

BMP In-Service Training Presentation

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Agriculture

Water resources for Florida agriculture



The St. Johns River Water Management District has the tools to assist the agricultural community grow the crops that help feed America and grow Florida's economy, while protecting water resources. Following are descriptions of sources of assistance, with links to web resources and contact information. These resources offer agricultural permit applicants a "one stop," centralized location to find help in gathering water use data needed for permits, to reduce duplication in the permitting process and to save time and money. Information is also available on best management practices and **cost-share opportunities.**

Agricultural Assistance Team

The District's **Agricultural Assistance Team** works closely with growers on consumptive use permits and environmental resource permits, which are required for some agricultural operations. The Ag Assistance Team helps simplify and accelerate the permitting process, reduce permitting duplication, assist growers in obtaining and complying with permits, and helps ensure that growers are able to comply with total maximum daily loads and Basin Management Action Plans established by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Cost-share opportunities for growers

St. Johns District staff contacts

District staff are available to assist agricultural operations with permits, compliance issues, best management practices or other issues. Contacts include:

- **Vince Singleton**, technical program manager/ Agricultural Assistance Team, (386) 329-4197, vsingleton@sjrwmd.com
- **David McInnes**, environmental resource coordinator, (386) 329-4823, dmcinnes@sjrwmd.com



Cost-share opportunities for growers

Tri-County Agricultural Area (TCAA) resources

TCAA Water Management Partnership

Multiple agencies are contributing funding, education and technical assistance for growers in the TCAA of Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties to implement projects that contribute to improving the health of the St. Johns River. These projects are anticipated to contribute to the improved health of the river through on-farm and regional water management projects and practices that reduce the movement of nutrients to the river, improve water conservation, and result in more efficient farm management while maintaining the long-term viability of agriculture in the TCAA.

Project types

Cost share will be 100 percent of the engineering, design and construction costs of an approved project, as submitted using the TCAA Water Management Partnership **cost-share funding application form**.

The grower will be expected to cover maintenance costs; however, future requests for long-term maintenance items (such as drip tape) may be considered for less than 100 percent funding. Projects eligible for funding include:

- Drip irrigation
- Overhead irrigation
- Enhanced seepage irrigation
- Irridrain
- Tailwater recovery
- Regional water reuse
- Regional wet detention

Practices/equipment

Cost-share will be up to 50 percent for approved practices/equipment, with the potential for increased cost-share through targeted funding for specified practices. Cost-share amounts may be contingent on other funds being received for the same practice/equipment (such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program [EQIP] funding). However, if these practices/equipment are part of a project proposal (as shown on the [cost-share funding application form](#)), they may be considered for up to 100 percent cost share. Funding from this program may not duplicate funding from other programs. Projects eligible for funding include:

- Banding equipment
- Pump upgrades with soil moisture sensors
- Soil moisture sensors

Projects already under way in the TCAA

Projects already receiving funding serve as an example of project types that growers may wish to implement. For example, a [successful application](#) from a Hastings farmer was submitted in May 2012 and funding awarded for a project involving banding equipment and pump upgrade with soil moisture sensor.

Eligibility requirements

Participating growers must meet [eligibility requirements](#), such as complying with all applicable laws and permits, allow appropriate District staff to monitor and inspect project sites, and participate in educational initiatives for other growers.

How to apply for funding

Interested growers who meet the eligibility criteria should submit an informal, brief summary of their proposed project along with an 8.5 x 11 site location map (indicating the project area) and property appraiser sheet to their county extension agent. The extension agent will conduct a site visit and review options with the grower, then assist the grower in filling out a funding application. Two committees will review all applications to determine if funding is appropriate based on its potential on the individual farm and expansion to other farms. The following documents offer additional details:

- Detailed summary of application, review and selection process
- Cost-share funding application
- Eligibility requirements checklist
- Application guidelines

www.floridaswater.com/agriculture

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