

Rathbun Lake, Iowa Targeted Watershed Project Quarterly Performance Report
Reporting Period: October to December 2004

Work Elements	Description	Measures		
		Infrastructural	Implementation	Environmental
#1	Assign a team of professional staff.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As reported, the Alliance and partner organizations identified the need for a four member team of professionals to carry out the day-to-day project activities at the field level. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A four member team of professionals is in place to conduct project activities at the field level. These staff positions are supported by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Division of Soil Conservation (DSC), and Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA). As reported, Alliance partners also continue to assign staff as needed to complete project activities, e.g., assist with geographic information system (GIS) applications, financial management, and public outreach. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As reported, commitments of field and support staff by Alliance partners have fully addressed the expected need to successfully carry out project activities. Most significant in terms of the environmental measures of project success will continue to be the availability of field staff to assist farmers to plan and apply best management practices (BMPs). These BMPs will reduce the amounts of sediment and phosphorus carried in runoff that impair water quality in Rathbun Lake.

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#2	Create a project advisory team.	1. The project advisory team continues to include representatives from the principal Alliance partner organizations below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa DSC; • Iowa DNR; • US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE); • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); and • US EPA. 	1. Advisory team members continued to provide guidance and assistance to the Alliance and project staff through frequent individual contacts made by phone and via email. 2. Members of the advisory team and project staff met with professionals from Iowa State University (ISU) to request their assistance to better understand and develop approaches to address barriers to BMP implementation for farmers in the Rathbun Lake watershed.	1. As reported, guidance from the advisory team continues to help the Alliance and staff make adjustments in project implementation to improve the effectiveness of activities in reducing the delivery of sediment and phosphorus to Rathbun Lake. These adjustments have led to better targeting of priority land for BMP application and the use of additional approaches to help farmers overcome barriers to BMP application. This guidance has also led to the development of plans to address the potential conversion of land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to row crop production and the need to identify land in the watershed with a high potential for riparian and wetland restoration.

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#3	Complete project technical and administrative reviews and reports.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As reported, partner organizations have assigned staff and developed procedures for information collection and analysis to assist the Alliance with the completion of project reviews and reports. 2. As reported, the Alliance, advisory committee, and staff have developed procedures to track and report activities that will improve the presentation of accomplishments, specifically regarding the application of BMPs and reduction in sediment and phosphorus delivery to Rathbun Lake. These accomplishments are presented in the project's GIS analyses and maps Updated project maps are submitted with reports twice annually (April and October). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alliance members and partner organizations plan to review the performance of project activities at a meeting of the Alliance's board of directors that is scheduled for the next reporting period (January 2005). 2. As previously reported, project field staff and staff assigned from partner organizations continue to communicate daily and meet regularly to monitor progress on, and make any adjustments required to improve, the performance of project activities. 3. The Alliance has prepared this performance report and associated financial reports to provide a record of progress in completing the project's work elements and managing project resources. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As reported, the Alliance and partners have developed procedures to track and report the accomplishments of project activities in terms of the application of BMPs and reduction in the amounts of sediment and phosphorus that impair water quality in Rathbun Lake. The GIS analyses and maps used to present these accomplishments have been effective tools at attracting support for efforts to protect water quality in Rathbun Lake as well as communicating to others the importance and benefits of this type of performance-based approach to water quality protection.

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#4	Identify, collect, and process information required for GIS analysis.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As reported, project staff has identified the information needs and developed collection and processing procedures required for the GIS analysis that will be performed to support the completion of related project work elements. These needs and procedures have been expanded to include more information related to BMPs applied in targeted sub-watersheds and land in the watershed that is enrolled in CRP. In addition, information needs and collection, and processing procedures may also be developed to identify land with a high potential for riparian and wetland restoration. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The collection and processing of information for GIS analysis associated with other work elements are ongoing activities. As reported, information being collected and integrated into the GIS includes soils data, land use, farming practices, existing BMPs, and the location, type, cost, and sources of funding for planned and applied BMPs. Information about land in the watershed that is enrolled in CRP also continues to be collected and processed to perform a GIS analysis of the future use of this land and any impacts on water quality in Rathbun Lake. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Activities on this work element continue to be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the GIS Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) developed for the project. Activities on this work element result in the development and acquisition of data layers and procedures required to perform the GIS analysis for work elements #5, #6, #8, and #10.

