



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL WATER POLICY

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Update

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July 1, 2015

Lake Okeechobee BMAP Meeting

Presentation Overview

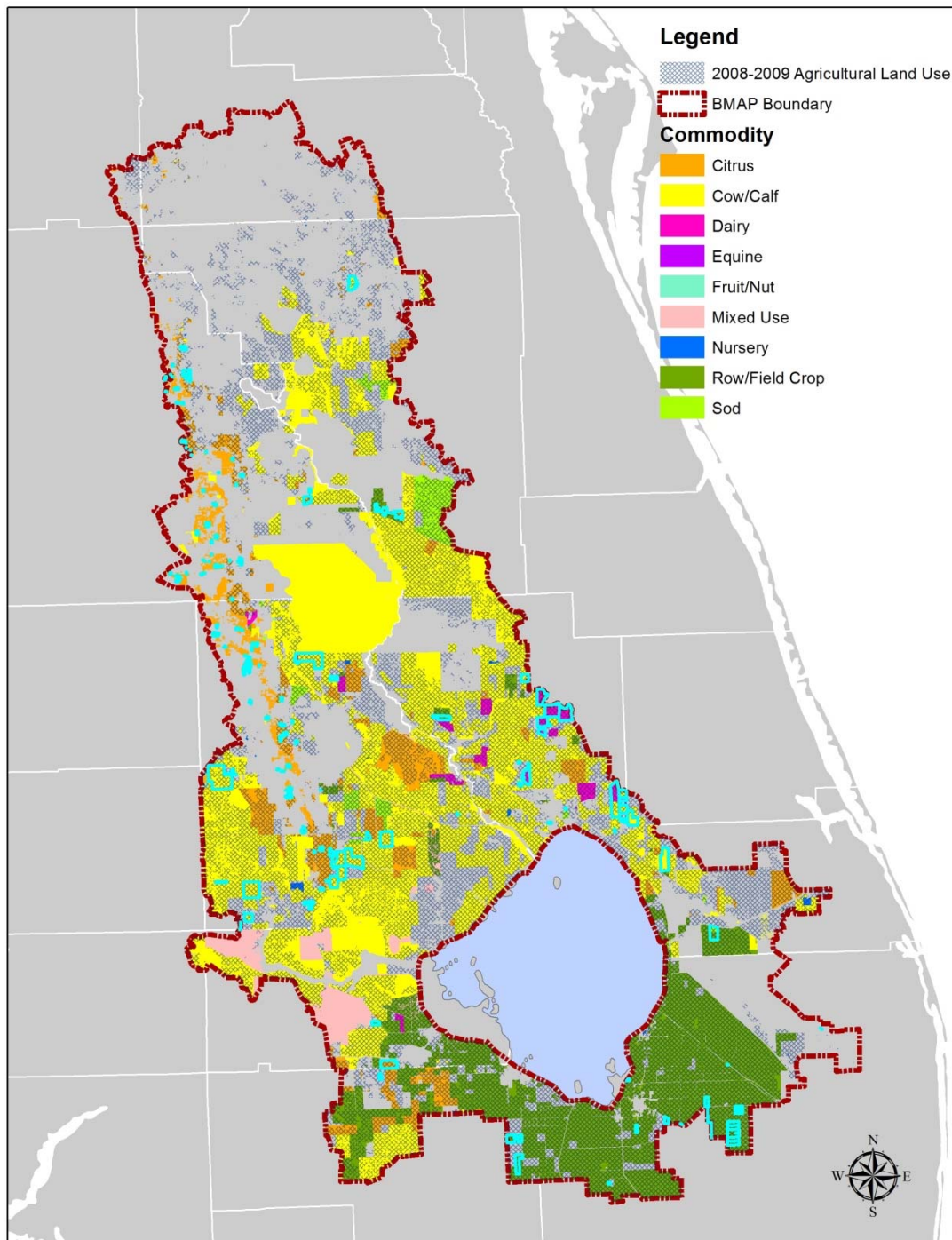
- Best Management Practices (BMP) Program Enrollment Update
- BMP Manual Updates
- Implementation Assurance (IA) Program Overview
- Agricultural Land Use Updates
 - Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough (TC/NS)



