



## **USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference**

### **Service Provider Training on Operation and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems**

Operation and maintenance are essential to the long-term performance of onsite wastewater treatment technologies. Operation and maintenance service visits can provide early detection of problems that could result in a malfunction of onsite wastewater treatment systems.

This project addressed the need for education and training of operation and maintenance service providers, so that a nationwide standard of evaluating the status of treatment, distribution, and dispersal technologies used in onsite wastewater treatment could be established. This program will establish a benchmark for operation and maintenance activities through development of a training manual and associated classroom instruction materials.

This project developed a training manual titled "Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: O&M Service Provider Program" and the accompanying presentation materials. The heart of the program is operational checklist that identify critical components that should be checked during each service visit to determine the operational status of the system. Checklists were developed for most of the technologies used for managing residential wastewater onsite. A short description of the technology is presented followed by a description of the operational checklist. The manual will be available through the Midwest Plan Service starting in November 2005.

The materials provide a base of knowledge that can be used to deliver a certification program. The materials are available for adoption by organizations interested in offering certification for operation and maintenance service providers.

This project targeted operation and maintenance providers and will also benefit state, county and local regulators who provide wastewater management oversight, system designers who may be required by code to provide operations and maintenance criteria on plans to obtain system design approval.

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