



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

Alabama's Database-Driven Internet-Delivery of Water Resource Information

Various estimates are that somewhere between 65 and 70 percent of U.S. citizens now rely on the Internet as a primary source of information, and that percentage is growing all the time. To better engage the public under this scenario, the Alabama Water Program Team has developed a comprehensive water information website (<http://www.aces.edu/waterquality>) that runs on the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's server. Most information on the website resides in databases, which were created by and are now edited and updated through a template driven mechanism. The site contains over 250 publications printable as pdf files, a glossary of over 10,000 water-related terms, over 4,000 questions and answers (FAQs), and over 2000 web links. The web links are listed by five categories; commercial, educational, governmental, international and organizational. All databases are searchable by key word(s) with the publications, FAQs and web links databases also listed under a topical index system of nine primary topics and 105 subtopics. Information databases have relevance to state, regional, national and international water issues, but the web site is also the portal for five statewide layers of geographical information that have application to water resources assessment, planning, management and educational efforts. The glossary, FAQs, and web links databases were initiated in 2000 to be representative information sources for the USDA-CSREES/Land-Grant Partnership System under the Drinking Water and Human Health theme of USDA-CSREES' National Water Program. In 2002, the primary databases were expanded to address other themes and subtheme topics. Web trends indicate that the primary databases on this site are receiving widespread use at the state, regional, national and international levels. The purpose of this presentation is to make the audience more aware of the type of information now available on the Alabama Water Program website.

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