



## USDA-CSREES 2005 National Water Quality Conference

### Southern Region Water Quality Coordination Project

#### *Abstract:*

*The Southern Region Water Quality Coordination Project promotes regional collaboration, enhances delivery of successful programs and encourages multi-state efforts to protect and restore water resources. The primary goals of the Project are to facilitate delivery of Land Grant University resources, promote regional information sharing and resource exchange and develop and maintain partnerships. The 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. 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. The Project targets integration of multi-state research, education and extension activities in watershed management and protection and pollution prevention. A regional water quality website 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 website and water quality databases hosted by other agencies. The Southern Region hosts a region-wide, biennial water quality training conference that provides direct access to successful programs and resources which can be employed throughout the Region. The Southern Region coordinated the Water Quality Collaborative Conference for 1862, 1890 and 1994 Land-grant Institutions, which facilitated sharing of water quality resources and expertise, and improved collaboration and linkages among the 1890, 1994 and 1862 institutions. Significant effort is directed toward enhancing coordination with other federal and state water resource management agencies such as USEPA, USGS, and USDA agencies – ARS, NRCS and CSREES. Interagency Liaisons enhance multi-agency coordination and promote partnerships. The Project substantially improves public access to the 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. Examples include: Adoption and Sustained Use of Soil Testing as a Best Management Practice for Water Resource Protection; Stream Restoration Training and Demonstration in the Southeastern USA; Training for*

*Developing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans; and Multi-state Watershed Academies for Local Planners, Extension Agents, Citizen Watershed Action Group Members, Watershed Managers, and State Agency Representatives.*

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