



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL WATER POLICY

OKEECHOBEE BMAP MEETING

R. Clegg Hooks
February 20, 2013

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- **Agricultural BMPs**

- Most effective and practicable means for improving water quality
 - Determined through research, field-testing, and expert review
- Verified effective by DEP, adopted by FDACS
- Must be economically and technically feasible for the producer to implement
 - When funding is available, FDACS works with producers to provide cost-share for some BMPs



Agriculture's Role in BMAPs

- Commercial agricultural operations within BMAP areas have two options:
 - Enroll in and implement FDACS BMPs
 - Follow a FDEP- or WMD-prescribed water quality monitoring plan at their own expense
 - Failure to do either could result in enforcement action by FDEP or the applicable WMD



Typical Agricultural BMPs

- **Nutrient Management**

- Practices designed provide necessary crop nutrients while protecting against adverse environmental effects
 - Soil testing, plant tissue testing to determine appropriate rates; fertilizer application timing and placement

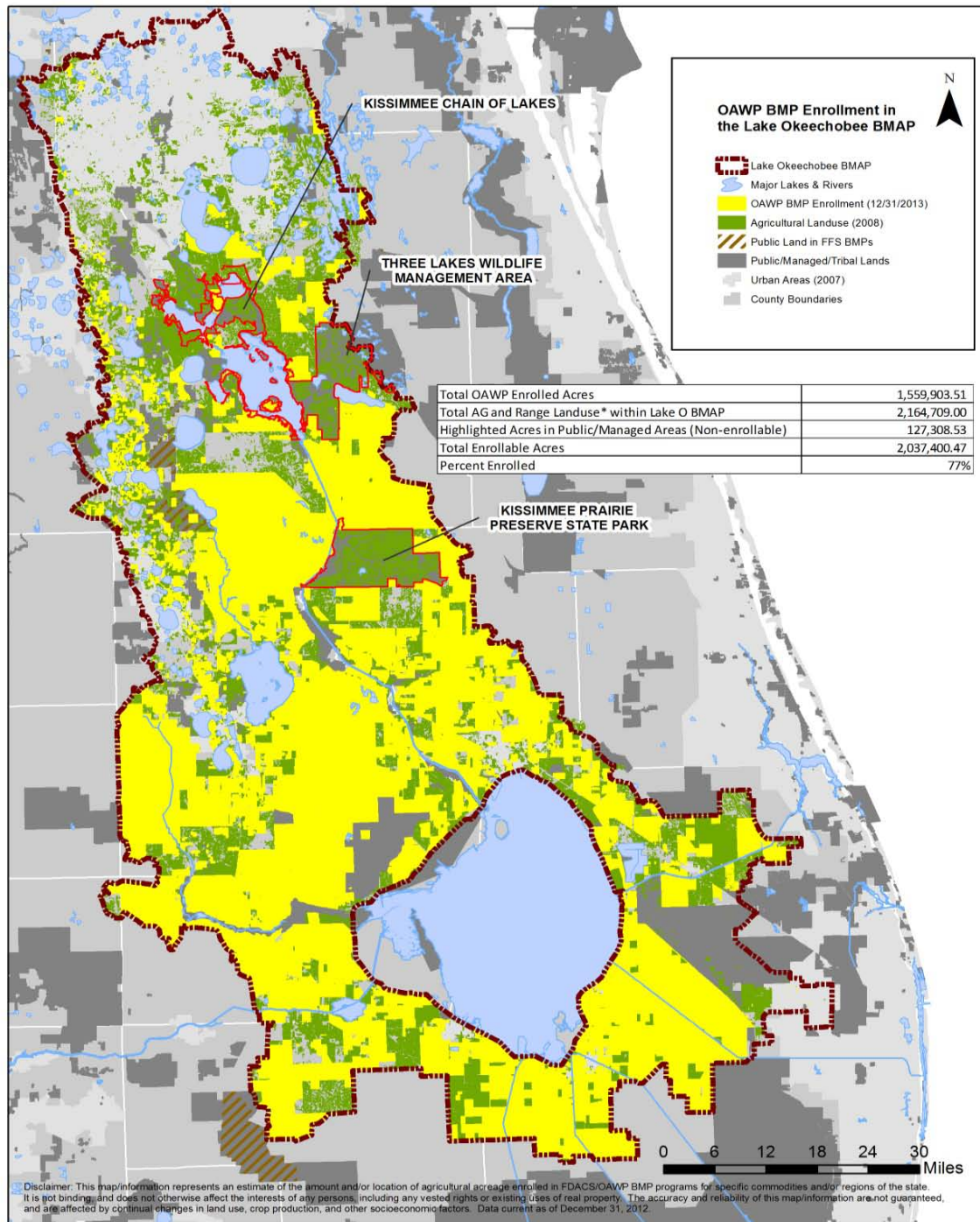
- **Irrigation Management**

- Control the volume and frequency of irrigation water applied to crops, to meet water needs of crops while conserving water resources



