

Orange Creek Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) Annual Update

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Consumer Services (FDACS)
Office of Agricultural Water Policy**

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Presentation Overview

- ✓ Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) Overview and Enrollment Update
- ✓ Orange Creek BMAP BMP Compliance Assistance Process
- ✓ Implementation Assurance (IA) Program Overview



Agricultural BMPs

- ✓ Practical measures that reduce amount of fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, and other pollutants entering water resources.
 - ✓ Determined through research, field-testing, and expert review.
 - ✓ Designed to improve water quality while maintaining agricultural production.
- ✓ BMP manuals developed in collaboration with agricultural industry, agencies, and others.
 - ✓ Verified by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
- ✓ Must be economically and technically feasible for producer to implement.



Agriculture's Role in Water Quality Protection

- ✓ Florida Legislature provided for agricultural operations to implement BMPs as preferred means to help meet total maximum daily loads and protect water quality.
- ✓ Operations within adopted BMAP areas and/or Northern Everglades have two options*:
 - ✓ Enroll in and implement FDACS BMPs,
 - OR
 - ✓ Follow an FDEP- or water management district (WMD)-prescribed water quality monitoring plan at producer's own expense.

* Failure to do either could lead to enforcement action by FDEP or applicable WMD.



FDACS BMP Programs

- ✓ **Citrus:** Statewide manual adopted 2013.
- ✓ **Vegetable/Row Crop:** Adopted 2005, new version planned for 2015.
- ✓ **Container Nursery:** Statewide comprehensive manual adopted 2014.
- ✓ **Sod:** Adopted 2008.
- ✓ **Cow/Calf:** Adopted 2009.
- ✓ **Conservation Plan Rule:** Adopted 2010.
- ✓ **Specialty Fruit/Nut:** Adopted 2011.
- ✓ **Equine:** Adopted 2011.
- ✓ **Dairy:** In development, adoption planned for late 2015.
- ✓ **Poultry:** In development, adoption planned for 2016.
- ✓ **Forestry:** Program under the Florida Forest Service.
- ✓ **Aquaculture:** Division of Aquaculture Certification Program.



Benefits of Participation in FDACS BMP Program

- ✓ Demonstrates environmental stewardship.
- ✓ Possible increases in efficiencies/reduce costs.
- ✓ Provides presumption of compliance with state water quality standards for nutrients addressed by BMP manuals.
- ✓ Protects from duplicative regulation by local government for activities addressed by implemented BMPs.
- ✓ Eligibility for FDACS-funded cost share.
- ✓ Satisfies some WMD permit requirements.



Types and Categories of BMPs

✓ BMP Types:

- ✓ Management BMPs – e.g., nutrient and irrigation management, comprise majority of practices and often are not readily observable. Generally affordable.
- ✓ Structural BMPs – e.g., installation of structures or changes to land. These BMPs include water control structures, fencing, and tailwater recovery systems. Sometimes require cost share to be economically feasible.

✓ Key BMP Categories:

