



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

Arkansas Extension Nutrient Management Programs

As part of the new Arkansas nutrient management laws, nutrient management plan writers and nutrient applicators working in designate nutrient surplus areas must be certified by Arkansas Natural Resources Conservation Commission. The Arkansas Extension Service has developed educational programs to assist in the transfer of information and the certification process.

Several livestock producer meetings were held within the nutrient surplus areas to inform producers of the new regulations. As part of the certification process nutrient management plan writers must attend a four day training and pass a final exam to be certified. Nutrient applicators attend a four hour training, were private applicators are certified. Applicators with commercial applicator business must attend the same training and also pass an exam to obtain certification. Training materials developed for the meetings include planner manuals, applicator manuals, sample plan writing materials, and supplemental reference information on CD. To date there have been four nutrient plan writer trainings for 78 planners across the state. There have also been 14 nutrient applicator trainings for 719 applicators across the state. As a condition of the certification process, both planners and applicators must attend four hours of continuing education programs in which the Extension Service is also developing and will begin offering these programs in January 2006

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