

Texas Tree Farm System Starts with 65 Members

Inauguration of System Features Forest Conservation Week—Regulation by Federal Government Opposed—State Forest Service Prescribes Regulations

LUFKIN, Texas, Oct. 25.—Texas is the latest commonwealth in the Union—the tenth in the United States—to establish an official state tree farms system, dedicated to the perpetuation of the state's timber supply, protection and conservation of its forest resources, and to increasing its forest wealth by encouraging good forestry measures on the 10,500,000 acres of commercial forests and farm woodlands in the state.

Official inauguration of the Texas Tree Farms System was the dominating feature of the celebration held at Lufkin October 24 of the Texas Forest Conservation Week, set aside by proclamation of Governor Coke R. Stevenson. Certificates as "tree farmers" were awarded to 65 individuals and firms of the state—59 owners of timber tracts ranging in size from 30 to 5,000 acres each, and five lumber companies and one paper mill.

Sponsors of the Texas Tree Farms System comprise the Texas Forestry Association, Texas Forest Service and the East Texas Chamber of Commerce. Among other organizations cooperating in the state's tree farm movement are the Texas Mill Managers' Association, Texas State Manufacturers' Association, Southern Pine Association, American Forest Products Industries, Inc., and others.

Dedication of the tree farm system took place at the Forest Festival grounds at Lufkin, attended by several hundred persons interested in forestry. Hubert M. Harrison, Longview, general manager East Texas Chamber of Commerce, was master of ceremonies, and speakers included Lieutenant Governor John Lee Smith, of Austin; Col. C. C. Chambers, Lufkin, vice president Texas State Manufacturers' Association; R. M. Eagle, Parmona, president Texas Mill Managers Association; Tom Walton, of Groveton, representing the small tree farmers, and James C. McClellan, assistant forester National Lumber Manufacturers Association.

Federal Regulation Opposed

All the speakers told of the value of fire protection and forestry practice to individual woodland owners and of the benefits resulting to all citizens in every section of Texas, and declared the tree farm system would prove an important factor in promoting the wealth and economic security of all Texas citizens. In addition Lieutenant Governor Smith emphasized that the people of Texas desire to handle the regulation of timber cutting and other forestry practices within their own state, through their own state agencies, and not through regulations imposed by the Federal government.

An aggregate area of 841,674 acres of timberlands, owned by the 65 tree farmers, was certified as meeting the requirements established by the Texas Forest Service, which has the responsibility and authority for inspecting the lands and issuing official certificates and tree farm signs. The size of the individual tree farm awarded certificates at the inaugural ceremonies ranged from the smallest of 30 acres each, owned by Charlie Forrest of Huntington and Thomas H. Buller of Crockett, to the largest of 183,233 acres, owned by the Texas Long Leaf Lumber Co., of Trinity. Among those receiving certificates as "tree farmers" were four women owners of woodlands, with aggregate holdings of 5,478 acres.

The No. 1 tree farm certificate was awarded to the Texas Long Leaf Lumber Co. in recognition of and as a tribute to the late Paul T. Sanderson, who was president of the lumber company and of several other lumber concerns, as well as head of the Southern Pine

Association, for his long and vigorous efforts in promotion of good forestry practices in the state and throughout the South. He also was credited with being the leader and originator of the tree farms program in Texas. His death occurred October 9, 1944.

Director W. E. White, of the Texas Forest Service, stated at the dedication ceremonies that in addition to the 65 tree farmers designated at Lufkin, a large number of other timber owners have filed application for certificates as tree farmers, and that these will be acted upon as promptly as possible. He said he is confident the number of Texas tree farmers and the acreage under the system will be greatly increased within a short period.

The specific objectives of the tree farms

system are to increase the value of the tree crop to Texans, owners of both small and large woodland areas; to protect and handle the forest lands in the state so that they will be a perpetual source of income to their owners and to the thousands of Texans who derive employment from the forest industries, and in addition will prove of benefit to all citizens of every section of the state.

Standards Prescribed by Texas Forest Service

To qualify as a member of the Texas Tree Farms System, timberland owners just conform to standards and requirements prescribed by the Texas Forest Service, which are: (1) The owner must protect his property from forest fires, either by cooperating in the fire control program promulgated by the Texas Forest Service in localities where state protection is available, or through his own efforts in cooperation with the State Forester where organized protection is not available; (2) The landowner must follow approved forestry practices with the view of assuring continuous production of commercial timber crops; and (3) Forest plantations also are eligible to be designated as tree farms, providing the owner also meets the requirements on fire protection.



Above, group of speakers and guests at dedication of Texas Tree Farms System at Lufkin October 24. Left to right: W. E. White, director Texas Forest Service; Tom Walton, tree farmer of Groveton; Lieutenant Governor John Lee Smith; Hubert M. Harrison, general manager East Texas Chamber of Commerce; James C. McClellan, assistant forester National Lumber Manufacturers Association; Sam B. Crawford, representing Texas Longleaf Lumber Co., Texas No. 1 tree farm; Don Canterbury, forester, The Champion Paper & Fibre Co., of Pasadena and A. E. Cudlipp, secretary-treasurer Texas Mill Managers Association.

Below, a group of "tree farmers" included in the 65 who received certificates and signs at the dedication of the Texas Tree Farms System at Lufkin, Texas, October 24.