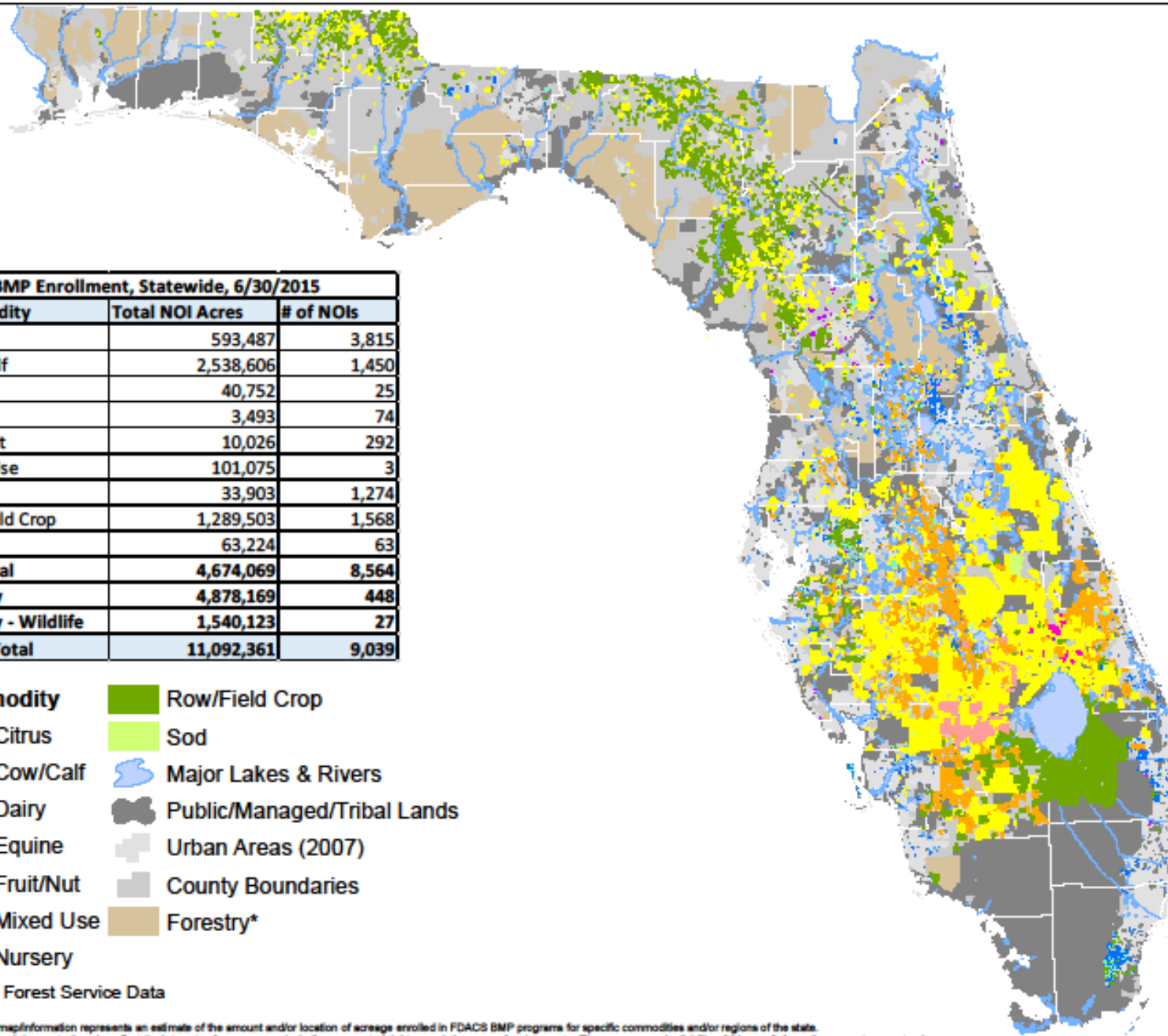
- ✓ Nutrient Management
- ✓ Irrigation Management
- ✓ Sedimentation and Erosion Control
- ✓ Water Resources Protection



Statewide BMP Enrollment as of June 30, 2015

- ✓ Statewide Non-Forestry – 4.68 million acres, including:
 - ✓ Cow/Calf – 2.5 million acres
 - ✓ Row Crops – 1.3 million acres
 - ✓ Citrus – 733,000 acres
 - ✓ All Other – 150,000 acres
- ✓ Statewide Forestry – 4.87 million acres





FDACS BMP Enrollment, Statewide, 6/30/2015		
Commodity	Total NOI Acres	# of NOIs
Citrus	593,487	3,815
Cow/Calf	2,538,606	1,450
Dairy	40,752	25
Equine	3,493	74
Fruit/Nut	10,026	292
Mixed Use	101,075	3
Nursery	33,903	1,274
Row/Field Crop	1,289,503	1,568
Sod	63,224	63
Sub Total	4,674,069	8,564
Forestry	4,878,169	448
Forestry - Wildlife	1,540,123	27
Grand Total	11,092,361	9,039

