



The Renewable Resources Extension Act in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's RREA programs are diverse and meet the needs of many stakeholders including private forest owners, resource professionals, homeowners, and forest industry. We use RREA funds as a foundation for securing additional resources from state, federal, and private sources that affect our large stakeholder community. We estimate that extension education programs conducted at Penn State and through its 67 county extension offices typically leverage each RREA dollar by 10 to 15 times. The advantage occurs through in-kind university match, volunteer support, and federal and state funds that directly support RREA focused outreach.

- The Pennsylvania Forest Stewards (PaFS, previously the VIP/Coverts program) receives federal and Ruffed Grouse Society support to train volunteers to provide peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Since 1992, we have trained nearly 350 volunteers asking them to return 40 hours of volunteer time in their first year of service. In 2003, our biannual survey of volunteers found that 200 volunteers contributed six years of service. Some of these volunteers have remained active for more than 10 years.
- Woodland Owners Associations (WOAs) provide an excellent opportunity for forest owners to learn through peer-to-peer linkages. Pennsylvania has 21 county and multi-county WOAs that reach into 40 of the state's 67 counties. Since 1992, through the efforts of PaFS volunteers, the number of WOAs has increased 10 fold. These organizations result in nearly 100 meetings annually and touch 1,000s of owners. They are creating local dialogue about sustainable forestry, sharing ideas, and making a difference where they live.
- Master Well Owners Network (MWON) is another Pennsylvania volunteer program that benefits from RREA support. Funded by a federal grant nearly 250 individuals have received training that helps protect ground water and makes sure that well users have pure water in their homes. These volunteers have worked with 4,000 homeowners.

“Woodland Owner Association members are the people on the ground talking to other woodland owners who are thinking about say, timber harvest, and to have those people educated is really the way we’re going to move the ball forward in forest stewardship.” PaFS Volunteer



“The PaFS volunteer program is really the hallmark of our Stewardship Program. They are taking the discussion to the owner and making a long-term difference. People are now talking about good forestry –it is changing.” PA Bureau of Forestry Employee.

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