



For Immediate Release

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Traxler Farms Named Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year

Traxler Farms from Vanceburg, Kentucky has been honored as the 2021 Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year at the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) 57th Annual Meeting in Lexington, KY. Bill Knott with the Kentucky Division of Forestry in Morehead, KY nominated Phil and Laurie for the award. In addition to a plaque recognizing their achievement they were presented a Stihl chainsaw donated by Bryan Equipment Sales from Loveland, Ohio who is the regional distributor for STIHL Incorporated. Phil and Laurie were selected from a number of nominations submitted to the state Tree Farm Committee from throughout Kentucky.

Their 321 acre Tree Farm in Lewis County, Kentucky is managed for a wide range of benefits including timber production, wildlife and recreation. The farm has been certified as a Tree Farm since 1989 and they have consistently improved the woodland through a number of active management practices. Improvements on the farm have included timber stand thinning practices removing low quality trees and improving the growth of the best trees throughout much of the property. Nearly all of the work has been completed by Phil and Laurie along with some help from family members and many of the low grade trees are used to produce firewood and custom made wood products. There has also been work completed on miles of forest roads to maintain access for forest management, fire control and recreational purposes.

The wide range of management activities have not only improved timber quality but also resulted in better wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on the property. Phil and Laurie have hosted a number of field days and educational events on the property to encourage others to practice sustainable forestry. They have had demonstrations of high lead logging along with programs on timber stand improvement techniques and treatments as well as an event involving mushroom log inoculation and production. They always take an active role in all forest management on the property and encourage others to practice good forest management and stewardship. Phil has been involved with woodworking ever since he purchased the property and offers a custom built wood products to customers throughout the region.

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee is sponsored by the Kentucky Forest Industries Association which is the statewide trade association dedicated to serving and promoting the forest products industry and forestry interests of Kentucky. Founded in 1965, it has over 650 members in the areas of primary and secondary wood industry, supplier and service industries, wholesale, loggers and landowners. The Tree Farm Committee oversees the program in Kentucky and is part of the National Tree Farm Program that promotes sound forest management through sustainable forestry. For more information about the association or how you can become a certified tree farmer contact Bob Bauer at 502/695-3979.



(Pictured above) (l-r) Bill Knott, Kentucky Division of Forestry, Morehead office, Phil Traxler and Laurie Yanoshek was presented the Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year award and a STIHL Farm Boss Chain saw donated by Bryan Equipment Sales.