



# Delaware Department of Agriculture

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For further information:

Contact: Rich Neumann

Rich.Neumann@state.de.us

(302) 698-4500

(800) 282-8685

## Delaware Tree Farmers Honored

The Delaware Forestry Association (DFA) honored six Delaware tree farmers during the organization's annual banquet at Bridgeville's Fire Hall on March 17<sup>th</sup>. All six individuals were recognized for their strong commitment to Delaware's forest resources and for their participation in the American Tree Farm System.

The American Tree Farm System, a program of the non-profit American Forest Foundation, is committed to sustaining forests, watershed and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship.

Marty Ross of Delmar was named Tree Farmer of the Year by the Delaware Tree Farm Committee. Ross owns 68 acres of forestland east of Delmar, and has participated in the American Tree Farm System since 1988. He is a long-time member of the DFA executive board and the Delaware Farm Bureau, and currently serves on Governor Minner's Livable Delaware Committee.

"Marty Ross is well-known throughout the state for his strong support of forest landowner property rights," says George H. Torbert, III, president of the DFA. "You would be hard-pressed to find someone more dedicated to Delaware's forests."

As Tree Farmer of the Year, Ross received a commemorative plaque and a year subscription to the *Tree Farmer* magazine. In addition, Adkins & Sons Lawn & Garden of Laurel honored Ross with a new Stihl chainsaw and safety accessories.

The DFA also honored five tree farms enrolled in the national Tree Farm program for 25 years. Delaware's newest quarter-century tree farms are: the Brittingham Tree Farm east of Laurel; the ALRO Corporation Tree Farm southwest of Georgetown; the John and Ellen Hamilton Tree Farm near Kenton; the Charles Carey Tree Farms of Milton; and the W. Allen and Anne Jones Tree Farm southeast of Georgetown. The Delaware Tree Farm Committee provided each farm with a commemorative 25-year tree sign to display on their woodlot.

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According to State Forester Austin Short, “The Delaware Forest Service is proud to support the Tree Farm System. These landowners’ dedication to forest stewardship helps ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy the many benefits our forests provide, such as clear air and water, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and forest products.”

The Delaware Forestry Association (DFA) was organized in 1982 to promote, conserve, and protect the timber and timberlands of Delaware. Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting the goal of better forest management. Current members include landowners, loggers, environmental organizations, foresters, and private industry. The organization is open to anyone with an appreciation of the importance of well-managed forests in Delaware.

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation, is committed to sustaining forests, watershed and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship. Tree Farmers share a unique commitment to protect wildlife habitat and watersheds, to conserve soil and to provide recreation for their communities while producing wood for America.





Photo attachments:

Photo 1: Tree Farmer of the Year Marty Ross of Delmar.

Photo 2: 25-year Tree Farmers (l-r): W. Allen and Anne Jones, Georgetown; David Carey, Milton; John Hamilton, Kenton; and Carla Short, Georgetown. Not pictured: Brittingham family.

To receive higher resolution photos via e-mail, contact Rich Neumann (302-698-4552 or [Rich.Neumann@state.de.us](mailto:Rich.Neumann@state.de.us)).

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