

The Universities of Wisconsin & Rhode Island

are conducting a four-year program to assist volunteer monitoring across the nation, supported by a four-year grant from the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES). Objectives of the project include:

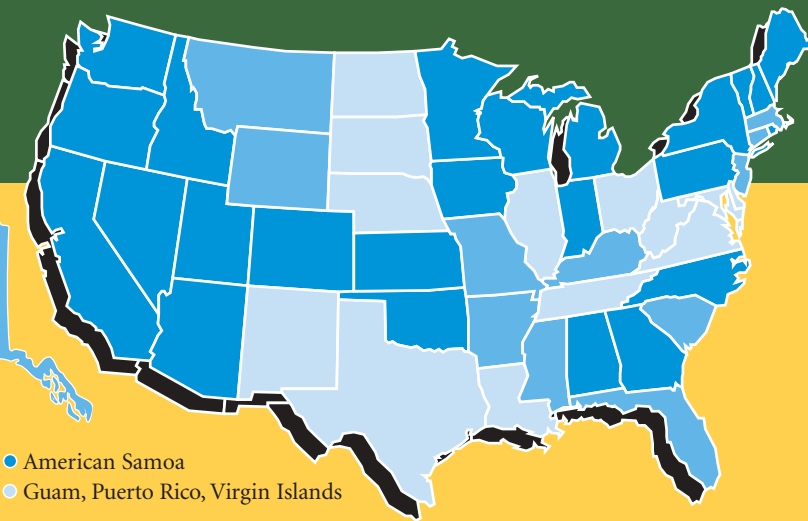
- Identifying current Cooperative Extension volunteer water quality monitoring programs and their capacities
- Developing training materials to support and strengthen these efforts; and
- Working to increase collaboration, cooperation, and communication between Cooperative Extension and other agencies.



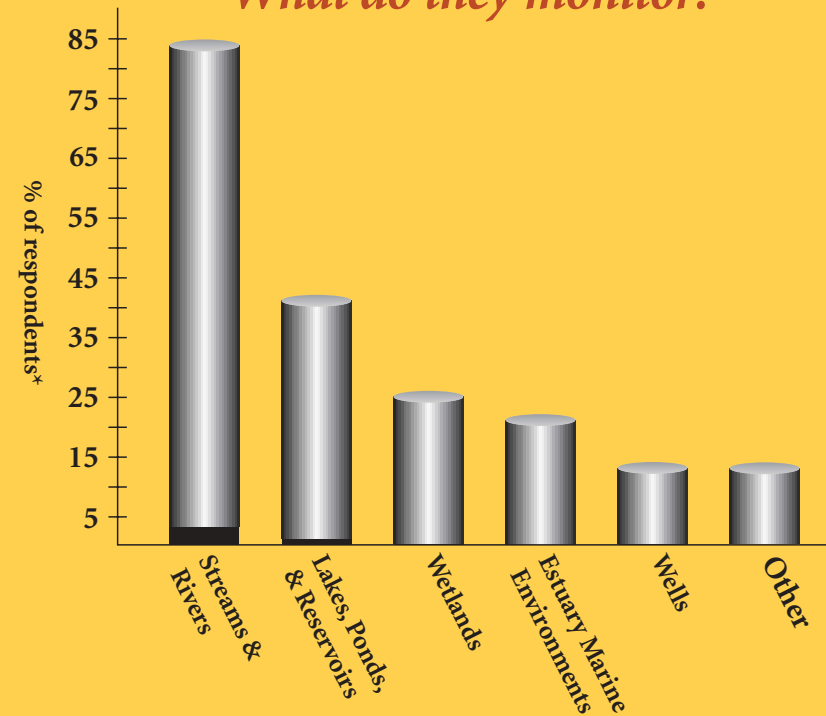
Why Monitoring?

Cooperative Extension plays a unique role in extending university resources and knowledge to local communities, and volunteer water quality monitoring is an educational focus area in many locations. Monitoring efforts can lead to increased awareness of water quality issues in local communities, and implementation of locally driven waterway improvement projects.

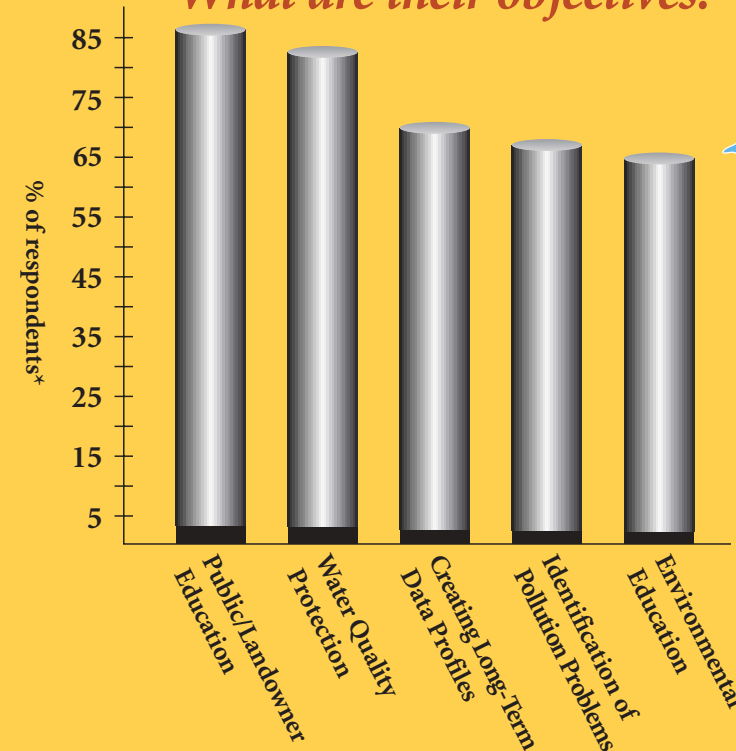
- States in which CE sponsors or co-sponsors programs
- States in which CE assists with other agencies' programs
- States in which CE doesn't have /work with existing programs



What do they monitor?



What are their objectives?



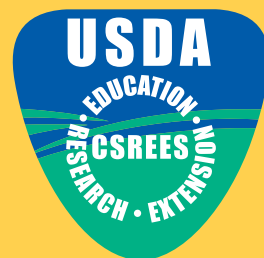
Our recent nationwide inquiries identified 27 volunteer water quality monitoring programs, located in 25 states/territories, to which Cooperative Extension acts as a sponsor or co-sponsor.

Cooperative Extension volunteer water quality monitoring programs are targeted to various audiences. A recent inquiry, with 21 of 27 programs responding, found that:

- 80% target conservation groups
- 55% target civic groups and/or the general public
- 45% target youth
- 17% target farmers

Seventy-five percent of responding program coordinators turn to other experts for continued program development and technical support. Program partners include: state agencies, county conservation departments, regional planning agencies, water resources control boards, university scientists, conservation commissions, USGS, EPA

*Inquiries were sent to program coordinators for CE sponsored or co-sponsored programs across the country and results are from 26 of 27 programs.



The Cooperative Extension roles include:

- Sponsoring or co-sponsoring the program;
- Assisting with the program's initial startup;
- Providing training assistance, materials, supplies and space;
- Providing technical support and consultation;
- Adapting a statewide water quality monitoring program for youth; and
- Involving volunteers in Extension water quality research