

# Water Quality Update

Newsletter of Extension Water Quality Programs

Volume 6, Issue 5

August, 1997

## Farm\*A\*Syst Program Wins National Recognition

The Farm\*A\*Syst/Home\*A\*Syst program was recently presented a 1997 Honor Award from Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

This is the most significant recognition the Department of Agriculture can bestow, acknowledging outstanding contributions to agriculture.

Only nine other groups were recognized in the Environmental Protection category.

Farm & Home\*A\*Syst is a nationwide voluntary, confidential self-assessment program targeting pollution prevention in the home and on the farm.

National Farm\*A\*Syst director Gary Jackson says the award is the result of the collective efforts of all the staff who are working with, or have worked with the program at all levels- local, state, and national.

We'd like to extend our congratulations to the Oklahoma Farm\*A\*Syst and Home\*A\*Syst team:



Farm\*A\*Syst meeting Grove, OK

- Mike Kizer      •Sue Williams
- Nicole Gurski   •Barbara Brown
- Mike Smolen   •Marley Beem
- Mitch Fram     •Wes Lee

Kudos also go to the participating counties who've helped spread the pollution prevention word.

For more information on the program check out the Projects link on the Water Quality Programs home page at: <http://www.agen.okstate.edu/waterquality>.

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 Don't miss the article "Just a Little A\*Syst from Cooperative Extension" in the latest issue of the magazine *Ag at OSU*.

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 For the online version follow the link from the Water Quality Programs home page or go to:

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[http://bubba.ucc.okstate.edu/OSU\\_Ag/agedcm4h/aa\\_news/aa@osu/](http://bubba.ucc.okstate.edu/OSU_Ag/agedcm4h/aa_news/aa@osu/)  
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## New Law Allows Pump Installers to Connect Electricity to Pumps

Executive Director Duane Smith of the Oklahoma Water Resources announced passage of House Bill 1144, a law that spells out the full-service roll allowed water well drillers/pump contractors in completing pump installations.

Pump contractors in water well drilling firms had traditionally connected electrical power to pumps as part of the complete well installation.

Recently however, electricians had contended only licensed electricians should install wiring to supply power to the well.

Smith said confusion regarding interpretation led the Water Resources Board to seek clarification on behalf of the water well drillers and pump contractors,

See *New Law* page 2.

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whom the agency regulates. "Had the drillers/pump contractors not been allowed to install power to complete the well, in most cases the well owner would have had to pay an additional charge to the electrician, as well as a charge for a return visit by the pump installer," Smith pointed out. "This is definitely a law that helps the consumer."

Gary Glover, who oversees the driller/pump contractors licensing programming at the OWRB, said in addition to the greater cost, the previous interpretation could cost delays. "Many rural homes are remote and extra charges would be a hardship."

Glover pointed out that the Water Resources Board, who regulates the drillers, and Oklahoma Department of Health, who regulates the electricians, had worked together to create the law. Glover also pointed out that pump contractors are well trained and examined in their knowledge of handling pump power supplies as a requisite for licensing in Oklahoma.

The issue had been of concern to drilling and pump contracting firms, many of whom are small businesses in rural areas. "Many might have been forced out of business," Glover said. ♦

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-Adapted from *Oklahoma Water News*  
May-June 1997. ♦

## Controversial Wetlands Rule Revisited in Circuit Court

The DC Circuit Court recently granted a stay of the District Court for the District of Columbia's ruling last January that invalidated the controversial "Tulloch Rule."

The Tulloch Rule history began in 1991 when environmental groups sued EPA and the Corps of Engineers claiming the agencies should have regulated two North Carolina property owners' land clearance activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

In settling the case, the Corps agreed in August of 1993 to broaden its regulatory scope to include land clearance and excavation in addition to discharge of dredged or fill materials into the nation's waters.

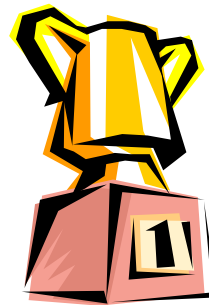
In a January 1997, ruling, however, the US District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that the Corps had overstepped its bounds, stating that Congress would have used the term "excavation" had it intended to regulate such activities under Section 404.

The ruling puts the Tulloch Rule back in effect – at least temporarily- while the circuit court considers the merits of the case.

