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Southern Regional Water Program Coordination Project

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Abstract Text:

The Project promotes regional collaboration, enhances delivery of successful programs and encourages multi-state efforts to protect and restore water resources. Ultimately, the project improves public access to the research, extension and education resources available through the Land Grant University System in the Southern Region and nationwide. The primary goals of the Project are to facilitate delivery of Land Grant University resources, promote regional information sharing and resource exchange and develop and maintain partnerships. Delivery of high-quality programming on water resource issues is the backbone of the Project. The Project targets integration of multi-state research, education and extension activities in watershed management and protection and pollution prevention. Regional planning efforts identified nine Priority Programs representing the most urgent water resource needs for agriculture and rural communities in the South. Regional teams are working to develop and deliver technology and resources to agricultural producers and rural communities across the South to enable them to better understand and respond to these critical water resource issues. These teams are building products tied to national water quality themes such as the web-based Drinking Water and Human Health FAQ Database, which provides answers to more than 2,500 questions on numerous water quality-related topics. A regional water quality website (http://srwqis.tamu.edu/) brings together the collective water quality research, education and extension resources for Land Grant Universities in 13 states and provides specific links to the National Water Program website and water resource databases hosted by other agencies. The Southern Region offers a region-wide, biennial water quality training conference that provides direct access to successful programs and resources which can be employed throughout the Region. Significant effort is directed toward enhancing coordination with other federal and state water resource management agencies such as USEPA, USGS, and USDA agencies.

Impact Statement:

The Project promoted regional collaboration, enhanced delivery of successful programs and encouraged multi-state efforts to protect water resources. Selected impact indicators include: 5,700,867 pound reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer applied, 1,888,500 acres impacted by nutrient management plans, adoption of soil testing by ag producers increased 60% and affected 97,000 acres, 75% of 2,000 Master Farmer-trained ag producers implemented a water quality BMP, wetland restoration projects implemented on 24,000 acres and stream restoration projects implemented on 120 stream miles, riparian buffer restoration projects implemented on 45,000 acres, 500 well water tests requested, and 300 soil tests requested.