

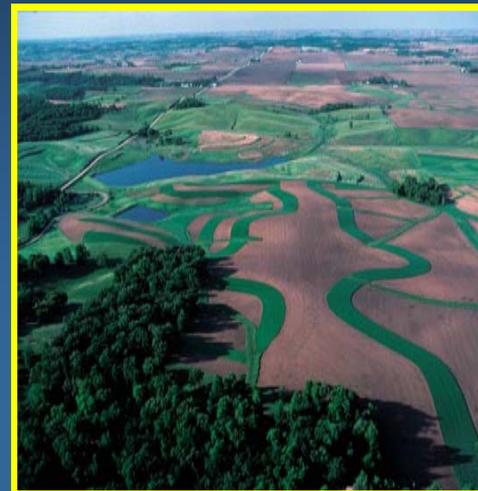
**Conservation Effects Assessment
Project (CEAP)
The ARS Watershed Assessment
Study**

Progress and Future Perspectives



Purpose

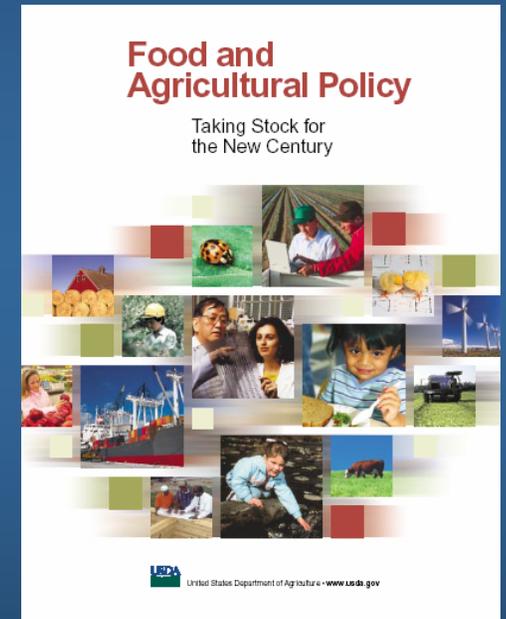
Assist NRCS with the National Assessment by providing detailed information on effects/benefits of conservation practices on selected benchmark watersheds.



Progress

(Where have we come since December 2003?)

- May 2004 – Met with NRCS to develop list of deliverables



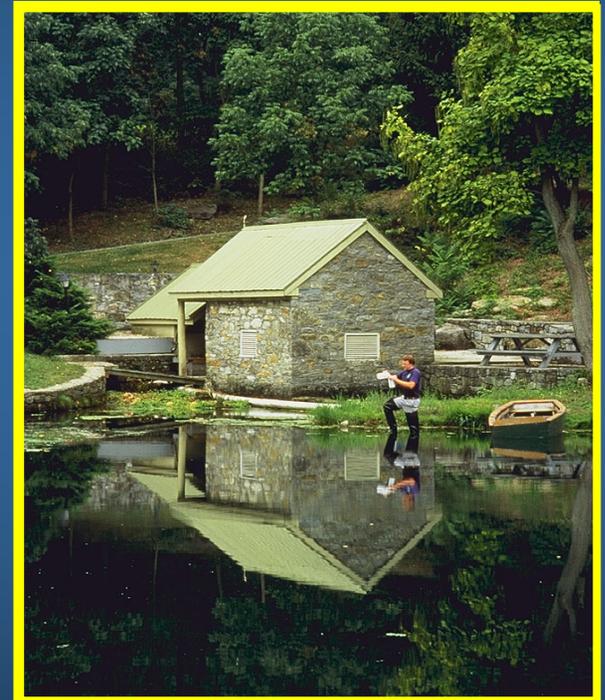
CEAP WAS Deliverables to NRCS

1. Water, soil, management, and socio-economic data system to document effects of conservation practices.
2. Quantification of conservation practice effects on water quality, water quantity, soil quality, and ecosystems.
3. Validation of model performance and uncertainties.
4. Planning tools to evaluate environmental and cost effectiveness of conservation practice selection and placement.
5. New regional software tools for quantifying environmental outcomes of conservation practices.

Progress

(Where have we come since December 2003?)

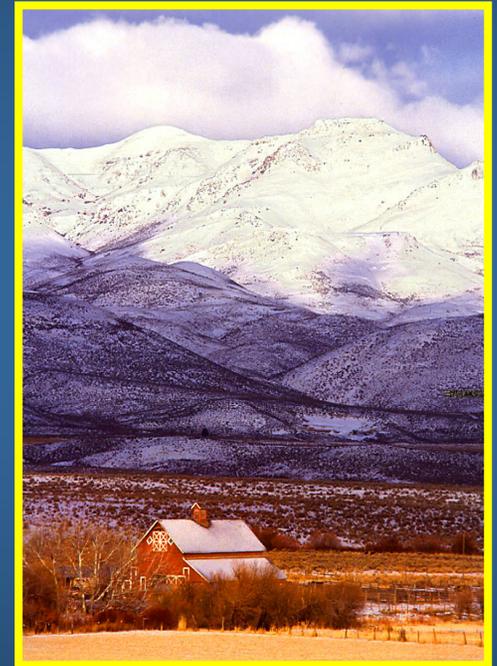
- May 2004 – Met with NRCS to develop list of deliverables
- Summer 2004 – Development of Project Plan



Progress

(Where have we come since December 2003?)

