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

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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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