

PRESS RELEASE

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MISSOURI DEDICATES FIRST TREE FARMS

The American Tree Farm System added another state on Sept. 9 when Missouri officially launched its program with dedication ceremonies held near Eminence in Shannon County.

The state, the 25th to adopt the Tree Farm plan, is out to improve management and protection practices on more than 15 million acres of forest land.

Three properties, representing the types of private forest ownership in Missouri and comprising nearly 88,000 acres, were certified as Tree Farms. They are:

Industrial Ownership--Pioneer Forest, Shannon County, operated by National Distillers Products Corp., 86,000 acres.

Farm Ownership--C. W. Fleetwood, Pierce City, 40 acres.

Small, Non-Farm Ownership--A. E. James, Zalma, 1,575 acres.

The national Tree Farm program is designed to give public recognition to woodland owners who manage their forest acres for the permanent and increasing production of tree crops. Missouri's Tree Farm program is sponsored by the Missouri Conservation Commission in cooperation with American Forest Products Industries, Inc., and other public and private agencies interested in sound forest management.

"The Tree Farm system encourages woodland owners to follow practices which will benefit them by greater sales of forest products and, at the same time, help maintain the supply of raw material for Missouri's important wood industries," said State Forester George O. White, who addressed the more than 100 foresters, conservationists and
(more)

local landowners who attended the meeting.

White pointed out that four out of every ten acres in Missouri are best suited for forest crops. Forest production in the state is estimated at 60 million dollars annually.

The dedication ceremony was held in connection with the annual meeting of the Ozark Section of the Society of American Foresters. L. E. McCormick, extension forester, presented the Tree Farm certificates.

AFPI Chief Forester James C. McClellan explained the national Tree Farm program and reported that the number of Tree Farmers now totals nearly 2,000, with approximately 19,000,000 acres of tree-producing land under certification.

"The enrolling of the Pioneer Forest in the Tree Farm program is an important step," McClellan commented. "According to our records, it is the first cooperage land to be certified. We hope that many more cooperage industries will take similar steps to assure their future supplies of raw materials."

Frank C. Kenyon, in accepting the certificate for National Distillers, gave credit to Chief Forester Ed Woods for the forestry progress of his company. Woods conducted a tour of the Pioneer Forest as part of the day's activities.

The company has two stave mills at widely separated locations on the property, but under normal conditions only one of the mills is used at a time, depending on the location of woods operations. One of these mills in a year will cut from 2 to 3 million board feet of white oak. Salvage cutting of over-ripe material is being done at present, with future cutting planned on a strict sustained yield basis.

About 2,000 acres of old fields scattered through the Pioneer Forest are being reforested by the company, which employs two full-time foresters, along with three rangers and one helper, to handle the "Protection and Timber" department.

State Tree Farm directors will use the Pioneer Forest and the Fleetwood and James holdings as models to encourage good management practices by other Missouri woodlot owners.