

Southern Region Water Quality Coordination Project



The Project promotes regional collaboration, enhances delivery of successful programs and encourages multi-state efforts to protect and restore water resources. Ultimately, the project improves public access to the research, extension and education resources available through the Land Grant University System in the Southern Region and nationwide. The framework and key accomplishments of the Project are:

Framework and Organization

Facilitates Delivery of Land Grant University Resources

The Southern Region Water Quality Coordination Project is led by Water Quality Coordinators representing 1862 and 1890 institutions from each of the 13 states in EPA Regions IV and VI.

Regional planning efforts identified 12 Priority Programs representing the most urgent water resource needs for agriculture and rural communities in the South. Regional teams are working to develop and deliver technology and resources to agricultural producers and rural communities across the South to enable them to better understand and respond to these critical water resource issues.

Priority Programs

Agricultural Pollution Prevention

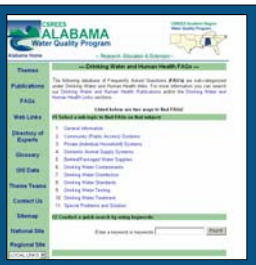
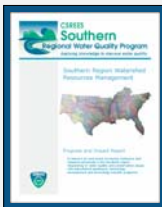
- Nutrient Management
- Animal Waste Management
- Irrigation Water Management
- Water Quality Education for Agricultural Producers

Rural Environmental Protection

- Drinking Water and Human Health
- On-Site Wastewater Management
- Community Wastewater & Solid Waste Management
- Rural/Urban Interface Landowner Education

Watershed Management

- Watershed Assessment
- Watershed Restoration
- Watershed Education Network
- Nonpoint Education Network for Rural Community Decision Makers



Program teams are building products tied to national water quality themes such as the web-based **Drinking Water and Human Health FAQ Database**, which provides answers to more than 2,500 questions on numerous water quality-related topics. Extension agents can immediately direct clients to science-based answers to drinking water quality questions.

The website is available through a link on the regional website (srwqis.tamu.edu) or at www.aces.edu/waterquality/faq/faq.htm

Regional Coordination

Promotes Regional Information Sharing and Resource Exchange

The Project targets integration of multi-state research, education and extension activities in watershed management and protection and pollution prevention.

A regional water quality web site brings together the collective water quality research, education and extension resources for Land Grant Universities in 13 states and provides specific links to the National Water Quality Program web site and water quality databases hosted by other agencies.

The website features a state-of-the-art search engine which examines thousands of science-based, water resource management publications in 65 databases maintained at universities throughout the Southern Region. All returns are highly relevant and provide objective water resource management information.

Ruidoso, New Mexico
October, 2003



Lexington, Kentucky
October 23-26, 2005



Regional Water Quality Coordination meetings and conferences provide direct access to successful programs and resources which can be employed throughout the Region.



Gavney Stream
Merced, CA

Regional Impacts

Improves Water Resource Protection and Restoration

The project substantially improves public access to research, extension and education resources available through the Land Grant University System.

Delivery of high-quality programming on water quality issues is the backbone of the Project. More than 2,600 educational programs have been delivered directly to an estimated 222,000 clientele. For example:



Adoption and Sustained Use of Soil Testing as a Best Management Practice for Water Resource Protection ~ In one target area, nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer application on agricultural land was reduced by over 4,176,049 pounds through intensive education and training programs. In addition to the environmental benefits on water quality from reduced nutrient loading, the estimated economic impact of the program totaled over \$1,002,820 in direct fertilizer cost savings.

Stream Restoration Training and Demonstration in the Southeastern USA has resulted in changes in state and federal stream mitigation policies so that a more effective natural channel design approach is emphasized. Over 1200 professionals have participated in 16 locations in 8 southern region states. Over 30 demonstration projects are complete, with funding provided by USDA, EPA, state agencies and local watershed organizations.



Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans are important tools for protecting water resources from NPS nutrient pollution. Programs offered by the Southern Region States teach elements of nutrient management planning to NRCS staff and members of approved third party organizations so they can write certified CNMPS.

Watershed Education Network - The regional Watershed Education Network develops and delivers watershed education curricula to effectively reach a variety of audiences. This year, the Network delivered multi-state Watershed Academies for local planners, extension agents, watershed managers, and state agency representatives; a multi-state 4-H water camp; and multi-state workshops providing training for local citizen watershed action groups, and Extension and Sea Grant professionals.



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