

EXTENSION FOREST RESOURCES  
ANNUAL REPORT 1987-88

1. Changes in Service Environment

Several external factors are affecting the need for Extension programs.

1. Forestland owners in general, and farmers in particular are more interested in management and income production from their forests. Farm Bill provisions are encouraging conversion of erodible land to trees. These have increased landowner interest in information on forest management and supplemental income production from forest land.
2. Concerns about water quality, general environmental quality and continued urbanization of North Carolina are increasing demands for regulation of forest practices. This is expanding the need for educational programs for forest industry and landowners on best management practices to maintain water and environmental quality, and programs for environmental activists, decision makers and the general public on the impact of different management practices on the environment.
3. Increases in domestic and international competition for the sale of forest products necessitate improvement in the production efficiency of manufacturers and the quality of their products. Educational programs can assist forest industry in achieving these objectives.
4. Technology and communication methods continue to change extremely rapidly. This is impacting the types of programs requested from Extension and its ability to provide them.

## II. Faculty

A. Earl Deal - recipient of the North Carolina State University and Alumni Association Outstanding Extension Service Awards.

Robert Hazel - recipient of Governor's Conservationist of the Year Award presented by the North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

## VI. Extension and Public Service

Extension Forest Resources Specialists organized or taught at:

15 training sessions for 270 Extension agents

47 workshops attended by 3183 professionals in various areas of forest management and wood utilization, and

68 meetings for 3,154 forest landowners, Christmas tree growers, homeowners and other interested lay people.

Microcomputer and video programs are becoming increasingly important educational tools for Extension. Several have been developed in the last year. A "Logger Accounting Package" has been released which will provide information that helps loggers make sound business decisions on, for example, job costing and equipment replacement. Most loggers, as is the case with many small businesses, currently have no easy ways to do this. Use of the package will enable companies to become more profitable. Purchase of "Lumber Quality Control" software has shown quick results for many companies. A company used the software after participation in an Extension workshop and reduced its lumber target size. This resulted in savings of over \$300,000 per year. Estimates of annual savings for all mills using this program now exceed \$2 million. Software that enables foresters, land managers and owners to draw and close traverses when mapping land areas was developed in cooperation with the Recreation Department.

The program, called ITMAP has been extremely well received, winning the FORS national award for best natural resources software developed by a graduate student.

Almost 100 people from all parts of the United States enrolled for a video correspondence course offered by the Departments of Wood and Paper Science and Extension. The course "Efficiency in Woodworking" consists of 18 lessons, each lasting 1 to 2 hours. It is estimated that approximately 300 people are viewing each lesson. The course adds a new dimension to the existing very successful video training program for forest industry. Subscriptions for the quarterly technology update series for the sawmill and furniture industries have now increased to over 200. A 30-minute videotape "Tree Felling Techniques for Professional Loggers" developed jointly with Clemson has been purchased by almost 150 loggers throughout the United States.

Extension recently completed its 4-year program "Peoples Plan 87". As a result of the forest management efforts in the last year, decision making was improved for 5,000 landowners owning approximately 1 million acres of woodland. Reforestation acreage increased by 10 percent and timber income to landowners increased by approximately \$7 million. Renewable Resources Extension Act funds supported 25 multiple-use forestry demonstrations across the state and a Woodland Management Correspondence course has been distributed to 130 landowners in North Carolina. An emphasis on generating annual income from forest land resulted in income from the sale of pine straw increasing by \$5 million and hunting leases by \$1 million.

Extension continued to play a major role in the development and support of the North Carolina Christmas tree industry. Grower income from sale of Christmas trees increased from \$42 to \$47 million in the last year. Major emphasis was placed on improving tree quality through proper shearing and fertilizing. Recommendations on fertilizer application are more sophisticated and commercial

fertilizer formulations for Christmas trees are more available in North Carolina than in other states. A survey of growers attending shearing schools showed 75 percent following sound nutritional practices based on laboratory analysis and recommendations.

This report has summarized some of the year's major program accomplishments. Other efforts included the biennial Carolina Log'N Demo cosponsored by the N. C. Forestry Association which attracted almost 2,000 loggers and their families from North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina to see the latest logging equipment operating in the woods; Project Learning Tree which has now reached 1800 teachers and an estimated 50,000 students since its introduction 2 years ago; expansion of the 4-H Shooting Sports program; continued pesticide education; promotion of increased forest products export; consumer education on the selection and use of wood products; urban forestry; outdoor recreation; and wildlife management.

#### VII. Recommendations and Concerns for the Future

Extension Forest Resources" mission is to develop educational programs that address the variety of needs of the owners, processors and users of our forest resources so that wealth will be increased while maintaining or improving the quality of our environment. To achieve this, in the face of growing demands for assistance, will require that current staff size be at least maintained, and ideally increased; and that some research and teaching faculty play a greater role in continuing education for professionals.