

Rural Watershed Management



Image from USDA.gov

Challenges within Agriculture, Septic Systems, and Solid Waste

Agriculture

- Educating farmers on BMPs, especially those who switched from tobacco to cattle
- Technical assistance and funding to implement BMPs (e.g., fences and alternative water sources to keep livestock out of streams)
- Eliminating the isolated mindset (i.e., farmers' actions have real effects and consequences downstream)
- Incentivize farmers to use dead animal disposal service by eliminating associated fees



Image from growbiointensive.org

Septic Systems

- High cost of new installation and repairs and difficult to find funding assistance
- Inadequate number of inspectors and insufficient oversight and enforcement
- Communities need more training from their health departments on operation and maintenance of their systems
- Septic systems are typically located too close to streams

Solid Waste

- Lack of education plus cultural and historical barriers
- Lack of mandatory trash pickup in certain counties
- Volunteer groups are backing out of trash pickup programs because dangerous needles are increasingly present in trash



Image from rebcenter-moscow.ru

Recommendations & Success Stories

Recommendations

- Partner with someone in the community; results are always better when you have a local advocate rather than just outsider information
- Work with the WWTP to determine short and long-term plans for sewer collection system expansion
- Focus on aligning farmer incentives with beneficial services (e.g., eliminate fees for dead animal pickup; monetary reward for bringing in tires)
- Find additional ways to inform homeowners about proper maintenance of septic and other on-site systems

Success Stories

- Kentucky agencies coordinate trash pickups for lakes and rivers on a regular basis