



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

Developing an Online Knowledge Center for Water and Nutrient Management and Conservation for the Nursery and Greenhouse Industries.

We are developing an on-line [Knowledge Center for Water and Nutrient Management and Conservation](#), specifically for the Nursery and Greenhouse industries. This educational site is primarily intended to serve a variety of professionals who are involved in the management of intensive plant production systems throughout the Eastern United States.

This project is funded through an Extension grant from the [USDA-CSREES - National Integrated Water Quality Program](#), to help achieve the larger goals of the [National Water Quality Program](#) and integrating with the goals of the [Mid-Atlantic](#) and [Southern Region](#) water quality programs. In addition, this Knowledge Center intends to integrate with the [National Extension Water Outreach Education](#) project and observe [Best Education Practice](#) goals.

The Knowledge Center will eventually comprise a three-tier system of:

1. Public access web pages providing general resources and best management practice recommendations for water and nutrient management, to promote the efficient use of resources, with the expressed intent of reducing environmental impacts from these agricultural industries.
2. A courseware (WebCT, Blackboard or Moodle) environment to provide high-quality educational resources to individual professionals within the industry, with the expressed aim of integrating with the [NRCS technical service provider](#) (TSP) program.
3. Self-learning modules on irrigation, nutrient and pathogen management, stormwater management and recycling issues, including engineering management recommendations, together with audit tools to assess and improve the efficiency of existing systems.

Additional project objectives also involve developing regional criteria for effective water and nutrient management so that training and certification programs can achieve accreditation for trainees, and educating other groups as to the current best management practices that have been implemented by these industries. Our presentation will illustrate how we are structuring and developing this project,

with examples of the educational modules and tools that will become a part of the Knowledge Center.

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