



## USDA-CSREES 2005 National Water Quality Conference

### Heartland Regional Water Quality Coordination Initiative

**Abstract:**

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*Theme: Animal Manure Management, Nutrient and Pesticide Management, Watershed Management, Regional Coordination*

**Abstract:**

*The objective of the Heartland Initiative is to strengthen partnerships that make resources of the land grant universities (LGUs) and the CSREES Water Quality Program more accessible to water quality improvement efforts in the region. The Initiative addresses three related regional priorities: animal manure management (AMM), nutrient and pesticide management (NPM) and community involvement in watershed management (CIWM). Heartland co-PDs lead multi-state working groups (issue teams) representing LGUs, EPA Region 7, state agriculture and natural resource agencies and NRCS. The teams are the foundation of coordination efforts, playing an active, voluntary role in planning and implementing issue-based roundtables and workshops. These forums are tightly focused on the needs of regionally-defined stakeholder groups. They build networks for sharing state-level research, education and extension (REE) resources and for collaboration in solving regional water quality issues. EPA R7 staff are members of the Heartland leadership and have raised visibility of the CSREES Water Quality Program within their agency through briefings arranged for Regional and Federal EPA leaders.*

*Since 2003 the Heartland has:*

- Developed Web-based resources, including a monthly on-line AMM newsletter, selected research reports on priority issues, meeting reports and CIWM case studies;*

- *Conducted workshops for research, regulatory and technical services audiences to integrate land grant university research into state's CAFO regulation and implementation;*
- *Shared REE on Phosphorus Best Management Practices, including state's approaches to the P Index, between research and technical agencies;*
- *Responded to stakeholder needs by addressing alternative manure management practices research, watershed community development tools, and cost-effective P management;*
- *Created an online database of CSREES-funded water quality projects;*
- *Programmed a Content Management System for issue Web sites;*
- *Created various publications and posters, available at [heartlandwq@iastate.edu](mailto:heartlandwq@iastate.edu);*
- *Engaged 1994 universities in capacity building for water quality education;*
- *Leveraged REE resources from CSREES- and EPA-funded projects.*

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