

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, FY 2008



Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) program funds help promote the sustainable use of renewable natural resources among Louisiana stakeholders. Each year, RREA funds allocated to Louisiana State University are leveraged by a factor of five to ten dollars for each dollar received. Funding assists LSU AgCenter's natural resources extension faculty in developing and implementing programs designed to provide ongoing education on the most relevant and helpful information. Our goal is always to work with stakeholder groups to improve quality of life aspects associated with natural resources use, management, conservation, and sustainability.

RREA-supported programs, combined with cooperative and collaborative efforts from many other groups in Louisiana and throughout the southern United States, allowed us to conduct a wide variety of programs in 2008. Highlights include:

- Louisiana's Project Learning Tree program (PLT) educates school teachers regarding forest use and sustainability. It is nationally recognized, thanks in part to the leadership and collaborative efforts of cooperative extension faculty. In 2008, 9 PLT workshops for 215 educators were leveraged by using volunteers into an additional 40 workshops for 800 educators. Many thousands of children are, in turn, educated by those participating teachers.
- Four regional forestry forums targeting forest landowners and natural resource managers were conducted, covering diverse topics, such as carbon markets for forest landowners, markets for bioenergy, and ecosystem services. One regional forum attracted more than 300 participants, representing more than one million acres of forestland ownership. Participants listed 121 recommendations they planned to initiate as a result the knowledge learned.
- Two forest landowner workshops targeting previously underserved landowners attracted 77 participants who had never before attended an extension workshop. These landowners owned approximately 6,800 acres. They learned concepts related to forest management planning, marketing, and legal concepts related to forest ownership.



Teachers learn about forest density and spacing at a PLT workshop in Louisiana

"I am so excited to have these materials for use when I begin teaching." Project Learning Tree participant.

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