



## USDA-CSREES 2005 National Water Quality Conference

### Water Quality Outreach and Education in Texas

#### Abstract:

Successful Water Quality Education and Outreach in Texas includes the following banner programs categorized by theme. **Animal Waste Management:** Marketing Composted Manure is part of an innovative project to facilitate distribution and use of dairy manure outside a nutrient-impaired watershed. **Drinking Water and Human Health:** Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) conducts water quality educational events that include screening water samples for bacteria, nitrate, lead, and conductivity. **Nutrient and Pesticide Management:** Collaborative, interagency programs such as the Nutrient Management Website are offered by TCE in cooperation with NRCS. **Watershed Management:** The Southern Region Water Quality web site brings together the collective water quality research, education and extension resources for Land Grant Universities in 13 states and provides specific links to water quality databases hosted by other agencies. The TCE Onsite Wastewater Treatment Program provides training on technologies available for managing wastewater. **Pollution Assessment and Prevention:** TEX\*A\*Syst addresses a wide range of potential contaminants and helps homeowners assess how their activities affect their environmental risks. **Environmental Restoration:** The North Central Texas Water Quality Project is examining water quality protection and improvements in six major reservoirs. Saltcedar, a non-native shrub planted along the Pecos River in 1925 to reduce soil erosion, is now known for its excessive water use. Extension Range Specialists are restoring original vegetation characteristics to the Pecos by removing saltcedar, with a current estimated savings of over five billion gallons of water. **Water Quantity and Policy:** Cooperative Extension is actively involved in providing educational resources and training for state-wide water resource management planning. The Texas Drought Information Center website integrates state-of-the-art techniques in GIS, remote sensing and computational sciences to provide drought-related information on a real-time basis. The Water Quantity Management website is maintained by TCE and Texas A&M University, and features information about Groundwater Conservation Districts and regional water planning.

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