

**Education of Best Management Practices in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed
FY 05 CWA 319(h)
TSSWCB Agreement No. 05-10**

Quarter no. 7 From 4/1/07 Through 6/30/07

I. Abstract

Continued progress was made this quarter by the education program. This quarter, 1043 agricultural producers, youths, and residents from Cameron and Hidalgo Counties were provided training on subjects ranging from surface and groundwater protection to soil fertility and nutrient management, water conservation, irrigation management, rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, xeriscaping and use of native plants, integrated pest management (IPM), pesticide application, and other best management practices. The total number of participants who have benefited from the Arroyo Colorado Education Program is now 3,940.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

TASK 1: Project Coordination

Subtask 1.1: Conduct quarterly meetings as appropriate with project participants (TWRI, TCE, TSSWCB, SWCDs, NRCS, Arroyo-Colorado Watershed Coordinator, TAMU Kingsville, etc.) to discuss project schedule, completion of deliverables, outreach and participation strategies, communication needs and other requirements.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Project participants will meet on July 24 in conjunction with the Ag Issues Workgroup Meeting to discuss the project schedule, completion of deliverables, outreach and participation strategies, and other issues.

58% Complete

Subtask 1.2: TWRI will submit project strategies / programs and project status as necessary to the Ag Issues Workgroup via TSSWCB for inclusion in the Watershed Protection Plan.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The Ag Issues Workgroup, scheduled to meet on July 24, will be provided an update on the project's status. Future strategies will also be discussed at this meeting.

58% Complete

Subtask 1.3: TWRI will prepare electronic quarterly reports and submit to TSSWCB

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Submitted Year 2, Quarter 3 Progress Report to TSSWCB on July 16, 2007.

58% Complete

Subtask 1.4: TWRI and TCE will develop a final project report and submit to TSSWCB.

0% Complete

TASK 2: Conducting Local Educational Meetings

Subtask 2.1: Meetings will serve to educate individuals on specific crop production techniques. Each of the following meetings will be held on an annual basis.

- *2 cotton production meetings in Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy Counties*
- *1 sorghum production meeting in Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy Counties*
- *1 sugar cane production meeting in Hidalgo County*
- *1 citrus production meeting in Hidalgo County*
- *1 vegetable production meeting in Hidalgo County*
- *County / multi-county Pesticide Applicator Safety Training and Continuing Education*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

Date	Event	Counties Involved C = Cameron H = Hidalgo	Description	Attendance
4/5/07	Master Gardener Program	H	Water Conservation, Irrigation techniques	23
4/9/07	Master Gardener Program- Rain Water Harvesting	C	Rainwater harvesting system at Los Indios Learning Center-Vegetable Garden-Lessons for Youth	15
4/17/07	Master Gardener Program- Rain Water Harvesting	C	Rain water harvesting system at Los Indios Learning Center Vegetable Garden Lessons for Youth	21
4/24/07	Master Gardener Program – Rain Water Harvesting	C	Rain water harvesting system at Los Indios Learning Center Vegetable Garden-Lessons for Youth	12
4/27/07	Master Gardener Training	C	Master Gardeners were provided training on drip irrigation installation and materials.	4
4/20/07	Rio Fest	C	Master Gardener Educational Exhibit- Drip Irrigation, Xersicape, Native Plants	200

Date	Event	Counties Involved C = Cameron H = Hidalgo	Description	Attendance
4/27/07	Arbor Day	C	Master Gardeners and Texas Forest Service conducted program to school youth at Zavala Elementary	500
5/01/07 5/08/07	Master Gardener Rain Water Harvesting Project	C	Master Gardener taught school youth about rain water harvesting	9
5/02/07	Pesticide Safety Training	CH	Topics included: the principles of integrated pest management, non-chemical alternatives, pest features, ground and surface water protection, laws and regulations, pesticide labels, endangered species protection, Worker Protection Standards, record keeping, personal protection, application equipment, calibration and continuing education units.	12
6/4/07	Master Gardener Teacher Training	CH	Teachers provided training on wide range of horticulture including water conservation and nutrient management	16
6/05/07	Grain Sorghum Field Day	CH	Sorghum varieties, sorghum insects, sorghum plant physiology, sorghum outlook	68
6/06/07	Master Gardener Program – Soil Fertility	C	Principles of Soil Fertility and Water Conservation	36
6/14/07	Rio Farms Sorghum/Corn/Soybean Field Day	CH	Varieties, Ratooning Sorghum, Disease Update, Soybean production, Pesticide Rules and Regulations	125

58% Complete

Subtask 2.2: Meetings, demonstrations and other educational activities will serve to educate individuals on nutrient management techniques. Specifically:

- *A soil testing campaign will be conducted within the 3 counties to promote proper use of fertilizers.*
- *When available, summarized data will be collected from TAMU-Kingsville and compiled into educational fact sheets or presented.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

Date	Event	County	Description	Attendance
5/09/07	SAFE Program	Cameron	Conducted evaluation of Athletic Field management as part of the Sports Athletic Field Education (SAFE) Program	2

58% Complete

Subtask 2.3: Meetings and promotional events will serve to advertise and educate individuals on related programs addressing water quality. For example, TCE will:

- *Promote cost-share programs (319(h), EQIP, etc.).*
- *Educate producers or assist SWCDs in development of water quality management plans.*
- *Educate producers on involvement and development of the Watershed Protection Plan and the potential effects of its implementation.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter.

58% Complete

III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments

- From May 14-17, 2007, TCE personnel from Cameron and Hidalgo Counties participated in the Annual Rio Grande Basin Initiative Conference on South Padre Island. On Feb 10, one-hundred thirty-three (133) gardeners attended a session on rain barrel gardening in Hidalgo County.
- The Extension Assistant Position to support additional educational programs in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed was announced and the hiring process begun.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

- Selection of an Extension Assistant is expected.
- TWRI will conduct a quarterly meeting with Arroyo Colorado Education personnel in conjunction with the Arroyo Colorado Partnership Ag Issues Workgroup on July 24.