

Neuse Education Team i m p a c t s

Agricultural Impacts 1.

Focused Farming

The Neuse Crop Management Project was launched in early 1999 as a way to educate farmers in the Neuse River Basin about nitrogen and herbicide management.

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

"I hope that through the more efficient use of nutrients and herbicides we can save money and improve the Neuse."

—Jim Parrott,
Neuse River Basin Farmer

The Neuse Crop Management Project will seek to balance water quality improvements with economic viability. It augments the Neuse Education Team's work on the four demonstration farms funded by the Clean Water Management Trust Fund — one straddles the Wake/Franklin county line, and the others are in Wayne, Lenoir and Craven counties. The project is focused on producing results at the field level.

Evaluation of the project's efforts will be based on how well the practices are accepted and used by the region's growers. The project is a cooperative venture involving growers, agribusiness, government agencies and NC State.

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- The Neuse Crop Management Project is aimed at demonstrating best-management practices (BMPs) that have a sound scientific and economic basis.
- The project will showcase BMPs that producers will be implementing under the Neuse rules: nutrient management controlled drainage and riparian buffers.
- In the summer of 1999, a controlled drainage site was installed on a Wayne County farm. It is the first of a series of BMPs to be implemented in conjunction with the Neuse Crop Management Project.
- The primary crops targeted for herbicide and fertilizer treatments are corn, cotton, wheat and soybeans. These crops account for 84 percent of planted acres in the Neuse River Basin.
- The two main objectives of the project are to:
(1) reduce pre-emergent herbicide use by 10-30% through integrated pest management, and (2) decrease nitrogen use by 10-20% through nutrient management.

