



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

[Florida's Bevy of Best Management Practice Manuals](#)

Florida has adopted a set of statewide, voluntary best management practice (BMP) programs in order to implement the Clean Water Act's TMDL requirements for agriculture. State agencies charged with water resource protection are counting on the effectiveness of these programs because if they are successful, they will forego the need for regulatory actions like those taken in other states. Government works with the university system, water management districts, and other interested parties to develop and implement BMP programs that are economically and technically feasible. It is up to individual producers to recognize the benefits of the program and voluntarily enroll. Participation results in a presumption of compliance with water quality standards, which provides a measure of protection for the producer against accusations of water pollution. These programs are becoming popular, and as a result Florida probably has more BMP manuals than any other state. Depending on the situation, water quality and conservation are addressed on a site-specific, regional, commodity, or watershed basis. BMP manuals exist for citrus, vegetables and agronomic crops, landscape and turfgrass, in-ground and container nurseries, cow/calf operations, forage grasses, silviculture, aquaculture, agrichemical equipment, and blended fertilizer plants. If other states are interested in this approach, they may be able to take advantage of what Florida has already done regarding BMP development. This poster describes all of Florida's BMP manuals (either adopted, interim, or under development) and provides information about where they can be obtained.

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