Presentation Overview, continued

- Compliance Assistance
 - TC/NS
- Dairy Cost-Share Projects





BMP Program Enrollment Update (as of March 31, 2015)



BMP Program Enrollments since Basin Management Action Plan Adoption

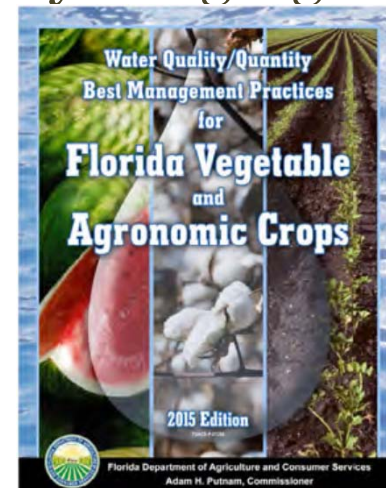
Commodity	Notice of Intent (NOI) Count	Acres
Conservation Plan Rule	5	13,155.22
Specialty Fruit & Nut	9	405.94
Citrus	88	6,830.58
Cow/Calf	25	22,296.13
Equine	1	41.12
Nurseries	1	30.05
Sod	1	575.70
Vegetable & Agronomic Crops	11	7,216.69
TOTAL	141	50,551.43



BMP Manual Update

– 2015 Vegetable and Agronomic Crop BMP Manual

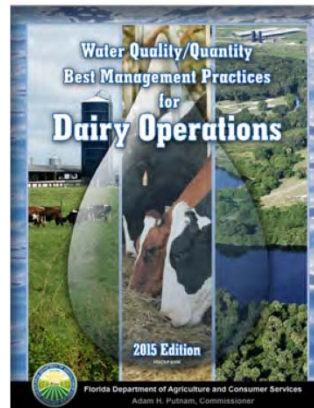
- Awaiting effectiveness verification letter.
- Specific nutrient/irrigation management practices for plastic mulch, bare ground, sugarcane, hay/silage, green house production systems.



BMP Manual Update, continued

—2015 Dairy BMP Manual

- Final draft available.
- Awaiting BMP effectiveness verification letter.
- Steering committee working on flowchart on how to achieve nutrient balance.



Current IA Program

- Follow-up after BMP enrollment.
- FDACS began IA Program in 2005.
- Two components:
 - Site visits
 - Surveys



