



The Heartland Integrated Regional Water Quality Coordination Initiative has responded to stakeholder concerns by implementing multi-state programs on the water quality priority issues of animal manure management, nutrient and pesticide management, and community involvement in watershed management. The Initiative facilitates issue-based discussion and collaboration among agencies and land grant universities through working groups, roundtables and workshops. Regional networks are created which increase the capacity to define the needs of targeted audiences and coordinate state-level research, education and extension resources.

Regional Framework

The Heartland Initiative is a partnership between research and extension at Iowa State University, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri and the University of Nebraska; and EPA Region 7. Heartland also partners with the NRCS in IA, KS, MO and NE, State Departments of Agriculture, State natural resources and environmental agencies, as well as Haskell Indian Nations University.

Heartland Leadership Team

Iowa State University

- Gerald Miller, soil@iastate.edu (Project Manager)
- John Lawrence, jdlaw@iastate.edu (AMM)
- Lois Wright-Morton, lwmorton@iastate.edu (CIWM)

Kansas State University

- Dan Devlin, ddevlin@ksu.edu (NPM)
- Charles Barden, cbarden@ksu.edu (NPM)

University of Missouri

- Bob Broz, brozr@missouri.edu (CIWM)
- Sandra Hodge, hodges@missouri.edu (CIWM)

University of Nebraska

- Richard Koelsch, rkoelsch1@unl.edu (AMM)
- Charles Wortmann, cwortmann2@unl.edu (NPM)

U.S. EPA Region 7

- Damon Frizzell, frizzell.damon@epa.gov

Regional Contact

- Susan Brown, ssbrown@iastate.edu

The Heartland Action Plan

Build efficient multi-state, issue-based working groups (issue teams).

Make resources of the land grant universities (LGUs) and the CSREES National Water Quality Program more accessible to federal, state and local water quality improvement efforts.

Facilitate regional dialogue between LGUs, partner agencies and other targeted stakeholders.

Engage 1890 and 1994 universities in capacity building for water quality outreach and education.

Heartland Priority Issues and Objectives

Animal Manure Management (AMM)

1. Assist state regulatory agencies and federal partners in EPA Region 7 to integrate land grant research, including alternative technologies, into state rules for CAFO regulation and CNMP guidelines.
2. Expand the understanding of livestock industry advisors concerning federal and state CAFO regulations and other environmental manure management requirements.

Nutrient and Pesticide Management (NPM)

1. Assist technical and regulatory agencies to access land grant university resources for implementation and evaluation of nitrogen, phosphorus and pesticide Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality.
2. Coordinate and deliver research-based information for regulators and service providers on the cost-effectiveness of regionally appropriate BMPs.

Community Involvement in Watershed Management (CIWM)

1. Increase regional communication and coordination among community development researchers and practitioners to foster locally-driven watershed management.
2. Conduct research on the effect of citizen participation in watershed management, and link to education and extension through development of a practitioners guide.
3. Build productive relationships with agencies which assist communities in responding to regulatory mandates.