



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

### **Building a Natural Resource Issues and Public Policy Extension Program in South Florida**

Water issues facing South Florida are numerous and complex. Just a few examples include restoring the Everglades, managing Lake Okeechobee to maintain a healthy lake and coastal estuaries, and restoring polluted surface waters. Public decisions regarding water resources directly affect South Florida's environment, economy, and quality-of-life. Extension has a tremendous opportunity to develop and deliver timely, relevant, and high quality educational programs to increase citizen understanding and involvement in water issues and management. However, educational efforts are particularly challenging due to the scale and complexity of the issues, the large number of diverse stakeholders that must be reached, and the dynamic nature of water management. So how does a county Extension agent charged with building a natural resource issues and public policy education program begin? This poster presents the logic model framework guiding program development and implementation. The following activities conducted and evaluated in 2006 are showcased: (1) a citizen mail survey, "You, Your Community, and the Restoration of the Everglades"; (2) the Loxahatchee River Watershed Science Symposium; (3) a 6-week evening course on "Natural Resource Issues Facing South Florida"; and (4) a bus tour of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). Collectively viewing several activities within the logic model framework showcases how Extension programs are truly "more than the sum of its parts."

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