

Building Capacity for Water Decision Making in the Heartland

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Regional Coordination Efforts

Teamwork

- Nine co-PIs represent land grant university departments of agronomy, agricultural engineering, sociology, forestry and economics.
- Heartland Initiative has engaged more than 125 scientists, educators and agency specialists in issue teams and working groups.
- Research/agency roundtable discussions frame water issues and identify stakeholders.
- Issue teams increase capacity for coordination by enhancing communication, regional planning and peer networks.
- Participation of EPA Region 7 CAFO, 319 and watershed communities specialists increases integration of regulatory and technical programs.
- Shared participation by community development and research specialists increases integration of social sciences with technical approaches.

Stakeholder-targeted Events



Ten issue-based workshops and a regional conference for extension educators have been conducted since 2003. Over 500 individuals have attended. Regional strategic planning incorporates stakeholder feedback from these events.

The events are designed to build capacity for further teamwork. Invitations target those with capability and opportunity for increased future cooperation at the state, watershed, university and community levels.

- Workshops in FY2005 included: Implementing CNMPs – Tools, Resources and Experiences; Conflict Management and Public Deliberation in Watershed Communities; Nitrogen Best Management Practices.
- Participants' written feedback documents the high value placed on these opportunities for regional communication.
- The Heartland Regional Water Conference built capacity of cooperative extension to address water resource issues.
 - 84% of attendees represented land grant universities, 1/3 had state-level and 1/3 had county/local-level responsibilities.
 - 88% felt the conference would assist them in developing future water resource programs.
 - State-by-state discussion of water program needs and priorities resulted in two states contributing directly to their university ANR program planning process.

Integrated Response to Stakeholders

Information and Education

Heartland teams have created opportunities for partnerships and leveraging of state, regional and national educational initiatives:



- The Manure Management issue team (AMM) has coordinated with EPA, NRCS, state agencies and USDA CSREES-funded programs in the development and delivery of curricula, training and record-keeping tools for CAFO inspectors, livestock producers and technical service professionals.
- The Nutrient and Pesticide Management issue team (NPM) has provided leadership for regional, multi-university, team authored extension publications and fact sheets on Nitrogen and Phosphorus best management practices.
- The Community Involvement in Watershed Management issue team (CIWM) has drawn on materials and staff of 406 projects for their regional training.

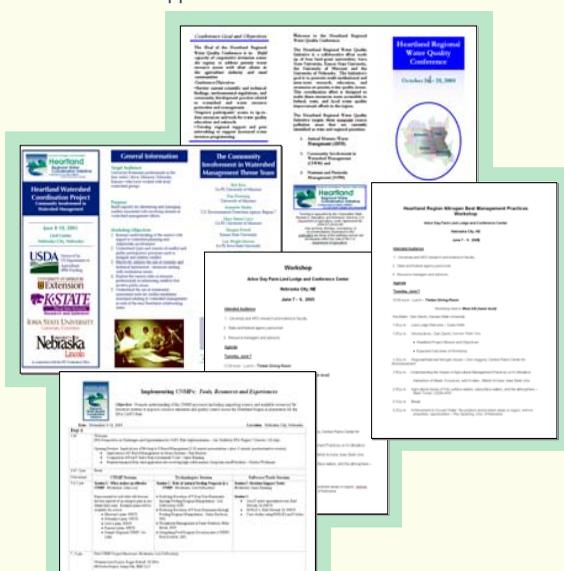
Research

NPM conducted a comparative study of the phosphorus indexes (PI) used in Heartland states, which has been published by the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. Some significant differences in predicted P delivery were found when the indexes were applied to various field scenarios. As a result, two states are revising their PIs to better reflect recent research findings.

AMM team members are part of a group studying the participation of producers in voluntary environmental improvement programs.

Watershed community case studies and baseline surveys are part of a Heartland-sponsored regional research project on the effect of citizen participation in watershed management.

In 2004 and 2005 Heartland issue teams contributed directly to development of a National Facilitation project, two Integrated Research/Education/Extension projects, and one Extension Education project funded by the CSREES 406 Water Program.



Heartland issue teams make resources available on dedicated websites. A content management system created in 2005 gives project staff direct access to add and edit web resources.

www.heartlandwq.iastate.edu

