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Heartland Nutrient and Pesticide Management: Regional Extension Publications

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Abstract:

Nonpoint pollution from agriculture is the principal source of water quality impairment throughout the Midwest. Nutrients and pesticides are nonpoint source pollutants and potential contaminants of drinking water supplies and recreational waters. The Heartland Nutrient and Pesticide Management (NPM) Team facilitates multi-state and inter-agency communication to promote the use of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to reduce nonpoint source pollution. The NPM Team has led in the development of four regional extension publications: 1) "Agricultural Phosphorus Management and Water Quality Protection in the Midwest", 2) "Agricultural Nitrogen Management and Water Quality Protection in the Midwest", 3) "Targeting of Watershed Management Practices for Water Quality Protection", and 4) "Pesticide Management for Water Quality Protection in the Midwest". The goal of the publications is to improve farming and conservation practices for water quality protection and to increase awareness and knowledge on this priority issue. The publications were co-authored by specialists from Land Grant Universities (LGU) and from state and federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Development of each of the publications was preceded by a roundtable of specialists who shared state-of-the-art information and by a workshop where the information was shared and discussed with Extension, agency, and private field personnel. The publications introduce the topic, explain its importance to water quality, address cost effectiveness of BMPs, and then recommend BMPs for specific crops and/or environmental conditions.

The printed publications have been distributed to personnel of Extension and environmental agencies as well as to private sector consultants and advisors. The publications are available in a downloadable PDF format www.oznet.ksu.edu/waterquality/publications.htm. This poster presentation addresses the NPM team's objectives and demonstrates the impacts of the regional extension publications. Copies of the publications will be available to interested conference participant.

Impact Statement:

The Nutrient and Pesticide Management (NPM) Team has leveraged over 20 environmental professionals outside of the Heartland Project Team to contribute to the regional extension publications and to collaborate on further research needs. These partners include U.S. EPA Region 7, USDA-ARS, USDA-NRCS, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, The University of Missouri, and The University of Nebraska to develop and distribute these publications. Environmental Agencies from the Heartland Region have requested hard-copies of the publication for education purposes. The team's desired outcome is to improve farming and conservation practices for water quality protection and to increase awareness and knowledge on this priority issue. The increased demand for NPM regional extension publications proves that the team is indeed increasing awareness and knowledge of water quality issues. Citizens obtaining this knowledge are the first step in improving farming and conservation practices for water quality protection.

Category: Agricultural BMPs

Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation