



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

Developing Public Educational Programs to Involve Citizens in Watershed Management

The creation of a viable public education program to address stormwater management issues is an on-going process in Georgia counties. Developing comprehensive programs to educate and involve the public to make meaningful differences in public perception and changes in practices which affect water resources both in rural and urban areas will be a challenge as our population continues to increase the demand for water resources. Assessing watershed conditions and planning for wise management practices which have a positive long-term effect on stream conditions are goals being developed through stormwater management education. The Coweta County Engineering Department in conjunction with Coweta County Cooperative Extension have developed best management practice goals which will improve water quality through wise stewardship practices both in the city and farm environment. One of the first steps in good water management is to assess current conditions and identify both point and non-point sources of pollution. This involves monitoring of streams to determine the physical and chemical impairments to establish the basis for developing stream restoration and proper watershed management practices, which can be utilized as part of the educational process to involve the community in sound stormwater management programs.

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