

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at the University of Delaware, FY 2008

The Renewable Resource Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension support programs that educate and motivate landowners, land managers, decisionmakers, and interested individuals throughout the entire state to care for our renewable natural resources (i.e., forests, wildlife, and soil) in a sustainable and responsible approach. The three National Strategic Issues incorporated into program direction are Economic Opportunities, Forest Stewardship and Health, and Public Policy. Programs are delivered in partnership with other federal, state, local, and private entities, leveraging RREA funds for maximum impacts.



Training volunteers for composting program outreach alliance

- ◆ Backyard **COMPOSTING** education was presented during seven events/workshops reaching more than 800 individuals. Equine and turf managers were also targeted. Volunteers were equipped with instructional material for expanding backyard composting programs in their communities and for encouraging small and large business ventures.

“After attending the backyard composting class, I really understood the need to compost ... it will help amend my poor soil, I’ll be helping by not adding unnecessary material to the landfill and I have a sense of helping make the world a better place to live.”... Nancy Davis, Sussex County Master Gardener

- ◆ Statewide rural and urban **FOREST STEWARDSHIP** outreach was provided through 20 educational events targeted to adult land managers. Through these events and onsite visits, more than 730 individuals increased their knowledge of benefits and available opportunities. An additional 90 individuals received phone and office assistance in response to their concerns about tree health, insect, disease, proper planting, and pruning techniques.
- ◆ Ongoing research-based information was provided to decisionmakers on potential **BIOMASS-BIOENERGY** opportunities in the state through presentations and crafting language for the five-year revision to the Governor’s Energy Plan. The University of Delaware Cooperative Extension is positioned as a leader for biomass-to-energy information transfer as a result of a continuing alliance with the Delaware Energy Office, the Northeast Regional Biomass Program Steering Committee, and National Biomass Partnership Council.
- ◆ Coordination assistance was provided to the multi-agency **Delaware ENVIROTHON**, a nationally-acclaimed high school environmental education challenge, which trains students in aquatic ecology, forestry, soils/land use, wildlife and ‘Renewable Resources.’ Delaware State Champions went on to place **FIRST** in the Canon Envirothon, competing against 54 other teams from Canada and the United States.

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