



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

[Efficacy of vegetated buffers for reducing waterborne pathogens](#)

A current strategy being advocated for minimizing transport of microbial pathogens from animal manure to surface water is to place vegetated buffer strips between animal agricultural operations and vulnerable surface water supplies. Over the past decade we have found that vegetated buffers are an effective tool for reducing the protozoal parasite, *Cryptosporidium parvum*, and bacterial indicators such as fecal coliforms and *E. coli* from overland flow during rainfall conditions. This talk will present data from several research projects that quantify the filtration efficiency of vegetated buffers under a variety of rangeland and climatic conditions and support the conclusion that buffers are one of several tools that agricultural operators/owners can use to reduce agricultural inputs of waterborne pathogens in our Nation's water supplies.

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