



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

April 17, 2020

Julie Espy
Acting Director
Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Espy,

Pursuant to sections 373.4595 and 403.067, F.S., the Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is formally transmitting 24 agricultural landowner files for compliance and enforcement actions by your department for failure to enroll in the OAWP best management practices (BMP) programs, and therefore failing to obtain the associated presumption of compliance with state water quality standards. During any compliance or enforcement activities undertaken by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), OAWP is available to enroll agricultural landowners who choose to participate in the OAWP BMP Program and implement those BMPs identified as necessary to meet the presumption of compliance with state water quality standards provided for in statute. If any of the identified agricultural landowners choose to enroll in the OAWP BMP Program, they will be prioritized for an implementation site visit to be undertaken in a reasonable time after enrollment in the BMP Program to ensure that BMPs have been implemented in the manner established in the BMP manuals. Please note that Tammy Hinkle will serve as the contract for landowners or producers that would like to enroll in the BMP Program. She can be reached at 352.796.7211 ext. 4320 or Tammy.Hinkle@FDACS.gov. If FDEP has any questions on the case file development, please contact Vanessa Bessey at 863.467.3245 or Vanessa.Bessey@FDACS.gov.

OAWP looks forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to implement those measures identified in basin management action plans adopted by FDEP and protection the natural resources of Florida. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Christopher.pettit@fdacs.gov or 850-617-1704 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher Pettit
Director
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Agricultural Water Policy