Forestry extension at Iowa State University has the basic mission of improving and expanding tree resources in the state through educational programs. The unit is housed in the Department of Forestry and is staffed by two professionals plus a graduate assistant. Dean R. Prestemon is the subject matter leader with a 75% extension - 25% resident teaching appointment. Paul H. Wray is the other full-time professional with a 75% extension - 25% research appointment. Dean's specialty is wood products and housing while Paul focuses on tree biology and forest management. Reinee Hildebrandt, graduate assistant, keys on youth programs. Overall, administration of the program rests with the Chairman, Department of Forestry, and the Extension Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Forestry extension has four major program thrusts. Three-fourths of the total effort is reported under "Forestry and Woodland Resources." Extension efforts under this program include forestry field days, windbreak meetings, conservation education sessions, and the WOODLAND OWNERS NEWSLETTER. During the 1984-85 program year, 18 forestry field days were held with a total attendance of 1047, 13 windbreak schools involved 395 clientele, and 33 conservation education sessions were attended by 1115 youth and teachers. In addition, almost 13,000 people received the quarterly WOODLAND OWNERS NEWSLETTER, 12 radio and TV programs were presented, almost 400 individual inquiries were handled, 10 new releases were written, and four new extension publications were authored and four more revised.

A formal mail survey was used to assess the usefulness and value of forestry field days to woodland owners. A total of 268 clients responded and provided the following information on benefits received: increased interest (89%); greater satisfaction (81%); improved planning expertise (79%); increased confidence (75%); improved basis for decisions (74%);
and greater skills (68%). Action was also generated: shared program information or materials (78%); sought additional information (64%); implemented specific management changes (53%); requested field assistance (52%); planted additional acres to trees (43%); reduced woodland property tax (43%); and became a "Tree Farmer" (26%). About 80% of the survey respondents were willing to estimate a dollar value for the benefits received; average value per person for attending one or more forestry field days was $500.

One key characteristic of the forestry field program is cooperation with other groups and agencies. Although forestry extension provides the leadership, very important contributions and inputs are made by the Forestry Section of the Iowa Conservation Commission, county and area extension offices, Soil Conservation Service, county conservation boards, and other organizations.

Other major programs include "Home and Community Plantings," "Home Energy Conservation," and "Home Construction and Maintenance." A total of 32 meetings or workshops were held during 1984-85 involving these three major programs with over 1100 people attending. In addition, almost 400 individual inquiries were handled, and six mass media programs were presented.

Two new program opportunities are developing for the current and upcoming program years. Forestry extension will be actively involved with the Governor's Arbor Day Committee. Specifically, we will be working with Iowa high schools on a "Trees for Schools" program. This effort is designed to promote resource conservation, to provide opportunities for learning experiences, and to enhance the beauty and utility of school grounds through tree and shrub plantings. We also expect to have substantial involvement in educating landowners on the new federal Conservation Reserve program. This program should offer an excellent opportunity to promote tree planting in the state for site protection and other purposes.

Forestry extension in Iowa is alive, well, and growing. We have made real contributions in the past and expect to accomplish even more in the future.

Dean Prestemon