



## Strip-Till Helps Save Dollars & Water

An excerpt from [Strip-Till Farmer](#)

Strip-till operation on 17,000 acres helped save \$80/acre and produced 275 bushels of corn/acre.

**“Strip-till helps water infiltration to where we can cut back by 20% on water application...”**

De Jager Farms started strip-till operation on some of its farmland 10 years ago, and the only reason was financial. “With increases in labor and fuel costs, and the increased price of tractors and all other inputs, we were looking for ways to cut costs,” said Nathan Ray, general manager. “We started on several hundred acres, then took it to 800 acres, then to 1,500 acres, and by the fourth year, we were at 3,000 acres of our 8,500 acres of cropland. “The \$80/acre reduction in fuel and labor we saw when we moved to strip-till was an immediate eye-opener,” he said. “The fifth year, we went 100% strip-till on our corn.” [READ MORE](#)

## SB712 FAQs

From Senate Bill 712 to the Clean Waterways Act and Agricultural Best Management Practices. Some of your questions and answers are covered in this blog (<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/clue/2020/08/31/from-senate-bill-712-to-the-clean-waterways-act-and-agricultural-best-management-practices/>)

## BMP Success Story:



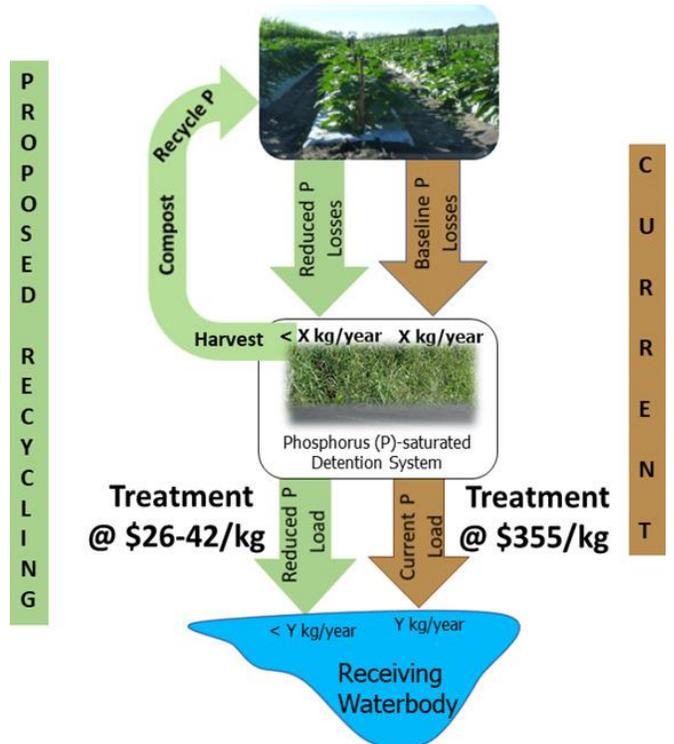
Lakesh Sharma worked with a grower in the St. Augustine area to improve soil cover by increasing the Sudangrass seed rate from 10 lbs./acre to 20 lbs./acre.

The results are encouraging, and the grower is happy to see more cover and better nutrient immobilization for the next crop.



## Recycle phosphorus before it goes into public waters

On-farm pond phosphorus can be reused at much less cost of \$40 per kilogram than \$355 to \$909 when treated before it reaches to natural water streams, a study conducted by Sanjay Shukla, a UF/IFAS professor of agricultural and biological engineering. This study has been published in the journal [Science of The Total Environment](#). The core idea is to harvest the growing plants inside ponds and compost them and then provide to the growers for use at no cost. This recycling mechanism could save and treat phosphorus at 90% less cost compared to what the state is spending to meet the phosphorus concentration goals in the Everglades. Findings from the new UF/IFAS research show compost can increase the phosphorus retention rate in these ponds from 50% to 77% for farms that produce fresh vegetables.



Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S004896972030913X>

## Conservation at Work Stakeholder Toolkit

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) unveiled a new video series, [Conservation at Work](#), earlier this year. The series consists of short videos that highlight common conservation practices.

The videos shine the spotlight on farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who tell us their conservation stories. Those detail how practices are helping them protect and improve resources and save time and money. By sharing the conservation successes of our clients, we hope the videos will help educate our customers and the general public and motivate more farmers and land-owners to consider conservation.



## 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

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