Current Status of Efforts in the Lake O Watershed





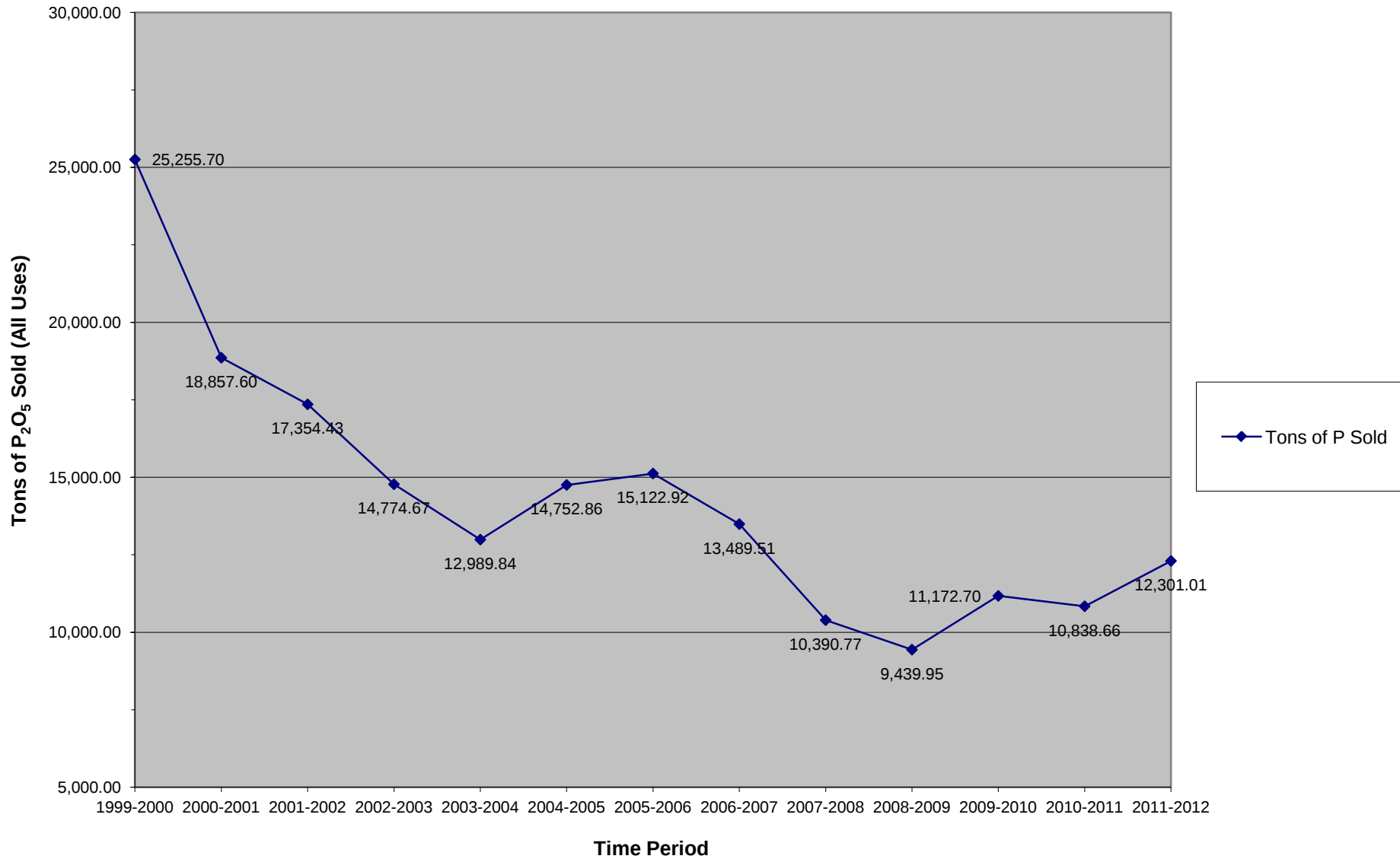
BMP Enrollment in the Lake O BMAP

December 31st, 2012

Values		
Usage	# of NOIs	NOI Acres
Citrus	1,276	185,643.04
Cow/Calf	345	859,328.23
Dairies	27	36,546.35
Equine	3	114.45
Forestry	1	25,660.20
Fruit Orchards	3	345.28
Mixed Use	2	29,634.90
Nursery	56	2,441.84
Row Crops	159	403,986.79
Sod Farms	14	15,648.80
Specialty Farms	3	553.64
Grand Total	1,889	1,559,903.51

