Iowa's Extension Forestry Field Program

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Iowa’s Extension Forestry Field Program

By I. T. Bode, Extension Forester

Having filled numberless pages in previous issues of this august publication, it seems no more than courteous to inform you that you need read no farther than the heading and the first paragraph of this article, unless, of course, you want to be sure to get your money’s worth out of your subscription. Then, to be sure, you can’t afford to miss what follows herein.

Because in several previous issues of the Ames Forester a good deal has been said about what would be attempted by way of Forestry Extension in Iowa, it will no doubt interest readers now to gain some knowledge of what has actually been accomplished and what is planned for the future.

Here is a birds-eye view of last year’s work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demonstrations held:</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wood Preservation</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry Service Contacts (where some miscellaneous advice was given or problems talked over thru meetings, schools, interviews, etc.)</td>
<td>2749</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Separate Counties in which some type of continuous Forestry Extension is under way | 41     |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Reached:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrations</td>
<td>1185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys’ and Girls’ Camp Schools (40 meetings)</td>
<td>1434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>298 Interviews, 102 Farm and Home Visits, 103 Meetings and Conferences</td>
<td>1315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>3934</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First class letters sent out</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity articles prepared</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(A large part of the publicity this year handled by interview with reporters for Better Iowa and in the counties.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circular letters sent out:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club work</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Forestry Week</td>
<td>1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                                    | 1833   |
Copies of Information Circulars Sent Out:
Junior projects .......................................................... 200
American Forestry Week ............................................. 4500

The following diagram gives an idea of progress of activities during the past few years:

The work summarized above has taught much. In the beginning there was practically no precedent to follow in Forestry Extension work, for Iowa has been one of the pioneers in this field. Endeavors to date have brought some definite conclusions and have mapped out rather distinctly where major effort is to be placed, for the near future at least.

It has been deemed advisable to include all Forestry work under one project instead of under three as has been done heretofore. The various phases of work will be conducted as usual, but merely as phases rather than as separate projects. It is believed that this will tend to unify the thinking of people as regards Forestry.

Major effort next year will be placed on Shelterbelt and Woodlot Planting, and the development of forestry programs with the juniors. The need for woodlot management is real and is not to be side-tracked, but conditions point to the advisability of laying more complete plans and gathering additional data before the best constructive work can be done along this line.

Following is the Forestry Extension project as it has been written for 1926-27:

**PROJECT: F-1 FORESTRY (Planting, Preservation, Service) (1925-26)**

**OBJECT:**

a. To demonstrate methods of renewing wood supplies and protective tree plantings.
b. Better utilization of the rapidly diminishing wood supply.
c. To give assistance with miscellaneous forestry problem.

**PLAN OF WORK:**

Methods—Forestry work will be carried on under three phases:

a. Tree Planting (Plant.)
b. Preservative Treatment of Posts and Timbers (Pres.)
c. Forestry Service (Ser.)

Any phase may be chosen independently. Requests for forestry work should be indicated thus: Forestry (Plant.), Forestry (Pres.), or
Forestry (Ser.). After the phase of work is chosen, specific details for carrying it on will be obtained from the Forestry Extension Service.

Forestry (Plant.)—(planting of woodlots and shelterbelts)

a. Time required: The large amount of plan work makes it essential that preliminary work get under way during October and November of the fall preceding establishment of the demonstrations.
   One or two days in October or November to make preliminary surveys and plans.
   One week in the spring for establishment of demonstrations.
   One or two days in the fall of each year for five years for inspection work and holding of meetings to study results.

b. Months for work: Preliminary surveys, October, November and December. Demonstrations, April. Inspection and follow-up meetings, September and October.

c. Specialist time: One or two days for surveys. Three to five days for establishment of demonstrations. One or two days in the fall of succeeding year's for inspection and follow-up.

d. Number of meetings: A survey trip to the cooperators' farms after chosen. Three to five training meetings at establishment of training demonstrations. Meetings at these demonstrations in the fall of following years to study results.

e. Cooperation:
   1. Experimental basis.
      The forestry section of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station will establish a limited number of experimental shelterbelts and woodlots. In these Experiment Station reserves the right to make the planting or part of it, experimental. If accepted on this basis, trees are furnished by the Experiment Station, the cooperator paying costs of transportation and packing of stock and furnishing labor for planting.
   2. Demonstration Basis.
      If not accepted on Experimental basis the
cooperator secures his own trees, the Extension Service drawing up the plans and furnishing planting supervision under regular arrangements for demonstration work in the counties.

