Best Management Practices
Program Update

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Office of Agricultural Water Policy
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services – 18 Divisions and Offices

- Administration
- Agricultural Environmental Services
- Agricultural Law Enforcement
- Agricultural Water Policy
- Animal Industry
- Aquaculture
- Communications
- Consumer Services
- Energy

- Florida Forest Service
- Food Safety
- Food, Nutrition and Wellness
- Fruit and Vegetables
- General Counsel
- Inspector General
- Licensing
- Marketing and Development
- Plant Industry

http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/
Office of Agricultural Water Policy

- **Water Policy Planning**: Interaction with DEP on Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs), agriculture’s role in water supply planning

- **Program Development**: Best Management Plans (BMPs) adoption, implementation verification, research support

- **Field Staff**: Enrollment in BMP program for producers, technical assistance with implementation; coordination of cost-share projects

- **Finance & Accounting**

  Currently 51 FTEs and 15 contract technicians in locations around the state
403.067(7)(b)2.g.: A nonpoint source discharger included in a basin management action plan must demonstrate compliance with the pollutant reductions established under subsection (6) by implementing the appropriate best management practices established pursuant to paragraph (c) or conducting water quality monitoring prescribed by the department or a water management district...
Florida Law

403.067(7)(c)2.: The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services may develop and adopt by rule... best management practices, or other measures necessary to achieve the level of pollution reduction established by the department for agricultural pollutant sources in allocations developed pursuant to subsection (6)... Such rules must also incorporate provisions for a notice of intent to implement the practices and a system to assure the implementation of the practices, including site inspection and recordkeeping requirements.
Florida Law

403.067(7)(c)3: ...**Implementation**, in accordance with rules adopted under this paragraph, of practices that have been initially verified to be effective, or verified to be effective by monitoring at representative sites, by the department, shall provide a **presumption of compliance** with state water quality standards and release from the provisions of s. 376.307(5) for those pollutants addressed by the practices, and the department is not authorized to institute proceedings against the owner of the source of pollution to recover costs or damages associated with the contamination of surface water or groundwater caused by those pollutants. *(Florida Watershed Restoration Act, 1999, as amended)*
Agricultural BMPs Overview

• Practical measures that use water more efficiently and reduce potential effects of fertilizers, pesticides, and animal waste on water resources; must be developed with economic and technical considerations

• BMPs are developed in collaboration with agricultural industry, agencies, non-governmental organizations, and others; verified effective by DEP; adopted by rule; subject to periodic review and update

• Applicable practices are selected cooperatively with producers and field staff during on-site enrollment and review; applicability is based on relevance and assessment of existing or potential resource concerns

• Supported by cost-share programs from FDACS and others
BMP Manuals

Practice Categories:

Nutrient Management
Irrigation and Water Table Management
Water Resource Protection

Coming Soon!
Florida Small Farms
Key Expectations in BMPs for Nutrient Management

• Quantify all nutrient sources
  o Labels for commercial fertilizer
  o Book values, other lab analysis, supplier data for other sources

• Plan nutrient applications to match plant requirements
  o UF/IFAS recommendations are the default; other rates can be used with justification
  o Soil and tissue testing

• Keep records of sources (w/content), application rates, location, & timing
Key Expectations in BMPs for Nutrient Management

Specific Interpretation Guidance for Biosolids

• Proper use of biosolids takes advantage of a nutrient and soil-building source that is otherwise wasted.

• The nutrient content of biosolids must be known (including by reference to standard or average values) and accounted for like any other nutrient source (e.g., commercial fertilizer, organic sources, floor sweepings, & nutrient content of irrigation water). Class AA biosolids are labeled as commercial fertilizer, with a guaranteed analysis.

• Nutrient applications will be subject the agronomic limits (IFAS rates as a default) calculation, and must consider both N and P. There are site specific soil testing procedures that should govern P application rates.

• Evaluation of appropriate application rates will be based on actual production, i.e. if applications are based on hay production rates, hay must actually be produced for sale or use, not just pasture.
Key Expectations in BMPs for Irrigation and Water Table Management

• Match irrigation timing and volume to plant requirements
• Use Mobile Irrigation Lab services as appropriate
• Employ readily available data and technologies
  • Soil moisture monitoring
  • Irrigation controllers
• Maintain records of irrigation systems, events, and equipment
Key Expectations in BMPs for Water Resource Protection

• Locate operations to protect sensitive on-site water resources such as perennial streams, wetlands, sinkholes, and springs
• Manage operations to protect off-site water resources, including groundwater
• Properly store and handle materials such as pesticides, herbicides, and fuels
Statewide BMP Enrollment

- 9 active BMP manuals; 1 in development
- 11,000+ enrollments covering ~60% of ag land
- 42,000+ discrete parcels

### OAWP Agricultural BMP Enrollment

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<tr>
<th>Commodity/Manual</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th># NOIs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Citrus</td>
<td>516,478.26</td>
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<td>Conservation Plan</td>
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<td>Cow/Calf</td>
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<td>Dairy Operations</td>
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<td>Nursery</td>
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<td>Sod</td>
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<td>Specialty Fruit &amp; Nut</td>
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<td>Vegetables &amp; Agronomic Crops</td>
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<td>Wildlife</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>11,074</strong></td>
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Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Implementation Verification Initiatives

- Multiple statutory directives to follow adoption of BMPs with systems to verify implementation
- Required component of all BMP manual adoption rules
- Process to verify the status of implementation of BMPs required by 2016 law to be adopted by rule (DONE)
- Data on implementation gathered from site visits, enrollment, follow-ups, and permits
- Annual report due each year by July 1

Program objective is to assist all producers to full implementation
Implementation Verification Program Concept

Program objective is to assist producers to full implementation

Implementation Verification Process for Enrolled Producers

- Implementation Verification*
  - Needs Improvement
    - Develop Corrective Action Plan
      - No Corrective Action Plan
        - Refer to DEP
      - Actions NOT Completed
        - Develop Remedial Action Plan
          - No Remedial Plan or Actions NOT Completed
            - Return to Implementation Verification Schedule
  - Satisfactory
    - Actions Completed
      - Return to Implementation Verification Schedule
    - Actions NOT Completed
      - Develop Remedial Action Plan
        - No Remedial Plan or Actions NOT Completed
          - Return to Implementation Verification Schedule

* Verifications include OAWP site visits, producer self-verification, DEP or WMD permit compliance, or certain 3rd party processes
Contact us at...

www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy

or

www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com