



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) American Tree Farm System



Louisiana Sustainable Forestry Initiative

www.laforestry.com

The American Tree Farm System (www.treefarmssystem.org) (ATFS) is an organization that provides information, education and assistance to family forest landowners regarding forest management practices that will sustain or enhance forest productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation.

Within the U.S., the ATFS has over 95,000 family forest owners (with approximately 1,800 tree farms in Louisiana) totaling more than 25 million acres of non-industrial private forestland certified in the program in 46 states. Participating landowners, foresters and government representatives can help you find the assistance you need to accomplish your land management goals, develop and implement a land management plan and certify your land as a Tree Farm.

When becoming a member of the ATFS, you must show that you follow BMPs when harvesting, take measures to provide wildlife habitat and protect biodiversity whenever possible. You reap not only the rewards of good management, but also the benefits of belonging to a strong and knowledgeable group that's committed to protecting the environment.

Another consideration is a growing preference among forest product customers for certified wood. In August 2008, the ATFS gained the endorsement of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). PEFC is an international organization that evaluates and recognizes national forest certification systems.

Forest products companies such as Weyerhaeuser, Plum Creek and MeadWestvaco have announced their preference for purchasing wood from Tree Farm family forests to meet their fiber needs. In Louisiana, the Louisiana Forestry Association administers the Tree Farm program with a staff and volunteer force of dedicated Tree Farm supporters.

The SFI program has also been endorsed by PEFC. As part of the PEFC endorsement, the ATFS has a mutual recognition agreement with the SFI program, which will promote and expand the practice of sustainable forest management on small and large ownerships. Under this agreement, as an American Tree Farm System member, you will have the potential for greater access to certified wood markets both in the United States and abroad.

For more information on the American Tree Farm System, call 1-888-889-4466 or go to <http://www.laforestry.com/Programs/AmericanTreeFarmProgram.aspx>
You may also contact the Louisiana Forestry Association www.laforestry.com or call (318) 443-2558.



The American Tree Farm Program is the oldest certification program in existence. The Louisiana Forestry Association administers the state program. All that is required is that you have 10 or more acres of forestland, a management plan and are a member of the association.