f. Essential steps: After approval at program meeting, send out request for applications for demonstration locations. Select final cooperators, one for each township. Arrange for field trip by specialist to make surveys for plantings. Select three to five demonstrations as training demonstrations. See that plans and orders for necessary trees are properly arranged for either thru private nurseries or thru the Experiment Station. Arrange definite week for establishing the demonstrations and notify specialist. Arrange for inspection of plantings and replacement of stock where failures occur during the succeeding years until a full stand is growing.

g. Goals: To establish a demonstration tree planting in each township of the county. To follow-up these demonstrations for five years, by which time they should be well established.
Forestry (Pres.)—(Preservative treatment of posts and timbers)

a. Time for demonstrations: Four days for a series of four demonstrations. See detailed instructions for arranging.

b. Months for work: Any month except March 15 to June 1.

c. Specialist time: Four days during holding of demonstrations. If desirable one or two days in advance of the demonstration to set up work. One or two days each year for five years to keep a check on the demonstration plants and to hold follow-up meetings.

d. Number of meetings: A set-up meeting after cooperators are chosen. A meeting at each demonstration when held. A follow-up meeting about one year after the first demonstration and meetings in succeeding years.

e. Equipment: 30 to 50 seasoned posts, a treating tank, 3 to 5 barrels of creosote oil. Equipment for special types of wood preservation work varies.

Farmers in Louisa County Studying Farm Methods for Creosoting Fence Posts.
f. Essential steps: Present project at regular program meeting. Select project leader to assist county agent in putting on work. Notify specialist of acceptance of project and time for conducting work. Get from specialist details for carrying on project. Send out notice to those interested in cooperating and select four cooperators in four different parts of the county. Notify each of preparation necessary, and send cooperators' names to specialist. Check up one month ahead of demonstrations to make sure all preparations are made. Give demonstrations publicity.

g. Goals: Establish four demonstration post or wood treating operations in the county. Get a record from each cooperator of the cost of carrying on his work at his plant. Hold one meeting each year for five years at each of the demonstration plants to study results.

Forestry (Ser.)—(Assistance in Miscellaneous Forestry Problems. Woodlot Management)

Scope:
1. Consultations in tree work and care of woodlots (thinning woodlots, removal of woodlot crops, regeneration of woodlots.)
2. Plans for Shelterbelts.
3. Meetings on wood preservation, woodlot work, tree planting and general forestry subjects.
4. Assistance to boys and girls thru clubs, camps and leaders' training schools.

A Country Forestry Week
a. Time for work: Enough work to be lined up to occupy four or five days.
c. Specialist time: Four or five days.
d. Number of meetings: Depends upon the type of program decided upon.
e. Essential steps: Decide on a Forestry Week for the county at program meeting. Notify people of county of service available. Notify specialist of week selected. List applications coming in for assistance and arrange enough work for a full week on farm and home visits and demonstrations. (See detailed plans for such a program.) Notify specialist one
month ahead as to type of program to be carried out. Give program all publicity possible. In arranging program of work emphasis should be placed upon woodlot management and plans for planting woodlots and shelterbelts. Other miscellaneous Forestry problems will be taken care of under this phase of the Forestry project, under plans especially arranged. This would include work with Boys' and Girls' Camps, Boy Scouts, and other activities.

Details of plan of work give a rather complete survey of what Iowa will attempt in her Forestry Extension Program and how she will attempt to carry it out.

**SUGGESTIVE PLAN OF WORK—1925-26**

**PROJECT—FORESTRY**

I. FACTORS DETERMINING SELECTION OF WORK FOR COMING YEAR:

a. The growing importance of wood crops. Rapidly diminishing supply of wood. Large amount of wood used in Iowa's farming industry—posts and rough construction.

b. Success of two trial, county-wide, tree planting programs. Rapid disappearance of old protective plantings.

c. Recognition of importance of inculcating in boys and girls an appreciation of tree growth because of long time necessary to grow trees.

d. Decision to concentrate on planting program and boys' and girls' work as linked to this program directly.

e. Decision to include boys' and girls' camp work because of especial relation of forestry to all outdoor work and recreation and necessity of having users of the out-of-doors know the woods and how to take care of them.

f. Decision that it is unwise to eliminate all service work because there are perhaps no two woodlots in the State that could be handled the same, and with the extremely limited amount of knowledge along this line it is almost necessary to get some of these woodlots under management or ready for management before much in the way of general principles or demonstration work can be carried on.
II. PHASES OF PROJECT TO BE UNDERTAKEN: (See Forestry Project)

III. GOALS FOR THE YEAR:

**Tree Planting:** Establishment of a demonstration tree planting in each township of two new counties. Because most of these are undertaken in cooperation with the Forestry Experiment Station, and because the Station’s stock is so depleted by the unexpected growth of this phase of the work, it may be necessary to postpone actual planting operations until a year later. But plans will be made and if possible the delay bridged over by linking up the work with the Junior project. It will be the aim to start each county-wide planting program as a club project, which will provide trees for the final county project.

