

Office of Agricultural Water Policy Overview

Florida League of Cities

Water Symposium

November 13, 2019



Responsibilities

- Development and implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs)
- Implementation of cost share programs
- Water supply and water quality planning and coordination
- Other policy development and statutory responsibilities



Resources

- 51 positions
 - Policy
 - Finance and contracts
 - IT
 - Field staff (25 positions)
- Contractual field staff support provided by soil and water conservation district technicians
- \$44.8 million budget for FY 2019-20



FY 2019-20 Budget Breakout

- LATF (\$32 million)
 - Salaries and administrative costs (recurring)
 - FCO (larger projects / BMPs) (Northern Everglades / Lake Okeechobee)
 - Agricultural nonpoint source (statewide) (recurring)
 - Innovative treatment projects (recurring)
- General Revenue - nonpoint source (\$10.5 million)
 - Innovative treatment projects (recurring)
 - Water supply planning (non-recurring)
- General Inspection Trust Fund (\$2.3 million - recurring)
 - Nitrate funding
 - Agricultural nonpoint source - partnerships
 - Vehicles

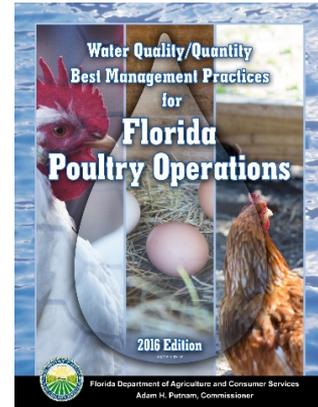
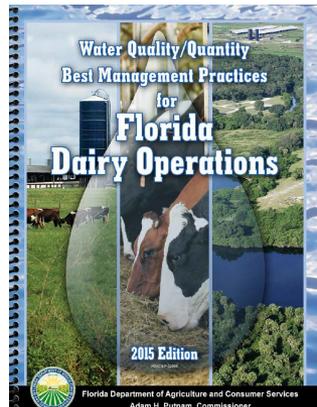
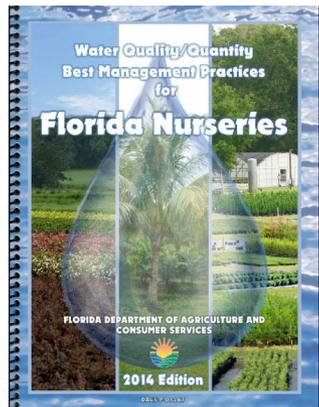
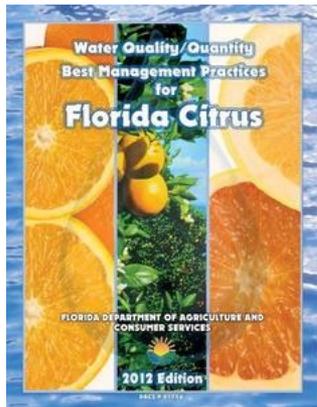
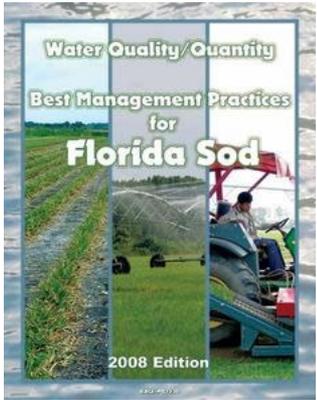
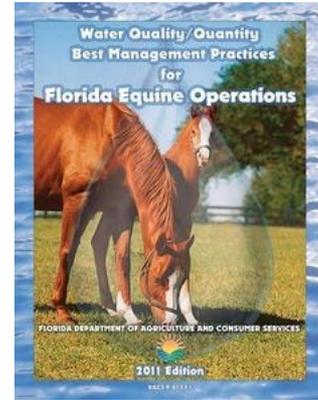
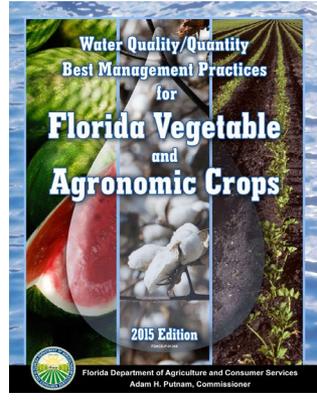
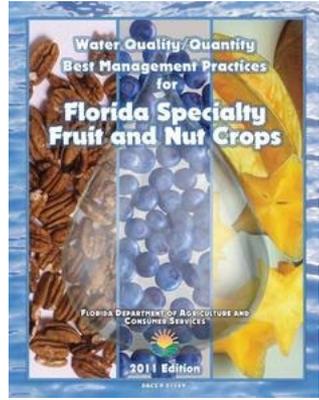
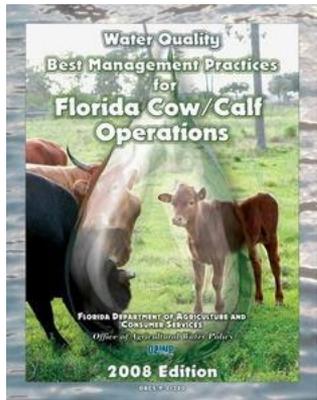