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Work Elements	Description	Measures		
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#5	Perform GIS analyses to identify priority land in targeted sub-watersheds.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As previously reported, partner organizations used the results of the Rathbun Lake watershed assessment to identify seven targeted sub-watersheds in which project activities were initiated as well as an additional five targeted sub-watersheds in which project activities are being expanded. A map that identifies these targeted sub-watersheds has been previously submitted. 2. Partner organizations have started the process of using the Rathbun Lake watershed assessment to identify the next set of targeted sub-watersheds in which to plan the continued expansion of project activities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As reported, extensive field work has been combined with GIS analysis to refine the identification of priority land in the seven targeted sub-watersheds. As a result, the revised estimate of priority land in these sub-watersheds is 5,900 acres. Maps that identify priority land in the seven targeted sub-watersheds were previously submitted. 2. Project staff completed the initial field work and GIS analysis required to identify priority land in the five targeted sub-watersheds in which project activities are being expanded. The estimate of priority land in these sub-watersheds is 5,880 acres. Maps that identify priority land in these five targeted sub-watersheds will accompany the next report. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activities on this work element continue to be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the GIS QAPP developed for the project. 2. As previously reported, activities on this work element have resulted in the development of GIS procedures and maps that identify priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. These maps of priority land in targeted sub-watersheds provide the basis for carrying out activities to complete project work elements #6, #8, #10, and #15.

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#5 contd.	Perform GIS analyses to identify priority land in targeted sub-watersheds.	<p>3. As reported, advisory team members and field staff determined the need and developed approaches to identify areas of gully erosion in the targeted sub-watersheds as priority land and classify priority land in targeted sub-watersheds according to the relative potential for runoff from this land to deliver sediment and phosphorus to Rathbun Lake.</p>	<p>3. As previously reported, project staff uses GIS data, field evaluation, and sediment delivery estimates to identify gully erosion areas in the targeted sub-watersheds as priority land. These areas are included on maps as they are identified.</p> <p>4. As reported, project staff has used GIS analysis to identify three classes of priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. These classes of priority land are indicated on maps that accompany project reports twice annually (April and October).</p> <p>5. Project staff is performing the preparations to initiate the field work and GIS analysis required to identify priority land in the next set of targeted sub-watersheds in which project activities could be expanded.</p>	

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#6	Utilize GIS analyses to assist with the selection of BMPs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As reported, GIS analysis has been the primary means used by field staff to identify farmers to contact regarding the application of BMPs for priority land in targeted sub-watersheds to reduce the impact of runoff from this land on water quality in Rathbun Lake. 2. As reported, project staff developed procedures to collect and integrate information related to planned and applied BMPs into the GIS. This information includes the location, type, cost, sources of funding, and estimated effectiveness of BMPs applied to address priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field staff continues to make follow-up contacts with farmers who own and/or operate farms with priority land in the targeted sub-watersheds. These contacts serve primarily to encourage farmers to evaluate the need for and initiate or expand the application of BMPs to address priority land through their participation in the project. 2. As reported, the Alliance and partner organizations determined the need to identify barriers to BMP application for farmers who are not yet participating in the project and alternatives to address these barriers. As a result, staff has used feedback from farmers as an initial means to identify the following likely barriers: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activities on this work element continue to be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the GIS QAPP developed for the project. 2. As previously reported, activities on this work element enable project staff to identify farmers who own and/or operate farming operations with priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. Contacts with these farmers continue to result in the planning and application of BMPs to address this priority land and reduce the impact of runoff from this land on water quality in Rathbun Lake as described in work elements #8, #9, and #10.

