



In Dedication to Ray and Fairy Delay

Delay Farms – Careywood, Idaho

The Idaho State Forestry Contest began as a joint effort of the Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District, USDA Soil Conservation Service and the Idaho Department of Lands. During the formative meeting with district supervisors and agency staff, Ray and Fairy Delay offered their family property to host the first contest in May 1983.



Delay Farms, located along US Highway 95 about midway between Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene, provided convenient access. The vast farmstead allowed convenient parking and facilities, including a Depression era outhouse. Most of all, the 1,000 acres of forestland guaranteed diverse venues for educational and competitive purposes.

In addition to operating both dairy and beef livestock operations, Delay Farms produced various agricultural crops along with forest management. The Delays received many awards including Bonner County Grassman, Woodsman of the Year and Idaho Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

Ray and Fairy were active in local, state and national conservation organizations. A short list includes the Fair Board, Farm Bureau, Soil Conservation District, Idaho Dairy Products Commission, Idaho Dairyman's Association, Idaho-Washington Resources Conservation and Development Council, National Resources Conservation and Development Council, and Idaho Forest Owners Association. Ray and Fairy

comprised an effective and influential conservation team while serving in leadership roles of many of these organizations.

As the contest grew, opportunities were added for younger students to participate in novice and rookie educational divisions in order to prepare them for the Junior/Senior competitive divisions. Ray and Fairy graciously accommodated this massive expansion by allowing more forestland for use and installing additional outlets in the farm buildings.

As far as Ray and Fairy were concerned, Delay Farms would be the permanent home of the Idaho State Forestry Contest, and Gene and Ray Delay Jr. carried on this legacy their parents began. However, increasing traffic on the BNSF Railroad at the farm's entrance forced the contest to seek another location. Since 2022, Farragut State Park has hosted the Idaho State Forestry Contest.

In dedicating this manual to Ray and Fairy Delay, we express our deepest appreciation to the Delay family and thank them for almost four decades of forestry and environmental education that occurred at Delay Farms.