

Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)
University of Maine Cooperative Extension
October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006

RREA programs in Maine focus on wood measurement, value-added processing of forest products, improved wood utilization, and sustainable use of natural resources. RREA funds are used in combination with state, county, and private funds, and in cooperation with numerous and diverse partners, to deliver Extension programs to Maine citizens, landowners, and professionals. Recent RREAsupported programs include:

♣ Maine requires that anyone who measures wood to establish a basis for payment be licensed by the state. Licensing requires a two-year apprenticeship and a written exam. Applicants completing an approved instructional course can reduce their apprenticeship from two years to six months. In cooperation with the UMaine College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture, and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources, two **Approved Wood Measurement Training** programs were conducted. Thirty-two participants qualified for six-month apprenticeships, bringing the total to 126 in four years.

♣ Portable sawmills vary greatly, each with their own advantages and capabilities. Cooperating with *Independent Sawmill and Woodlot Management* magazine, Northeastern Loggers Association, and Northeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, the **Great Portable Sawmill Shoot-Out** was conducted, allowing about 4,000 potential buyers to compare 13 machines from the USA, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. A special issue of the magazine was devoted to the event, reaching an additional 60,000 people. Portable sawmill workshops have also been conducted for over 200 members of the public and undergraduate students at UMaine. One participant commented, “After using a portable sawmill for years I finally know how to saw all the boards the same thickness and not have anything left over!”

UMaine Extension Dean and Director, Lavon Bartel, takes a turn operating a portable sawmill.

♣ **Earth Connections Volunteers (ECV)** is a volunteer development program focused on sustainable living and sustainable use of natural resources. RREA funds in FY06 and FY07 are supporting the development of the new curriculum that will debut in Spring 2007. Participants will complete a 30-hour core curriculum, commit to conducting 30 hours of outreach in their communities, and participate in optional advanced training. Outreach efforts will focus on engaging children in

outdoor, hands-on environmental education, teaching community members to live more sustainable lifestyles, supporting landowners in adopting sustainable natural resource management practices, and other related topics.

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