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|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Commodity | Row/Field Crop |
| Citrus | Sod |
| Cow/Calf | Major Lakes & Rivers |
| Dairy | Public/Managed/Tribal Lands |
| Equine | Urban Areas (2007) |
| Fruit/Nut | County Boundaries |
| Mixed Use | Forestry* |
| Nursery | |

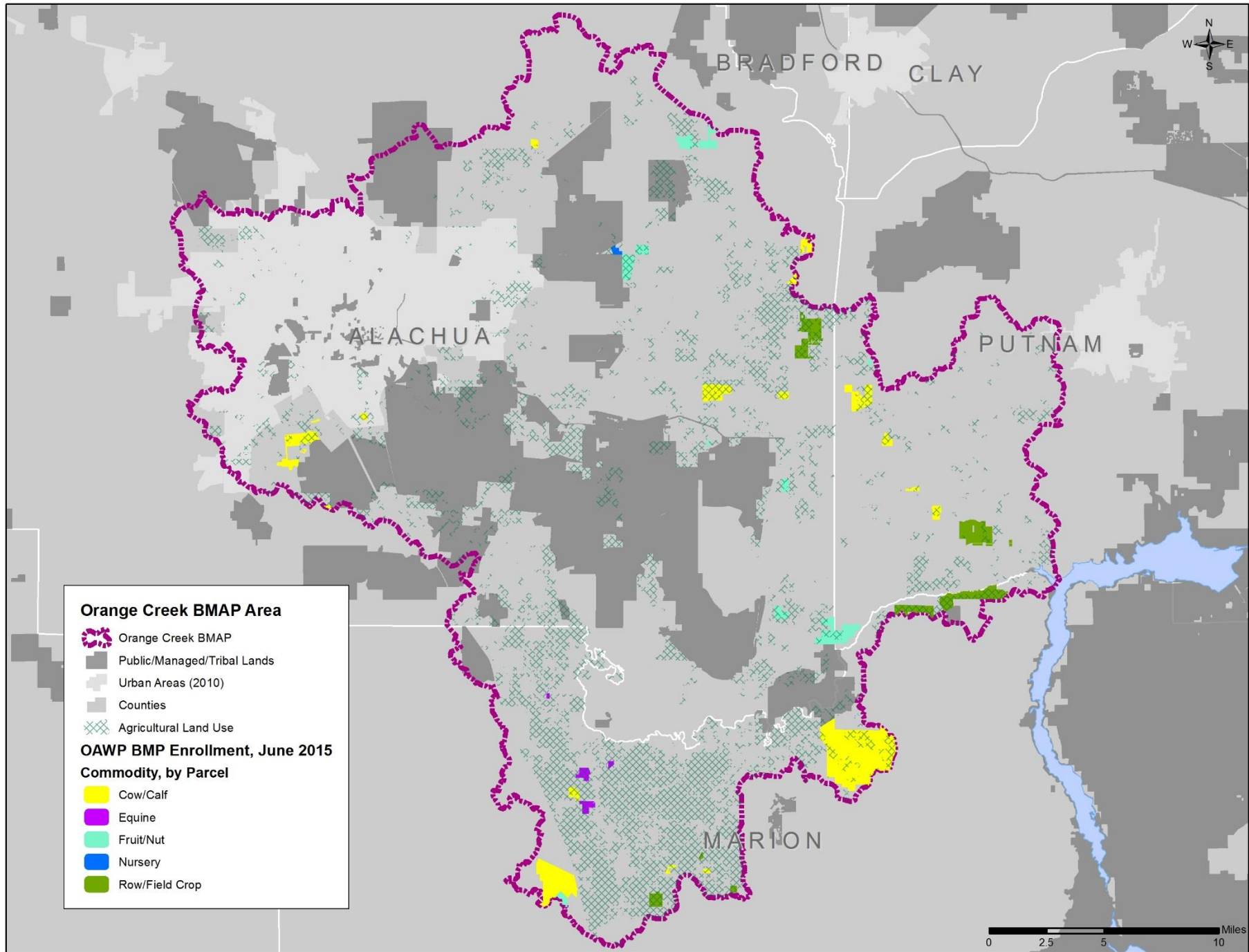
* Florida Forest Service Data

Disclaimer: This map/information represents an estimate of the amount and/or location of acreage enrolled in FDACS BMP programs for specific commodities and/or regions of the state. It is not binding, and does not otherwise affect the interests of any persons, including any vested rights or existing uses of real property. The accuracy and reliability of this map/information are not guaranteed, and are affected by continual changes in land use, crop production, and other socioeconomic factors. Date current as of June 30, 2015.

Agricultural Land Use and BMP Enrollment in Orange Creek BMAP Area

