



Title: Integrating Extension, Research and Education in Kentucky

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Organization: University of Kentucky

State: KY **Region:** Southern

Year of Funding: 2000

Theme: Watershed Management

Situation: Partnership opportunities for research, extension and education in water quality did not exist until 12 yrs ago in Kentucky. Now a unique partnership exists in Kentucky to integrate Extension for both formal and non-formal audiences. Twenty-two state funded research projects have studied water quality issues with both ground and surface water. The Environmental & Natural Resource Issues (ENRI) Task Force has focused on delivering research-based information to county agents, agriculture professionals, and other clientele.

Objectives: To develop partnerships both within the university and with outside stakeholders to refine water quality issues, establish focus teams, implement educational programs, and develop and maintain partnerships.

Methods: The ENRI Task Force led the effort to tape segments highlighting research activities for television markets across the state, developed publications, and conducted workshops and focused academies for various audiences. ENRI partnered with the research oversight committee to conduct teacher training focused on K through 12 grades and with university faculty using watershed academies. An educational program for volunteers was initiated and piloted to offer water and watershed basics to clientele interested in helping others become a part of water quality or watershed programs.

Partnerships: Brought together two groups, oversight committee on water quality research and the major team within extension to develop more comprehensive educational and outreach programs for water quality. Developed and solidified partnerships with NRCS, KY Division of Conservation, KY Division of Water, KY Geological Survey, USGS, and Licking River Basin Program Committee.

Research: Through combined educational efforts, the Kentucky program has highlighted research activities, maintained an attractive web site on water quality research, developed and maintained a web site for outreach activities, and targeted audiences of both the formal and non-formal education communities.

Resources: This program is really a combination of state funding for water quality research, and state and federal funding for outreach.

Results: A notebook and other workshop materials have been developed for the volunteer educational program. A web site is maintained for both the research activities and ENRI Task Force. A Watershed Academy was held for teachers and university colleagues. A publication on BMP's for watersheds and streamside activities has been developed.



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