



Title: Water Quality Education and Outreach in Texas

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Organization: Texas Cooperative Extension

State: TX **Region:** Southern

Year of Funding: 2000

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: Successful Water Quality Education and Outreach in Texas can be categorized by the following themes: Animal Waste Management, Drinking Water and Human Health, Nutrient and Pesticide Management, Watershed Management, Environmental Restoration, Pollution Assessment and Prevention, and Water Quantity and Policy.

Objectives: Many Extension water quality projects are being conducted in Texas. Some of the project objectives include: marketing composted manure, providing training on technologies available for managing wastewater, providing educational resources and training for state-wide water resource management planning, providing drought-related information to the public on a real-time basis, and providing information about Groundwater Conservation Districts and regional water planning.

Methods: Methods employed and products produced include: educational programs and workshops, publications, technical and direct assistance, websites, factsheets, training manuals, demonstrations, youth programs, and conferences. For example, The Water Quantity Management website (<http://texaswater.tamu.edu/>) is maintained by Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas A&M University, and features information about Groundwater Conservation Districts and regional water planning.

Partnerships: Partner organizations include USEPA, USDA-NRCS, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Water Resources Institute, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and Texas Water Development Board.

Research: Science-based programming by Texas Cooperative Extension integrates the results of research conducted at the Land Grant Universities and elsewhere into education and extension programs conducted throughout the State. For example, the Texas Drought Information Center website (<http://webgis.tamu.edu/>) integrates state-of-the-art techniques in Geographical Information System (GIS), remote sensing and computational sciences to provide drought-related information to the public on a real-time basis.

Resources: Leveraged resources for Outreach and Education projects in Texas include: faculty and staff time, EPA 319 funds, USDA Special Initiative funding (Rio Grande Basin Initiative), state agencies and local watershed organizations.

Results: Outputs and outcomes include programs addressing livestock waste management, water quality education programs that screen well-water samples, collaborative and interagency programs such as the Nutrient Management Website (<http://nmp.tamu.edu/>) offered by Texas Cooperative Extension in cooperation with NRCS, and restoration programs that return original vegetation characteristics to rivers and result in estimated savings of billions of gallons of water by removing saltcedar.



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