

**The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) at the Louisiana State University
Agricultural Center: October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006**

Louisiana possesses a great abundance and diversity of renewable natural resources. Managing and sustaining these resources are top priorities among Louisiana stakeholder groups. The LSU AgCenter develops and implements programs to a wide variety of clientele groups in the state so that all residents can maximize the benefits derived from our natural resources. In the past year, each RREA dollar spent in Louisiana was leveraged with approximately ten dollars garnered from state, federal, and local support and help us produce the following successes:

∞ Continuing professional education programs for loggers, foresters, and arborists resulted in 19 workshops attended by 874 professionals. In sample evaluations, participants indicated a workshop value of \$2,109 per person per workshop, resulting in an overall estimated program impact of over \$1.8 million.

∞ Regional forestry forums and workshops held around the state attract diverse audiences of forest landowners and natural resource managers. Five of these were held in the past year, resulting in an attendance of 770 participants. Those responding in post-workshop evaluation indicated substantive knowledge gains and valued the programs on average at \$5,332 per person per workshop, resulting in an overall program impact of over \$4.1 million. One program that taught estate planning and family based forest management attracted 50 new landowners that never attended extension programs in the past.

∞ Wood products is an extremely important value added resource produced in Louisiana. Many of the primary wood products produced in Louisiana have been pressure treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA). As CCA treated wood ages and is decommissioned, it must be disposed of. The LSU AgCenter has developed closed loop recycling of decommissioned CCA treated wood as an alternative to landfilling. Extension programs target businesses that have an interest in recycling this wood. To date, one company intends to hire 5 new employees and accept at least 10 tons per week of the decommissioned CCA treated wood. The new technologies and outreach programs developed to incorporate these technologies in practical applications have the two-fold positive benefit of reducing potentially harmful chemicals in the environment and providing economic development opportunities in rural Louisiana communities.

∞ Over 300 wildlife managers and enthusiasts attended workshops designed to impart critical habitat management and conservation technologies. In one workshop pre-and-post-test, knowledge gained jumped by 37%. All participants indicated significant knowledge gained.

RREA contact person: Dr. Michael A. Dunn, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, 246 Agricultural Administration Building, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. Telephone: 225-578-0344. Email: mdunn@agcenter.lsu.edu.