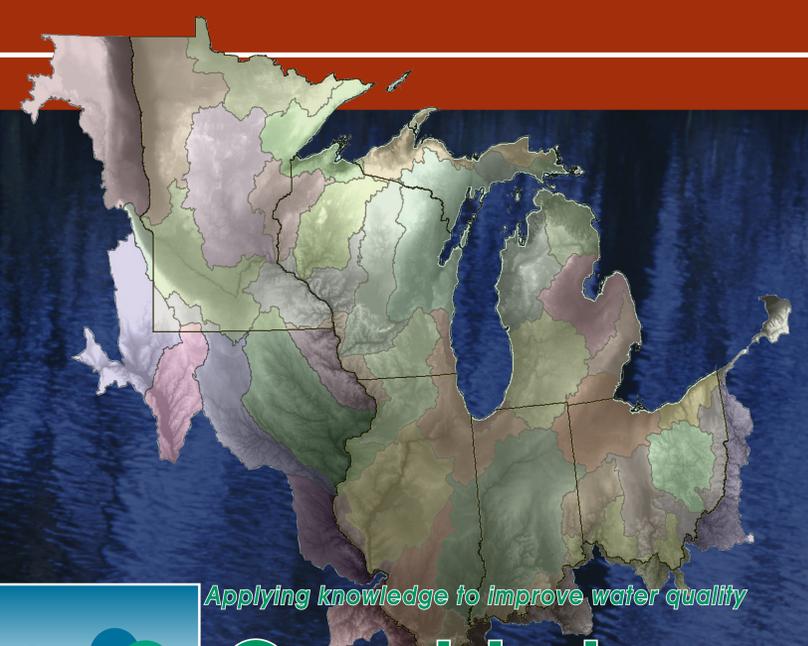


Great Lakes regional water coordination: Developing partnerships and programs for improved water resources



Regional Framework:

The Great Lakes Regional Water Program provides an important focus for collaborative water quality research, education, extension, and management efforts in the Great Lakes Region (MN, WI, MI, IL, IN, and OH) that foster progress toward water quality goals. The Program is led by a team of Extension State Water Quality Coordinators and an Extension Regional Liaison, with participation from a USEPA Region 5 Liaison. The Regional Water Leadership Team supports programs and projects in six priority Themes. Each state in the Region coordinates a Theme through a Team of professionals with a diversity of research, education, extension, and management experience. The Program also provides core support for six flagship projects.



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Great Lakes
Regional Water Program
A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

The Program and its Leadership Team are guided by the following goals:

- Provide regional coordination of research, education, and extension/outreach efforts.
- Collaborate with diverse agencies and organizations to solve water quality problems that are regional in scope.
- Prioritize programming needs and opportunities on a regional scale.
- Offer an entry point for state and federal agencies, commodity organizations, and other non-government organizations to access the resources within the Land Grant Universities.

Regional Impacts:

Coordination Impacts

- ◆ Increased collaboration in Land Grant research, education, and extension work related to water resources.
- ◆ Increase in the number of multi-state water quality projects that integrate research and extension functions.
- ◆ Increased coordination among Land and Sea Grant institutions and 1994 Tribal Colleges.
- ◆ Strengthened partnerships with federal agencies such as USEPA and NRCS in identifying and working toward common priorities.
- ◆ Effectively leveraged federal and non-federal funds for water quality programs. The Program has leveraged over \$8 million (a 3:1 ratio), as well as built the visibility and reputation of CSREES as a productive and contributing partner.

Program Impacts

- ✓ **Building the Capacity of E. coli Monitoring by Volunteer Networks: A Multi-State Effort. Outcomes include:**
 - Increased capacity of volunteer monitoring programs to understand and use the most appropriate E. coli testing protocols (test kits) and watershed-based sampling strategies.
 - Increased awareness of E. coli and its associated health risks, sources and reasons for monitoring.
 - Increased awareness and acceptance of the use of volunteer-collected water quality data in various watershed programs, including watershed assessments and TMDL development.
 - Shared results of the work with other programs across the country, through the National Volunteer Monitoring Facilitation Project, national and regional professional meetings, and a web site.
- ✓ **Development of Social Indicators for USEPA Section 319 Program Evaluation. While this project is early in its development, current outcomes include:**
 - A suite of social change indicators (includes behavioral, economic, demographic, capacity, and other social indicators) for monitoring the impact of nonpoint source programs.
 - Expanded relationships among state environmental agencies and Land Grant Universities in the region.
 - A multi-state research, education and extension project that makes the best use of each partners' strengths and capacity.
- ✓ **Integrated Training for Conservation Professionals. Outcomes include:**
 - A partnership with NRCS that will result in a national training MOU.
 - A comprehensive training curriculum for both new and experienced conservation professionals (core conservation training, conservation planning, CNMP, feed management, and managed grazing).
 - Over 200 participants in a total of 25 training courses.
- ✓ **Training for Commercial Manure Applicators. Outcomes include:**
 - More than 200 haulers have been trained as a result of this program.
 - The program has saved small businesses \$500-\$8,000 per year.
 - The insurance underwriters and agents have taken the responsibility of the annual audits of Level 3 Certification, saving an average of \$500 in agency expense each year for each firm.
 - Within-industry partnerships experienced significant increases as a result of this project, allowing for increased learning and resource sharing particularly beneficial to smaller businesses.
- ✓ **Integrating Phosphorus Indexes with National Nutrient Management Planning Software. Outcomes include:**
 - Increased efficiency of the nutrient management planning process.
 - Plan reviewers can verify that all risk assessment outputs were generated properly.
 - Implementation of the following state-specific risk assessment tools as custom reports in MMP: Ohio's phosphorus index, Indiana's offsite risk index, Illinois' phosphorus loss assessment and Minnesota's phosphorus risk assessment (all custom reports are in accordance with each state's 590 specifications).
 - Closer working relationships with state NRCS, Land Grant, and regulatory agency personnel through the PI/risk assessment tool development and implementation.

For a complete list of projects, please contact the Great Lakes Regional Water Liaison

Six Focus Areas:



Animal Waste Management



Drinking Water & Human Health



Nutrients & Water Quality



Watershed Management



Environmental Restoration



Water Policy & Economics

The Great Lakes Regional Water Leadership Team focuses its efforts on those issues that cut across states in the region and are common to most state Extension water programs.

The six focus areas above are derived from the eight CSREES National Water Program themes.



The National Water Program

of CSREES (Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service) has a Regional Coordination component that seeks to ensure the integration of water quality efforts within the jurisdiction of each of the ten regions established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Regional Coordination Programs make research, education, and Extension resources of the university system more accessible to federal, state and local water quality improvement efforts.

