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# ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION  
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## Ray and Theresa Vogelpohl Named Arkansas Forest Stewards of the Year

LITTLE ROCK, AR – Ray and Theresa Vogelpohl of Perryville have been named the 2018 Arkansas Forest Stewards of the Year by the Arkansas Agriculture Department’s Forestry Commission. The Vogelpohls were selected from nominations that were submitted by Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) foresters to a committee of representatives from partner agencies within Arkansas’s forest industry.

The Vogelpohl family has a long history of good forest management, enrolling in the Forest Stewardship program in 1996 and becoming certified as Forest Stewards in 2016. Their primary management goals of their property, Diamond TR Ranch in Pulaski County, include conserving soil and water, producing healthy, valuable timber, and quality wildlife. The Vogelpohls’ forest management efforts have included several seasons of prescribed burns for wildlife habitat enhancement, tree plantings along the Maumelle River, forest thinning, and planting of native grasses.

“Ray and Theresa's business involves individuals who either board or ride horses at Diamond TR Ranch. These individuals constantly see the good stewardship demonstrated by Ray and Theresa,” said County Forester Brooks Willhoite. “Visiting Diamond TR Ranch for the first time was breathtaking. I have not visited a tract that has the multitude of different natural resource projects taking place on their property.”

The Forest Stewardship Program recognizes and rewards landowners that are managing privately owned forestland for multi-uses, which could include enhancement of wildlife habitat, soil conservation, water quality protection, restoration and management of wetlands, and others. Arkansas is home to more than 1,200 certified forest stewardship landowners.

The Forest Stewardship program is supported by the U.S. Forest Service and is a multiple-agency effort with partners that include AFC, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. Any private forest landowner with over ten acres is eligible to participate in the Stewardship program. Find more information, including program applications, here. <https://www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/forest-stewardship>

The mission of the AFC is to protect Arkansas’s forests, and those who enjoy them, from wildland fire and natural hazards while promoting rural and urban forest health, stewardship, development, and conservation for all generations of Arkansans. The AFC is a part of the Arkansas Agriculture Department (AAD).

The AAD is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation.

*The Arkansas Agriculture Department offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