**Wood Preservation:** To establish four post treating operations in at least three counties and have one or two counties put on campaigns for treatment of barns against powder-post beetle damage and have a third county conduct a second series of follow-up meetings on this same work.

**Forestry Service:** To carry on a County Forestry Week in at least two counties. Here the object will be to create enough interest to locate definite demonstration work as follow-up.

   To conduct three or more forestry schools for Boy Scout Masters at their summer camps.
   To conduct forestry schools in eight Boys’ and Girls’ camps.

   To organize and start in two counties a boys’ forestry club program. The background for this work is to be a general study of forestry, covering twelve lessons and twelve monthly meetings, and is to be built around the planting of young trees leading up to establishment of the county’s tree planting program.

IV. SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

**For All Phases:** Because of the newness of forestry work in the extension program, a series of meetings with district county agent leaders to familiarize them with the work being done under the Forestry project, and enlist their aid in putting forth special effort to get this work presented at regular county program meetings.

   Pick out those particular counties which should
put on certain parts of the work and go over these with district leaders.

The Forestry project is to be an outline of work, full enough to give those making up programs an idea of the type of work available, but not a complete set of instructions for conducting work. These instructions will be issued separately and sent to counties as soon as they have accepted any phase of work. The project and detailed instructions will be placed in the hands of district agents so they can be prepared to answer inquiries at the time work is being considered at program meetings.

These program meetings will be followed up by a letter from the specialist, reviewing the work proposed for the county, and including detailed instructions.

The county is to select a leader for each phase of work undertaken, who will work with the county agent in lining up work and in setting up and conducting demonstrations.

**For Tree Planting:** Details for organizing work, receiving applications, and selecting cooperators will be issued in specific instructions.

Demonstration work will be conducted on training demonstration basis, where three to five demonstrations are selected as training demonstrations and other cooperators are requested to attend these and then return and establish their own plantings as demonstrations for their communities.

There is to be a check-up day in the fall, to record failures, study results, and arrange for replacements the following spring. Such a check-up is to be made each year for at least five years.

After demonstrations are well established each will be posted as to method of establishment, cooperation, etc.

**For Wood Preservation:** A period of two days is to be allowed for each demonstration, but two demonstrations can be arranged for two days (see project plan). This permits of having on hand for demonstrations, material treated by demonstration plant at the time.

A set-up meeting is to be held at least one month in advance of demonstrations, with or without specialist help, to advise cooperators of material necessary to obtain, plans to make and procedure to be carried out.

At the time of demonstration one run of posts (20
to 30) will be weighed before and after treatment to
determine exact costs and absorption and these will
be marked with permanent tags and their location re-
corded when set and they will be used for study at
follow-up meetings. A copy of this record is to be kept
by the specialist and county agent.

Cooperator is to keep a record of costs of treating
posts for one year or longer.

Additional demonstration work in county will be
handled by county agent, county leader and these co-
operators.

For Forestry Service: (The County Forestry Week)
The people in the county are to receive word thru
newspapers and notices of type of work available dur-
ing this week.

A summary of requests for assistance is to be
made by the leader or the county agent and submitted
to specialist at least a month in advance of holding of
forestry week, and in cooperation with the county
agent and county leader the final itinerary is to be
made up. This should include at least five consulta-
tions per day.

After consultations each one given assistance is
to report on how far suggestions have been carried out,
and their opinion of the work.

After enough years have elapsed to show results
of improved practices, a series of demonstration meet-
ings is to be arranged to study results and promote
wider adoption of practices.

(Club Program)
The outlining, organizing and promotion of this
phase will be undertaken in cooperation with regular
club leaders of Extension Service and the State.

Being built around the ultimate establishment of
county-wide tree planting programs, those counties
will be selected first in which it is proposed to put on
the above program.

There is to be a Forestry Club leader selected for
those counties, who should be preferably one of the
cooperators in the final planting program.

