



WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

IMPACTS

- Oklahoma's risk assessment programs have helped watershed residents statewide protect their drinking water from contamination.
- Sale of poultry litter as fertilizer has been stimulated through sorghum and wheat crop demonstrations and establishment of an online market.
- Over 5000 Illinois River Basin youth were taught the value of land & water resources during 2000-2002 environmental fairs and water camps.
- The State-mandated Poultry Producer Education Program requires 9 hours of initial certification training with 3 hours continuing education annually for every grower.
- The use of watershed modeling to target critical areas for BMP implementation has been adopted for use by the State NPS agency.
- Approximately 180 conservation professionals participated in 9 riparian area management training workshops held throughout the State.
- Four trailer-mounted stream hydrology models were constructed. Over 100 educators have been trained to use them. Over 6,500 people attended stream trailer demonstrations in 2002; another 30,000 viewed them at state and/or county fairs.
- Community wellhead protection area assessments and groundwater protection action plans were developed in cooperation with six rural municipalities.
- Investigation of stormwater and plant pathology indices for capture and recycle irrigation systems for commercial nurseries received international acclaim.
- Increased conservation tillage of wheat was documented in northwest Oklahoma.
- Rainfall simulator demonstrations have provided quantitative data on phosphorus levels in runoff from pastures fertilized with high rates of poultry litter.
- Approximately 45 Blue Thumb volunteers, including 10 high school students, regularly monitor 11 streams in or near the Illinois River Basin. During 2000-2002, this group devoted over 1250 hours to monitoring, 1150 hours to training, 130 hours to Quality Assurance, and 80 hours to conducting education events.
- An Assistant Extension Specialist was hired in 2002 to increase drinking water protection efforts in underserved communities. Development of working relationships with primarily minority groups such as *The Oklahoma Landowners & Tenants Ass'n (TOLTA)* and *Retired Educators for Agricultural Programs (REAP)*, as well as other groups, is a major goal.

