



Benefits of Belonging

FFA is always at work for our members...

- Advocating on local, state and national levels to protect the ability to grow, harvest and use forest resources by reducing taxes, opposing unnecessary regulations and supporting favorable programs and funding;
- Promoting healthy markets for wood by maintaining a strong industrial base of wood consuming mills;
- Providing important input on a statewide forest inventory project and updates undertaken by the Florida Forest Service (FFS) to provide the most current and detailed information on Florida's forest resources;
- Promoting government reforestation programs that provide maximum flexibility to landowners in establishing commercial pine plantations;
- Keeping wood moving to the mills by working to pass state legislation allowing for increased truck weights and coordinating with the governor to lift truck weights during times of natural disaster;
- Supporting elected officials that know and understand the importance of Florida's forests;
- Working with the Governor's Office to appoint FFA members to boards and commissions of importance;
- Training loggers in sustainable business, safety and forestry practices;
- Educating Florida teachers on the many public benefits of our working forests so this knowledge is shared with thousands of young minds in their classrooms;
- Partnering with the FFS and others to develop educational programming for the Forest Discovery Center for school tours and the general public at the Florida State Fair;
- Participating in a statewide program to identify incentives essential for landowner cooperation in government habitat conservation cost-share programs;
- Opposing the "listing" of wildlife species as *Endangered* or *Threatened* as the best way to provide for their protection and participated in the development of voluntary wildlife best management practices (BMPs) for forestry as a means for avoiding the need for "incidental take" permits for a set of 16 wildlife species;
- Aggressively supporting forestry BMPs as the best non-regulatory approach to water quality;
- Sponsoring an insurance program providing low-cost hunting lease, timberland liability, wildfire and prescribed burn liability insurance to members;
- Providing valuable networking opportunities at regional membership events and the FFA Annual Meeting, the largest gathering in Florida of forest business owners and managers, landowners and professional foresters;
- Alerting members to available government programs and other issues of interest to the forest industry; and
- Serving as the voice of the forest industry through opinion pieces, awareness campaigns, advertising and other outreach programs to promote the benefits of working forests.