



TWRI 2015

ANNUAL REPORT

Helping Texans make every
drop count since 1952

WHO WE ARE

At the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI), we have helped solve Texas' water issues through research, education and outreach for more than 60 years.

Established in 1952, TWRI was designated as the state's official water resources institute in 1964. Today, we are one of 54 institutes in the National Institutes for Water Resources, supported by the U.S. Geological Survey.

We provide science-based, community-supported solutions for the state's pressing water quantity and quality challenges through internal expertise and external collaborations. Engaging with local stakeholders and the water resources community in Texas, we provide project management, water quality monitoring, watershed planning, bacterial source tracking, geospatial analysis, professional training and public outreach.

We serve as a gateway to a national network of water institutes as well as to multidisciplinary expertise within the Texas A&M University System and other universities and water resources organizations.

WORKING TOGETHER

We are a unit of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M.

Since land and water are intrinsically linked, TWRI is closely allied with the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources to address a wide range of natural resource and water issues. Together we accomplish what a single principal investigator or department could not do alone.

WHAT WE DO

RESTORE

Our *Water Quality Improvement Program* works with local stakeholders to use sound science and public participation to not only restore impaired water bodies but also proactively protect unimpaired watersheds across Texas.

CONSERVE

Our *Water Sustainability Program* centers on securing municipal, industrial and agricultural water supplies to meet the increasing demand from Texas' growing population.

EDUCATE

Our *Water Resources Outreach and Training Program* serves interested citizens, students and water professionals to enhance their understanding of critical water issues.

IMPACTS AND ENGAGEMENTS

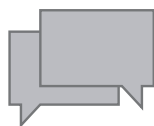


3,503

txH₂O magazine subscribers

37

news releases



63

media mentions



15

students supported



105

presentations to

3,795 people in attendance



17

publications

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: WATERSHED PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

As a statewide leader in watershed planning and implementation, we engage with local stakeholders to improve water quality. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, after a decade of successful implementation, the *Arroyo Colorado Partnership* is updating its watershed protection plan to enhance its impact. In East Texas, the Attoyac Bayou Watershed Protection Plan was accepted by EPA and is now being implemented. The *Leon River Watershed Protection Program* educated landowners on best management practices through more than 30 field days and workshops and facilitated the repair/replacement of more than 65 failing septic systems.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: URBAN WATER RESILIENCY

The NSF-funded *Urban Water Resiliency in a Climatic and Demographic Hot Spot* multi-university project will increase understanding of the interconnected changes projected for central Texas' climate, water availability, population and land use. It is co-led by the University of Texas' Environmental Science Institute, TWRI, Texas Tech University and University of Texas-San Antonio. A research network is coordinating efforts to address Texas' rapidly changing human and natural systems. The network's *resiliency and stakeholders research node*, co-led by TWRI, will assess potential decisions and actions of municipal, regional and state government and area stakeholders to ensure future water resiliency.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: EXTENSION PROGRAMS SUPPORT

We partner with AgriLife Extension in supporting programs educating Texans in natural resources stewardship. TWRI supports Texas A&M's Department of Soil and Crop Sciences' continuation of the award-winning *Texas Well Owner Network* program and launch of the new *Healthy Lawns and Healthy Waters* program in 2016. Our *Texas Riparian and Ecosystem Education Program* continues providing trainings in priority watersheds and valuable online resources.



10
watersheds improved



29
trainings and workshops, with **1,211** people in attendance

\$3,331,850

in external grants

435,032

tweets viewed by
Twitter users



3,088

social media
followers

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Texas Well Owner Network won a 2016 AgriLife Extension Superior Service Award and a 2015 Extension Education Community Education Materials Award from the American Society of Agronomy.
- We secured \$3 million of USDA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding to improve water quantity and quality in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
- We support and help lead the newly formed Texas A&M Water-Energy-Food Nexus Initiative, committed to solving the challenges of sustaining these 3 interconnected resources.
- The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) web portal, funded by a Texas A&M Water Seed Grant, assists consumers in reducing water use and helps utilities provide better customer service. In 2015, 2 guidebooks were developed and 8 trainings held. Preliminary results demonstrated 8.7–17% seasonal reductions in water use by portal users.
- In the Arroyo Colorado watershed, more than 100,000 residents were educated on physical watershed processes through a model displayed at 221 events. 42 colonias with 17,054 residents decommissioned their septic systems and connected to centralized wastewater treatment plants through TWRI's efforts.
- TWRI partnered with 30 local, state and federal water management agencies; 21 Texas A&M centers, departments and institutes; 17 universities; 9 NGOs and consulting firms; and numerous stakeholder groups.

TWRI.TAMU.EDU
SOCIAL MEDIA: @TXWRI