



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

An Overview of Solutions to Environmental and Economic Problems (STEEP): A USDA-CSREES Special Research Grant Program

Solutions to Environmental and Economic Problems (STEEP) is a coordinated research and technology transfer program designed to develop and implement soil erosion control practices in the Pacific Northwest. STEEP is funded by a special research grant from the USDA-CSREES. The program originated in 1975 and is one of the longest running special grant-funded projects in the U.S. The success of STEEP is due in large part to multidisciplinary, multiagency, and multistate approaches to solving environmental and economic problems related to soil erosion and control. STEEP also involves growers and grower organizations such as commodity commissions and conservation districts in making funding decisions and establishing research priorities. Finally, STEEP features an aggressive technology transfer program involving web (pnwsteep.wsu.edu), print, e-mail, and grower-oriented conferences as outlets for information delivery. The STEEP program has several notable accomplishments, including the development of: an on-farm testing program serving as a model for agriculture technology transfer throughout the U.S.; reduced tillage implements to facilitate precision fertilizer and seed placement under various residue loads and soil conditions; new varieties of wheat, legumes and mustards for reduced tillage systems; integrated management strategies for pest control; and new factors for the soil erosion equations. The purpose of this presentation is to describe the organization, implementation, and impacts of the STEEP program in the Pacific Northwest.

Author: Richard Koenig

Coauthor(s): Donn Thill Don Wysocki Hans Kok