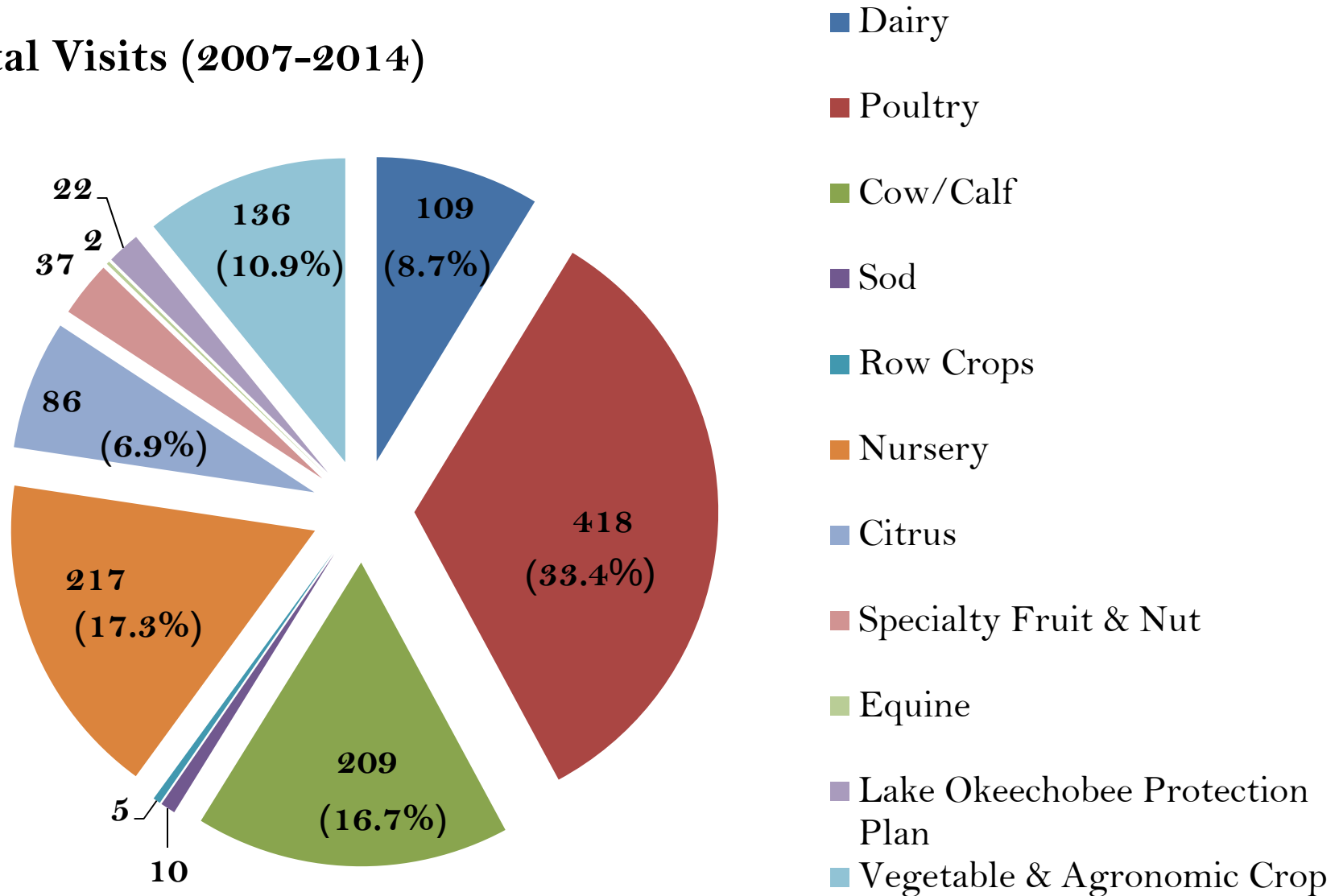
Current IA Program: Site Visits

- **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



Current IA Program: Site Visits

Total Visits (2007-2014)



Current 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



Current 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
Vegetable/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



Specialty Fruit & Nut Survey Results

- Survey overview:
 - 18 nutrient-management BMPs
 - 10 irrigation-management BMPs
- Results:
 - 5 practices implemented at rate of 80% or higher.
 - 11 practices implemented at rate of 40% or less.



Specialty Fruit & Nut Survey Results

- Areas for improvement:
 - Recordkeeping
 - Education on irrigation-management tools
 - Applicability of rain shutoff devices on irrigation systems



Future of IA Program

- Revisions to program began in late 2014.
- Preliminary draft plan developed in May 2015.
- Internal and external work groups will be developed.

