

BMP success stories from the past

These BMP success stories are taken from Dr. Brian Bowman's presentation *Best Management Practices*:

Demonstration Watermelon Farm

The farm had a record yield using BMP irrigation and nutrient management tools.

Nitrogen used to grow the crop was 25% less than IFAS recommended rates.



Soil Moisture

Twenty-one farms in north Florida used sophisticated soil moisture equipment. Producers saw more efficient water applications, which reduced the potential for nitrogen leaching.



Drip Irrigation for Small Farms

Previous Program

1 ton/acre 13-4-13 under plastic
300 lbs./acre 20-0-20 poked in plastic

Current Program

300 lbs./acre 13-4-13 under plastic
50 lbs./acre 20-0-20 per week injected into drip tape

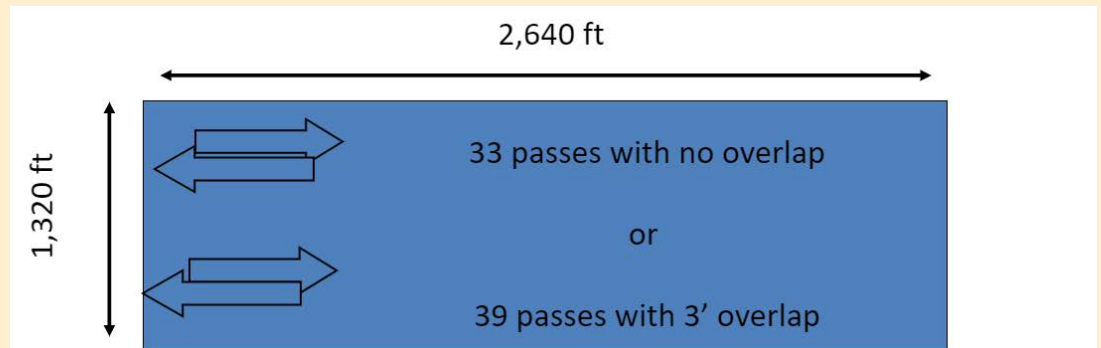


Planting



Peanut planting into strip-till rows. This can save several irrigations because the soil is not dried out from tillage.

Farmers are using equipment with Zero Overlap. Previous practice was 3' overlap each pass. For the average 80-acre hay field using a 40' applicator:



6 extra passes X 40' wide X 2,640 ft long X 80 #N/Ac =
1150 # of wasted Nitrogen per fertilization
5 Fertilizations per year = 5750 # N per year (80 acres)

Agricultural Cost Share Opportunities

Jay Capasso, Extension Agent UF/IFAS Columbia County, has this success story in the Suwannee River Water Management District.
(Click image to watch YouTube video)

