



CSREES National Water Program

Applying knowledge to improve water quality



The CSREES Integrated Water Quality Grants Program (AREERA Section 406) enabled the formation and linkage of 9 Regional Water Coordination Projects which serve as the foundation of a National Water Program. The goals, framework, organization and key accomplishments of this program include:

Program Goals

The CSREES National Water 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 program funding, and is composed of 3 major funding categories:

- Integrated Projects (Research/Extension/Education)
- National Facilitation Projects
- Regional Coordination Projects are managed by 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 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.

For more information contact:
Dr. Michael P. O'Neill, National Water Program Leader
(maneill@reusda.gov; 202/205-5952).

Resource Development

A National Website that provides:

- Direct links to each of the 9 regional water program 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.

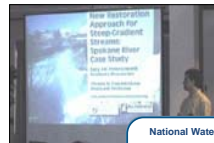


National and regional publications providing contact information and regional summaries by water resource theme.



Regional/National Coordination

- Annual National Water Conferences have enabled 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 and Agricultural Water Management
- Water Policy and Economics

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

- Regional Water Program Coordination meetings and conferences have facilitated resource sharing and technology transfer.



Lexington, KY
October 23-26, 2005

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



- Paper and on-line National Impact Reports and a National Water Quality Coordinator Directory are providing information and linkages to regional and state contacts across the country.



Selected National Water Program Impacts

Regional Coordination Projects promote collaboration, delivery of programs and multi-state efforts. Sample impacts include:

- **Success of the New England Regional In-Service Training for Agricultural Service Providers**

- Program participants have influenced manure application on at least 60,000 acres of farmland and soil fertility management on 55,000 acres. Similar efforts are underway in all Regions.



Integrated Projects implement a focused research effort along with outreach education to address a watershed concern. Sample impacts include:

- **Watershed Quality on California Rangeland Watersheds**

- Examines the effects of grazing intensity and prescribed fire on water quality using a paired watershed approach. Study sites were used extensively as field classrooms for extension education and university courses.



National Facilitation Projects coordinate comprehensive efforts and high value programs relevant across the country. Sample impacts include:

- **Volunteer Monitoring**

- Volunteer water quality monitoring programs often serve as the critical first link that engages the public in watershed stewardship. The CSREES Volunteer Monitoring Project supports the formation and management of volunteer monitoring efforts nationally.

<http://www.usawaterquality.org/volunteer/>



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