



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

[Program overview and updates: New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands](#)

The Regional Water Quality Coordination Program (RWQP) for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands focuses on the development of working groups for four regional initiatives identified for USEPA Region 2: 1) animal waste management for small farms, 2) onsite wastewater treatment system management, 3) nutrient management, and 4) watershed management/water conservation/agricultural water management to address water quality issues throughout Region 2. Each of the four Land Grant Universities (LGUs) within USEPA Region 2 (i.e., University of Puerto Rico, University of the Virgin Islands, Cornell University, and Rutgers University) will assume a leadership role for each of these initiatives and working groups. The working groups will be responsible for identifying on-going research, extension and education activities in USEPA Region 2 and for developing a plan that builds and expands upon on-going efforts within the region. The overall goals of the project are: 1) enhancing the communication among the LGUs to better support local, state and regional initiatives for improving water quality, 2) developing and implementing a regionally coordinated and integrated education, extension, and research program that takes advantage of the expertise at the LGUs, minimizes the duplication of effort, and leverages multiple funding sources to effectively address water quality issues, and 3) expanding our working relationship with federal, state and local partners to better share resources and compound expertise to develop sound scientific solutions to our water resources problems. The poster will provide updates on the progress of the RWCP over the last year in each of the four regional initiatives. Special emphasis will be placed three projects that incorporate research, education and extension in the areas of animal waste management and onsite water treatment system management and water quality trading (part of nutrient management initiative). The poster will also highlight projects focused in Puerto Rico, where the Annual Regional Meeting was held in June 2006. Several past and new research and extension initiatives will be highlighted in the areas of animal waste management and watershed management for Puerto Rico.

Author: Gregory Rusciano

University Affiliation: Rutgers University

Co-Author(s): Christopher C. Obropta and Lisa G. Evrard