



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Manual focuses on Management Practices for Georgia Agriculture** *Goal is to improve quality of state's rivers and streams*

**ATHENS, Ga.** – The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission has published a new edition of *Best Management Practices for Georgia Agriculture* that outlines conservation practices to protect the quality of Georgia's surface water.

"This manual describes a set of best practices to protect the quality of our state's rivers and streams," explains Brent Dykes, executive director of GSWCC. "Water quality is important to everyone, and by implementing these practices we can make wise land and water management decisions."

The manual, available in print and CD versions, as well as online, discusses management of animal wastes, irrigation water, row crop planning, and wetlands and stream protection. The second edition includes new information on nutrient management planning that will meet the needs of farmers while protecting the environment.

Each section covers the water quality benefits, how to establish the practice, considerations and costs, as well as the effectiveness of each practice.

The third chapter in the manual lists contact information for agricultural organizations in Georgia and state and Federal resources available to agricultural producers.

Preparation of the manual was financed, in part, through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources under Provisions of Section 319(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) supports locally-led soil and water conservation districts through education, technical, financial and planning assistance and through program oversight.

Copies of the manual are available on the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission website at <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov/best-management-practices-georgia-agriculture>.

More information on protecting, conserving and improving Georgia's soil and water resources is available on the GSWCC website at <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov> or by calling (706) 552-4470.

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