



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

The CSREES National Water Program

The CSREES National Water Program (NWP) develops research, education, and extension projects aimed at improving water resources in agricultural watersheds. Through a network of regional coordination projects, NWP advances and disseminates to agriculture and rural communities information developed at universities to enhance the management and protection of the Nation's surface water and groundwater resources. The program seeks to solve critical agricultural issues through an integration of research, education, and extension activities and through enhanced coordination within regions and across the Nation. AREERA Section 406 established four project categories: Integrated (Research/Extension/Education), Extension Education, National Facilitation, and Regional Coordination. The nine Regional Water Coordination Projects serve as the foundation of the National Water Program. State Water Quality Coordinators promote regional collaboration, enhance delivery of successful programs and encourage multi-state and multi-region efforts to protect and restore water resources. Integrated Projects implement a focused research effort along with outreach education to address a watershed concern. Extension Education projects provide outreach programs into target watersheds. National Facilitation Projects coordinate comprehensive efforts and high value programs relevant across the country. A national website (<http://www.usawaterquality.org/>) links water resource coordination databases for the regions. Development of the NWP is fostered by the Committee for Shared Leadership, an internal working group with members including two CSREES National Program Leaders, 10 representatives from the regional projects, and two representatives from 1890 and 1994 institutions. Partner organizations include federal agencies, state environmental and agricultural agencies, local governments, citizen watershed organizations and private consultants. The NWP coordinates regional programs and enhances linkages among university systems and other federal and state water resource management agencies. Through these efforts, programs and resources from multiple agencies and organizations are being better linked and organized to address critical water resource issues regionally and nationally.

Author: Diane Boellstorff

University Affiliation: Texas A&M University

Co-Author(s): Mark L. McFarland and Michael P. O'Neill