

Why Become a Tree Farmer

Professionalism . . .

South Dakota Tree Farmers receive a certificate and a sign that marks their land as a place where excellent forestry is practiced. They share the satisfaction that comes from managing their land to the highest standards of good stewardship – and know that this commitment has been recognized by their peers. Each year, Tree Farmers compete for the honor to be named state, regional, or national Tree Farmer of the Year.

Profit . . .

Being a Tree Farmer will often help you increase the value and quantity of wood you can grow on your land, and earn more income than you might have thought possible. Tree Farm certification of sustainably can increase the marketability of your forest products. Some companies prefer purchasing wood from certified forests. Along with financial rewards will come healthier forests, cleaner water, better habitat for wildlife and the other rewards that landowners seek from investing in sound, sustainable forestry.

Pleasure . . .

Many South Dakotans are drawn to a Tree Farm because they enjoy being in the woods, watching or hunting wildlife, fishing or hiking. Some look forward to the hard work of planting and tending. Others take pleasure out of knowing their forests provide wildlife habitat and clean plentiful water.



Hardwood Tree Farm, Minnehaha County

For More Information

The South Dakota Tree Farm System is a private, non-profit organization managed by a board and advisory Committee. The Tree Farm Committee is an affiliate of the American Forest Foundation.

To find out more about the Tree Farm program, or request an initial inspection, contact the State Tree Farm Committee. If you cannot reach them contact the South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry. A qualified Tree Farm inspector will contact you and arrange a visit to your property.



South Dakota Family Forest Association
PO Box 378
Huron, SD 57350-0378
Web site: www.treefarmssystem.org

Alternate contact:
South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry
Phone: 605.773.3623
Fax: 605.773.4003

Become A
Certified

South Dakota
Tree Farm



The Key to
Sustainable
Forestry

The American Tree Farm System

The American Tree Farm System works to sustain forests, watersheds and healthy wildlife habitat through the power of private stewardship by offering affordable forest certification for family forest landowners in the United States. American Tree Farm System has undergone many changes since its beginning in 1941. For 70 years, American Tree Farm System has enhanced the quality of American woodlands by giving forest owners the tools they need to keep forests healthy and productive. Third party certification is one of these important tools. American Tree Farm System certification is now internationally-recognized and meets strict third-party verification and auditing standards.



Pine, Spruce, Aspen Tree Farm in the Black Hills

As a woodland owner, you know that your woodlands are part of you – and your family. Keeping them healthy is important, which means that learning about strategies to manage your woods is the best way to ensure they stay a part of your family for generations to come.

The Benefits

- One complimentary issue to Tree Farmer: the Guide to Sustaining America's Family Forest Magazine, the bi-monthly forest enhancement publication by Tree Farmers for Tree Farmers.
- Membership in a network of professionals and landowners who share your commitment to sustainable forestry.
- Certification that your forest meets the standards of the American Tree Farm System Sustainable Forest initiative.
- Opportunities, training and tools that will help you in your education concerning the benefits of sustainable forestry.
- Local, state, and national information on legislation and other issues affecting forest landowners.
- Invitations to seminars, field days, webinars and workshops that can help you achieve the goals you have set for your Tree Farm.
- The opportunity to display the widely-recognized Tree Farm System sign of sustainable forestry.
- Opportunity to compete in Outstanding Tree Farmer competition.
- Opportunity to attend the National Tree Farm Convention.
- Opportunity to serve on the board and tree farm committee.



Pine and Spruce Tree Farm in the Black Hills

Woodland Tree Farms

Woodland Tree Farmers must own a minimum of 10 acres of forest land. Tree Farmers must operate under and implement a written forest management plan that accounts for the American Forest Foundation's Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification. Woodlands must be protected from fire, insects, diseases and destructive grazing.



Windbreak Tree Farm, Tripp County

Windbreak Tree Farms

South Dakota windbreaks are an important component of the Great Plains ecosystem. They prevent soil erosion, conserve energy to reduce heating and air conditioning cost, shelter livestock, increase crop yields, shield access routes from drifting snow, provide wildlife habitat and improve property values.

Windbreak Tree Farms must be at least two acres in size and five years old. They must be properly maintained and protected from fire, insect, disease, herbicides and livestock.