

Neuse Education Team i m p a c t s

Educational Impacts 1.

Mobile Messenger *The NeuseMobile educates people of all ages about their role in ensuring cleaner water. The Neuse Team uses it across the basin.*

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

“The NeuseMobile is unique and it drives home an educational message we think sticks with people.”

— Craven Hudson, Neuse Education Team agent

The trailer — covered with highly visible, brightly colored water images — is part of the Neuse Education Team’s awareness campaign aimed at targeting rural and urban home-owners and their kids. It has been used at various environmental field days across the Neuse River Basin.

The extensive publicity of hog farms and municipal wastewater treatment plants has furthered peoples’ belief that they do not contribute to the problems of the Neuse River Basin. The main goal of the on-going campaign is to raise awareness of personal contributions to water quality.

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- The NeuseMobile carries “sludge judges” — instruments that measure septic tank solids accumulation — and soil probes for taking soil samples. Volunteers, mostly 4-H’ers, man the trailer, hand out educational materials and take soil samples.
- Septic tanks and fertilizing practices are the main focus of the education. Extension agents advise homeowners on septic tank maintenance, such as when to pump their septic tank to avoid clogging and failure.
- Extension agents teach homeowners how to interpret the results of soil tests. Volunteers take the soil samples to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services lab in Raleigh where they are analyzed. Results are then mailed back to the homeowner.
- Visits are pre-publicized using key community contacts, door hangers, newspapers, radio broadcasts and sponsor displays.

