

**PRESS
RELEASE**

AMERICAN FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, INC.
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RHODE ISLAND 26th STATE TO JOIN TREE FARM SYSTEM

Rhode Island Governow John O. Pastore launched a Tree Farm program in his state Sept. 16 with the presentation of six certificates to owners of farm woodlots. An audience of 100 persons gathered at the farm of Walter D. Kenyon, Hopkinton, to witness the ceremony.

Rhode Island is the 26th state to join the American Tree Farm system.

The governor remarked that a Tree Farm program had been needed for a long time in America and urged Rhode Island timberland owners to associate themselves with the work. The program, he said, represents "a paying back to the land for the many privileges of living in America."

U. S. Representative John W. Fogarty, principal speaker, cited the important part Tree Farms have played in the forest economy of other states and traced the development of the program from its beginning in the state of Washington in 1941.

"Two-thirds of our state is in woodlands," he said. "The towns and state own about 6 percent; the other 94 percent is owned by individuals. We must sell this program to all the people."

The American Tree Farm system, encouraged nationally by American Forest Products Industries, Inc., and sponsored in Rhode Island by the Rhode Island Department of Agriculture and Conservation and the Agricultural Extension Service, is a program giving recognition to woodland

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owners who are doing a good job of woodland management.

Kenyon, 79-year-old owner of the farm which was the site of the presentation of certificates, has been practicing forestry since the 1938 hurricane laid waste much of his holdings. A tour of his 50-acre woodlot and an inspection of his methods were part of the day's program.

Professor Homer O. Stuart, director of the Extension Service, presided and introduced Francis S. Leaver, state director of agriculture and conservation, and James K. Vessey, assistant regional forester for the U. S. Forest Service.

In addition to Kenyon, the following landowners received certificates: Earl Dodge, Block Island; Thomas P. Hazard, Peace Dale; A. M. Stearns, North Kingstown; Edward Vock, Burrillville; and Ernest Westcott, Lincoln.

Rhode Island's area is 677,000 acres. There are 447,000 acres of commercial forests in the state and 5,000 acres of non-commercial forests. Annual cut for all species is about 4,300,000 board feet, and it is estimated that under adequate protection and proper management over a period of years, production could be raised to 100,000,000 board feet per year.