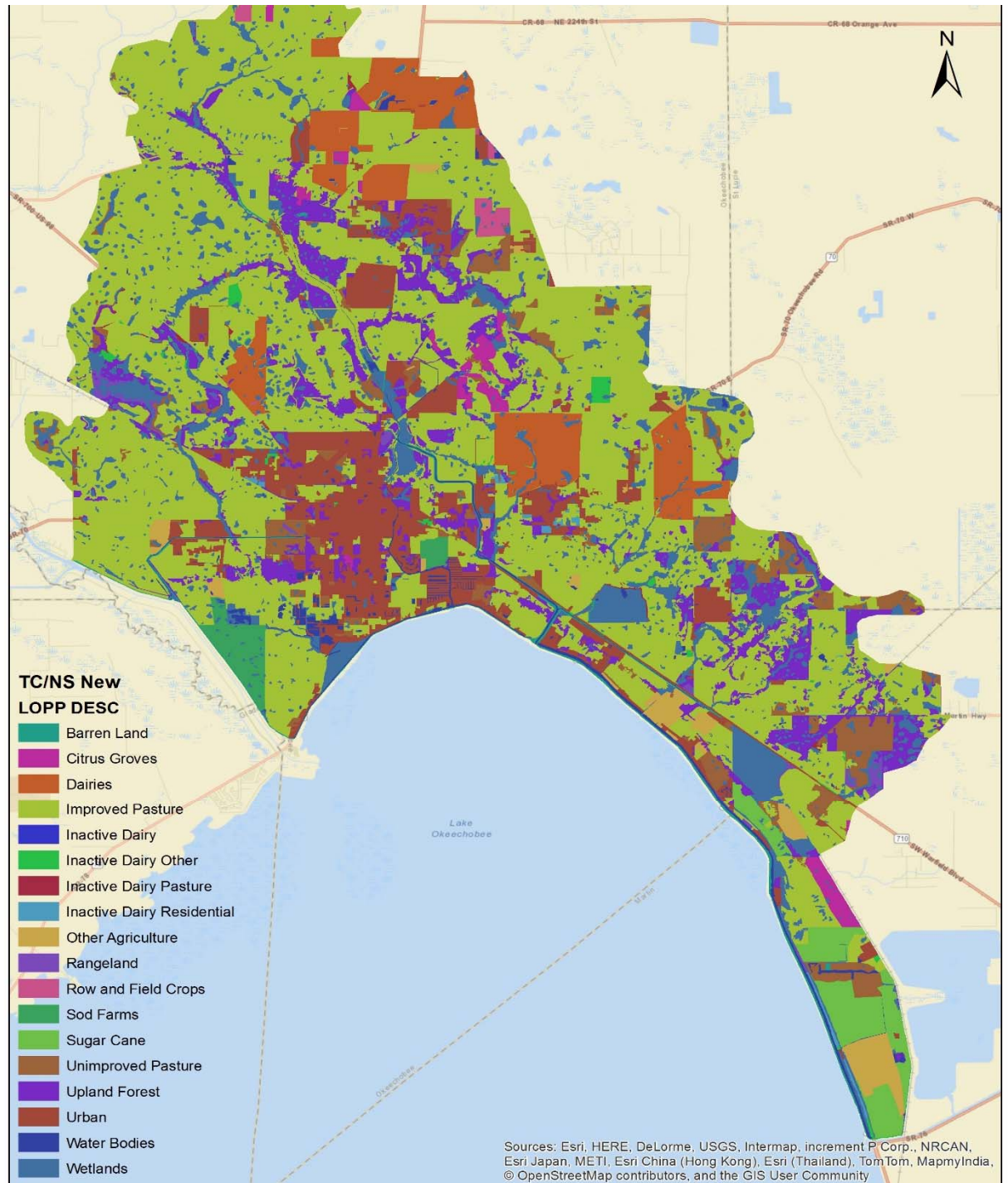
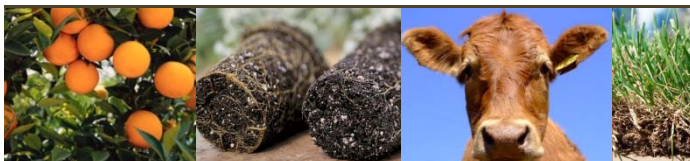


