Scott Phillips (Chair)	Government (State)	South Carolina Forestry Commission	South/South Carolina
Nancy Walters	Facilitator	Independent	
Fran Cafferata Coe	Family and small forest owners	Independent	West/Oregon
Don Grant	Forest Industry	Enviva	South/North Carolina
Avis Gray	Family and small forest owners	Independent	South/North Carolina
Jerry Grossman	Foresters/Forest Workers	Grossman Forestry	Midwest/Michigan
Katherine Haan	Government (State)	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Midwest/Wisconsin
Steve Hagenbuch	ENGO	Audubon	Northeast/Vermont
Emily Huff	Scientific and Technical	Michigan State University	Midwest/Michigan
Lois Kaufmann	Family and small forest owners	Independent	West/California
Steve Koehn	Government (Federal)	USDA Forest Service	National/Washington, DC
Alton Perry	Family and small forest owners	Roanoke Center	South/North Carolina
Aaron Plaugher	Forest Industry	Westrock	South/Virginia
Bob Russell	Brand/End User	Brown-Forman	South/Kentucky

The 13 members of the panel represent a broad spectrum of family and small forest owners, forest industry, conservation, and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOs), science and technological communities, foresters, and state and federal governments. They

THE TREE FARM PROGRAM...
is administered by the Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) and its Tree Farm Committee.

AFA's goal is to provide relevant, timely information about the Tree Farm program and forestry resources.

also represent consideration of the social, environmental, and economic sectors associated with family forest ownership in the United States.

For more information about the Standards revision process visit:

- <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-process-overview>
- <https://www.forestfoundation.org/atfs-public-comment-standards-2020>

or contact Leigh Peters at lpeters@forestfoundation.org.

Tree Farm Program Honors Nine Inspectors

Tree Farm Inspectors and organizations received accolades during the December Tree Farm committee meeting.

Every year the group recognizes inspectors for their hard work the past 12 months. The committee met at the Wood Grill Buffet in Benton for a business meeting and to recognize its volunteer inspectors.

and a Gold Hard Hat needs 100. This year, Trey Franks, with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division, earned both the Bronze and Silver Hard Hat Awards.



Trey Franks accepts the Bronze and Silver Hard Hat Awards from John Cook,

"I was looking forward to it," Franks said. "I kept pestering Jennifer [Johnson] about where I'm at, how far am I? I kept on pushing for it, and I was going, I think I have that many landowners."

Earlier in 2019, Franks had a big job change, and getting to his 50 new tree farms was a bit of a challenge. He explained that he would work, go home, and work some more to make sure he reached his goal. He wanted to have the achievement under his belt and two cool hard hats on his wall.

Franks and Hardman were only two of the honorees at the meeting. Below is a complete list of the awards presented:

Outstanding District

- District 5

Inspector of the Year

- Todd Hardman, Anthony Timberlands, Inc.

District Chair Award

- Tabitha Holloway, Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division

Agency Award

- Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division

Corporate Award

- Anthony Timberlands, Inc.

Silver Hard Hat Award

- Trey Franks, Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division
- Andrew Hilton, Silviculture

Bronze Hard Hat Award

- Jeff Denman, Denman Company
- Trey Franks, Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture – Forestry Division
- Trayvis Todd, Forestry Associates, Inc.



Todd Hardman accepts the Inspector of the Year Award from John Cook, Committee Chair.

John Cook, the committee chairman, presented the 2019 Inspector of the Year Award to Todd Hardman with Anthony Timberlands. Hardman said it was surprising to hear his name called. He and his coworkers split up a large number of properties that needed to be inspected this year, but Hardman took it upon himself to take on the extras. "I was able to find the time to do that," Hardman said. "Just to go out and check on the status of current tracts I've been on before and some I haven't been to, to see what needs to be done on them."

