



# Educating Alabama Farmer's on Environmental Issues

## Impact Statement

### The Problem/Issue:

Farmers are often challenged to stay current in appropriate and legal means of pesticide disposal, animal waste management and erosion and sedimentation reduction. The problem can be even more severe with small farm operators and other underserved audiences.

### What's Been Done:

The Farm\*A\*Syst program has placed special emphasis on reaching underserved and limited- income farmers for the last two years. More than 100 farmers in nine counties completed an environmental training program. There are three program training areas: Pesticide Management Practices in Agriculture; Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in Rural Environments; and Animal Waste Products Used in Crop and Forage Production. Materials were delivered in three ways.

- Volunteers contact volunteer farmers and work with them to help disseminate the program.
- Dedicated county agents contact volunteer farmers and work with them to disseminate the programs.
- One third of the volunteer farmers receive the educational programs in the mail.

### Why We Care:

The program reaches underserved audiences with important stewardship messages and encourages behavior changes. Before the focus on underserved audiences, the program fostered demonstrable changes in stewardship behaviors, pesticide disposal most notably. It is estimated that since the program's inception more than 200,000 gallons and 400,000 pounds of unwanted pesticides have been removed from the state's environment.