Agricultural Land Use Updates

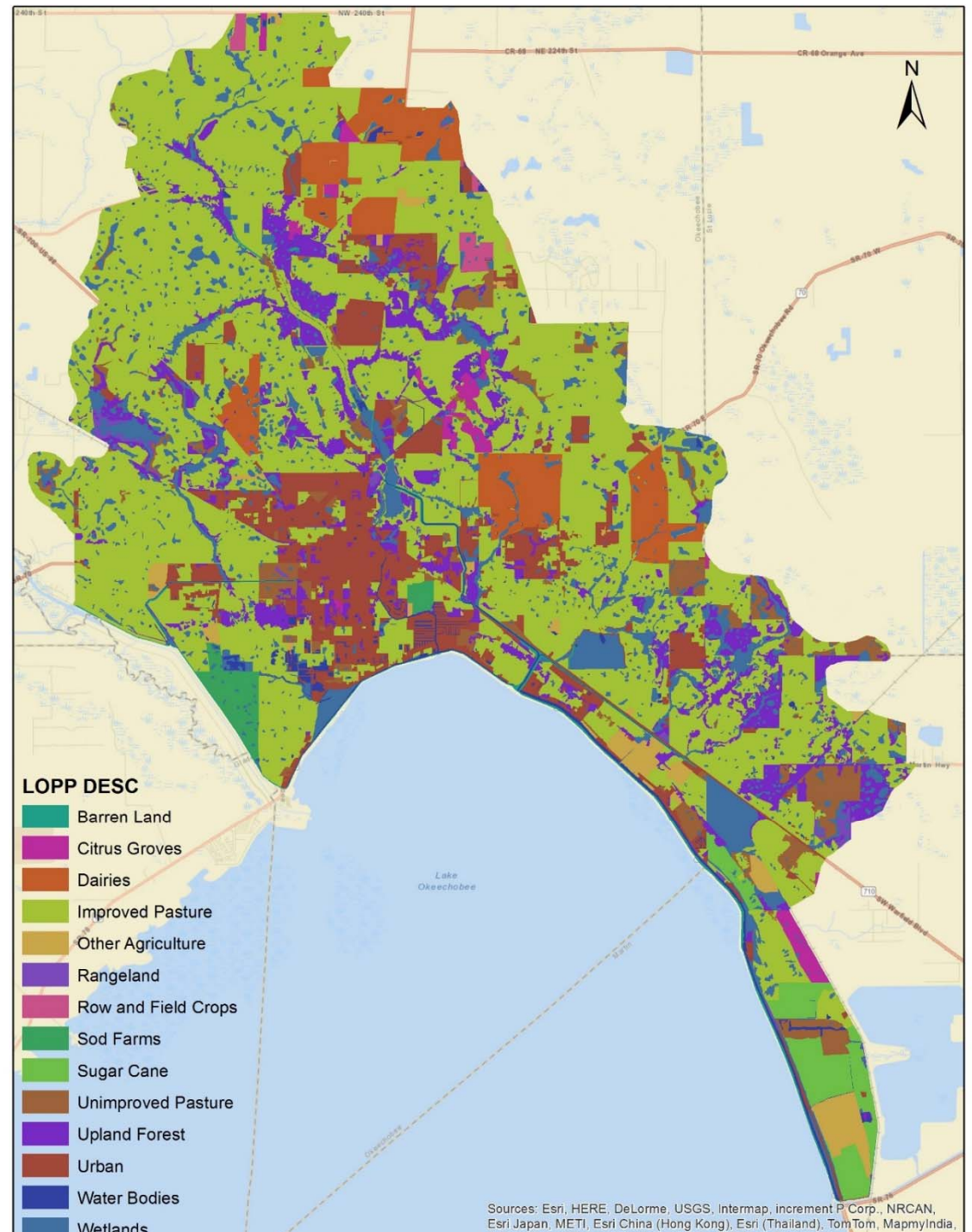
- FDACS began ground truthing efforts for six northern sub-watersheds.
 - TC/NS = complete
 - Indian Prairie = in progress
 - Fisheating Creek = late 2015
 - Lake Istokpoga = 2016
 - Upper Kissimmee = 2016
 - Lower Kissimmee = 2016



TC/NS Original Land Use



TC/NS Land Use Changes



TC/NS Compliance Assistance

- FDACS prepared list of unenrolled producers in TC/NS Sub-watershed.
 - Parcels less than 50 acres (with the exception of nurseries) and non-commercial agriculture parcels excluded from list.
- FDACS sent letter to 118 producers week of May 11th.
- Response deadline was June 30, 2015.
- Non-responders' information will be provided to Florida Department of Environmental Protection for second letter.



Dairy Cost-Share Projects

- FDACS is working with eight dairies in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed to implement cost-share BMPs.
 - Stormwater collection ponds
 - Barn improvements to move cows off of pasture
- Estimated reduction of 1.84 metric tons per year of total phosphorus for ~\$2.363 million.



Questions?

