



CSREES National Water Quality Program

Applying knowledge to improve water quality

The CSREES Integrated Water Quality Grants Program (AREERA Section 406) enabled the formation and linkage of 10 Regional Water Quality Coordination Projects which serve as the foundation of a National Water Quality Program. The goals, framework, organization and key accomplishments of this program include:

Program Goals

The National Water Quality Program is working through a coordinated regional structure to:

- Link state and regional projects and their network of research, extension and education professionals.
- Facilitate information and resource exchange regionally and nationally.
- Establish effective communication linkages both internally and externally.
- Develop and strengthen important partnerships.

Framework

AREERA Section 406 established a competitive grants process for USDA-CSREES water quality funding, and is composed of 4 major funding categories:

- Extension Education Projects
- Integrated Projects (Research/Extension/Education)
- National Facilitation Projects
- Regional Coordination Projects

Utilize State Water Quality Coordinators to promote regional collaboration, enhance delivery of successful programs and encourage multi-state and multi-region efforts to protect and restore water resources in 10 regions consistent with the EPA regional structure



Organization

The Committee for Shared Leadership for Water Quality (CSL) is an internal working group created to foster development of the National Water Quality Program.

Members include:

- Representatives from the regional projects (10)
- 1890 and 1994 Institution representatives (2)
- CSREES National Program Leaders (2)

Subcommittees and Special Teams target key issues related to communication, policy, partnerships, marketing and program evaluation.

Regional/National Coordination

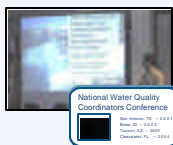
- Regional Water Quality Coordination meetings and conferences are facilitating resource sharing and technology transfer.

Ruidoso, New Mexico
October 19-22, 2003



- Annual National Water Quality Conferences are enabling strategic planning and national program coordination organized around 8 key water quality themes:

- > Animal Waste Management
- > Drinking Water and Human Health
- > Environmental Restoration
- > Nutrient and Pesticide Management
- > Pollution Assessment and Prevention
- > Watershed Management
- > Water Conservation & Ag Water Management
- > Water Policy and Economics



- Interagency Liaisons in each region are enhancing multi-agency coordination and promoting partnerships.
- Integrated water resource management information and technology are being delivered to clientele at the state and regional level.

- Special projects are targeting critical water resource issues within and across state boundaries.



Resource Development

A National Website that provides:



- Direct links to each of the 10 regional water quality information databases.
- Access to local and regional programs, publications and resource management tools.
- Links to partner agencies and organizations involved in water resource management at both state and federal levels.

An on-line National Water Quality Coordinator contact list providing linkages to state contacts across the country.

National and regional publications providing contact information and regional summaries by water quality theme.



Sec. 406 Projects

• **Extension Education Projects** provide outreach programs into target watersheds. Since 2000, 20 Extension Education projects have been implemented. Example programs include:



- Preservation of Rural Watersheds and Drinking Water Resources
- Oklahoma Green Country Watershed Education Project
- Training Environmental Stewards: Integrated Water Quality & Quantity Education from Mountain to Ocean
- Accelerating Riparian Buffer Adoption to Enhance Water Quality and Farm Income

• **Integrated Projects** implement a focused research effort along with outreach education to address a watershed concern. Thirty-seven integrated projects have been funded, including:



• **National Facilitation Projects** coordinate comprehensive efforts relevant across the United States. Four National Facilitation Projects have been implemented:



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