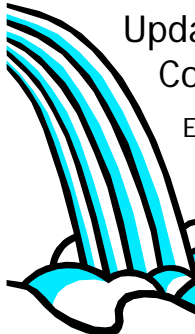


Water Quality Update

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Update: Red River Chloride Control Scaled Back

Ever since the Red River Chloride Control Project was first proposed in the mid – 1950's questions about its outcome have remained unanswered. Is the project necessary? Is it economically feasible? Will it cause environmental damage?

Since 1957 the government has spent about \$85 million to conduct engineering studies to answer these questions, as well as to build structures to implement the project. Now the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced it will scale back much of the original project, pressing ahead with only chloride control in the Wichita River basin, which will focus on desalination of tributaries feeding Lake Kemp, the water source for Wichita Falls in west Texas.

Chloride control in the tributaries feeding Lake Texoma has been abandoned, at least for the time being. In making the announcement John Zirschky, acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works cited "significant information about regional changes in water demand." According to Zirschky, the Corp's decision to scale back the project was based, in part, on U.S. Fish and Wildlife's judgement that the project poses risks to the environment that are "unacceptable." But economic factors also played a significant role as well.

This decision ends nearly 30 years of conflict over the environmental and economic impacts of the project according to Bruce Hysmith, a biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Division. If enough support for the Lake Texoma project resurfaced, he said, the Corps could begin a re-evaluation that sets the project in motion once again. But Hysmith adds that he has serious doubts that this part of the Red River Chloride control project will ever be resurrected.♦

- Adapted from an article in *U.S. Water News*, Vol. 15(2) February, 1998

✧ Oklahom*A*Syst ✧ Proposal Request

The Oklahom*A*Syst program is gearing up for 1998. If your county has rural and suburban residents who want to know more about evaluating risks to the safety of their drinking water well from conditions on their own property, then you should have an Oklahom*A*Syst program in your county or unit. The program is aimed at people who get their drinking water from private wells, and can be tailored for both agricultural production and non-ag audiences.

If you are interested, a brief two page proposal from your office can secure state specialist support for up to three public meetings in your county (meeting participants receive free water screenings for nitrate, pH, and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)), educational materials, advertising information, technical support for follow-up questions, and up to \$500 to support your additional travel, advertising costs, etc associated with the program.

For more information contact: Mike Kizer, Biosystems & Ag Engineering, (405) 744-8421; or Barbara Brown, Nutritional Sciences, (405) 744-6824.

Only a limited number of county programs can be supported each year so don't delay.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Oklahom*A*Syst Proposal Request
1	Red River Chloride Project Scaled Back
2	Resource Spotlight
2	Study on Nutrients Available from Manure
3	EPA Announces New Pesticide Rules
3	Announcements & Useful Things

NRCS Releases National Study on Nutrients Available from Livestock Manure for Crop Growth

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced the availability of a study that provides county-by-county data on nutrients available from livestock manure relative to crop growth requirements.

Maps and tables in the study show, by county, potential nitrogen and phosphorus available from confined livestock operations relative to potential uptake for crop production.

The analysis includes the 3,079 counties in the 48 contiguous states and indicates that 485 counties have more manure phosphorus production than could be used by non-legume crops and hay. This narrows to 107 counties when legume crops and pasture are added. Regarding nitrogen, the analysis shows that 266 counties have more manure nitrogen production than non-legume crops and hay could use. This narrows to 35 counties when legume crops and pasture are added.

The study is based upon the 1992 Census of Agriculture--the most recent information available - and will be upgraded when information from the 1997 Census of Agriculture becomes available. The study, commissioned by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is available from NRCS by calling (202) 720-8644.

It is also available online at:

<http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/land/pubs/nlweb.html>

Or via the Water Quality Programs "Links" page at:

<http://www.agen.okstate.edu/waterquality>

-Adapted from a NRCS Press Release dated March 10, 1998

Resource Spotlight

Water on Tap:

A Consumers Guide to the Nations Drinking Water

EPA 815-K-97-002

This concise and easy-to-read guide was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to answer frequently asked questions about the safety of U.S. drinking water supplies. It also describes changes in the Safe Drinking Water Act that will make new information available to consumers in the near future.

Chapters include:

- ◆ How Safe is My Drinking Water?
- ◆ Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?
- ◆ How Much Drinking Water Do We Use in Our Homes?
- ◆ How Will I Know if My Drinking Water Remains Safe in The Future?
- ◆ How Can I Help Protect My Drinking Water Supply?
- ◆ What Can I Do if There is a Problem with My Drinking Water?
- ◆ What Do I Need to Know to Protect My Private Drinking Water Supply?

The Appendix also includes a tabular summary of the National Primary Drinking Water Standards. The tables contain information on Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), the potential health effects from ingestion of the listed substance, and sources of the contaminant in drinking water.

To check this book out from our Resource Collection, contact Tori Riggs at (405) 744-5653.

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Announcements & Useful Things

👉 **Water Quality Programs** - We are finally back online after what seemed like eons of being in a cyberwasteland! If you have any items for the Current Events page please pass them along and I'll be happy to post them (fallon@okstate.edu).

<http://www.agen.okstate.edu/waterquality>

✂ **Free Extension Clipart** - Loads of extension related clipart. Mostly (if not all) black and white line drawings that reproduce well. Note: the only way I can get this to work is to use the "Search" function. Keep in mind that you may not be able to view all the formats but you should be able to use the "gif" images. Just right click over the image to download.

<http://leviathan.tamu.edu:70/7c/clipart/>

★ National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Spring Conference

April 28 – May 1, 1998 Cincinnati, OH. Focus is on the latest pollution prevention policy, regulatory, and technical assistance initiatives. Deadline for registration is April 13, 1998.

Forms available on web site at:

<http://www.p2.org>.

🌀 10th International Soil Conservation Organization Conference

May 23-28, 1999. Purdue University. Sustaining the Global Farm. For further information phone (765) 494-8683 or <http://soils.ecn.purdue.edu/~isco99>

➔ **18th International Symposium of the N. American Lake Management Society** - "Cooperative Lake and Watershed Management: Linking Communities, Industry, and Government. Call for papers. Abstracts due May 1, 1998. For further information visit www.biology.ualberta.ca/alms/1998.htm

New Information Required from Pesticide Manufacturers



EPA has issued a final rule requiring pesticide manufacturers to disclose more information about unreasonable adverse effects of their products on human health or the environment.

"In addition on adverse health effects presently required," explained Lynn Goldman, EPA Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, "the new reporting rule requires pesticide manufacturers, for the first time, to provide EPA with information about:

- pesticides found in food above approved levels;
- pesticides detected in surface, ground, and drinking water above safety standards;
- newly identified types of ingredients which may be of toxicological or environmental concern;
- specific details about incidents causing adverse effects; and
- the occurrence of products no longer effective because of resistance developed by pests."

Published in the federal Register in September 19, 1997, the new reporting requirements take effect in June. A copy of the Federal Register notice is available on the Internet at:

www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/epa-pest/1997/sept.

-Pollution Prevention News, Nov/Dec 1997

If you need a copy of any articles, contact
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