



2009 CSREES National Water Conference; St. Louis, MO

Perusing the Parameters of Teaching Youth How to Test For and Interpret Water Quality Data

Ashley Osborne*
University of Kentucky
*ashley.osborne@uky.edu

Abstract:

Perusing the Parameters, developed by Extension personnel at the University of Kentucky, is a hands-on activity that teaches youth how to test for and interpret water quality data. The activity instructs students to research various water quality parameters and learn how to test for the parameters using basic water testing equipment. Students are asked to give presentations on the parameters, explaining what each parameter measures, why it is important, and how to test for it. After presenting, students are taken to various local water bodies to test the water quality. Once testing is complete, students interpret the water data and assess the quality of each water body.

Impact Statement:

The Perusing the Parameters Activity was developed in 2004 for a 4-H Youth Development Program. Since that program, the activity has been used with elementary, middle, and high school aged students in various programs. The activity has been successful in that it has served as a means of educating and involving youth in key water concepts. In addition to being implemented at various programs, the activity was included in the 2006 Kentucky Water Awareness Month Packet that was distributed to all county Extension offices in Kentucky, and has been made available online at www.ca.uky.edu/enri.

Category: Watershed Assessment and Restoration
Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation