

AFG Tree Farmer of the Year Award

Guidelines for Entrants 2018



The Award

The Australian Forest Growers (AFG) Tree Farmer of the Year Award honours and acknowledges landowners or private forest managers who, by their personal efforts, have demonstrably managed to establish or maintain areas of forest on their property for the purposes of sustainable commerce in the products attainable from trees, protection for either catchments or crops, or for reasons of preservation of biodiversity or a particular forest ecosystem.

The competition relies on State nominations to be submitted each year. States are then asked to nominate their selected candidate (after subsequent judging) to compete in the biennial National Competition with the winner announced at the conference.

Essential Criteria

- Excellence in farm planning and farm forestry
- Good land management, in that the whole farm is either being used or there is a demonstration that a whole farm plan has been developed and that the part development is in line with such a plan
- Innovation in any sector of private forestry – natural forests, plantations, agro-forestry, etc
- Leadership in the community in these developments
- Wide application of the principles adopted
- Integration of forestry with other farm developments

Nominations

Nominations may be received either from:

- The applicant
- For the applicant by another person
- An AFG branch

The award will not be limited by previous awards so that a landowner may enter the award several times.

Eligibility

- Entrants must own the property/forest estate
- A lessee may be eligible if the application is countersigned by the landowner that the work done is due to his or her efforts
- A previous winner of an AFG award may apply
- An entrant need not necessarily be a member of AFG
- The winner of the State competition is an automatic entrant in the National competition.

Judging

- Judging in the first instance will be based on the written submission in the form provided with field inspections carried out if considered appropriate.
- Judging will be conducted by a panel consisting of appropriate representatives of branches, sponsors or other appropriate people.
- There will not be a tie in any competition.
- Only the winner will be announced. Second or third place getters will not be announced although a “Special Mention” may be awarded for an exceptional submission.

State presentations

State presentations will be at an event organised by a Branch in the State.

National presentations

National finalists will need to prepare a Power Point or video presentation for use at the combined AFG and IFA National Conference to be held in Canberra at ANU from 2-5th September 2018; PowerPoint or video presentations will be given during the course of the Conference dinner at low or no volume.

Applications

The information to be included is described below.

Additional information such as photographs, testimonials and newspaper cuttings may be included.

Tree Farmer of the Year - Annual Process

The following details the annual process to determine the National Tree Farmer of the Year Award.

Date	Event	Tasks Involved
1 March 2018	Nominations open for State Tree Farmer of the Year Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nominees are asked to forward their applications to their respective Branch President. - The Branch Presidents are then to forward their candidate/s through to their State Coordinator.
30 June 2018	Nominations close for State Tree Farmer of the Year Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nominating Branch Presidents with State Coordinator form committee to deliberate applications. - State Committee to inform National Office of Winner
30 July 2018	State Tree Farmer of the Year Awards announced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Office informs State Winners - State winners are announced to membership in the Spring Magazine with a small feature article on each winner. - National Office to source State Award plaques. - Plaques presented to winners at Branch Event.
August 2018	Decision made on Winner of National Tree Farmer of the Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Tree Farmer Committee (made up of previous winners and life members) deliberate on winner of the National Tree Farmer of the Year. - National Committee to inform National Office of winner. - National Office to source National Award plaque.
September 2018	National Tree Farmer of the Year Award is announced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National President announces the National Tree Farmer of the Year Award (at Conference, 2-5th Sept). - National Winner featured in AFG/IFA national e-bulletin

State Co-ordinators

The State Coordinators are listed below:

State	Name	Email
WA	Richard Moore	richard.w.moore2@gmail.com
NSW/ACT	Tim Gillespie-Jones	tim_gj@hotmail.com
VIC	Gary Featherston	gary@foreststrategy.com.au
TAS	Rob Smith	Rob.Smith@pft.tas.gov.au
SA	Jan Newport	janette.newport@bigpond.com
QLD	Carol Neal	carolneal@bordernet.com.au

Prizes

State

Winners are presented with a plaque, a cash prize as a contribution to attend the National Conference, and are featured in the Australian Forest Growers / Institute of Foresters national e-bulletin.

National

The winner is presented with a plaque and \$1,500 prize from AFG and is featured in the AFG/IFA national e-bulletin. The winner is also asked to deliver a brief presentation at the National Conference.