To earn a Bronze Hard Hat, you have to sign up 25 new tree farms into the program, a Silver Hard Hat requires 50,

AFA in conjunction with the SFI State Implementation Committee is proud to present a new **Landowner's Guide to Sustainable Forests**. You can download a PDF version of that book at https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.arkforests.org/resource/resmgr/sfi_2019_booklet_for_web_2.pdf or printed versions are available by calling the AFA office at 501-374-2441.



USDA Announces Funding to Control Feral Hogs in AR

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it is awarding more than \$3.4 million to fund pilot projects to control feral swine in Arkansas.

These projects are part of the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program (FSCP) – a joint effort between USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to help address the threat that feral swine pose to agriculture, ecosystems and human and animal health.

“Feral swine cause significant damage to crop and grazing lands, while also impacting the health of our natural resources,” said Arkansas NRCS State Conservationist Mike Sullivan. “By collaborating with our partners nationally

and here in Arkansas, our hope is to control and eradicate this invasive species – improving operations for farmers while also protecting our natural resources for the future.”

NRCS and APHIS are working with Arkansas Agriculture Department’s Natural Resources Division and several partner organizations on four pilot projects in Arkansas to reduce the feral swine population, agronomic damage, and environmental impacts throughout the project areas.

NRCS is awarding more than \$16.7 million this year for feral swine pilot projects in select areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. The funding limit for a single award

is \$1.5 million. Awardees are required to provide at least 25 percent of the partnership agreement budget as a match to NRCS funding. APHIS is providing \$23.3 million this year to the Wildlife Services programs located in the pilot projects states.

The 2018 Farm Bill provides \$75 million for the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program. These funds are for the life of the Farm Bill and divided evenly between NRCS and APHIS.

Additional information on feral swine control work in the state can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ar/programs/farmbill/89e4ddbdf-0842-43aa-b627-709ea50cf060/> and <http://nrcs.usda.gov/fscp>.



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Mark your calendars

January 15

WEBINAR: OpenTEAM: Open Technology EcoSystem for Agriculture Management - 12 p.m.

February 6

WEBINAR: Woodland Management: What is Right for You and Your Woodland? - 6 p.m.

February 13

WEBINAR: Understanding the Financial Aspects of Woodland Management - 6 p.m.

February 20

WEBINAR: More than Timber: Income Opportunities from Non-timber Forest Products - 6 p.m.

February 27

WEBINAR: Your Woodland Legacy: Intact, In Forest and In Family Ownership - 6 p.m.

For information on registering for the webinars visit www.forestrywebinars.net

Forestry Toolkit Workshop Offered

The Forestry Toolkit – Using available resources to improve your forest management.

Dr. Kyle Cunningham with University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service (UACES) will be offering a series of evening forest landowner workshops from January through March. Meeting locations include White/Lonoke Counties (January 28th), Dallas/Calhoun Counties (February 11th), Marion County (February 18th), Union/Columbia Counties (Feb/Mar), Pike County (March) and Yell County (March). The events will run from 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, with dinner provided. There is no cost to attend, but attendees must pre-register with the host county extension office by the registration deadline. Dr. Cunningham will present available tools that can help landowners better plan forest

management activities to reduce costs and assist in meeting personal forest goals. Topics may include pine or hardwood management, competition control, thinning, prescribed fire, available mapping resources, and decision support tools for forest landowners. Contact your local cooperative extension office to see specific topics for your area.

The Forestry Toolkit
using available resources to improve your forest management

UA Cooperative Extension Service
Searcy, AR

January 28th, 2020
5:30 – 8:00 PM
Dinner Provided

Workshop Themes:

- Introduction to forest management resources
- Mapping your property – online tools
- Managing hardwoods to meet your objectives
 - Prescribed fire, vegetation control, thinning, and tree identification to help you improve your woodland

Come spend an evening with Dr. Kyle Cunningham to discuss forest management for your property

Please RSVP White County Cooperative Extension Service before January 24th at 501-268-5394. Registration before meeting is required.

U/A
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
ARKANSAS FOREST
RESOURCES CENTER

Forest Landowner Workshop!

In collaboration with

ARKANSAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
Pioneering Forestry