

Forest (woodlands) certification is one of the hottest topics in forestry, and there are numerous reasons why woodland owners should stay abreast of this issue. Mills that produce certified lumber or wood products must get their logs from certified woodlands. To participate in the carbon market, your woods have to be certified. Ongoing policy decisions regarding biomass and ecosystem services (other than carbon) involve discussions on certification. All of these reasons point to the importance of certification. The following information outlines two of the woodland owner certification systems that are getting the most attention and potentially have the most value for woodland owners in Kentucky.

the easiest way for woodland owners to become certified. There are approximately 800 American Tree Farms in Kentucky. Membership in the ATF system requires that you have and adhere to a written management plan consistent with ATF standards. This requirement is easy, especially if you have a Stewardship Plan from the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF). The ATF System is very familiar to foresters in Kentucky, and you can contact your local forester for advice. Currently there is no cost for woodland owners in Kentucky to become ATF certified. KDF, the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) members, and the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee are providing inspection services and managing the program free of charge.

Becoming a Kentucky member of the ATF System means

to take advantage of these opportunities and others that arise. **American Tree Farm** Membership in the American Tree Farm (ATF) System is **Forest Stewardship Council** The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the largest globally-recognized green certification system. FSC certification is more involved than ATF certification. Also, unlike ATF, FSC certification costs money. Currently no family-owned woodlands in Kentucky are FSC certified. However, there are efforts under way in Kentucky to streamline, simplify, and reduce costs for FSC certification for small woodland owners. The primary reason for these efforts is because several sawmills and wood industries in Kentucky have recently obtained FSC chain-of-custody certification and are in need

> Certification will continue to gain momentum in Kentucky. Being aware of certification and positioning yourself to take advantage of the opportunities that certification can and will provide may be in your best interest. For ATF information, go to www.treefarmsystem.org and click on Certification, then AFF 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification, and for FSC information, go to www.fscus.org. Stay tuned for more information on woodland certification in upcoming issues of the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine.

of FSC-certified logs and pulpwood. As is the case with

ATF, FSC certification makes you eligible to sell carbon.

fication indicates that you are managing sustainably. Once

credits through the Managed Forest Offsets Carbon Program

you have that certification, you are eligible to sell carbon

of the Mountain Association for Community Economic

Development (MACED). Also, if sawmills or other forest

industries eventually develop a market for certified wood

wood. Also, forest industries that are part of the Sustain-

American Tree Farms to meet their certification require-

endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest

Certification (PEFC) to sell in Europe, they will prefer ATF

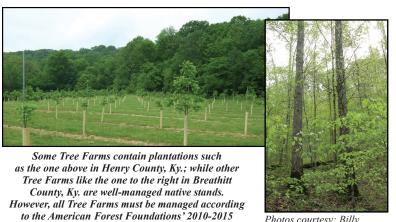
able Forestry Initiative use logs, pulpwood, and chips from

ments. Maintaining ATF certification puts you in a position

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