BMPs

- Management strategies, tools and practices that improve water quality, conserve water, and protect water resources
- Best available science and technology
- Technical and economic feasibility
- Confirmed through implementation verification site visits
- Cost share availability
 - Implemented through contractual agreements with soil and water conservation districts



BMP Manuals



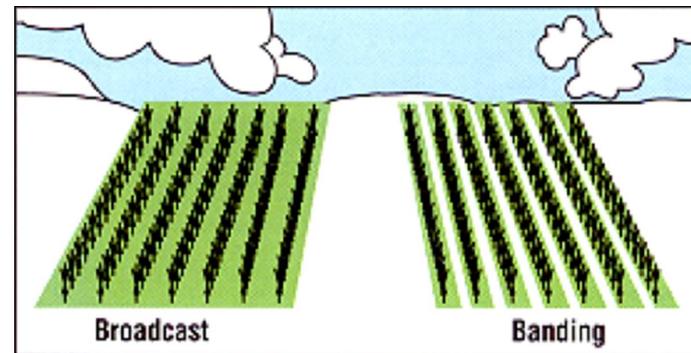
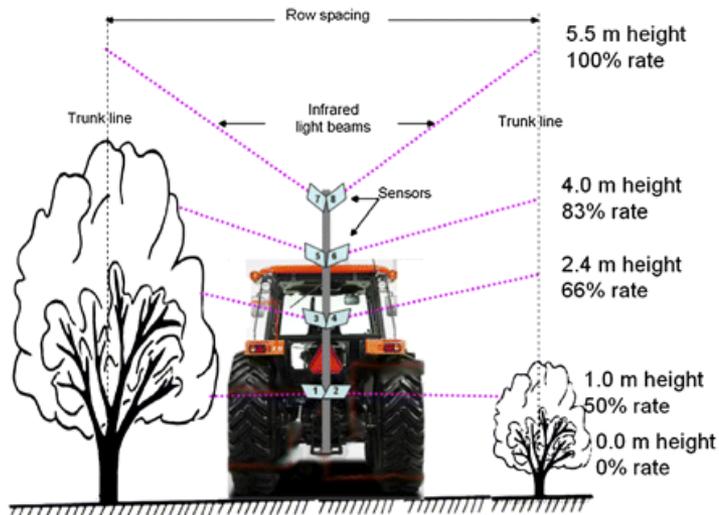
Practice Categories:

Nutrient Management
Irrigation Management
Water Resource Protection



Nutrient Management BMPs

- Precision Fertilization – Multiple technologies such as soil sampling on a grid or precision application equipment – reduces fertilizer inputs as much as 35%
- Variable Rate Technology – Allows precise placement of nutrients to roots and leaf tissue



Irrigation Management BMPs

- Soil Moisture Probes – Reduces fertilizer and water usage by up to 50%
 - provides tracking of fertilizer through soil column
- Precision Irrigation – Allows placement of water close to the plant and reduces evaporation - individual valves may be guided by soil moisture probes – reduces groundwater withdrawals up to 40%



Water Resource Protection BMPs

- Surface Water Control Structures
- Buffers – erosion control



Cost Share Programs

- Prioritization

- “Bang for the buck”
- Targeted areas
- Economic feasibility



- Collaboration and Leveraging

- Water management district programs
- Statutory requirements as a collaborative agency
- Federal agency programs (Natural Resources Conservation Service - USDA)



BMP Enrollment and Verification

- Notice of Intent to Implement BMPs - Enrollment and identification of BMPs appropriate to the specific parcel and commodity
- Annual BMP implementation surveys
- Implementation verification (IV) site visits
- Cost Share Projects identified at enrollment, IV, or through outreach efforts
- Referral to the Department of Environmental Protection in the event of non-compliance
- Annual Report
- Data management



Regulatory Planning Efforts

- Regional Water Supply Planning
 - Coordination with the water management districts
 - Land use, commodity type, and irrigation projections
 - Minimum flows and levels
 - Required by Florida law
- Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Development and Implementation
 - Land use coverage
 - BMP and cost share project implementation
 - Determination of agricultural nonpoint source allocation and credits
- Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand (FSAID) GIS Tool



Other Responsibilities

- Coordination with partners on outreach, education, and technical assistance
- Interagency coordination as required by law or to implement funding opportunities
- Participation in state and federal restoration program planning and regulatory development
- Binding Determinations – applicability of the agricultural exemption in s. 373.406, F.S.
- Coordination of mobile irrigation labs



2020 Legislative Budget Requests

- \$34 million - base budget for BMP implementation and cost share
- \$1.2 million - 10 additional FTE positions
 - Implementation verification site visits
 - Hemp BMP implementation
- \$1.5 million - water supply planning
 - FSAID data aggregation and model development to meet statutory obligations
 - Mobile irrigation labs
- \$25 million - fixed capital outlay projects
 - Lake Okeechobee/ Northern Everglades
 - Upscaling research projects to farm scale
 - Innovative technology and BMP pilot projects
- \$5 million - BMAP-focused cost share
- \$257,000 – vehicle replacement



Thank You!

<http://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy>

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