

USDA – CSREES

National Water Quality Conference

**Working Together
Regional Successes, Areas Needing
Improvement and Lessons Learned**

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Partnering To Improve 406 Regional Programming

- Why?: Multi-agency efforts solve multi-faceted problems
- Lessons:
 - EPA grants are not the critical sign of successful partnerships with the 406 Regions
 - Small steps can lead to long term, multi-agency programs that identify and address complex program

Case studies

- New England's Private Well Initiative
- Southwest States and Pacific Island's Piggery Project

New England's Private Well Partnership

- Background

- Identified Priority Area of both New England 406 and Region I EPA
- History of Successful Programs in NE LGU
- Private wells outside of Federal Regulations
- EPA focused on Educational, Voluntary Approach
- EPA “discovered” 406 through introductory meetings
- Addresses National 406 Themes
 - Drinking Water and Human Health
 - Pollution Prevention and Assessment

Partner Contributions

- EPA
 - \$40,000 Grant to LGU for Educational Materials
 - EPA Staff Time and Involvement
- New England 406
 - Staff Time and Expertise
 - Participation from all 6 New England LGU

Concrete Outputs

- Fact sheets tailored to each state
- Groundwater demonstration model and curriculum
- Development of Multi-Agency Coalition
 - State Officials (Health and Environ.)
 - American Groundwater Trust (Nat'l Organization)
 - Water Systems Council (Nat'l Organization)

Partnership Identified Critical Gaps

- Affordable Programs for Low Income Rural Residents
 - EPA White Paper to explore solutions
- Research Needs:
 - Improving testing: When to sample? How often?
 - GIS Tools to identify high risks locales.
 - Social Marketing
 - What is the message?
 - What are the key audiences?
 - Effective educational approaches

Piggery Initiative: Pacific Islands

- Background
 - Western Pacific Islands
 - Less than 10 pigs/piggery
 - Located on streams
 - Priority Area of Region 9 EPA
 - EPA Requested Assistance
 - Addresses National 406 Themes
 - Drinking Water and Human Health
 - Animal Waste
 - Integrates Teaching/Research/Extension



Partner Contributions

- EPA
 - \$70,000 to LGU (Northern Marianas College) for:
 - Demonstration BMP Sites
 - Development of outreach materials
- Regional 406 Program
 - \$10,000 for Educational Programming
 - Connection to U. of Hawaii Expertise
 - Multi-disciplinary Team:
 - Agricultural Engineer
 - Watershed Scientist
 - Environmental Scientist
 - Analytical Testing Experts

Summary Observations

- How to Assess Success?
 - What are the indicators?
 - Leveraging?
 - Number of Partners?
 - Sustained Enthusiasm and Involvement?
 - Size of audience?
 - Number of BMPs; Actions, etc?
 - Cleaner Water?
- Resources and Common Goals are Keys to Successful Partnerships