

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Healthy Land
Clean Water
For Life

State Level Nutrient Reduction Strategies Workshop

June 13-15, 2011
Columbus, Ohio

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Soil and Water Conservation Society

Soil and Water Conservation Society



- Private, non-profit professional society
- 4800 members –
 - researchers, educators
 - conservation practitioners
 - farmers, ranchers
 - NGOs, industry
- Advocate for soil, water, natural resource management on private, working lands

Soil and Water Conservation Society



- **History – parallels NRCS**
 - Formed 65 years ago
 - Hugh Hammond Bennett influence
 - Name evolution – SCSA became SWCS
- **Water Quality Protection - MRB**
 - Connect science to practice
 - Achieve the result – not just apply the practice

Focus on Performance



- Conservation Effects Assessment Project
 - Asked by USDA to help design and implement CEAP (2005)
 - Formed Blue Ribbon Panel
- > Determining conservation effects
- Determining whether the problem is solved
- Future – problem solving

Engaging - State and Local



What can the
Soil and Water Conservation Society
do to facilitate engagement
at the state and local level,
to reduce nutrient runoff and help alleviate
hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico?

Engage the Problem



- Make sure the programs and the practices are the best we can identify to address the goal of reducing nutrient (N) loss (by 45%) into Mississippi River Basin/Gulf
 - Address local/regional/basin water quality

Program



Managing Agricultural Landscapes for Environmental Quality II Conference

New Paradigm: Priority 1

- Identify vulnerable landscapes and landscape positions
- Identify appropriate practices
- Target those specific practices
- Solve the problem; not just apply practices

Practices



- SWCS - What are the practices that can achieve the water quality objective if implemented at a landscape scale?
- On Farm Network, adaptive nutrient management
 - Stream buffers and enhanced, saturated buffers to address runoff and shallow subsurface flow
 - Treatment practices – MN, IA, IN

Facilitate Practice Implementation



- Examine the ‘practice’ in the context of the landowner/farmer interest, as well as the program interest
- Find ways to eliminate or overcome regulatory (program) obstacles
 - Two-stage ditch – make it work in the context of the CRP program
 - Address drainage ditch maintenance needs and CRP program bird nesting objectives

Facilitate Practice Implementation

Don't let 'perfect' be the enemy of 'good'

- We can develop statewide implementation if we consider practice implementation in the context of the farmer's agricultural objective
- Remember, that's what made soil erosion practice implementation successful
 - No-till, intensive grazing
 - Terraces, waterways, erosion control structures

Facilitate Practice Implementation



Nutrient Reduction Wetland Practice

- Can you share the farmer interest with the water quality interest?
- Can you accept drainage improvement **with** wetland mitigation?
- Should you (can you) mitigate farmed wetlands with nutrient reduction wetlands?



Pothole
Depression
Typical of Farmed
Wetland
May 2007



Same
Pothole
Depression
June 2007





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