



## **USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference**

### **Leading the Way to Clean Water: The K-State Extension Watershed Specialist Program**

Kansas has established TMDLs in all twelve of the major river basins of the state, and the most common impairment in streams is fecal bacteria. As part of the state's strategy in meeting TMDLs, K-State established seven full-time watershed specialists located in seven high priority watersheds with TMDLs. The objectives for these extension specialists included: 1) Build awareness and local capacity to address sources and abatement of fecal coliform bacteria; 2) Provide assistance in assessing water quality conditions and developing watershed protection plans; 3) Work with agricultural producers and others - either in small groups or one-on-one, to implement management changes to reduce fecal coliform contamination and improve water quality; 4) Monitor and evaluate change. The effort was collaborative with a range of federal, state, and local agencies and private groups. In the past year over 250,000 people have been contacted indirectly through newspaper inserts, general mailings, and radio announcements. Over 25,000 direct contacts have been made through displays information booths, and presentations at state and local meetings. Over 1000 agricultural producers have been reached through small group meetings and field tours. Over 300 farms have received on-site visits and consultations by watershed specialists. And, over 150 producers have implemented water quality improvements on their farms, most of them livestock producers.

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