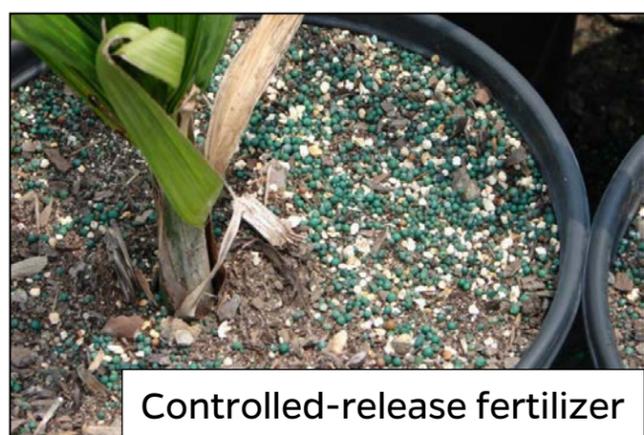


**BMP success stories from the past**

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



Drainage retention area



Controlled-release fertilizer



Ditch bank stabilization



Micro-irrigation



Grass filter strip

**Recent BMP Success Story**

Justin Bryan, Environmental Manager, Office of Agricultural Water Policy  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

In 2019, A farmer planted no cover crops and applied his fertilizer on cotton using a spreader buggy applying a straight rate. In 2020, on certain fields, he reduced his N input on cotton by ~35% by implementing cover crops and using a spreader buggy applying a straight rate to his cotton. In 2020, on certain fields, he reduced his N input on cotton by ~49% by implementing cover crops and using a dry hopper bander unit applying a straight rate on his cotton. He plans on using the bander unit on all of his acreage this year and applying at a variable rate based on precision soil samples using controls on the unit and his RTK GPS system.



**REGISTER NOW!**

2021 Ag BMP Summit  
Tuesdays, April 6-June 8  
1:00-2:30 pm

Registration:  
[ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_fmX9yHRxTP2wOjVFGVoLyw](https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fmX9yHRxTP2wOjVFGVoLyw)

Agenda will be posted on <https://bmp.ifas.ufl.edu>



**Lake County BMP Examples**

Megan Mann, Lake County Extension Director, Animal Systems Work Group

Pasture based livestock operations in the southeastern U.S. are typically not managed in such a way as to optimize efficient forage use, extend the grazing season, or improve the economic sustainability of the enterprise (Hancock, 2012.). Mismanagement of livestock may also result in decreased profit margins for ranchers. Furthermore, weeds in pastures and rangeland cost ranchers in excess of \$180 million annually in Florida (Sellers and Ferrell, 2013). At the end of every year from 2013-2019, selected participants were sent a survey to determine the financial impact that Extension recommendations had on their operation. End of year survey participants (n=246) indicated an average costs savings of \$1035.00 (actual range was from \$0-\$82,500/operation) as a direct result of implementing Extension recommended practice changes. By following recommended practices, my programs have saved Lake County farmers and ranchers an estimated \$7,280,190.00 (average reported cost savings of surveyed participants extrapolated across all adult group learning participants from 2013-2020). As a result of education received through UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County producers can optimize the profitability of animal production systems within natural and environmental constraints.

Agricultural nonpoint source pollution is a major water quality concern throughout Florida. The 2000 National Water Quality Inventory (USEPA, 2002) reported that runoff from agricultural lands was a leading source of pollution. Equine farms can also contribute to water quality issues if not properly managed (Airaksinen et al.,2007) but are often too small to be targeted by traditional outreach services (Westenforf et al., 2010). Since 2013 I have provided on-site educational information on Best Management Practices (BMPs), recommended grazing practices, and sustainable land management to over 651 farm owners, including 421 horse farms. Additionally, a discussion on the importance of BMPs, and information on enrolling in the BMP program, was included in every relevant talk I gave during this time period. As a result, the number of Lake County Livestock, Forage, and Equine producers practicing one or more BMP recommended practices increased by 8.5-fold between 2013 and 2020. The adoption of Best Management Practices is thought to be effective means to reduce NPS pollution (USEPA, 2003).

**CONTACT US:**

<https://bmp.ifas.ufl.edu>

Dr. Lakesh Sharma, Statewide BMP Coordinator  
Asst. Professor, Soil & Water Sciences Dept.  
(352) 294-3167  
[lakesh.sharma@ufl.edu](mailto:lakesh.sharma@ufl.edu)

Dr. Michael Dukes  
Dir., Center for Land Use Efficiency  
(352) 392-1864 ext. 205  
[mddukes@ufl.edu](mailto:mddukes@ufl.edu)