

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

Quarter no. 9 From 10/1/07 Through 12/31/07

I. Abstract

This quarter, 393 agricultural producers, youths, and residents from Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy and Starr Counties were educated. The soil testing campaign was kicked off and advertised with several educational events. It was also completed during this quarter. The number of participants in the campaign will be available in the future. Total number of participants who have benefited from the Arroyo Colorado Education Program is now 4,548.

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. No meeting was necessary or held during this quarter.
- b. Communication via email did occur to discuss administrative activities regarding the new Extension Technician hire and grant proposals dealing with agricultural education activities.

72% 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. TWRI participated in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting on October 24, 2007 and presented an update on the Arroyo Education Project at the meeting. The update included the submission of the Pesticide education grant submitted to the Coastal Management Program.

72% 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 3, Quarter 1 Progress Report to TSSWCB on January 15, 2008.

72% 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	County	Description	Attendance
10/25/07	Valley Cotton, Sorghum and Corn Grower Meeting	CHW	maximizing cotton production, weed management in sorghum, sorghum and corn production, LRGV cotton and sorghum variety trials, new chemistries and overview of insects in corn and sorghum, cotton and sorghum market outlook, soil testing	65
11/8/07	Rio Farms Grower Meeting	CHW	cotton, sorghum, corn, soybean, wheat, southern pea and sesame production, irrigation scheduling with watermark sensors, soil testing	76
11/29/07	Pesticide Safety Training	CH	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.	1
11/30/07	Food Safety Meeting	H	food safety issues including irrigation water quality	20

12/6/07	Soybean Seminar	CHW	Overview of spring soybean production, water management, nutrition management, tour fall crop, insect management, weed management, disease management, marketing soybeans, CEU's, soil testing	75
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72% 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
10/01/07 - 12/31/07	Soil Testing Campaign	CHWS	Soil testing campaign conducted to provide ag producers scientific data of nutrient levels present in soil and recommendations on fertilizer levels needed to produce a sustainable crop	n/a
10/9/07	Nutrient Management Workshop	CHW	soil testing, sorghum & corn fertility, EQIP program and It's potential for nutrient management assistance, water quality management plans, fertility in the cotton patch, soil fertility in a reduced tillage system, sulfur fertilization, kickoff of soil testing campaign	91
11/19/07	Sugar Growers Annual Meeting	CHW	Soil testing campaign	65

72% 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:

Date	Event	County	Description	Attendance
10/9/07	Nutrient Management Workshop	CHW	soil testing, sorghum & corn fertility, EQIP program and It's potential for nutrient management assistance, water quality management plans, fertility in the cotton patch,	Already reported under subtask 2.2

64% Complete

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

- The administrative arm of the Texas Water Resources Institute has a new name. Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and Texas Cooperative Extension are now the Texas AgriLife Research and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, respectively.
- The Nutrient Management Education Program for the Rio Grande Valley received the 2007 Superior Service Award for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Congratulations to Brad Cowan and Enrique Perez, AgriLife Extension Agents in Hidalgo and Cameron County, respectively, who are members of this team.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

- The Ag Issues Workgroup will meet next quarter on January 24, 2008. An update on the education program will be provided to the group as well as to the Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee meeting.