All questions regarding entries should be directed to your State Coordinator

AFG STATE TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD - 2018

The State Tree Farmer of the Year Award, honours and acknowledges landowners or private forest managers, who by their personal efforts can demonstrate establishment or silvicultural maintenance of forest areas on their property for:

- Purposes of sustainable commerce in the products attainable from trees
- Protection of crops, soil, water pasture or livestock
- Preservation and enhancement of biodiversity or a particular forest ecosystem

The State Award is biennial and includes a \$1500 cash prize from AFG.

The cash prize is aimed at funding the State Winners to attend the Biennial AFG Conference and National Competition.

Desirable Tree Grower Information (Guide only)

Contact details

- Property name, postal address (residential if different), home/office phone/fax & email
- Occupation of the applicant & person/s assisting in application preparation

Property details

- General location, terrain, etc.
- Summary of farm production systems
- Summarise tree growing aspects of the farm plan

Property history

- Timeframe/s of land ownership
- Timeframe/s of tree establishment/management
- If in place, timeframe/s of forest management plan

Area of assets

- Total land area (all properties with forestry)
- Total area of forest resource (i.e. plantations, native forests, timberbelts, agroforestry, etc.)

Forestry methods

- Describe farm forestry methods/practice/innovation
- Planting, site prep, management, genetics, etc.
- Native forest natural regeneration, silviculture techniques, stand improvement, etc.

Fire strategies

- Describe fire protection strategies (i.e. access tracks, fire breaks, grazing)
- Other fire management practices (i.e. cool burns)

Harvest strategies

- Describe harvesting practices/systems/innovation
- Detail equipment/technologies used
- On-farm wood processing practices, etc.

Marketing

- List existing and past markets/products/volumes
- Describe future potential markets/access
- Mention market strategies (i.e. value adding)

NRM benefits

- Are trees managed under multiple-use concepts?
- Is there an emphasis on reversing land degradation?
- List the non-commercial benefits of the treed areas

Experiences

- Have changes been made to forest practices based on direct experiences of collaborative learning?
- Give examples

Communication

- Is the application active in sharing knowledge to others about methods or views on tree growing?
- Give examples

On-ground works

- How much of the tree growing work has been accomplished by the owner?
- How has the rest of the work been accomplished?

*Use photos and images where necessary, but please include a close-up photo of the applicant

Can you demonstrate three or more:

- Excellence in farm planning, specifically the integration of forestry or trees as part of sustainable land management;
- Innovation in any sector of private forestry- native forests, plantations, agroforestry etc.
- Wide application/ adoption of farm forestry principles;
- Leadership in the community as a private forestry practitioner; or
- Are you just a quiet achieving tree grower.

Nominations

Nominations may be received either from:

- The applicant;
- For the applicant by another member
- An AFG Branch

The Award will not be limited by previous awards so that a landowner may enter the award several times.

Eligibility

- Entrants must own the property/forest estate, except that a lessee may be eligible if the application is countersigned by the landowner, and that the work done is due to their efforts;
- A previous winner of an AFG award may apply;
- An entrant need not necessarily be a member of AFG;
- The winner of the State competition is an automatic entrant in the national competition and is expected to attend the national conference.

Judging

Judging will be based on the written submission in the form provided, with field inspections carried out if considered appropriate. Judging will be conducted by a panel consisting of AFG Branch representatives.

Applications

Information that can be included in applications are described on the left. Additional information such as photographs, testimonials and newspaper cuttings may also be included.

Award Presentations

The State award will be presented at the Annual State Farm Forestry Dinner.

Check out the past AFG National Tree Farmer of the Year Award winners at www.afg.asn.au

Australia Forest Growers (AFG) is a national association representing and promoting the interests of private commercial forestry and farm tree growers.



AFG STATE TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Since the early 1980s, Australian Forest Growers has been conducting the prestigious annual award to honour and acknowledge individuals, who by their own efforts and example, have made significant contributions to private commercial tree growing in Australia.

Please complete below and submit for entry

Applicant/s Name _____

Property Name _____

Postal Address _____

Preferred Telephone _____

Email _____

AFG Branch _____

Nominated by (if different from above)

Applicant/s Name _____

Property Name _____

Postal Address _____

Preferred Telephone _____

Email _____

Further Information:

For further information regarding the AFG State Tree Farmer of the Year Award, please contact your State Coordinator.



AFG
Tree Farmer of the Year
Award 2018