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CEAP: Horse and Stable Owner Use and Knowledge of Conservation Practices

Adam Reimer*
Purdue University
*apreimer@purdue.edu

Abstract:

Implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural land has been a focus of programs aimed at improving water quality. Livestock producers have been targeted by many of these programs, with the goal of reducing soil erosion and livestock waste pollution. Research has also focused on BMP adoption by livestock producers and the effects of those BMPs. Horse owners have been conspicuously absent from this BMP literature and from many conservation program outreach campaigns. A Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) has been focused on the 77,000 acre Eagle Creek Watershed, situated north of Indianapolis, Indiana. Eagle Creek Watershed has a number of horse stables and horse owners, centered on the community of Zionsville. This poster will discuss an ongoing project that seeks to interview horse and stable owners in an effort to gauge their awareness of different BMPs related to livestock operations, as well as their awareness of government programs that target livestock BMPs. A content analysis of horse trade magazines was also conducted and will be discussed in the poster.

Impact Statement:

Horse operations are a potentially significant source of pollutants in many watersheds. They may represent an under targeted population by current conservation programs. This project will seek to identify knowledge gaps among horse and stable owners and potentially lead to improvements in conservation program outreach efforts.

Category: CEAP

Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation