

ANNUAL REPORT - EXTENSION FOREST RESOURCES  
1980-81

FACULTY AND STAFF

There were several personnel changes during the year. Dr. Mike Levi was appointed Specialist-in-charge of Extension Forest Resources, Earl Deal, coordinator of the wood utilization program, and Rick Hamilton, coordinator of the private woodland program. One position was lost because of federal budget cuts, and Bob Hazel and Bill Gardner were hired to replace Andy Weber and Ed Jones respectively. The quality of applicants for the Jones position was excellent reflecting the high reputation of the program.

Leon Harkins was presented the Governor's Award for Forest Conservationist of the Year.

PROGRAM

c) Extension

With the appointment of an agent with forestry responsibility in every county, extension efforts have been focussed on supporting county forestry programs. Success is demonstrated by the fact that 86 counties planned forest resources programs in FY 81 involving 3100 agent man days.

The major thrust was to improve management on private non-industrial woodland. Ten County Forestry Associations were formed to bring the State total to 38. Specialists assisted agents in organizing programs for these associations, and in setting up local demonstrations of various aspects of forest management. Successful programs were also held specifically for women and absentee landowners. Extension was involved in the organization of 55 County Interagency Small Woodlot Committees to coordinate and expand

forest management activities at the county level. Forty-five agents attended in-service training sessions on "Forestry Economics and Income Taxation" held at 5 locations in cooperation with Extension Economics and Business.

Interest in the use of wood as a fuel continued to increase. Thirteen non-wood products industrial plants and 5 state facilities are using or plan to use wood as a fuel partly as a result of a coordinated educational effort between Extension Forest Resources, Industrial Extension, and NC Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. A recent survey showed that 26 percent of the homes in North Carolina use wood as a heat source. A broad based educational program on heating with wood emphasising safety has been presented through the county offices. Representatives of local fire departments, insurance companies, chimney sweeps and the NC Forest Service participated in these programs.

Income to growers from Christmas tree production is expanding at an annual rate of 25 percent. Some 2,000 growers in over 50 counties planted 12 million trees in the spring of 1981. An interdepartmental extension team from SALS and SFR working with county agents has emphasized how to grow quality, marketable trees in the most cost effective manner so that North Carolina can capture 15 percent of the national market in the next five years.

Insects and fungi pose a continuing threat to both trees and wood products. Slide/tapes on the southern pine beetle and how to protect landscape pines from both construction damage and bark beetles were developed with a grant from the US Forest Service. A "Fraser Fir-Balsam Woolly Aphid Problem Analysis" was developed in conjunction with SARRMC to encourage additional efforts to protect the multi-million dollar Fraser fir associated tourism and Christmas tree industries in Western North Carolina. A cooperative

program between Entomology, Housing, Extension Forest Resources, County Agents and the US Forest Service entitled "Your Wood Can Last For Centuries" was initiated to make homeowners aware of the damage caused to wood in homes by insects and fungi, and how to reduce the millions of dollars of annual losses.

As demand for forest products increases, economical methods must be developed to harvest small diameter trees on steep slopes. A cooperative study with the NC Forest Service demonstrated two European harvesting systems designed for this purpose. In addition, educational and demonstration programs continued with the furniture industry; a long range expanded wild-life program was developed; and the thrust of the youth program was reevaluated. In the future greater emphasis will be placed on the education of agents and adult leaders instead of 4-H youth.

Numerous opportunities in the forest resource area remain unrealized because of insufficient personnel. This problem was compounded by the loss of one specialist position. There is an urgent need for additional personnel to work with the wood products industry, particularly the furniture industry. The lack of technical assistance in the Department reduces the effectiveness of specialists. Efforts continue to obtain outside funding for these positions. However, it is hoped that greater support can be obtained from the University so that we can serve more effectively the needs of people using one of the States economically most important resources.

#### AIMS AND PHILOSOPHY

The aim of Extension Forest Resources is to improve the management and utilization of our forest resource. The program encompasses timber production and utilization, water quality, wildlife, and recreation. Our potential audience

ranges from farmers to major forest products industries, from urban youth to literally every homeowner. Our continuing aim is to identify, with the help of county agents, the Extension Advisory system, and industry the major forest resource related problems facing the people of North Carolina, and address those which we can impact through the extension process. To achieve our aim we believe that it is essential to work cooperatively with other units of the School and University, with other State and Federal Agencies, and with the private sector.