



2008 USDA-CSREES National Water Conference  
Sparks, NV

## **Installation Curriculum for Small Scale Wastewater Treatment Systems**

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### **Abstract Text:**

A training course discussing the best practice standards for onsite wastewater treatment system installation processes is being developed through a multi-state collaborative effort facilitated through the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment. Cooperative Extension groups in Texas, Minnesota Rhode Island and North Carolina joined together to develop a training manual and associated presentation materials.

The keys to longevity and performance of decentralized wastewater treatment systems depend on proper siting, design, installation, operation and maintenance. An error in any phase of this process produces a weak link, and may result in premature system malfunction. Each key step is as important as the others. The Installer Training Program was designed to tackle the third vital key to onsite wastewater treatment system success, installation. The installation training program is currently in the development stage. Pilot testing starts in December 2007 and continues until Spring 2009. The training program, training objectives, evaluation instruments and associated responses from the first pilot training will be discussed during the presentation.

### **Impact Statement:**

This training program will thus move the industry one step closer to the goal of uniform installation practices and raise the level of expertise and professionalism. The critical step of system installation will be defined and best management practices for the installation of small scale wastewater treatment systems will be developed.