



Applying knowledge to improve water quality

Pacific Northwest

Regional Water Program

A Partnership of USDA CSREES
& Land Grant Colleges and Universities

Fall 2004
PNWWATER 049

PNW Agriculture and Water Quality Conference

In October, over 150 agricultural producers, educators, researchers, and regulators gathered to exchange information, perspectives, and the results of research and educational programs at the regional Agriculture and Water Quality Pacific Northwest Conference held in Boise, Idaho. This conference was designed to improve communication, build understanding, and foster cooperation between people in agriculture, the environment, and government. This conference was cosponsored by many state agencies in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, the region's land grant universities, and the Far West Agribusiness Association. This conference was held in conjunction with the Idaho Ground Water Connections conference.

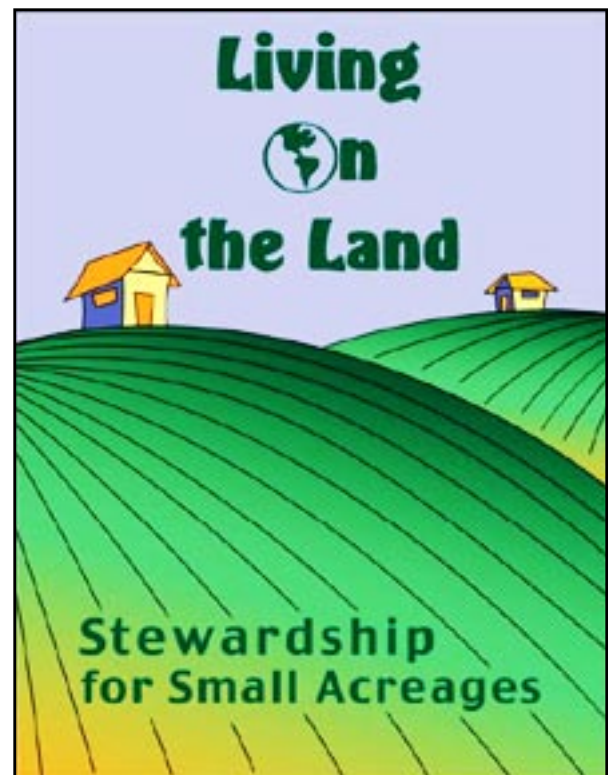
VALUE ADDED PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Two pre-conference tours coordinated by the CSREES Pacific Northwest Water Quality Coordination Project, provided attendees with the opportunity to focus on a specific topic in greater depth than could be achieved in a conference format. An additional value is the opportunity to meet and interact with a variety of people and interests and to engage in extended discussions during breaks or en route to tour stops.

WIN2ME: Feed Management for the Agricultural Pro organized by Dr. Joe Harrison, WSU Extension Specialist, focused on developing a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) to meet the new guidelines for CAFO/AFOs. The workshop "provided information on feed management concepts and practices that minimize the import of nutrients to the farm and provide economic and environmental sustainability." Participants received a training manual and learned to use software for balancing whole farm nutrients and economics.

Living On the Land: Overview and Tour of a "Sustainable" Course for Small Acreage Landowners. Dr. Susan Donaldson and a team of Pacific Northwest Extension Agents and Specialists provided an overview of the "Living on the Land" curriculum, which addresses important water quality and stewardship issues. The extensive course targets future leaders and new-to-agriculture, small parcel landowners at the urban fringe.

The curriculum is being used successfully in counties throughout the Pacific Northwest and is adaptable to any community by substituting local issues and regulations. Owners map their lands, set goals and objectives for potential uses, as well as learn how their



**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.html>

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 Dan Burns:
360-392-4328

dburns@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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actions affect community water quality and their own environment. Workshop participants received a CD of course materials and visited the farms of three graduates.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

The conference was packed with two panel discussions, twelve topical sessions, lunch speakers, and displays. Topics included TMDLs, government regulation, education, technology, water management, BMPs, technological advances in environmental measurement, water for housing developments, mercury contamination of wells, soil characteristics, water quantity issues, mapping, ground water monitoring, pesticides, research results, "pesticides, ESA and water quality, and the impact of global warming in the Pacific Northwest." Displays featured new products and ag programs and research.

Most conference attendees agree that a most valuable aspect of a conference is building awareness of issues and perspectives, and the networking opportunities. The new relationships that develop during the breaks and lunch table discussions can be invaluable to business and agencies. Often friends sit together at lunch but several participants said they gain more when they join tables where they can meet new people and broaden their perspective and professional networks.

DID YOU MISS OUT??

The 64-page booklet of abstracts and speaker's information is available at the Far West Agribusiness Association's web site:

<http://www.fwaa.org/>. This extends the opportunity to review topics of interest and find resource people for future collaboration.

Planning for the 2006 conference (likely in Washington State) is already underway. For more information, or to volunteer, contact the Far West Agribusiness Association, 111 E. Magnesium Rd., Ste. C, Spokane, WA 99208. Phone: 509-465-5055, Fax: 509-465-5155.



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 Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension System.

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

CSREES is the Cooperative States Research, Education, and Extension Service, a sub-agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is the federal partner in this water quality program.