2009 SJRWMD Land Use	Land Use Acres	Enrolled Acres
Pasture and Mixed Rangeland	36,654	3,485
Row/Field/Mixed Crops	10,402	1,902
Citrus	132	0
Horse Farms* and Specialty Farms	7,510	245
Orchards and Other Groves	1,507	982
Nurseries (all)	307	60
Cattle Feeding Operations	53	0
Poultry Feeding Operations	12	N/A
Dairies	71	N/A
TOTAL	56,648	6,672

** Many acres in this category are likely non-commercial/hobby farms.*



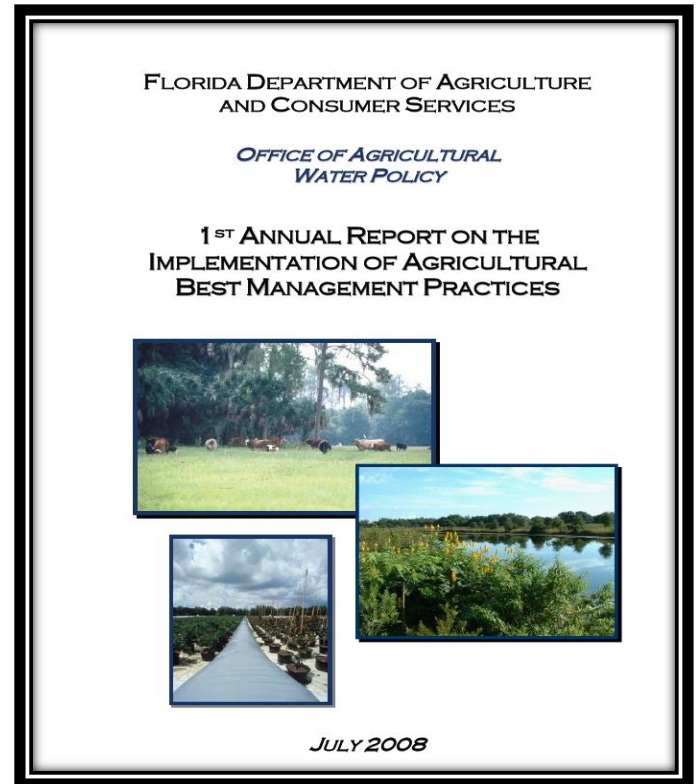
Orange Creek BMAP BMP Compliance Assistance Process

- ✓ FDACS will send letters to approximately 220 landowners.
- ✓ Non-responders will be contacted by FDEP for follow up.
- ✓ Similar effort in Lower St. John's River Basin Main Stem BMAP area was very successful.
 - ✓ Initial enrollment: 47,303 acres (June 2013)
 - ✓ Current enrollment: 99,627 acres (June 2015)



Current IA Program

- ✓ Follow-up after BMP enrollment.
- ✓ Began in 2005 in Suwannee.
- ✓ Two Components:
 - ✓ Site Visits
 - ✓ Surveys



