FDACS BMP Program Overview

UF/IFAS and FDACS/Office of Agricultural Water Policy
Florida Watershed Restoration Act

- Authorizes FDACS to develop water quality and water quantity BMPs to address agricultural nonpoint sources to meet Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLS) and otherwise protect water quality.

- Implementation of FDACS BMPs, according to rule, provides “presumption of compliance” with state water quality standards for the pollutants addressed by the BMPs.
Benefits of Implementing BMPs

- Demonstrates environmental stewardship and strengthens support for BMP approach
- Provides presumption of compliance with state water quality standards
- Right to Farm Act protection – for activities addressed by implemented BMPs
- Eligibility for state-funded cost share
- May satisfy some WMD permit requirements
- Voluntary program, unless in an impaired area
Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)

- Strategy to address a TMDL or group of TMDLs
- Facilitated by FDEP with input from stakeholder groups
- Participation in FDACS BMP programs is agriculture’s method of compliance
- Agriculture must implement FDACS BMPs or monitor water quality to show compliance
Adopted BMAPs in SWFWMD

• Hillsborough River Tributaries

BMAPs in Progress

• Upper Peace River
• Winter Haven Chain of Lakes
• Alafia River
• Manatee River
• Rainbow River
• Rainbow Springs
• Silver Springs
FDACS BMP Programs

- **Citrus** *(new, statewide manual)*
- **Vegetable & Agronomic Crops** *(to be updated)*
- **Container Nursery** *(new, statewide manual, pending adoption, conducting field test soon)*
- **Sod**
- **Cow/Calf**
- **Specialty Fruit & Nut**
- **Commercial Equine**
- **Conservation Plan Rule** *(for livestock and multi-commodity operations)*
Total Ag Acres, 9.25 million

Total Acres Enrolled, 4.2 million

45% Enrolled
BMP Program Participation

- Technical assistance provided to producers via field staff and contracted implementation staff

- What Happens On-site:
  - Implementation teams and staff work one-on-one with producers to assess natural resource concerns and identify BMPs that are implemented or planned, non-applicable, technically or economically not feasible
  - Implementation teams and staff assist producer with completion of BMP checklist and Notice of Intent (NOI)
Notice of Intent (NOI) Form

Official record of:

- Who is implementing the BMPs
- Number of acres operating under BMPs
- Where BMPs are being implemented (through listing of parcel identification #’s)
Complete the following information for the property on which BMPs will be implemented under this NOI.
You may list multiple parcels if they are located within the same county and are owned or leased by the same person or entity.

Operation Name: ____________________________
County: ____________________________

Tax Parcel Identification Number(s) from County Property Appraiser:
Please submit a copy of your county tax bill(s) for all enrolled property, with owner name, address, and the tax parcel ID number(s) clearly visible. If you cannot provide a copy of the tax bill(s), please write the parcel owner’s name and tax parcel ID number(s) below in the format the county uses. Attach a separate sheet if necessary (see form provided).

Parcel No. 1: Parcel Owner: ____________________________
Parcel No. 2: Parcel Owner: ____________________________
Parcel No. 3: Parcel Owner: ____________________________
Parcel No. 4: Parcel Owner: ____________________________
Parcel No. 5: Parcel Owner: ____________________________
Parcel No. 6: Parcel Owner: ____________________________
Parcel No. 7: Parcel Owner: ____________________________
Parcel No. 8: Parcel Owner: ____________________________
Parcel No. 9: Parcel Owner: ____________________________
Parcel No. 10: Parcel Owner: ____________________________

□ Additional parcels are listed on separate sheet (check if applicable)

Total # of acres of all parcels listed (as shown property tax records): ____________________________

Total # of acres on which BMPs will be implemented under this NOI: ____________________________

In accordance with section 403.067(7)(c)2, Florida Statutes, I submit the following information and the BMP Checklist as proof of my intent to implement the BMPs applicable to the parcel(s) enrolled under this Notice of Intent.

Print Name: ____________________________

☐ Landowner ☐ Leaseholder ☐ Authorized Agent (see below)*

*Relationship to Landowner or Leaseholder: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Name of Staff Assisting with NOI:

□ Landowner or Leaseholder Information (check all that apply)
NOTE: If the Landowner/Leaseholder information is the same as the Contact Information listed above, please check: ☐ Same as above. If not, complete the contact information below.

