



BMP Mini-grant Program

The mini-grant program for this year is still being finalized. We anticipate a date for the RFA announcement in August. Projects selected for funding will be announced in September. This will better serve both South and North Florida. We are also anticipating more funding for the mini-grant program than before. We encourage any interested applicants to start working on ideas and potential collaborations as there will be a quick turnaround time between announcement and funding. This could pose a challenge in preparing a new project. The format will be the same as the last year with similar requirements, such as the quarterly regional meetings, progress reports, web content preparation, etc.

BMP Summit

The 2020 Virtual Ag BMP summit was a success! More than 900 attendees participated across all 12 presentations. Thank you, Dr. Michael Dukes, for your efforts in coordinating the summit and making it a successful extension program despite COVID-19. The recordings of the BMP summit presentations are available at this link: <https://bmp.ifas.ufl.edu/bmp-webinars/bmp-past-webinars/>. The discussion of moving this summit forward with one presentation per month is underway. The first BMP presentation with a different name will be announced in the next edition of this BMP newsletter.

Soil Moisture Sensor Grant

Dr. Charles Barrett was awarded \$58,000 to continue to build the statewide soil moisture sensor network. The award provides funding for 50 sensors to be used throughout the state for extension projects and on-farm work with producers. Agents just need to contact Dr. Barrett cebarrett@ufl.edu with interest in working with a grower or on their project to get started. The program will get going this fall 2020.

Suwannee River Water Management District Cost Share Program Information

The purpose of the District's cost-share program is to offer funding assistance to agricultural producers to implement projects that increase irrigation efficiency, implement water conservation practices, and assist with nutrient management. The requirements for the program are an up-to-date Water Use Permit, volunteer for the District's automated monitoring program, and enroll in FDACS BMPs. The three programs of SRWMD's cost-share is BMP Irrigation Practices, Precision Agriculture, and Dairy Wastewater System Improvements. If interested, producers can contact Matthew Cantrell or Libby Schmidt at 386-362-1001 or projects@srwmd.org or find an application at <http://srwmd.org/366/Agricultural-Cost-Share-Program>.

Precision Agriculture Cost-Share Tool

ITEM	PERCENTAGE COST-SHARE	UP TO A MAXIMUM / UNIT
Soil Type Mapping	75%	\$10 / acre
Aerial Imagery*	75%	\$5 / acre / image
Precision Soil Sampling*	75%	\$7 / acre
Tissue Sampling*	75%	\$20 / sample
Variable Rate Nutrient Application*	75%	\$7 / acre
Side-Dressing Equipment*	75%	\$50,000 / implement
Variable Rate Irrigation	75%	\$50,000 / system

BMP Agriculture Cost-Share Tool

ITEM	PERCENTAGE COST-SHARE	UP TO A MAXIMUM / UNIT
Irrigation Retrofits	75%	\$8,250
Soil Moisture Probes*	75%	\$1,700
Weather Station	75%	\$2,500
GPS End-gun Shutoffs	75%	\$1,500
Centralized Remote-Control System	75%	\$9,000
Remote Controlling Equipment	75%	\$2,200
New Controller Panel	75%	\$4,500
Pump Upgrade (High to Low Pressure Only)	75%	\$5,500
Stationary Fertigation Tank*	75%	\$6,000
Portable Fertigation Tank*	75%	\$9,000

* See website for limitations: <http://srwmd.org/366/Agricultural-Cost-Share-Program>

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