The work will provide for a series of twelve les-
sions in forestry, one for each month, and meetings
will be out-of-doors whenever weather permits. Most
of the work will be conducted as practical field exer-
cises. It may be necessary for a year or two for the
## Growth of Forestry Extension in Iowa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER of DEMONSTRATIONS</th>
<th>COUNTIES DOING WORK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WOOD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESERVATION</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>in 5 counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>in 5 counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>in 13 counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>2 counties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Carried on, Dec. 1, 1924 to Nov. 30, 1925.
- ** July 1, 1924 to Nov. 30, 1924.
- Arranged for Fall, 1925; Postponed Because of Changes in Conducting Work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER of DEMONSTRATIONS</th>
<th>COUNTIES DOING WORK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TREE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLANTING</td>
<td>(12)</td>
<td>in 12 counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-22</td>
<td>(21)</td>
<td>in 16 counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>(51)</td>
<td>in 12 counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>(30)</td>
<td>in 9 counties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER of PEOPLE REACHED OTHER THAN ABOVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FARM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORESTRY</td>
<td>690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERVICE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922-23</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-24</td>
<td>1347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924-25</td>
<td>2653</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Boys' and Girls' Camp Schools, Interviews, Meetings and Conferences, Farm and Home Visits.
specialist to attend many of these meetings personally because of lack of knowledge of the work on the part of local people. Wherever possible, this work will be given in a series of schools to leaders.

There will be three or more contests conducted during the year: one tree identification contest, one contest to locate largest or the most historical tree in the county or similar object, one to locate the best parent nut trees in the county.

The final contest and goal will be the successful raising and disposal of a crop of young nursery trees to cooperators who are to establish the county-wide demonstration tree planting program.

(Junior Camp Work)

This work will be conducted as a Forestry School consisting of four lessons and to be given in two days time.

Lessons will teach care of woods and the out-of-doors when used as a recreation ground, proper care of camp fires to prevent forest burning, appreciation of economic and other values of woodlands, adaptability of woods to various uses, edible tree fruits, identification of a few of the important trees in the native woods.

Where members of the organizations come to the camps such as in Boy Scout camps, the school will be conducted as a leaders’ training school at the time these leaders have their camp, and they in turn will be required to carry on a similar school in the camps when they are in charge.

V. DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Specialist Will: Prepare detailed plans, cooperate with district agents in presenting work to county program meetings, prepare report forms and furnish general publicity material, conduct demonstrations as provided for, conduct forestry schools and leaders’ training schools, carry on inspection work where this constitutes a part of follow-up, summarize and analyze results, assist in planning future procedure, make planting surveys, and plans, carry on cooperative arrangements with Experiment Station where they furnish stock for demonstration programs.

County Agent Will: Assist district agents in presenting work at the program meetings, assist county leaders in lining up the work and making necessary arrangements.
for carrying on demonstrations, assist in planning dates, tours and with supervision of demonstrations, check up on preparation for demonstrations, keep specialist informed of developments, carry on publicity program, conduct additional demonstrations and train leaders.

**County Leaders Will:** Work with county agent to develop programs, dates for meetings, tours and demonstrations, assist with demonstrations so as to be able to carry work to others, enlist interest of others, assist with publicity, gather reports, assist in carrying out follow-up.

**Other Agencies:** District Extension Agents will familiarize themselves with the forestry project and assist in presenting plans and formulating programs and help in gathering reports.

The State Club Leaders will assist in formulating and carrying on the club program.

The Experiment Station will cooperate as formerly in furnishing a limited number of trees, under regular agreement, for demonstration plantings and for the junior work.

**VI. LITERATURE AND ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL:**

**Available Material:** Extension Service bulletins covering planting, wood preservation and woodlot management. Detailed plans covering phases of forestry project. Report forms as used in previous years with some revisions. Photographs of previous demonstration work. Publicity material. Government bulletins.

**To Be Prepared:** Mimeographed or printed booklet on common trees of Iowa, leaflet on powder-post beetle, information on nut trees for Iowa, scorecards for contests, lessons for club and camp school programs.

**VII. MEASURING RESULTS:**

1. **Units of Direct Measurement:** Number of new tree plantings started in county, number of trees planted in demonstrations, number of treating plants put into operation, number of posts treated, saving in use of more durable posts in fence building and repair, value of barns saved by treatment against powder-post beetle, number of boys and girls able to identify at least 10 native trees, number of “unusual-interest”
trees found, number of superior varieties of native nuts discovered, number of trees raised by boys for county planting program, number of woodlots placed under management, money returns resulting from recommended practices adopted.

(2) General Measurement: Reports of nurserymen and societies as to increased interest in tree planting. Reports from lumber dealers as to increase or decrease in number of more durable posts sold for fencing. Number of requests for assistance sent to Extension Service.

Methods of Securing Results: Report card forms to cooperators, leaders and county agents. County surveys. Reports of district extension leaders. Results of contests.

When this plan of work for 1925-26 is approved by the director of extension and accepted by the Department of Agriculture, it becomes a part of the Forestry Project under the Smith-Lever Act, which has been heretofore approved.

And this is Forestry Extension in Iowa