

## **The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) at the University of Delaware and Delaware State University**

RREA programs help prepare Delaware landowners to manage the state's renewable natural resources more effectively. RREA funds are leveraged with state and private associations forming partnerships for environmental educational programs designed to inform and motivate children, youth and adults. In outreach educational programs conducted through both Universities, each RREA dollar is typically leveraged with \$7 - \$15 of in-kind federal, state, private, and/or local funds. In recent years, RREA funds were used to:

- ◆ Develop and conduct **OUTDOOR WOODLAND CLASSROOMS** targeted towards first and third grade students, along with providing the setting for adult educational experiences. Since 2001, the Sussex County 'October' classroom involved public and private schools, teaching 1,995 students/teachers/chaperones and utilizing 250 volunteer Tour Guide hours. In 2004 the Kent County Classroom '7-day program' broke ground reaching-out to 290 students and capturing 84 volunteer instructing hours.
- ◆ Support the annual Farm Tour at two Delaware State University farms where 3,164 participants were instructed on agricultural operations, along with soil and water conservation measures and practices to augment natural resources.
- ◆ Host 16 small group workshops and daily individual assistance on: woodlot management, urban forestry issues, tree insect & disease control, backyard composting, backyard wildlife habitat enhancement, and renewable resource management.
- ◆ Participate in the multi-agency Delaware **ENVIROTHON** program (a nationally-acclaimed high school environmental education competition), which includes eight months of training and annually involves 150 students and advisors.
- ◆ Provide natural resource educational outreach to over 12,000 individuals through participation in the annual Delaware **EARTH DAY** and **COAST DAY** events.



⇐Using small-scale equipment to apply organic compost material 'cooked' in YOUR backyard vs. purchasing fertilizer.

*"[The Outdoor Woodland Classroom] continues to challenge the student, learning by their observations in the woods and where they live." – Steven Howard, Principal Seaford Christian Academy*

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