

Tree Farm Committee Completes Grant Project

The Texas Tree Farm Committee of Texas Forestry Association has completed a sign project with funds received from a grant provided by the American Forest Foundation. The project included purchase of 18 - 4' x 4' Tree Farm signs that were placed at highly visible locations on Tree Farms in East Texas. Highly visible locations included interstates and major highways.

In choosing the 18 sites for sign placements, the Committee solicited applications from all Texas Tree Farm inspectors to determine the best locations; 27 applications were received. The signs were framed in wood and set in the ground on posts. Some of the site locations include IH 30 in Bowie County, Hwy 175 in Henderson County, IH 45 in Walker County and Hwy 59 in Nacogdoches County.

“This project was developed to motivate non-managing private landowners to take the necessary management steps to become members of the American Tree Farm System, and to increase public awareness of the program,” said Richard Cole, Chairman of the Texas Tree Farm Committee.

To be a Certified Tree Farmer, a landowner must manage his or her forest in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the American Tree Farm System’s standards and guidelines. Tree Farmers provide Americans with a renewable supply of essential timber and wood products. Their forest helps clean the air, protect watersheds, and provide homes for wildlife.

Established in 1941, the American Tree Farm System is the oldest and largest forest certification program in the United States. Today, 70,000 Certified Tree Farmers are managing 22 million acres of forestland. Texas joined the American Tree Farm System in 1944. Currently, there are 2,200 Tree Farms in Texas.

“Tree Farm certification is unique in that it is the designed specifically for family forest owners. Tree Farm has mutual recognition with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®, and it is endorsed by the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes, the world’s largest forest certification program,” Cole said.



John & Walta Cooke (right) were the recipients of one of the large signs for their Tree Farm located on Highway 59 north of Carthage. The sign was placed by Philip Gates (left) with the Texas Forest Service and Tree Farm Area 3 Chair.

JSTP 12 – James Houser,
Consulting Forester, placed this
sign on the Staton Properties
located on Highway 79 between
New Summerfield and Henderson.