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Work Elements	Description	Measures		
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#6 contd.	Utilize GIS analyses to assist with the selection of BMPs.		<p>2. contd. (a) limited financial resources; (b) nearness to retirement age; (c) owner-operator issues; and (d) lack of perceived need. Assistance from ISU Extension specialists has helped project partners confirm the influence of farmer age, financial capabilities, and perceived need on decisions to apply BMPs for their land.</p> <p>3. As reported, staff continues to develop and use GIS analysis as a tool to integrate watershed assessment results, soil erosion and sediment delivery estimates, and information about practice cost and effectiveness to evaluate and select BMPs to address priority land in targeted sub-watersheds.</p>	<p>3. Activities conducted in performing this work element provide the Alliance, partner organizations, and staff information to: (a) improve the assistance provided to farmers participating in the project to help them identify, evaluate, and select BMPs that are most appropriate for their operation and land and (b) better develop plans for the expansion of project activities into additional targeted sub-watersheds, as described in work element #5, including the anticipated type, quantity, and cost of BMPs that will most effectively address the water quality impacts of runoff from priority land.</p>

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Work Elements	Description	Measures		
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#7	Coordinate sources of assistance for BMP planning and application.	<p>1. As reported, the Alliance’s partners have contributed significant staff and funds to the “Rathbun Lake Special Project” as a complement to the EPA’s Targeted Watershed Grant. The value of all contributions, including the farmers’ share of costs to apply BMPs, is close to \$3.5 million. Most of this support is used to help farmers apply BMPs to address priority land in targeted sub-watersheds identified by the project’s GIS activities. In addition, approximately \$3 million has been committed to restore wetland areas that will benefit water quality in Rathbun Lake. Principal sources of project support include the EPA, Iowa DSC, Iowa DNR, NRCS, ACOE, and farmers.</p>	<p>1. As reported, the Alliance and staff continue to integrate the financial support committed by partner organizations into an overall multi-year budget for the project. The Alliance, staff, and partner organizations continually evaluate guidelines for the coordinated use of project funds to assist farmers with the application of BMPs to improve the effectiveness of practices applied for priority land in targeted sub-watersheds, e.g., increase the percentage of priority land and estimated reduction in sediment delivery associated with an area to be addressed with BMPs.</p>	<p>1. Sources of support for the “Rathbun Lake Special Project”, including EPA’s Targeted Watershed Grant Program, have emphasized the need for project resources and activities to be directed toward efforts that will most cost effectively achieve measurable accomplishments in terms of water quality protection. As such, the “Rathbun Lake Special Project” provides an opportunity to demonstrate and evaluate a performance-based approach to water quality protection that should be informative and beneficial to others planning, implementing, and evaluating similar efforts.</p>

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Work Elements	Description	Measures		
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#7 contd.	Coordinate sources of assistance for BMP planning and application.	2. The Alliance and partners continue to identify sources of support to plan and apply BMPs as part of the "Rathbun Lake Special Project." Partners and staff actively promote Iowa's recently initiated low-interest loan program to help farmers apply BMPs, securing one of the program's pilot loans for a cooperating farmer. In addition, the Alliance has developed and submitted proposals for continued financial support to the Iowa DNR, Iowa DSC, and NRCS. The Alliance is also working with the Iowa DNR to develop the state's first Clean Water State Revolving Fund Sponsor Project with the City of Humeston which will provide funds to cost share BMPs with farmers.	2. The "Rathbun Lake Special Project" has received a substantially greater level of financial support from the Alliance's partner organizations than was originally anticipated. The success of this aspect of the project is due in large part to the EPA's award of a Targeted Watershed Grant to the Alliance. It is important to mention that this significant level of support, most of which is used to help farmers apply BMPs to protect water quality, will likely require that project activities be carried out over a period longer than that included in the grant agreement between the EPA and Alliance. The Alliance will request assistance from the EPA Project Officer to address this need for a longer project period.	2. The activities being conducted as part of the "Rathbun Lake Special Project" have led to the identification of additional potential sources of financial support to assist farmers with the application of BMPs to protect water quality. These sources include Iowa's low-interest loan program that may help address financial limitations to BMP application faced by some farmers and the development of Iowa's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Sponsor Project Program.

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Work Elements	Description	Measures		
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#8	Assist farmers with BMP planning.	1. As reported, the activities completed for project work elements #1, #4, #5, #6, and #7 support the efforts of the Alliance and field staff to assist farmers with the planning of BMPs that will address priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. These activities include assigning project staff, initial and follow-up contacts with farmers, and use of GIS analysis to identify priority land and select the most effective BMPs to reduce the impact of runoff from this land on water quality in Rathbun Lake.	1. Project field staff continues to provide assistance to farmers to help them evaluate, plan, and initiate the application of BMPs. As reported, this assistance is provided primarily through one-on-one contacts between project staff and farmers that occur during on-farm and field office visits.	1. As previously reported, activities on this work element have resulted in ongoing contacts with and assistance provided to approximately 115 farmers in the initial seven targeted sub-watersheds to help them identify the need for, plan, and apply BMPs to address the impact of runoff from priority land on water quality in Rathbun Lake. 2. Project staff has initiated contacts with farmers in the additional five targeted sub-watersheds to provide them with information about the project and encourage the planning and application of BMPs to address any priority land that they own or farm. Approximately 180 farmers own and/or operate farms in these five sub-watersheds, an estimated 100 of which farm priority land.

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Work Elements	Description	Measures		
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#9	Assist farmers with BMP application.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As reported, the activities completed for project work elements #1, #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8 support the Alliance's efforts to assist farmers with the application of BMPs to address priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. 2. As previously reported, the Alliance and Monroe County Extension District have entered into a cooperative agreement to implement the integrated crop management (ICM) practice component of the project. The agreement provides the Alliance, partner organizations, and farmers with technical assistance from Iowa State University (ISU) Extension specialists to complete the ICM activities associated with this work element. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing assistance by project staff has helped farmers apply BMPs to address priority land in the targeted sub-watersheds. BMPs applied include terraces, grade stabilization structures, water and sediment control basins, waterways, filter strips, conversion of cropland to forage production, and nutrient management. 2. As reported, project staff and ISU Extension specialists used input from farmers and agricultural service providers during a field day and workshop at the McNay Research Farm to focus the project's ICM activities on soil fertility management. Farmers in the watershed interested in assistance to improve their soil fertility management continue to be contacted by ISU Extension specialists. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activities on this work element have resulted in 38 farmers applying BMPs that will reduce the impact on water quality of runoff from priority land in the targeted sub-watersheds. 2. As previously reported, activities on this work element resulted in an ICM field day that provided 13 participating farmers with information to improve their use of fertilizer and herbicide on land in the watershed. In addition, an ICM workshop held for local agricultural service providers was attended by representatives of the agribusinesses that operate in the watershed.

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Work Elements	Description	Measures		
		Infrastructural	Implementation	Environmental
#9 contd.	Assist farmers with BMP application.	2. contd. The Alliance and ISU Extension have identified the need for additional one-on-one assistance in the field for farmers with the proper collection of soil samples as well as the development and implementation of nutrient management plans.	3. The Alliance determined that the Appanoose Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has staff expertise available to help address the need for one-on-one field assistance for farmers who are interested in implementing improved nutrient management practices. A cooperative agreement between the Alliance and Appanoose SWCD may be developed to assist with the ICM component of the project.	3. Project staff and ISU Extension specialists have provided information and assistance to 13 farmers in the watershed to help them evaluate the need for and initiate improved nutrient management practices. 4. It is important to mention that the Alliance, project staff, and ISU Extension Specialists consider that one of the more significant results of making assistance with soil fertility management available to farmers in the watershed will be the opportunity to discuss with them the potential benefits of incorporating other BMPs, particularly for priority land, into their farming operation.

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#10	Evaluate the impact of BMPs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As reported, activities completed for project work elements #4, #5, and #6 support the use of GIS to evaluate BMP effectiveness in terms of reducing the impact that runoff from priority land in targeted sub-watersheds has on water quality in Rathbun Lake. 2. The Alliance and partner organizations continue to carry out water quality monitoring activities according to the work plan developed for 2004, which will include the entering of data into STORET by the Alliance and its partners in the monitoring efforts, the ACOE and Iowa DNR. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As previously reported, project staff continues to collect information required for the use of GIS analysis to estimate the impact of BMPs on water quality in Rathbun Lake. Again, this information is related primarily to the type and location of BMPs. 2. As reported, the Alliance and partner organizations will present the results of water quality monitoring activities completed in 2003 in a separate written report. This report has been completed and is available on request. In addition, water quality monitoring data from 2003 activities will be input into STORET by the Alliance, ACOE, and Iowa DNR. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activities on this work element are conducted in a manner that is consistent with the GIS QAPP developed for the project. 2. GIS analysis has been used to evaluate the impact of BMPs on water quality in Rathbun Lake. Results of the analysis indicate that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMPs planned and applied will address an estimated 3,122 acres of land in the seven initial targeted sub-watersheds, including 1,544 acres of priority land; and • These BMPs will reduce the delivery of sediment and phosphorus to Rathbun Lake by an estimated 4,549 tons and 22,151 pounds per year respectively. <p>Results of the analysis are presented on updated maps submitted with reports twice annually (April and October).</p>

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Work Elements	Description	Measures		
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#10 contd.	Evaluate the impact of BMPs.	3. The Alliance and partners cooperating on water quality monitoring are evaluating the addition of monitoring sites to obtain data that will provide a better indication of the impact of BMPs applied in targeted sub-watersheds on water quality in Rathbun Lake. Any additional sites may be included in the monitoring program during 2005.		3. GIS analysis also evaluated the potential impact of BMPs in the five targeted sub-watersheds in which project activities are being expanded. Results of this analysis indicate that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned BMPs will address 3,000 acres including 1,500 acres of priority land; and • BMPs will reduce sediment and phosphorus delivery by an estimated 4,000 tons and 13,000 pounds per year. As activities are completed in the five sub-watersheds, results of the analysis will be included on maps submitted with reports. 4. Water quality monitoring activities are performed according to the quality assurance procedures established by the ACOE and ISU, Alliance partners primarily responsible for these activities.

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#11	Design the watershed protection enhancement agreements and associated activities.	1. As previously reported, the Alliance and staff continue to receive input from the advisory team, partner organizations, and farmers regarding the project's watershed protection enhancement work element. Input received encouraged an emphasis on watershed outreach activities that may include farmer recognition, educational signage, field days, tours, and media campaign. Additional input has also indicated the potential benefits of incorporating the proposed farmer recognition efforts into a broader public outreach program directed at the watershed community.	1. As reported, the Alliance and staff developed revised guidelines for a "Rathbun Lake Protectors Program" as the project's watershed protection enhancement work element. This program may consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities to recognize farmers in the watershed as "Rathbun Lake Protectors" for their efforts to apply BMPs that protect water quality in the lake. Recognition activities may include financial incentives and on-farm signage; • Activities that facilitate an exchange of information between farmers to encourage their use of BMPs to protect water quality in Rathbun Lake. Activities may include field days and tours hosted by farmers recognized as "Rathbun Lake Protectors"; 	1. The "Rathbun Lake Special Project" approach and activities are focused primarily on farmers with priority land in targeted sub-watersheds. There is growing interest among the Alliance and its partners concerning the potential benefits of complementing these focused efforts with a broader outreach program that would be directed at the different segments of the watershed community, e.g., non-farming residents, businesses, schools, and visitors. A watershed community outreach program of this nature may not only help support activities to apply BMPs for priority land in the watershed but could also contribute to the development of a sustainable, long-term effort to protect water quality in Rathbun Lake.

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#11 contd.	Design the watershed protection enhancement agreements and associated activities.	1. The Alliance is presenting the possible development of a watershed community outreach program to partners that may provide support required to implement program activities, e.g., the Iowa Farm Bureau and Iowa DNR. The watershed community outreach program would incorporate, and build on, activities in work elements #11, #15, and #16.	1. contd. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A media campaign targeted at farmers in the watershed to encourage their use of BMPs to protect water quality in Rathbun Lake. Campaign activities will involve local print, radio, and television media and include press releases, articles, interviews, and advertisements. 	
#12	Develop and implement watershed protection enhancement agreements and associated activities.	1. Please refer to the measure reported for work element #11 above.	1. Please refer to the measure reported for work element #11 above.	

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#13	Establish and manage the forage and livestock production demonstrations.	1. As reported, the Alliance and Lucas County Extension District have entered into a cooperative agreement to implement the forage and livestock demonstration component of the project. The agreement provides the Alliance, partner organizations, and farmers with technical assistance from ISU Extension specialists needed to successfully conduct the forage and livestock demonstrations.	1. ISU Extension specialists and project staff continue to assist interested farmers and staff at the McNay Research Farm to plan and initiate the establishment and management of field-scale forage and livestock production demonstrations. Planned demonstrations will include the renovation of existing pasture, pasture weed management, use of improved grass varieties for pasture establishment, and the installation of livestock stream crossings. 2. ISU Extension specialists and project staff continue to assist interested farmers in the watershed to conduct a forage quality testing demonstration as part of developing an effective livestock feed resource management plan.	

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#14	Plan and conduct forage and livestock production field days and workshops.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please refer to the measure reported for work element #13 above. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As reported, ISU Extension specialists and project staff conducted a series of four forage and grazing workshops for farmers and veterinarians in the Rathbun Lake region, with particular emphasis on those individuals who farm and provide veterinary services in the watershed. 2. ISU Extension Specialists conducted two forage education meetings for 25 interested farmers in the fall 2004. Topics that were addressed included pasture renovation and management. Additional meetings and workshops being planned by ISU Extension specialists and project staff include two grazing seminars in late winter of 2005, forage meetings in spring 2005, and a fence management field day in summer 2005. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As previously reported, the four workshops provided more than 150 participants with information on improved management of forage and livestock production. Topics included managing fescue pastures, selecting forage species and varieties, planning grazing systems, watering alternatives, and predicting forage needs. The results of a survey sent to participants indicated that poor forage management had a negative financial impact on their operations and that they gained new ideas from the workshops to improve their management of forages. Specific practices covered during the workshops and identified by survey respondents included the introduction of legumes, clipping pastures, rotational grazing, and livestock feed supplementation strategies.

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#15	Conduct outreach activities directed at farmers in targeted sub-watersheds.	<p>1. As reported, activities completed for project work elements #1, #5, #6, #8, #9, #11, #13, and #14 support the Alliance's outreach efforts directed primarily at farmers in the targeted sub-watersheds. Again, these activities include assigning project field staff, identifying priority land, contacting farmers, developing the watershed protection enhancement component, and planning and conducting the ICM and forage and livestock production meetings, field days, workshops, and demonstrations with interested farmers.</p>	<p>1. As reported, the Alliance and project staff continue to rely primarily on one-on-one contacts with farmers during field and office visits to inform and educate them about the project and water quality protection efforts in the watershed. Please refer to measures reported for work elements #6, #8, and #9. In addition, direct contacts with farmers in the watershed are made during activities reported for work elements #13 and #14.</p> <p>2. Project staff prepared another in a series of articles about the "Rathbun Lake Special Project" that have been included in the Rathbun Regional Water Association's newsletter. Staff also prepared a press release about the project to be distributed to area newspapers and farm publications in early 2005.</p>	<p>1. Activities completed on this work element, specifically the project's emphasis on providing information and assistance to farmers through one-on-one contacts and the use of local media, have contributed significantly to accomplishments reported for project work elements #6, #8, #9, and #14.</p>

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#16	Perform public information activities.	1. As reported, the Alliance made arrangements with a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) to assist project staff with the re-design of, and posting of updates to it's Internet site as one of the principal means of informing and educating the public in general about water quality protection efforts at Rathbun Lake.	1. Project staff and staff with the ISP have completed the initial re-design of the Alliance's Internet site. The new site, while still under development, is available at www.rlwa.org . 2. Project staff cooperated with EPA representatives to develop the Rathbun Lake project's section of the Targeted Watershed Program's annual report. 3. Project staff delivered a presentation to students in the agricultural science class at the Centerville High School (October 2004, 17 participants). 4. Staff prepared project related information to be presented at the annual conferences of the Iowa Watersheds organization and the Iowa Rural Water Association in early 2005.	1. As referred to in work elements #3 and #7, the Alliance and its partners have found that the "Rathbun Lake Special Project's" approach of focusing resources and activities on assisting farmers to apply BMPs for priority land in targeted sub-watersheds is of interest to others involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating performance-based water quality protection efforts. The Alliance considers that the number of requests received to present the knowledge gained during the "Rathbun Lake Special Project" at water resource related forums is an indication that this information is of interest and beneficial to others pursuing similar efforts.