

## Texas Water Resources Institute

### Development of a Synergistic, Comprehensive Statewide Lone Star Healthy Streams Program FY 09 CWA 319(h) TSSWCB Project No. 09-06

Quarter no. 11 from 7/1/12 through 9/30/12

#### I. Abstract

This quarter, the project began to wind down. All LSHS manuals have been completed, printed, made available via the LSHS, Forages, and AgriLife Bookstore websites, distributed to project partners and industry, and publicized. Animal specific PowerPoints, long and short versions, were developed for all animal categories. LSHS concepts were introduced through presentations at several large venues this quarter including the Beef Cattle Short Course and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference. The LSHS beef, horse, poultry, and feral hog programs will be piloted at the Ranch Management University at the end of October. The LSHS dairy program will be piloted at a DOPA training in Sulphur Springs at the end of October as well. Although a few minor tweaks are anticipated, the online LSHS course is essentially complete and available. Next quarter, the online course will be finalized, the LSHS programs piloted, and the final report drafted.

#### II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

##### TASK 1: Project Administration

Subtask 1.1: *TWRI will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for submission to the TSSWCB. QPRs shall document all activities performed within a quarter and shall be posted to the project website and distributed to all project partners.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI submitted Quarter 11 Progress Report on October 12, 2012.

**100% Complete**

Subtask 1.2: *TWRI will perform accounting functions for project funds and will submit appropriate Reimbursement Forms to TSSWCB at least quarterly.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. As of July 3, 2012, \$316,116 or 83% of federal project funds had been expended.

**83% Complete**

Subtask 1.3: *TWRI will host coordination meetings, conference calls, or TTVN meetings with the TSSWCB Project Manager and SCSC at least quarterly to discuss project activities, project*

*schedule, communication needs, deliverables, and other requirements. TWRI will develop lists of action items needed following each project meeting and distribute to project personnel.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No coordination meetings were held this quarter.

**100% Complete**

Subtask 1.4: *TWRI will work with AgriLife Extension to develop a Final Report.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter.

**0% Complete**

## **TASK 2: LSHS Program Coordination**

Subtask 2.1: *AgriLife Extension SCSC will hire an Extension Program Specialist responsible for carrying out all Subtasks for Tasks 2 and 3.*

**100% Complete**

Subtask 2.2: *TWRI and AgriLife Extension will utilize the framework of the TSSWCB project 06-05 LSHS Project Steering Committee to establish a LSHS Program Steering Committee to direct this synergistic project, serve as the review panel for the educational materials developed through the project, and provide endorsement of the final LSHS Program. This LSHS Program Steering Committee will meet as frequently as needed, likely semi-annually.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No further meetings of the full LSHS steering committee are planned.
- b. Endorsements were received from Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas, Texas Poultry Federation, Texas HORSE, Texas Association of Dairymen, Texas Pork Producers Association, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.

**100% Complete**

Subtask 2.3: *The Extension Program Specialist will work with the Principal Investigators of the amassed body of work to compile the information and educational materials developed. This LSHS Program Development Committee shall meet as often as needed and serve to ensure that the Extension Program Specialist accurately captures and represents the species-specific information from the amassed body of work.*

**100% Complete**

Subtask 2.4: *The Professor/State Forage Specialist, with assistance as needed from TWRI, will work closely with Texas AgriLife Extension Service Regional Program Directors, County Extension Agents, Extension Specialists, and other Extension Leadership, as appropriate, to ensure that the LSHS Program is supported around the state to ensure delivery of this program upon completion.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The State Forage Specialist continuously works with Extension Leadership and project partners to ensure program support and successful statewide delivery.

**100% Complete**

### **TASK 3: LSHS Program Development**

Subtask 3.1: *The Extension Program Specialist will compile the amassed body of work including, but not limited to, information and educational materials developed through TSSWCB projects 06-05, 06-08, 06-07, 05-06, and 08-07.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The compilation of the amassed body of information and educational materials is complete and has been incorporated into LSHS manuals, presentations, and the online database which is available online at <http://lshs.tamu.edu>.