Name: ____________________________
Mailing Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ Zip Code: ____________________________
Telephone: ____________________________ FAX: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

NOTES:
1. You must keep records of BMP implementation, as specified in the BMP manual. All BMP records are subject to inspection.
2. You must notify FDACS if there is a full or partial change in ownership with regard to the parcel(s) enrolled under this NOI.
3. Please remember that it is your responsibility to stay current with future updates of this manual. Visit the following website periodically to check for manual updates: www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com
BMP Checklist

Official record of:

- What BMPs are currently implemented
- What BMPs producer is planning to implement and when
- Why certain BMPs were not implemented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMP #</th>
<th>BMP Group</th>
<th>In Use/CP#</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Will not implement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(See body of manual for full description)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0 Nutrient Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Level I - Fertilizer Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use Mehlich-1 soil test results or equivalent to determine P application rate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key BMP Categories

- Nutrient Management
- Irrigation Management
- Water Resources Protection
  - Riparian, Wetlands, and Springs Protection
- Erosion Control
Examples of BMPs – Nutrient Management

- Choosing appropriate fertilizer sources
- Conducting soil/tissue testing
- Utilizing fertilizer recommendations
- Applying fertilizer appropriately
- Maintaining setbacks to sensitive features
Examples of BMPs – Irrigation Management

- Using available tools for irrigation/freeze protection decision
- Understanding field capacity
- Minimizing irrigation losses due to evaporation and irrigating beyond field capacity
- Maintaining and evaluating irrigation components
BMP Follow-up

• **90-day follow-up check** – to see whether there are questions or assistance is needed

• **On-Farm Record Keeping** is an important component of maintaining some BMPs

• **BMP Implementation Assurance**
  - Condensed version of BMP Checklist to assess what new BMPs have been implemented and ensure that growers are still participating in the program
  - Field staff and contracted implementation teams conduct questionnaire with grower on-site
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Cost Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring Plan Development</td>
<td>Initial Monitoring site selection report for– surface water and/or groundwater. PG or PE required</td>
<td>$25,000 to $45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Installation</td>
<td>Groundwater Monitoring Well installation 25 feet deep or less</td>
<td>$1,500 per well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well Installation</td>
<td>Groundwater Monitoring Well installation 70 feet deep or less</td>
<td>$6,000 per well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Water Monitoring Station</td>
<td>Installation/calibration of station</td>
<td>$10,000 per station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampling Wells</td>
<td>Monitoring Well Sampling Dependent on depth of well</td>
<td>$400 to $600 per well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampling Wells</td>
<td>Groundwater analytical costs</td>
<td>$400 to $800 per sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampling Report</td>
<td>Water quality monitoring report</td>
<td>$1,500 to $3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QA/QC Protocol</td>
<td>Determination of adherence to state or federal requirements</td>
<td>$0 - $1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Management &amp; Assessment</td>
<td>Data interpretation and statistical analysis</td>
<td>$1,000 - $3,000                 Plus cost of software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting Schedule</td>
<td>Annual Report</td>
<td>$0 - $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Monitoring Plan</td>
<td>FDEP or WMD review</td>
<td>No cost to grower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued Monitoring</td>
<td>Annual Report</td>
<td>$0 - $2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FDACS BMP Cost Share Program

- Reimbursement program
- Enroll in an FDACS adopted BMP manual
- Water quality and quantity implementation projects
  - Examples include: irrigation upgrade, variable rate spreaders, fertigation, irrigation controls and technologies
- 75% project cost up to a maximum of $15,000 or $50,000 depending on the type of project
Eligible BMP Items

- Items eligible for 75% or $15,000 max reimbursement:
  - Soil moisture probes
  - Closed pipeline water delivery
  - Culverts/riser board structures
  - Chemigation/fertigation systems
  - Automation
  - Other water resource enhancement projects
Eligible BMP Items Continued

- Items eligible for 75% or $50,000 maximum reimbursement:
  - Tailwater recovery systems
  - Detention/Retention systems
  - Soil roller for covercrops
Example Projects
Application and Approval Process

- Enroll in the BMP Program
- Provide itemized budget or quotes
- Fill out application
- Sign cost share agreement
- Can do in conjunction with NRCS funding or SWFWMD/FARMS funding
  - We will need to see contract
Reimbursement Process

- Provide canceled checks, paid invoices, or receipts
- Sign reimbursement form
- Take pictures
- Reimbursed from Hardee Soil and Water Conservation District
My Florida Farm Weather Program

- We reimburse for installation of on-site weather stations that connect to the FAWN network
- Display data on the FAWN website
- Reimburse 75% up to $5,000 per 300 acres

http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/mffw/
http://www.highlandssswcd.org/
Thank You!

UF/IFAS

Jemy Hinton
(813) 478-6630
BMP Implementation
jwh@ufl.edu

FDACS/Office of Agricultural Water Policy

Jessica McCoy Stempien
(813) 546-1121
Jessicalea.Stempien@FreshFromFlorida.com