

## **The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at Fort Valley State University, FY 2008**

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The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds allocated to Fort Valley State University (FVSU) will assist in utilizing the completed Outdoor Forestry Classroom/Laboratory to train high school agriculture teachers and limited resource forestland owners on forestry stewardship issues. From October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008, each RREA dollar was leveraged with state and USDA funds to complete the Outdoor Forestry Classroom/Laboratory and conduct training workshops. Examples of RREA funds use are described below.

- During April 2008, Georgia Area 3 high schools used the Outdoor Forestry Classroom/Laboratory site for forestry career development events (formerly Forestry Field Day). More than 100 high school students participated in this activity. Students used their math skills and knowledge of forestry to earn enough points to compete in a regional forestry event that led them to participation in a national Future Farmers of America competition. Foresters employed with USDA and the Georgia Forestry Commission assisted with the forestry career development events and activities. Forester interactions with the high school students included discussions about career opportunities with forest industry.
- The FVSU College of Agriculture, Home Economics, and Allied Programs sponsored a five-day Forestry Career Development Event and Leadership Camp in July 2008. Members of The National Future Farmers of America organization spent time on the FVSU campus and the nearby Camp John Hope learning how to identify trees, measure land, and determine what type of disorders affect trees – all skills used by professionals who work in the field of forestry. Representatives from organizations, such as the Georgia Forestry Commission and the Georgia Department of Education taught the classes.

“I’m trying to get updated so I know what’s going on; I like for my kids to participate in career development events, that way they get a hands-on experience and use what they learned in class.” - *Anthony Robinson, a high school agricultural education teacher at Risley Learning Center in Brunswick.*

*On Fort Valley State University’s campus July 8, John Allen Bailey (far right), a Georgia Department of Education area forestry teacher, shows teachers and students how to measure the diameter of a tree.*



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