**100% Complete**

Subtask 3.2: *The Extension Program Specialist will work with the materials (subtask 3.1) and the Development Committee (subtask 2.3) to develop standardized educational manuals on bacteria issues and BMPs for addressing bacteria runoff from grazing cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, horses, and feral hogs.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. All manuals have been finalized and printed (205 copies each). Publication numbers are as follows: Beef (B-6245), Dairy (B-6253), Horse (B-6254), Poultry (B-6255), and Feral Hog (B-6256).
- b. Printed manuals have been distributed to project partners and industry groups and will be distributed at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of SWCD Directors on October 29-31, 2012.
- c. All of the BMP publications are up on the LSHS website under the "BMPs" tab.
- d. All of the resource manuals have been posted on the following websites:
  - LSHS website under the "Publications" tab
  - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Forages website
  - AgriLife Bookstore website
- e. An article was written for AgriLife TODAY (dated August 23) announcing the availability of the 5 resource manuals.

**100% Complete**

Subtask 3.3: *The Extension Program Specialist will work with the materials (subtask 3.1) and the Development Committee (subtask 2.3) to develop standardized educational presentations on*

*bacteria issues and BMPs for addressing bacteria runoff from grazing and dairy cattle, poultry, horses, and feral hogs to be used for in-person LSHS Program delivery. These presentations should be based on and flow from the Resource Manuals (subtask 3.2)*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Animal specific PowerPoints were developed for all animal categories. Two versions were developed: 1) long (~90 slides) and 2) short (~15 slides)..

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 3.4: The Extension Program Specialist will develop promotional materials to be used for LSHS Program delivery and to inform the public of the availability of the LSHS Program.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. LSHS brochure has been approved by the TSSWCB.

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 3.5: The Extension Program Specialist will work with TDA and Texas Certified Crop Advisors Program to establish CEU credits for the educational program to encourage participation by landowners and crop advisors in the program.*

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 3.6: The Extension Program Specialist will develop pre- and post- participant surveys to evaluate (1) changes in producer knowledge and awareness, (2) expected adoption of BMPs, and (3) any barriers to producer participation and successful implementation of the program to be used at in-person LSHS Program delivery events.*

**100% Complete**

*Subtask 3.7: The Extension Program Specialist, Professor & State Forage Specialist, Assistant Professor & District Agronomist at Overton, and the Assistant Professor & District Agronomist at Corpus Christi will pilot each of the five components of the LSHS Program at selected sites in East, Central, and South Texas. Watersheds selected for piloting of the LSHS Program shall be TSSWCB priority TMDL or WPP watersheds.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This quarter, the LSHS concept was introduced through presentations at:
  - Beef Cattle Short Course - August 6-7, 2012 (415 people)
  - Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference – July 24, 2012
- b. Dr. Cavinder will be piloting the LSHS Horse program on October 30, as part of Ranch Management University in College Station.
- c. Dr. Jordan will be piloting the LSHS Dairy program on October 31 in Sulphur Springs, TX at a DOPA training meeting.
- d. Poultry, beef, and hogs will be piloted at Ranch Management University by Drs. Redmon and Cathey.

**85% Complete**

#### **TASK 4: Develop Interactive Website to Increase Access to LSHS Program**

Subtask 4.1: *Using the latest appropriate technology, the Extension Program Specialist and TWRI IT Associate will work together to develop an interactive website to make the educational materials developed under Task 3 easily accessible by the public, landowners, county agents, soil and water conservation districts, decision makers, and others. The Extension Program Specialist will also evaluate the feasibility of providing CEUs for participation in online modules and if found to be feasible, will work to make those available online as well.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The online LSHS course is essentially complete and can be viewed at:
- b. [http://scstransfer.tamu.edu/~jlpeterson/WebExport/lshs\\_home/index.html](http://scstransfer.tamu.edu/~jlpeterson/WebExport/lshs_home/index.html)
- c. Minor tweaks will continue to be made on the course and a Moodle site for the course will be set up.
- d. A link to the course will be posted on the LSHS website.
- e. An article will be written next quarter announcing the availability of the online course.

**95% Complete**

Subtask 4.2: *The Extension Program Specialist will develop and provide information for the website to the TWRI IT Specialist and update this information quarterly. The number of unique visitors to the website will be tracked to assess its impact and reported in each QPR.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. This quarter, the website was viewed by 184 unique visitors. Since implementation in September 2010, <http://lshs.tamu.edu> has seen a grand total of 1096 unique visitors.

**100% Complete**

### **III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments**

- N/A

### **IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter**

- Develop and submit Final Report
- Pilot LSHS programs
- Finalize online course