



## News Release

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### **BARRS AWARDED GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD FOR AGRICULTURE**

Governor Sonny Perdue recently presented Earl and Wanda Barrs of Gully Branch Tree Farm with the 2010 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for Agriculture. The award honors farmers for good stewardship of all aspects of the environment in their farming practices. The Barrs are the first recipients of the award whose primary operation is forestry.

"To be honored by the agriculture community validates that sustainable agriculture, forestry and land management practices are valued in Georgia as well as the nation," said Earl Barrs of receiving the award. "It has been a privilege to manage the natural resources of Gully Branch to benefit our community, state and future generations."

In addition to Governor Perdue, another special guest was on hand to help present the Barrs' with the Environmental Stewardship Award. Chuck Leavell, famed musician and fellow tree farmer, is a friend of the Barrs and supporter of their stewardship work.

"Earl and Wanda Barrs are true treasures of the Ag and Forest Communities of Georgia," said Leavell. "Their Gully Branch Family Forest is one of the best examples of good stewardship of the land that exists anywhere. Earl and Wanda give back to the Georgia community in many ways, not only as shining examples of folks that are passionate about the land, but also in their work as advocates and educators. I am proud to call them friends and they are so very deserving of the Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award in Agriculture."

The award was presented at Agriculture Day, the kick-off event for the National Agriculture Awareness Week in Georgia.

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