

# PENNSTATE



**Land And Community**  
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## PLANNING FOR WATER PROTECTION

**George Hurd**  
Extension Educator For  
Community And  
Economic Development  
Capitol Region

A new online land use decisionmaking tool is available to help local government planners measure the water quality impacts of land use changes.

The tool is the Long-Term Hydrologic Impact Assessment (L-THIA) model. The L-THIA model was developed by Purdue University in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Region 5), and the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN).

To use the L-THIA model,

local governments provide information about their location, the proposed land use change, and the area's soil type. The L-THIA model then uses community-specific climate data to produce estimates of changes in recharge, runoff, and nonpoint source pollution resulting from the proposed development.

According to LGEAN, results from using the L-THIA model can be used to generate community awareness of potential long-term problems and to support planning aimed at minimizing disturbance of critical areas. L-THIA is also an ideal tool to identify the best location of a particular land use so as to have minimum impact on a community's natural environment.

L-THIA is available for free on the LGEAN web site. Users only need an internet browser to use

the tool. A downloadable GIS extension is also available for local government officials with ArcView software. To use L-THIA, visit LGEAN's "Tools and Resources" page at [www.lgean.org/html/exchange.cfm](http://www.lgean.org/html/exchange.cfm) and select the "Land Use Impacts on Water Quality Model."

LGEAN has also developed a toolkit of innovative software and databases which would be of assistance to local governments in the management of drinking water, storm water, wastewater, and watersheds. The tools are interactive software or documents that require user input. They are designed to help users perform operations and calculations necessary to fulfill environmental reporting requirements or guide the development of a helpful environmental program. In addition to the water tools, there is assistance for air quality, energy, solid waste management, hazardous waste management, and smart growth. There is a link to this toolkit at the LGEAN's "Tools and Resources" page.

Through its Website, LGEAN provides environmental management, planning, funding, and regulatory information for local government elected and appoint-

ed officials, managers, and staff. Located at [www.lgean.org](http://www.lgean.org), LGEAN enables local officials to interact with their peers and others online. In an effort to reach all local governments, LGEAN also manages a toll-free telephone service (877) 865-4326. LGEAN is not intended to provide on-site compliance assistance to local governments, but to give easy access to information and tools.

What makes LGEAN special is a partnership that has been forged by the organizations that compose it. The International City/County Management Association developed and manages the network. The partnering organizations are the American Water Works Association, Air & Waste Management Association, Environmental Council of the States, The International Municipal Lawyers Association, National Association of Counties, Public Entity Risk Institute, Solid Waste Association of North America, Water Environment Federation, and EPA. These organizations working together have developed a very effective resource to help communities meet their environmental responsibilities.

## Kohl, Ledman To Headline Dairy Stakeholders Conference

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — David Kohl, professor emeritus in Virginia Tech's Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, and Mary Keough Ledman, founder of Keough Ledman Associates' dairy economic consulting firm, will speak at the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders' annual conference Dec. 10-11 at the Holiday Inn, Grantville.

Joined by 13 other presenters, Kohl and Ledman will lead discussions focusing on the Northeast dairy infrastructure's future and how we as an industry can come together to "Set the Pace."

Kohl's presentation Wednesday, Dec. 10, will address the

state of the U.S. dairy industry and the role that each dairy region plays in contributing to a national and increasingly global dairy industry.

Thursday, Dec. 11, Ledman will focus her discussion on why one size does not fit all when you look at the makeup of our nation's dairy producers and how all-sized producers can succeed.

Registration fee is \$90 per person.

For information on group discounts and hotel rates or to receive a registration brochure, contact Michelle Jaymes Parks at (717) 948-6609 or by e-mail at [michelle@padairystake.org](mailto:michelle@padairystake.org).

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