Current BMP IA Program: Site Visits

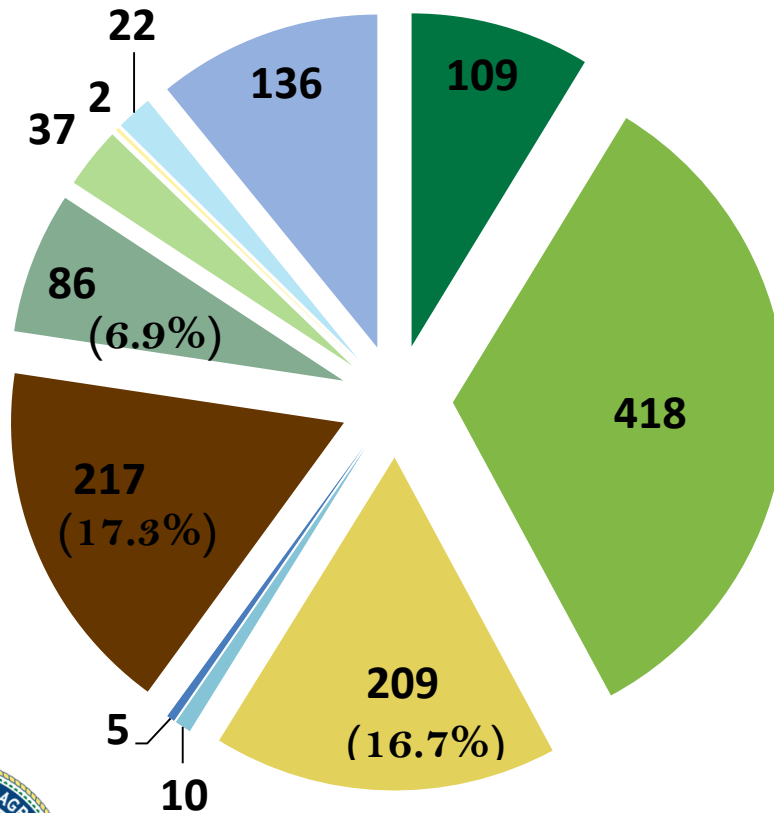
✓ Site Visits

- ✓ 1,251 conducted (2007–2014)
- ✓ Different forms/thresholds used until 2014.
- ✓ Key areas for improvement:
 - ✓ Recordkeeping
 - ✓ Mobile irrigation laboratory use
 - ✓ Soil and tissue testing



BMP IA Site Visits

Total Visits (2007-2014)



- Dairy
- Poultry
- Cow/Calf
- Sod
- Row Crops
- Nursery
- Citrus
- Specialty Fruit & Nut
- Equine
- Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan
- Vegetable & Agronomic Crop



Current BMP IA Program: Surveys

Manual Surveyed	Year Completed
Ridge Citrus	2009
Indian River Citrus	2009
Peace River/Manasota Citrus	2010
Gulf Citrus	2010
Vegetables & Agronomic Crops	2010
Container Nursery	2011
Sod	2013
Cow/Calf	2014
Specialty Fruit & Nut	2015

BMP IA Program Surveys

Manual	Number of Mailed Surveys	Number of Survey Responses Received	Percent Response	NOIs
Ridge Citrus	199	133	66.8%	1,017
Indian River Citrus	93	47	50.5%	364
Peace River/Manasota Citrus	51	35	68.6%	123
Gulf Citrus	18	13	72.2%	52
Vegetables & Agronomic Crops	353	137	38.8%	537
Sod	41	25	61.0%	53
Cow/Calf	318	270	84.9%	423
Specialty Fruit & Nut	118	105	57.7%	211
TOTAL	1,257	757	60.8%	2,780

Future of IA Program

- ✓ Revisions to program began in late 2014.
- ✓ Preliminary draft plan developed in May 2015.
 - ✓ Site-visit prioritization tool
 - ✓ Site-visit goals
- ✓ Internal and external work groups will be developed.



Thank You!

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