



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA NIFA
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Spring 2005
PNWWATER 057

Practical Water Quality Education for Agricultural Professionals in the Pacific Northwest

In the Pacific Northwest (PNW) there is a group of land grant university, EPA, and NRCS specialists that took advantage of an opportunity to increase producer adoption of nutrient and pest management practices that protect water quality. The result is the Integrated Soil Nutrient and Pest (iSNAP) Water Quality Education Project funded by the USDA National Integrated Water Quality Program. The goal of this collaborative effort is to deliver innovative education to agricultural professionals.

The target audience for this project includes Certified Crop Advisors, Technical Service Providers, and licensed pest management professionals that want practical educational programming that is locally adapted. Some examples of iSNAP workshop topics are drift management and buffers to reduce pesticide movement, strategies to protect surface water and groundwater, and crop management practices to increase nitrogen utilization efficiency. A regional NRCS advisory group provides feedback to increase the alignment of iSNAP programs with NRCS practices.

This PNW project offers a hands-on learning environment to evaluate the linkage between nutrient management, pest management, and water resources.

The objective of the iSNAP workshops is to have participants gain experience collaboratively developing site-specific solutions to meet both producer needs and resource protection goals.

Skills that agricultural professionals will gain as a result of participating in the iSNAP Project include:

1. Assessing and communicating potential water resource benefits to producers
2. Determining viable management alternatives that meet producer needs
3. Improving management practices through monitoring

iSNAP Project Outcomes

Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management Options: Practices and Tools to Protect Water Quality Workshops. This new two-day program was held in Corvallis, OR, Boise, ID and Pasco, WA this winter and attracted over 125 participants.

Understanding Phosphorus Effects on Water Quality and Phosphorus Management Alternatives Workshop. Held in March 2004 this two-day program was conducted in Puyallup, WA with live video broadcast sites in Twin Falls, ID and Corvallis, OR with a total of 75 agricultural professionals.

Nutrient Management Trainings. Conducted during winter of 2003-04 in Coeur d'Alene, ID and Corvallis, OR these one-day events had a total participation of 64 agricultural professionals.



Paul Jepson, Director of the OSU Integrated Plant Protection Center, explains the factors that influence pesticide drift, February 2005, Pasco, WA.



Pacific Northwest Regional Water Quality Coordination Project Partners

Land Grant Universities

Alaska

Cooperative Extension Service
Contact Fred Sorensen:
907-786-6311

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/water/>

University Publications:

<http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/publications/>

Idaho

University of Idaho
Cooperative Extension System
Contact Bob Mahler: 208-885-7025

<http://www.uidaho.edu/wq/wqhome.html>

University Publications:

<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/Catalog/catalog.htm>

Oregon

Oregon State University
Extension Service
Contact Mike Gamroth: 541-737-3316

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>

Washington

Washington State University
WSU Extension
Contact Bob Simmons:

360-427-9670 ext. 690

<http://wawater.wsu.edu/>

University Publications:

<http://pubs.wsu.edu/>

Northwest Indian College
Contact Charlotte Clausing:
360-392-4319

cclausing@nwic.edu or

<http://www.nwic.edu/>

Water Resource Research Institutes

Water and Environmental Research
Center (Alaska)

<http://www.uaf.edu/water/>

Idaho Water Resources
Research Institute
<http://www.boise.uidaho.edu/>

Institute for Water and
Watersheds (Oregon)
<http://water.oregonstate.edu/>

State of Washington
Water Research Center
<http://www.swwrc.wsu.edu/>

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA, Region 10
The Pacific Northwest
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>

Office of Research and Development,
Corvallis Laboratory
<http://www.epa.gov/wed/>

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The Project

Land Grant Universities, Water Research Institutes, and EPA Region 10 have formed a partnership to provide research and education to communities about protecting or restoring the quality of water resources. This partnership is being supported in part by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Our Goal and Approach

The goal of this Project is to provide leadership for water resources research, education, and outreach to help people, industry, and governments to prevent and solve current and emerging water quality and quantity problems. The approach to achieving this goal is for the Partners to develop a coordinated water quality effort based on, and strengthening, individual state programs.

Our Strengths

The Project promotes regional collaboration by acknowledging existing programs and successful efforts; assisting program gaps; identifying potential issues for cross-agency and private sector collaboration; and developing a clearinghouse of expertise and programs. In addition, the Project establishes or enhances partnerships with federal, state, and local environmental and water resource management agencies, such as by placing a University Liaison within the offices of EPA Region 10.

Our iSNAP Project web site increases access to online resources and event information: <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/>.

Planned activities for 2005 include: educational programs on buffers and drift management, educational programs for producers, a new publication on irrigation water quality, and online education modules.

Program Partners

- ◆ Oregon State University
- ◆ Washington State University
- ◆ University of Idaho
- ◆ US Environmental Protection Agency
- ◆ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ Western Region IPM Center Pacific Northwest Working Group
- ◆ Washington State Pesticide Safety Education Program
- ◆ Idaho State Pesticide Safety Education Program
- ◆ Idaho State IPM Program
- ◆ Oregon State IPM Program



On the web at: <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/>

For more information contact:

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National Water Quality Program Areas

The four land grant universities in the Pacific Northwest have aligned our water resource Extension and research efforts with eight themes of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

1. Animal Waste Management
2. Drinking Water and Human Health
3. Environmental Restoration
4. Nutrient and Pesticide Management
5. Pollution Assessment and Prevention
6. Watershed Management
7. Water Conservation and Management
8. Water Policy and Economics

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