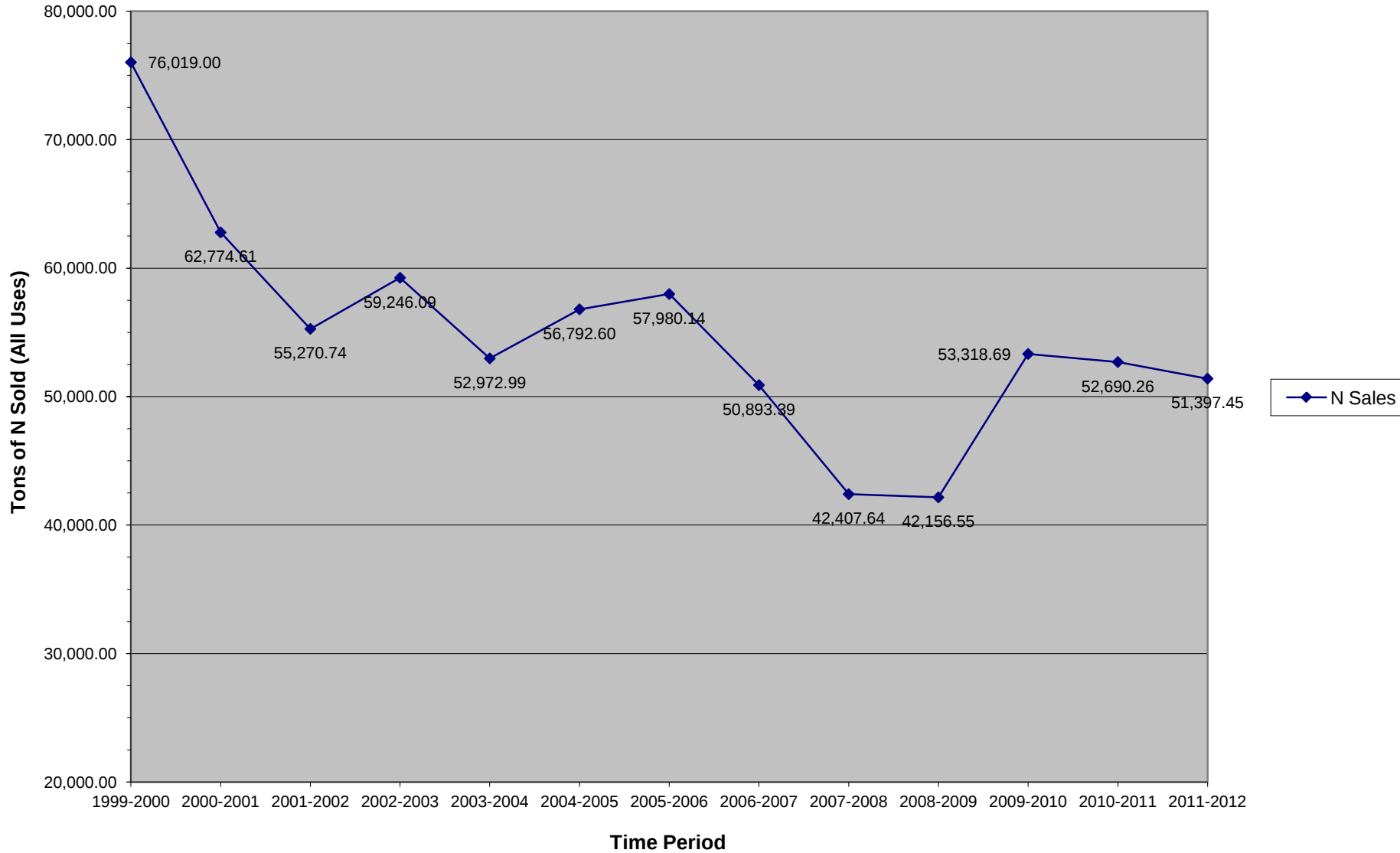
Total P₂O₅ Sold

(Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Martin, Okeechobee, Osceola, Polk)



Total N Sold

(Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Martin, Okeechobee, Osceola, Polk)



Moving Forward

- DACS will work with remaining agricultural operations to increase BMP enrollment/implementation.
- When available, DACS will continue to provide cost share funds for structural BMPs.
- DACS will be expanding their Implementation Assurance Program in the L. O. Watershed.
- Other Ag-related programs and projects are under way in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed.



Water Quality Challenges

- We need to manage our expectations.
- Biological systems rarely respond within arbitrary timeframes.
- Accounting for and addressing legacy loads will be a continuing challenge.
- Focus on incremental improvement and staying the course.
- We've accomplished much – but have a tendency to under-appreciate it.



Questions?

For more information on BMP programs:

www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com





Thank You!

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www.FloridaAgWaterPolicy.com

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