URI Small Acreage Livestock Education Program

Project Update

September 2008 – February 2009

Accomplishments

4-H Volunteer Training Program and Evaluation Plan

Phase I – train-the-trainer. November 2008 – January 2009. Developed and conducted a training program for URI 4-H Program adults and teens based on the needs assessment and pilot education conducted with URI Animal Science students.

- Indoor Session: 2-hour slideshow, groundwater model demonstration and binder containing various fact sheets and resources.
  Introduce issues and concerns including animal stocking rates, the water cycle, land use impacts to water quality, and pollution and health risks. Identify BMPs for proper manure, livestock yard and pasture management.
- Field Session: 1.5-hour site assessment of URI Peckham Farm using URI fact sheet series.
  Learn how to identify pollution risks and plan BMPs for livestock yards and manure storage areas.
- Administered written evaluation of training program.
- Assigned independent site assessments and written evaluation of URI fact sheet series.
- Conducted 1.5 hour follow-up workshop to review and evaluate independent site assessments / URI fact sheet series, and initiate **volunteer education – Phase II**.
- Planned Effective Presentations Training for trained volunteers, March 25, 2009.

Phase II – Volunteer Education.

- A team of 3 volunteers conducted a total of 15 hours of educational service through staffing the poster display at a 4-H Sheep Clinic, February 1, 2009. 30 people visited the display and several fact sheets and outreach materials were distributed.

Current Impacts

- Recruited and trained 15 URI 4-H volunteers – 9 adults and 6 teens.
- 87% of trained volunteers (100% adults) gained knowledge about hydrology, the water cycle, and the interaction between watersheds and aquifers.
- 100% of trained volunteers gained knowledge about pollution & health risks associated with livestock.
- 93% of trained volunteers (100% adults) are capable of identifying pollution & health risks on a small acreage farm.
- 93% of trained volunteers (100% adults) are capable of identifying BMPs to reduce pollution & health risks.
- 100% of trained volunteers are considering the adoption of at least one BMP to reduce pollution & health risks.

Livestock on Small Acreages: Protecting Water Resources and Health is a project of the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension, College of the Environment and Life Sciences. It is funded by the USDA CSREES, National Integrated Water Quality Program. For more information, visit our website www.uri.edu/ce/healthylandscapes.

Other Program Activities

USDA CSREES National Water Quality Program Conference, St. Louis, MO, February 2009. Attended conference with outreach materials and developed a poster highlighting the volunteer training program, methods, tools and current impacts. The poster can be viewed on the website Accomplishments page.

Conducted education with 50 URI Animal Science students (AVS 102), September 2008. Delivered 2-hour slideshow developed for the volunteer training program, and conducted a tour of URI Peckham Farm to identify planned and existing BMPs.

Project Video. Conducted preliminary site visits with 3 livestock and horse owners to be featured on the video. Filmed segments of the volunteer training program at URI Peckham Farm as well as two educational and community events at one of the feature farms. Production will continue this spring with the filming of interviews and additional events.

Other Related Projects

The Northern Rhode Island Conservation District conducted over 300 livestock farm inventories throughout the towns of Burrillville, Scituate, Foster and Glocester which included the distribution of URI Healthy Landscapes fact sheets and outreach materials, January 2009. Additional livestock farm inventories and distribution of materials are planned within the towns of Tiverton and Little Compton.