



National 4-H Forestry Invitational

August 3, 2018

NEWS RELEASE

Charles Rice receives the Tommy and Susan Futral Inspiration of the Invitational Award at National Forestry contest in West Virginia

The 39th annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational was conducted Sunday July 29 through Thursday August 2. Teams from Alabama, North Carolina and Florida placed first, second and third, respectively. Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana Mississippi, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin also competed in this year's Invitational.

Charles D. Rice received the Tommy and Susan Futral Inspiration of the Invitational award at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational at Jackson's Mill, 4-H Camp on August 1, 2018. Charles retired as the University of Georgia's Hart County GA Cooperative Extension Ag and 4-H Agent after 25 years of distinguished service. Over the years, Rice encouraged hundreds of Hart County 4-H'ers to study and compete in forestry. During his tenure, Hart County's 4-H forestry senior teams won the Georgia State Forestry competition and attended the National 4-H Forestry Invitational ten times. In 2011, his Georgia team placed first nationally. Charles also co-authored the Georgia Forestry Judging Handbook.

This quote was submitted Ruth Tellano-Daniel along with Charles' nomination for the award:

I do not nominate Charles because of his success in his 4-H'ers winning awards, but because of his ability to inspire everyone around him to learn, persevere, and love forestry. The first time I attended the Invitational two years ago, I was shocked at the extent of Charles' influence on other state coaches and committee members over the years. Numerous people hurried over to tell me stories about Charles and his influence once he/she found out that I was from Georgia. He is an excellent ambassador of anything to do with forestry. He still helps coach and promote forestry in Hart County even though he retired four years ago.

The Tommy and Susan Futral Inspiration of the Invitational award recognizes an outstanding 4-H Forestry Invitational coach or 4-H Leader for their strong support of 4-H Forestry at the local, state and national level. Tommy and Susan were actively involved in 4-H Forestry for nearly 30 years. Their love for and contributions to the National 4-H Forestry Invitational are immeasurable. The Inspiration of the Invitational award was first presented in 2016 to Tommy Futral after Susan lost a long and courageous battle with cancer on October 22, 2015. For more information about this award and the National 4-H Forestry Invitational visit:

<http://4hforestryinvitational.org/>

The invitational was held at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp and Conference Center near Weston, West Virginia. The event is sponsored by Farm Credit System, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc., USDA Forest Service State and Private Southern Region, West Virginia University Extension Service, American Forest Foundation, Southern Regional Extension Forestry, Society of American Foresters, Association of Natural Resource Extension

Professionals, Columbia Forest Products, F & W Forestry, National Woodland Owners Association, and Black Diamond Resource Conservation and Development Council.

4-H is a youth education program operated by the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the state land grant universities. More than six million youth, 540,000 volunteers, and 3,500 professionals participate in 4-H nationwide, and nearly 100,000 are part of the 4-H Forestry Program.

The event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors:

Farm Credit System (FCS) supports rural communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services. FCS has been helping areas grow and thrive for a century by providing farmers with capital and by financing infrastructure and communication services.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®), Inc. is a fully independent, charitable organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. The SFI® label is a sign you are buying wood and paper products from a certified source, backed by a rigorous, third-party certification audit.

USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry, Southern Region programs bring forest management assistance and expertise to a diversity of landowners through cost-effective, non-regulatory partnerships. The staffs also play a key role in implementing the National Fire Plan.

West Virginia University (WVU) Extension Service educators and volunteers build and sustain partnerships with people and organizations in West Virginia, to improve their lives and communities. WVU's programs and services strengthen individuals of all ages.

The American Forest Foundation® (AFF) works with families, educators, and elected officials to promote stewardship and protect our nation's forest heritage. AFF works with its partners to provide hands-on support for America's 10 million family forest owners.

Southern Region Extension Forestry serves as a liaison between the USDA Forest Service and the thirteen Extension Forest Resources units in the South. The position has evolved into a regional programming, representation, promotion, and communication role within the forestry and natural resource communities.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. SAF is the largest professional society for foresters in the world.

F&W is an international forest resource management and consulting firm dedicated to helping landowners gain the most value and enjoyment per acre from their forestland. F&W believes that environmentally viable timberland is economically viable timberland.

Columbia Forest Products is North America's largest manufacturer of hardwood plywood and hardwood veneer products. Columbia's decorative interior veneers and panels are used in high-end cabinetry, fine furniture, architectural millwork and commercial fixtures.

The Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) is a professional society for natural resource Extension professionals. The mission of ANREP is to bring Extension

professionals together to discuss mutual natural resource issues, needs, and opportunities and to advance natural resource Extension through continuing education.

For more information on the National 4-H Forestry Invitational, go to:

<http://4hforestryinvitational.org/>.

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Charles D. Rice (right) receives award from David Apsley (4-H Forestry Invitational Committee, left) at Historic Jackson's Mill