



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

August 15, 2020

Dear Landowner,

You are receiving this letter because records indicate that you own agricultural lands within the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Area which includes the Lake Okeechobee, St Lucie and Caloosahatchee watersheds. Basin management action plans (BMAP) have been developed for these areas by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to address impacts to water quality related to excess nutrients from both urban and agricultural sources located within the watershed.

State law (Section 403.067, F.S.) requires agricultural land uses within a BMAP area to either implement best management practices (BMPs) adopted by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) or monitor water quality as prescribed by FDEP at their own expense to demonstrate compliance with state water quality standards. The 2020 BMAP update adopted by FDEP requires FDACS to notify FDEP of producers who are not enrolled in a FDACS BMP Program by January 2021. Enrollment in and implementation of BMPs according to the FDACS BMP Program provides a landowner with a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards and release from the provisions of Section 376.307(5), F.S., fines for damages, for pollutants addressed by the BMPs.

Agricultural BMPs are designed to balance water resource needs (water conservation and protection of water quality) with agricultural production. An FDACS representative will assist you in the identification of all applicable BMPs for your property/operation and enrollment in the FDACS BMP Program.

Please respond in writing by November 30, 2020, through one of the following means:

- Return the enclosed information sheet in the envelope provided with the appropriate information filled in, or
- Send an email to OAWPsouth@fdacs.gov

If you have questions, please send an email to the address above and a staff member will contact you. After speaking with a staff member, you are still required to respond to submit the required card or send an email. Failure to respond in writing will result in referral to FDEP.

Sincerely,

Christopher Pettit, Director
Office of Agricultural Water Policy