



2008 USDA-CSREES National Water Conference  
Sparks, NV

### **Improving Nutrient and Pesticide Management**

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#### Abstract Text:

The Heartland Regional Water Coordination Initiative's Nutrient and Pesticide Management (NPM) Team has improved capacity and collaboration throughout Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. The NPM Team, led by Kansas State University and University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty, facilitates multi-state and inter-agency communication, sharing of research information, and collaboration to promote the use of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to reduce surface and ground water loading of agricultural nutrients and pesticides. Communication and collaboration were increased through a series of research roundtables and workshops. Current research information was shared between IA, KS, MO and NE land grant university faculty, and USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists, and its application explored with state and federal environmental and agricultural regulatory agencies. A different theme was addressed each year including phosphorus management in 2004, nitrogen management in 2005, pesticide management in 2006, and targeting of BMPs in 2007. Planning, monitoring and impact assessment in watershed management is to be addressed in 2008. Products that exemplify the success of the NPM Team include an award winning website which disseminates information from these roundtables and workshops. Other outputs of this dynamic approach include multi-state and inter-agency publications on priority topics. Multi-state integrated research and extension projects, developed as a result of NPM regional collaboration, have successfully competed for USDA-CSREES 406 program funding. Capacity-building with a Kansas Tribal College is among one of the team's top accomplishments as are training events held throughout the region. This presentation will demonstrate the process of the NPM Team for improving regional capacity and give an overview of the resulting outputs.

#### Impact Statement:

The Heartland Nutrient and Pesticide Management Team facilitates multi-state and inter-agency communication to promote the use of agricultural best management practices that aid in the reduction of nonpoint source pollution. Increasing communication and sharing of research findings throughout the region promotes regional collaboration on BMP implementation. Communication has been increased through a series of research roundtables and workshops where current research information was shared between IA, KS, MO and NE land grant universities, as well as state and federal environmental and agricultural agencies. This information is then disseminated to the field level which improves water management efforts throughout the region.