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-*The District Leader* July, 1997

## Oklahoma Student Selected for Stockholm Competition



Stephen A. Tinnin, a 17 year old high school senior from Bartlesville, will compete for the world's most prestigious water science prize for youth when he represents the United States in the International Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition in Sweden this October.

Tinnin was selected on May 14 by a panel of Water Environment Federation (WEF) water quality experts during the International Science and Engineering Fair in Louisville, Kentucky.

In Stockholm this October, Tinnin will compete against the best young water scientists in the world from the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, and Sweden. The Prize, which receives patronage of the Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, is the first open to students outside that country.

Tinnin's project, "Changes in Development, Sperm activity, and parthenogenesis across a 105 exposure range in *Lypenchinus variegatus* Gametes exposed to pesticides in Marine Media," investigates the impact of selected pesticides on the water environment.

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-*WEF Highlights* Vol. 34(7) July, 1997

## POTENTIAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

To check out any of these items contact  
Tori Riggs at 744-5653

📖 ITEM: 24.1

TOPIC: Watershed

SOURCE: AWRA

DATE/VOL: May, 1997 Vol. 16

ARTICLE/TITLE: The Watershed  
Management Issue

★ ITEM: 24.7

TOPIC: Water Filters

SOURCE: Consumer Reports

DATE/VOL: July, 1997

ARTICLE/TITLE: Should You Use a Water  
Filter?

📖 ITEM: 25.2

TOPIC: OKAMP

SOURCE: Stillwater News Press

DATE/VOL: July 31, 1997

ARTICLE/TITLE: OKAMP Scholars Present  
Findings at OSU

★ ITEM: 25.2

TOPIC: Ground water

SOURCE: USGS

DATE/VOL: FS-182-96

ARTICLE/TITLE: Nitrate and Pesticides in  
Ground Water of the Ozark Plateaus  
Region in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and  
Oklahoma



We'd like to extend a special welcome to Tori  
Riggs, the new front man (person?) in the  
Extension Water Quality Programs office.  
Tori comes to us from Missouri via Cleveland,  
OK. Next time your on the phone with us or  
in the neighborhood be sure and say "Hi."

If you need a copy of any articles, contact Tori  
Riggs at (405) 744-5653.

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## Environmental Institute Announces Water and Energy Research Awardees

The Environmental Institute at Oklahoma State  
University recently announced the Water and Energy  
Research Programs awardees for Fiscal Year 1998.  
The Institute receives funding from the State of  
Oklahoma each year to support water and energy  
research topics. This year these programs will support  
over \$270,000 in research projects.

Each program solicits proposals in a competitive  
process open to both new OSU faculty and faculty  
initiating research in a new area. Multidisciplinary  
research is encouraged.

Congratulations are extended to the FY 1998  
awardees:

➤ Dr. Nick Basta, Dept. of Agronomy and Dr. Roman  
Lanno, Dept. of Zoology: A Multidisciplinary Chemical  
and Toxicological Approach of Evaluating Chemical  
Immobilization of Heavy Metals in Contaminated Soils

➤ Dr. Doug Hamilton, Dept. of Biosystems and Ag  
Engineering; Dr. David Demezas, Dept. of  
Microbiology; Dr. Hailin Zhang and Dr. Jeff Hattey,  
Dept. of Agronomy: Groundwater and Atmospheric  
Pollution Potential from Model Facultative Swine  
Lagoons

➤ Dr. Hailin Zhang, Dept. of Agronomy: Soil  
Phosphorus Testing for Surface Water Protection

➤ Dr. Nicholas Kotov, Dept. of Chemistry: Surface  
Modification of Titanium Dioxide Nanoparticles by Metal  
Complexes for the Photocatalytic Degradation of Water  
Pollution

➤ Dr. Dee Ann Sanders, Dept. of Civil and  
Environmental Engineering: Use of Electro Acceptors  
in Intrinsic Bioremediation of Petroleum Contaminants

➤ Dr. Emily Stanley, Dept. of Zoology: Sources and  
Sinks for Nitrogen and Phosphorus in the Tall Grass  
Prairie Watershed

➤ Dr. Gary Yen, Dept. of Electrical Engineering: Robust  
Control for Contaminated Groundwater Remediation

➤ Dr. Rob Whiteley, Dept. of Chemical Engineering:  
Inferred ASTM Product Property Calculations for  
Control and Optimization.

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-Prism, Vol. 2(3)