



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

# New England Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES  
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities



## Selected Regional Impacts

### *The New England Private Well Initiative*

The Initiative hosted the 2007 New England Private Well Water Symposium in December in Newport, Rhode Island. In the spirit of our first symposium, this year's event continued to integrate research, Extension, education, and regulatory efforts within the field of private well protection in an effort to protect groundwater quality, drinking water wells and the health of those who depend on these resources. Over 120 people attended this 2-day event, which brought together a variety of people including:

- Federal, state, and local agencies
- University researchers, educators, and students
- Nonprofit organizations
- Private sector professionals

The Symposium is an effort of the New England Private Well Initiative, an interagency partnership that began in 2001 between CSREES New England Regional Water Program, EPA-New England and state drinking water agencies.

### *Agricultural Nutrient and Pest Management*

In 2006, a pilot course developed at the University of Vermont demonstrated that encouraging and enabling farmers to create their own nutrient management plans that meet the NRCS 590 standard has led to increased plan implementation. Thirty farms have taken the five-week course and 28 farms have developed plans on 14,342 acres. As a result, 50 percent of the farmers expect to apply less nitrogen and phosphorus and 67 percent expect to save money. This curriculum, which fosters research-based education and cost-effectiveness, is available to all states involved in the New England Program. It is being piloted in Rhode Island with support from the RI NRCS beginning in January 2008.

On the web at: <http://www.usawaterquality.org/newengland>

The New England Program centers around 9 regional Focus Areas that tailor the National Themes to the strengths of New England Land Grant Universities' research, education, and Extension programs and capture the strengths of partners and stakeholders to deliver programs that improve the quality of New England's surface and ground water resources.

#### **New England's Focus Areas:**

- New England NEMO
- Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring
- Animal Waste Management
- Agricultural Nutrient and Pest Management
- Sustainable Landscaping
- New England Private Well Initiative
- River and Stream Restoration
- New England On-Site Wastewater Training Center
- The Green Valley Institute

