



Title: Extension Household Water Quality Education in Georgia

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Organization: The University of Georgia

State: GA **Region:** Southern

Year of Funding:

Theme: Drinking Water and Human Health

Situation: The Georgia Household Water Quality Series began with a task force to address the needs of county extension agents in educating households (target audience) on the water quality and health issues pertaining to their drinking water. The College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences along with the College of Family and Consumer Sciences joined forces and resources to create written materials to address the need for simple, short and answer driven consumer education.

Objectives: a) Promote more water testing among households in Georgia. At least once a year by the consumers contacted. b) Redesign the water testing lab output to include the adequate publications from the series with each lab test result. c) Promote best management practices with homeowners to protect water quality. d) Reduce water-related ailments as indicated by a reduction in occurrences and emergency health care.

Methods: Educational publications, exhibit and a digital slide show. Atiles, J.H., Vendrell, P., Gaskin, Julia W., Kissel, D., & Bush, P. Protecting Your Well and Wellhead; Testing for Water Quality Home Water Quality and Treatment; Disinfecting Your Well Water: Shock Chlorination; Nitrate in Water Pesticides, Solvents, and Petroleum Products; Coliform Bacteria in Your Water; Hydrogen Sulfide and Sulfate Corrosive or Scaling Water; Lead and Copper Iron and Manganese.

Partnerships: The state of Georgia has also participated in the team and has also taken an active role in distributing our publications and featuring them in their quarterly newsletter.

Research: Each publication was based on unbiased research and educational experiences from the past and our outreach goals. The need to address low-literacy audiences with timely and easy to understand information was of paramount importance. Scholarly reviews both internal and external to the state were conducted to ensure a good product.

Resources: Time from departments across colleges and the extension service was provided. Funding came from Extension Water Coordinator and the state.

Results: Outputs include various train-the-trainer sessions with extension agents. It also included making the publications available on the web and the start of a website for the state water quality needs. Outcomes have included positive behavioral attitudes toward conducting water testing and learning more about well water. This program just began therefore medium and long-term outcomes are not readily available.



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