



# Overview of Extension Agent Training

## Working With Watershed Action Groups

*Watershed Education Network  
CSREES National Water Quality Conference  
October 25, 2005  
Lexington, KY*

# Things Are Tough All Over...



- What does a typical Extension agent feel like during these uncertain times?

# What We Want...

- Through sound, innovative training programs, these same agents just might have a different outlook on their work and their colleagues....



# Simple Overall Training Goals



- q Increase the capacity of Cooperative Extension Agents to meet the changing needs of their clientele
- q Share innovative ideas for valuable Extension programming
- q Identify areas for regional collaboration
- q Explore options for increasing, leveraging, or extorting additional resources
- q Have some good, clean fun!

# Agent Training – Clemson, SC

- q Examining Extension's Role in Local Citizen Watershed Action Groups: *A Multi-State In-Service Training Workshop for Extension and Sea Grant Professionals*
- q States Participating in the Planning:
  - South Carolina
  - North Carolina
  - Georgia
  - Alabama
- q When: June 2& 3, 2004
- q Where: Madren Conference Center, Clemson University



# Funding Sources

- q 406 Regional Coordination Funds
- q Additional Travel Money Supplied by Participating States



# Training Workshop Objectives:

- Build capacity among Extension agents and specialists to organize new groups or mobilize existing watershed action groups to address issues of mutual concern; and
- Broaden the use of watershed action groups by demonstrating the effectiveness of volunteers in addressing critical water quality issues.



# Structure and Content

- q General Sessions
- q Series of Facilitated Panels:
  - Working with Watershed Action Groups
  - Adopting a Watershed: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly
  - Using Watersheds for Demonstration and Education
  - Handling Controversial Issues
- q Field Trips
- q Evening Social and Old-Fashioned Southern Barbeque
- q Conference Evaluation



# What Is a Watershed Action Group?

- Introduction by Dick Millward
  - President of Friends of Lake Keowee Society
  - 1,500-member organization
  - Dedicated to better water quality on the Lake



# Working With WAGs

- Role playing exercise
  - Lead by Christy Perrin and Eve Brantley
  - Participants had prepared “roles”
  - Designed to explore various scenarios of working with WAGs



# Field Trip



- q Little Garvin Creek restoration project
  - Simpson Research Farm



- q Lake Keowee Projects
  - Shoreline vegetation
  - Periphyton tiles
  - 4 H2O Pontoon Classroom

# Networking Reception



- q Clemson University Outdoor Classroom
- q FOLKS Board of Directors
- q CU Administration

# Day 2 – Facilitated Panels

- q Adopting a Watershed – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
- q Using Watersheds for Demonstration and Education
- q Handling Controversial Issues



# Conclusions

- q 61 agents attended
- q Participants from SC, NC, AL, GA, FL, and KY
- q Evaluations indicated a high level of learning
- q Model for future agent trainings in other states and regions
- q Need to determine the pressing issues for agents





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