



For Immediate Release

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Richard Wheatley Named Kentucky Logger of the Year

Richard Wheatley of Raywick, KY was recently honored as the 2007 Kentucky Logger of the Year at the Kentucky Forest Industries Association (KFIA) 43rd Annual Meeting in Covington, KY. Jody Benningfield with the Kentucky Division of Forestry in Campbellsville, KY nominated Wheatley for the award. In addition to a plaque recognizing his achievement, a Stihl 044 chainsaw was also given to Wheatley and was sponsored by the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee. Ricky operates Wheatley Logging and harvests timber in Marion and surrounding counties in Kentucky and was selected from a large number of candidates from around the state.

Richard Wheatley is a certified Kentucky Master Logger. The Kentucky Master Logger program trains loggers to incorporate proper harvesting techniques, operate safely and use best management practices to protect water quality. Wheatley has an excellent working relationship with landowners and projects a professional image. He works hard to keep landowners satisfied and often increases property value by seeding and improving access roads after logging. The damage to the residual stand is very minimal which is a major concern for all landowners. Mr. Wheatley strives to leave the woodlands in an undamaged condition.

Wheatley uses a cable skidder, loader, dozer and chainsaws to harvest trees on private forestland. Wheatley and one other employee operate a wide range of equipment and make for an efficient operation that works hard to harvest timber in an environmentally safe manner. Mr. Wheatley takes every opportunity to educate his landowners on proper chainsaw use and felling techniques. Mr. Wheatley encourages landowners who cut firewood to learn techniques from him in the woods.

The Kentucky Tree Farm Committee is sponsored by KFIA which is a trade association dedicated to serving and promoting the forest products industry of Kentucky. Founded in 1965, it has over 600 members in the areas of primary and secondary wood industry, supplier and service industries, wholesale, loggers and landowners. KFIA promotes sound forest management through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. For more information about the association or the Kentucky Tree Farm Program contact Bob Bauer at 502/695-3979.



Jody Benningfield, KY Division of Forestry, Nominator. Richard Wheatley 2007 Kentucky Logger of the Year



Mary, Courtney and Ricky Wheatley at KFIA Annual Meeting with 2007 Logger of the Year Award