



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

[BMP Development and Implementation for Indian River Citrus](#)

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program requirements of the federal Clean Water Act are requiring states to develop new initiatives for managing agricultural nonpoint sources. On the east coast of Florida, the citrus industry is taking the lead in developing and implementing watershed-based BMP programs to reduce impacts to off-site impacts of agricultural operations. The process began in 1998, when growers took the initiative to begin the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Indian River Area citrus groves. By adopting and enacting the BMPs, growers hoped to minimize the effects of regulation, legislation, and litigation concerning the EPA's establishment of total maximum daily loads for the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie estuary. The BMP process has produced a BMP manual, a series of workshops and on-farm demonstrations, a public education campaign, and an extensive agricultural worker training program. This paper explains the project and presents some lessons learned about developing consensus among the diverse interests involved in developing BMPs.

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