



The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) at The Pennsylvania State University

October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006

Pennsylvania's RREA funding effectively supports education programs for a diverse clientele affecting private forest stewardship, water resources, economic development, and ecological services. Pennsylvania leverages RREA funds with federal, state, local, private, and institutional funds, and engages partners in developing and delivering educational programs to diverse clientele. The match for RREA funding is minimally 12 to 1. Recent programming efforts supported in part by RREA are:

- The Master Well Owner Network (MWON) in 2006 grew by 62 volunteers raising the total to 287 in 60 of 67 Pennsylvania counties. In 2005, volunteers reported contributing 820 hours and personally educating 3,453 private well owners. Through news articles, newsletters, and TV stories, they reached an additional 32,950 homeowners. Surveys found that over 80% of homeowners reached by a MWON volunteer will take some action to better manage their private water supply. In 2006, over 100 MWON volunteers participated in a private well research project funded by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania to study the incidence and causes of well contamination. Overall, the MWON program received over \$130,000 in public grant support in 2006, expanding the effort in Pennsylvania and into Maryland and Virginia.
- Penn State's WoodPro website came on line in 2002. In four years, WoodPro has averaged 35,000 visitors annually. Users include the public, researchers, and extension educators the world over. WoodPro associates provide services to local clientele, hold locally-focused conferences and programs, and offer Pennsylvania companies exposure on the site. The WoodPro site is an important tool for extension educators to support local economic development. The site features an on-line e-newspaper, an extension educator support page, industry and association links, and calendar page. The "core constituency" (those visiting the site more than once a month) currently has over 500 repeat visitors.
- Pennsylvania Forest Stewards (PAFS) volunteers are a central element for outreach to private forest owners. In 2006, 36 new PAFS joined this program, raising the number of active volunteers to nearly 350. A 2005 PAFS survey found they contributed the equivalent of 19 years of service valued at nearly one million dollars and reached an estimated 12,500 forest owners with stewardship information. Since its inception in 1992 PAFS started and support 24 woodland owner associations (WOAs) reaching into over two-thirds of the state's counties. These WOAs provide local outlets for education programs and are platforms for collaborative, shared learning. Together, the WOAs provide direct links to nearly 5,000 of the state's private forest owners. In 2006, this program received more than \$160,000 of public grant support.

"I believe the PA Forest Stewards volunteer program is the best program to reach other forest landowners about forest stewardship. I am thankful for the resource and the knowledge has been most beneficial to my and others' forested acres. This is an excellent program and definitely should continue." PA Forest Steward volunteer, Class of 2005.



PAFSs learn tree measurement skills

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