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Evaluating BMP Demonstration Projects at the Field and Stream Segment Level

At the request of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, USDA has undertaken an assessment of the effectiveness of conservation practices. This national program is known as the Conservation Effects Assessment Project or 'CEAP'. One component of the CEAP program is the Watershed Assessment Studies (WAS) designed to develop scientific data on the benefits of conservation practices at the watershed level. The initial phase of CEAP-WAS is for cropland areas with plans to address rangeland and pasture lands at a later time. A brief overview of the CEAP-WAS program will be followed by some highlights of the research plan for the CEAP project in the Upper Big Walnut Creek Watershed in Central Ohio to share techniques and approaches used to evaluate BMPs in a headwater watershed setting.