



**Title:** The Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Quality Coordination Program

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**Organization:** University of Maryland

**State:** Multi-State    **Region:** Mid-Atlantic

**Year of Funding:** 2002

**Theme:** Nutrient and Pesticide Management

**Situation:** The Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Quality Coordination program just completed its first year of activities. We have organized a Steering Committee consisting of the 8 lead institution contacts and co-PI. A Regional Liaison has begun coordinating activities with the USEPA Region 3 and is leading coordination among participating institutions. She has established offices in both College Park, Maryland at the University of Maryland, and EPA Region 3 in Philadelphia, PA. Regional programming activities are being led by six “Topic Teams” focused on Agricultural N & P Management, Animal Confinement Operations, Regional Nutrient Budgeting, Small and Undeserved Farms, Watershed Policy, and Urban Nutrients and Horticulture.

**Objectives:** The Mid-Atlantic Program seeks to develop a proactive and responsive science and education support structure that provides easy access to regional water quality knowledge.

**Methods:** The Mid-Atlantic Regional Program has begun working with EPA Region 3 to identify and focus Regional efforts to support current and emerging water quality needs. Initial policy initiatives have focused on the new Federal CAFO Rules, ammonia emissions and water quality “trading” policy. The Urban/Horticulture Team has developed a large-scale educational effort targeted towards homeowners and lawn care professionals who utilize nutrients outside of the agricultural setting. The Small Farms Team is focused on drinking water assessment and education within underserved farming communities and will build future outreach on initial water assessment. The Nutrient Budgeting Team has developed the framework for assessing trends in agricultural production and nutrient use in a regional database. This budget framework will serve as the foundation for identifying nutrient imbalances and opportunities for transport, alternative uses and innovative nutrient management solutions regionally. The Regional Program is also developing its capacity as a clearinghouse for water quality information in the Mid-Atlantic. Resource directories for specific topics have been developed that direct interested individuals to existing web-based, paper, and human resources available in the region, specific to that topic. The regional web site is consistently building its content and linking visitors to water quality programming and resources within participating institutions, EPA Region 3, CSREES and other reliable regional sources.

**Partnerships:** Existing relationships have been cultivated, and new partnerships formed among all the land grant universities within Region 3, including the 1890 institutions.

Partnerships have also been developed with EPA Region 3 and CSREES, local Extension offices and RC&D Programs, as well as with The Chesapeake Bay Program.



*The mission of CSREES is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the Environment, human health and well being, and communities.*

