



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

[A Proposal for Regional Coordination within USEPA Region 2](#)

The Regional Water Quality Coordination Project focuses on the development of working groups for four regional initiatives identified for USEPA Region 2: 1) animal waste management for small farms, 2) onsite wastewater treatment system management, 3) nutrient management, and 4) watershed management/water conservation/agricultural water management to address water quality issues throughout Region 2. Each of the four Land Grant Universities (LGUs) within USEPA Region 2 (i.e., University of Puerto Rico, University of the Virgin Islands, Cornell University, and Rutgers University) will assume a leadership role for each of these initiatives and working groups. The working groups will be responsible for identifying on-going research, extension and education activities in USEPA Region 2 and for developing a plan that builds and expands upon on-going efforts within the region.

The overall goals of the project are: 1) enhancing the communication among the LGUs to better support local, state and regional initiatives for improving water quality, 2) developing and implementing a regionally coordinated and integrated education, extension, and research program that takes advantage of the expertise at the LGUs, minimizes the duplication of effort, and leverages multiple funding sources to effectively address water quality issues, and 3) expanding our working relationship with federal, state and local partners to better share resources and compound expertise to develop sound scientific solutions to our water resources problems.

Expected outcomes for the project include 1) the development of demonstration projects and workshops to provide farmers with the necessary information to address environmental issues on their farms, thereby bringing them into compliance with new regulations; 2) the development of demonstration projects and workshops to help municipal officials and contractors address onsite wastewater treatment system problems in the region; 3) the development of nutrient management tools and demonstrations to facilitate farm operations and long-term sustainability while remaining in compliance with environmental regulations; and 4) the development of workshops for stakeholders, as well as the development of a comprehensive curriculum that can be used to educate the next generation of Agricultural Engineers, Civil Engineers, Environmental Scientists, and Soil Scientists.

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