



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

Water Quality Coordination in the Great Lakes Region

Background: The Great Lakes Regional Program 1) Provides regional coordination of research, education, and extension efforts addressing regional water quality problems, 2) prioritizes programming needs and opportunities on a regional scale, 3) builds continuing education and professional development programs that address water quality issues, and 4) offers an entry point for state and federal agencies, commodity organizations, and other non-government organizations to the Land Grant Universities to promote collaborative water quality improvement approaches. The Cooperative State Research, Extension and Education Service National Water Quality Program has made resources available to the Program's Leadership Team to assist in coordination efforts and increase resource leveraging for collaborative water quality improvement.

Actions: During 2004 and 2005, the Great Lakes Regional Leadership Team has made all or portions of the following multi-state programs and projects possible: Multi-State Collaborative Approaches To Water Quality Improvement: Creating Mass and Momentum in the Midwest; Building Capacity of E. coli Monitoring by Volunteer Networks: A Multi-State Effort; Assessing the Potential Impacts of Arsenic Contamination on Upper Midwestern Dairy Operations - Preliminary Regional Work; Extension Drainage Management Bulletin; Liquid Animal Manure Application on Drained Cropland; Preferential Flow Issues and Concerns; Training/Certification of For-Hire Manure Applicators; Integrating Phosphorus Indexes with National Nutrient Management Planning Software; Identification of Turfgrass Resources, Educational Programs, Delivery Systems and Needs in Great Lakes Region States; A View From the Lake: Lake Superior Outreach for Municipal Officials; Regulation of High Capacity Groundwater Withdrawals in the Great Lakes Basin; and Use of Long-Term Ecological Research for Enhancing Water Quality in the Great Lakes Region. In addition, the Program contributes to state programs that strengthen our Region's six national Themes. Key partners in Great Lakes initiatives include federal and state agencies (EPA, state agency, and NRCS relationships being the most active), Land and Sea Grant institutions, industry and producer groups, government officials, and non-profit organizations. Over \$6 million has been leveraged from local, state and federal agency partners, land grant institutions and private sources. For more information, please see <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/regionalwaterquality/>.

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