- May 2004 – Met with NRCS to develop list of deliverables
- Summer 2004 – Development of Project Plan
- July 2004 – Alignment of Teams with Objectives



Alignment of Teams and Objectives

- Team 1 – Data Management (Objective 1)
Leaders: Jean Steiner and John Sadler
- Team 2 - Watershed Design for Determining
Environmental Effects (Objective 2)
Leaders: Mike Burkart and Martin Locke
- Team 3 - Model Validation, Evaluation and Uncertainty
(Objective 3)
Leaders: Jeff Arnold, Ron Bingner and
Tim Strickland

Alignment of Teams and Objectives

- Team 4 - Economic Analysis (Objective 4)
Leaders: Jerry Whittaker and Chi-hua Huang
- Team 5 - Model Development and Regionalization
(Objective 5)
Leaders: Laj Ahuja and Matt Romkens
- Team 6 - Data Quality and Assurance
Leaders: Norman Fausey and Ray Bryant

Progress

(Where have we come since December 2003?)

- May 2004 – Met with NRCS to develop list of deliverables
- Summer 2004 – Development of Project Plan
- July 2004 – Alignment of Teams with Objectives
- August 2004 – Development of economic component



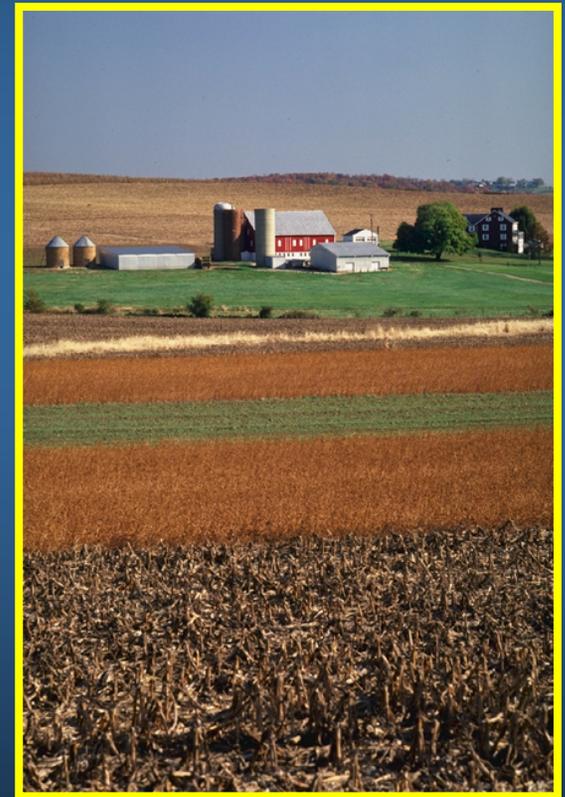
Economics Component

- Internal component
- Extramural component
 - Upper Big Walnut Creek, OH – Ohio State Univ.
 - St. Joseph River, IN – Purdue Univ.
 - Town Brook, NY – Penn State Univ .

Progress

(Where have we come since December 2003?)

- May 2004 – Met with NRCS to develop list of deliverables
- Summer 2004 – Development of Project Plan
- July 2004 – Alignment of Teams with Objectives
- August 2004 – Development of economic component
- September 8, 2004 – Project Plan submitted to OSQR



Progress

(Where have we come since December 2003?)

- September 14, 2004 - CEAP presentation to Administrators Council



Progress

(Where have we come since December 2003?)

- CEAP presentation to Administrators Council
- November 17, 2004 – OSQR Panel report received



OSQR Panel Recommendations

- The Project Plan presents a sound case for carrying out the proposed studies.
- The five objectives must be treated coherently as overlapping elements of a single issue.
- There should be an annual meeting of investigators.
- There should be an annual review of the program using external reviewers.

Progress

(Where have we come since December 2003?)

- CEAP presentation to Administrators Council
- November 17, 2004 – OSQR Panel report received
- December 2004 – January 2005 – Project Plan revision based on OSQR Panel report



The ARS CEAP Project Plan

- Scientific description of the project designed to provide five deliverables to NRCS.
- Conducted by six research teams using twelve benchmark watersheds.
- Has been subjected to a rigorous external review.
- Includes a management plan with:
 - Goals
 - Tasks
 - Dates
 - Responsible scientists.

The ARS Watershed Assessment Study

➤ Scope

- 60 ARS Scientists (~38 SYs)
- 23 CRIS Projects
- 15 Research Units
- 11 Locations



Scientific Reporting

- 2004 SWCS Meeting
- 2004 SSSA Meeting
- 2005 CSREES National Water Quality Conference
- 2005 SWCS Meeting
- 2005 ASAE Meeting

Future

(Where do we go from here?)

- Document as a CRIS project (416/417)
 - Will require annual reports
- Implement the research
- Prepare quarterly reports
- Prepare fact sheets for each watershed
- Report/publish research results
- Prepare deliverables for 2006 CEAP Progress Report