

St. Marys River Management Committee

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**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Agricultural Water Policy**



OVERVIEW OF BMP PROGRAM AND ITS REQUIREMENTS

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WHAT IS A “BMP”?

- BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES – “BMPS” - ARE PRACTICES DETERMINED BY COORDINATING AGENCIES, BASED ON RESEARCH, FIELD-TESTING AND EXPERT REVIEW, TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND PRACTICABLE ON-LOCATION MEANS FOR IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN AGRICULTURAL AND URBAN DISCHARGES
- BMPS FOR AGRICULTURAL DISCHARGES MUST REFLECT A BALANCE BETWEEN WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY



WHY SHOULD I IMPLEMENT BMPS?

01

- Reduction of agricultural production impacts to natural resources

02

- Technical assistance with BMP implementation

03

- Presumption of compliance with state water quality standards for the pollutants addressed by the BMPs

04

- Release from the provisions of section 376.307(5), F.S., (fines for damages) for pollutants addressed by the BMPs

05

- Eligibility for cost-share funding for certain BMPs (subject to availability)



NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPLEMENT BMPS (NOI) WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED?

- OAWP WORKS WITH LANDOWNERS/PRODUCERS TO IDENTIFY APPLICABLE BMPS IN THE MANUAL(S) FOR THE OPERATION AND TO COMPLETE THE NOI
- NOI REQUIRES:
 - IDENTIFICATION OF THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY
 - LOCATION OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATION
 - A CONTACT PERSON FOR THE PROPERTY
 - SIZE OF THE PROPERTY ENROLLED IN THE BMP PROGRAM
 - SPECIFIC BMPS TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON PROPERTY
 - SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTING BMPS WHERE APPROPRIATE



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I ENROLL IN THE BMP PROGRAM?

- AFTER ENROLLMENT IN THE BMP PROGRAM, PRODUCERS MUST IMPLEMENT AND MAINTAIN ALL APPLICABLE BMPS TO RECEIVE A PRESUMPTION OF COMPLIANCE WITH STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR POLLUTANTS ADDRESSED BY THE BMPS.
- PRODUCERS BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COST-SHARE FUNDING FOR BMP IMPLEMENTATION. OAWP REPRESENTATIVES WILL ASSIST PRODUCERS IN PREPARING ELIGIBLE COST-SHARE APPLICATION PACKAGES.



AFTER ENROLLING IN BMPS

- AN IMPORTANT PART OF BMP IMPLEMENTATION IS RECORD KEEPING, AS SPECIFIED IN FDACS RULES AND BMP MANUALS.
- BMP RECORDS SHOULD BE ACCURATE, CLEAR, AND WELL-ORGANIZED



**ON JUNE 30, 2020,
GOVERNOR DESANTIS SIGNED SENATE BILL 712**

THE “CLEAN WATERWAYS ACT” (CHAPTER 2020-150, LAWS OF FLORIDA).



SB 712

- FDACS IS REQUIRED TO MAKE IMPLEMENTATION VERIFICATION (IV) SITE VISITS ON PROPERTIES ENROLLED IN THE BMP PROGRAM **EVERY TWO YEARS**.
- DURING THE IV SITE VISIT, OAWP REPRESENTATIVES WILL ENSURE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF APPLICABLE BMPS FOR ENROLLED PROPERTIES AND **REVIEW REQUIRED RECORDS** PRODUCERS MUST MAINTAIN TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE BMPS.
- FOR LANDOWNERS AND PRODUCERS APPLYING NUTRIENTS TO THEIR PROPERTY, THE LAW REQUIRES OAWP TO **RETAIN RECORDS** RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF **NITROGEN AND PHOSPHORUS**.



WHAT IS AN (IV) IMPLEMENTATION VERIFICATION SITE VISIT?

- OAWP REPRESENTATIVES WILL WORK WITH LANDOWNERS OR PRODUCERS TO IDENTIFY SENSITIVE WATER RESOURCES LOCATED ON OR IMPACTED BY PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES ON THE ENROLLED PROPERTY.
- REPRESENTATIVES WILL SEEK OPPORTUNITIES WITH PRODUCERS TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY IN NUTRIENT, IRRIGATION, OR WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.



WHAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP LANDOWNERS IMPLEMENT BMPS?

- STATE AND FEDERAL COST-SHARE FUNDS ARE OFTEN AVAILABLE TO ASSIST PRODUCERS WITH SPECIFIC BMP IMPLEMENTATION.
- STATE COST-SHARE FUNDS MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE OR OTHER PRACTICES AND PROJECTS THAT ASSIST IN NUTRIENT REDUCTIONS IN BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (BMAP) AREAS.



CONTACT US

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH BMP ENROLLMENT OR IMPLEMENTATION:

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COUNTIES COVERED:

BAKER, NASSAU, DUVAL, CLAY, PUTNAM, ST. JOHNS, FLAGLER, VOLUSIA

LAKE, SEMINOLE, ORANGE, BREVARD

