



Woodbridge (Woody) Metcalf, shown here conducting a 1927 Santa Cruz Farm Bureau forestry tour, joined the newly formed Division of Forestry of the U.C. College of Agriculture in Berkeley in 1914, and in 1926 became the first Extension Forester in the U.S. The teaching concepts he pioneered are utilized by Cooperative Extension today, as illustrated by the photo below of a forestry demonstration tour in early 1979. Photo courtesy of Metcalf-Fritz collection, U.C. Forestry Library.

Extension: Applying research findings

Cooperative Extension provides the link between research and users, transmitting findings for public information and application, and keeping researchers advised of the needs of forest landowners and commercial organizations.

One strength of Extension's forestry program is cooperating with other organizations to carry out the Extension mission. The best example is the cooperative educational program with the Northern California Section, Society of American Foresters (NCS,SAF). This program provides educational opportunities for more than 2,000 professional foresters and also serves nonindustrial landowners, students, and forestry technicians.

This program, in its fourth year, consists of eight to ten short courses. Jointly planned and conducted, they are

held throughout northern California on such subjects as forest hydrology, reforestation, prescribed fire, forest soils, forest wildlife, tree improvements, and young growth management. Instruction is provided by researchers, university instructors, consultants, and experienced forest practitioners. About 1,200 people attend courses each year, and so far about 5000 man-days of professional-level education have been provided.

Topics for presentation are compiled by the NCS,SAF Education Committee, which is composed of 14 local chapter representatives plus a representative from the public agency, private industry, consultant and academic sectors of forestry. Therefore, the program is "grass roots" oriented to serve the educational needs of forest practitioners in California. Each course is hosted by a local Chapter, and conducted by the Extension Forester.

