The Lone Star Healthy Streams (LSHS) Program provides rural landowners with this needed education on reducing the amount of bacteria entering Texas water bodies from livestock operations and feral hogs. Development of this program was initiated in 2007 by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Water Resources Institute and has now expanded into a new project, Development of a Synergistic, Comprehensive Statewide Lone Star Healthy Streams Program.

LSHS is incorporating educational materials and results from other programs, such as the Guide to Good Horsekeeping developed through the Copano Bay Water Quality Education project, into a “one-stop” resource for rural landowners on practices for reducing bacteria runoff. With more than 300 water bodies impaired by bacteria, a variety of resources are greatly needed. Resource manuals, presentations and an interactive website for bacteria runoff management for each of the major classes of livestock, as well as feral hogs, are being produced.

The program is providing a coordinated and comprehensive education program designed to increase awareness of the bacteria issues associated with grazing and dairy cattle, poultry, horses and feral hogs; and encourage voluntary implementation of BMPs to reduce bacteria runoff, which will ultimately lead to improved water quality.

Objectives

- Coordinate the development of the LSHS Program with a livestock industry steering committee, a development committee and AgriLife leadership
- Compile the educational materials developed by ongoing Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and AgriLife Extension projects and develop standardized manuals and presentations on bacteria issues and associated BMPs for the major classes of livestock as well as feral hogs
- Make the developed educational materials easily accessible to the public, landowners, county agents, soil and water conservation districts, decision makers and others through the development of an interactive website
Accomplishments

- Developed Lone Star Healthy Streams BMP Manuals for Feral Hogs and Beef Cattle, Dairy, Horse and Poultry Operations
- Developed Lone Star Healthy Streams presentations for Feral Hogs and Beef Cattle and Dairy Operations
- Developed a searchable references database that contains information and links to publications regarding BMPs and bacterial reductions
- Developed an interactive LSHS online course that parallels material contained in the five resource manuals
- Approved for four hours of credit for the Texas Certified Crop Adviser Program
- Developed a certificate of completion for participation in the education program
- Introduced portions of the LSHS Program to various audiences across the state and nation
- Developed Beef Cattle Production presentation with audio commentary by Dr. Larry Redmon

Collaborators

- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Texas Water Resources Institute
- Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- Texas AgriLife Research
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Agricultural Research Service
- Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative
- Texas Farm Bureau
- Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
- Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas
- Texas Cattle Feeders Association
- Texas Pork Producers Association
- Texas Horse
- Texas Poultry Federation
- Texas Association of Dairymen
- Texas Wildlife Association
- Victoria Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- Hall-Childress SWCD
- Little Wichita SWCD
- Welder Wildlife Foundation
- Private ranchers

Funding Agencies

- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency