



THIS FARM CARES

COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

OCTOBER 2011

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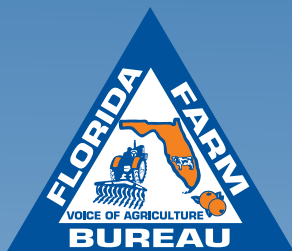
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UPCOMING EVENT:

Farming into the Future, BMPs and You
November 3, 2011
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For more informaton about CARES contact:
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First Year CARES Award Recipient Follows in Father's Footsteps

Live Oak, Florida farmer William Carte, continues to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) after his father, Thomas Carte, earned a County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) award in 2001.

The CARES program was created by Florida Farm Bureau in 2001 to promote public recognition of state-of-the art agriculture production techniques. CARES recognizes farmers and ranchers who have implemented BMPs designed to maximize the conservation and protection of natural resources.

Fenced off water holes and conservation tillage are

among the strategies that Carte has implemented to preserve Florida's natural resources on his farm where he and his wife, Sarah, grow peanuts and raise cattle.

"Water conservation is an area we would like to see more of in the future," Carte said. "Within two years we will have low

"We have a responsibility to take care of this land, We own it but it's not ours."

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(continued from page 1) pressure systems that use less water."

BMPs can also include structural entities such as settling ponds, careful management strategies such as rotational grazing and the precise use of fertilizer applications.

"Every farm operation is different so it's about doing what is right for your farm," Carte said. "We have found it doesn't take nearly as much as what farmers originally thought to grow crops," he said. "In fact, you can produce the same amount, if not more, with less fertilizer."

Carte and his wife, who have been heavily involved in the Florida Farm Bureau Federation for eleven years, credit the organization for its service as the voice of agriculture in the Sunshine

State. The Cartes have served as leaders in Florida Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers program.

"We don't have time to sit here and see what is happening on the legislative level," Carte said. "Sometimes things can happen fast and the staff at Farm Bureau is keeping an eye on



William Carte gives a tour of Stonewall Farms.

what is going on."

He is able to network and discuss what BMPs other farmers and ranchers are implementing on their land

because of his Farm Bureau relationships.

"We have a responsibility to take care of this land, we own it but it's not ours," Carte said.

Farm Bureau began the program in cooperation with the University of Florida/Institute of Food and

Agriculture Sciences, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Suwannee River Water Management District.

CARES is designed to help non-farm residents, including public agency personnel, understand the superior natural resource stewardship of Florida's agricultural producers

and the vital role of their properties in the preservation of greenspace, fresh water recharge areas and wildlife habitat.

Update from the Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP)

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE INCLUDE:

- Almost 3 million acres of Ag lands statewide are now enrolled in BMP programs
- 826,840 acres of Ag lands were enrolled in BMP programs in FY 2010-11
- Results of the OAWP's BMP Implementation Assurance program to follow up on the operation and maintenance of BMP showed that: vegetable and row crop growers who responded to a survey collectively are

implementing close to 100% of the surveyed BMPs applicable to their operations; in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed, 83% of the 41 operations visited received an overall Satisfactory rating on nutrient management, irrigation management, and structural BMPs; in the Suwannee River basin, more than 90% of the 123 dairy and poultry operations visited received a Satisfactory rating on manure, litter, and/or waste management.

- As part of the Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) program in FY 2010-11, producers

saved approximately 1 billion gallons of water a year. Since the program was started, the agriculture industry has saved around 8 billion gallons of water per year. The cost to conserve water through MIL services and other conservation programs is much cheaper compared to the costs of developing new sources of water like desalination, large water reservoirs, and reclaiming water.

BMP MANUALS AND RELATED VOLUNTARY RULES UPDATE

Working with producers, Florida Farm Bureau, other

(continued from page 2) agriculture associations, FDEP, UF-IFAS, and others, the OAWP has developed BMP Manuals for citrus, , container nurseries, vegetable and agronomic crops, sod, cow-calf, and specialty fruit and nut. In addition, operations having a current USDA-NRCS conservation plan are eligible to enroll under OAWP's conservation plan rule. As you may know, enrolling in and implementing FDACS BMPs gives producers a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards.

AN UPDATE ON THE LATEST BMP MANUALS INCLUDES:

- The Specialty Fruit and Nut Crop BMP manual was adopted by reference in Rule Chapter 5M-13, and took effect on 5/25/11.
- The Lake Okeechobee rule (Rule Chapter 5M-3) was expanded and renamed to cover the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Area, and took effect on 8/15/11.
- The Equine BMP manual has received initial verification from FDEP and rulemaking has begun. The BMP manual will be adopted by reference in Rule Chapter 5M-14, F.A.C., and should go into effect before the end of the 2011 calendar year.
- A number of BMP manual revisions are underway. A draft Citrus BMP manual has been developed to consolidate the existing three regional BMP manuals and Ridge Citrus rule into one document.
- The Container Nursery BMP manual also is being revised to include field-grown nursery stock, ferns, and greenhouse plant production.

2011

COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

CARES RECIPIENTS

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|------------------------------------|---|
| B&E Double Diamond | Lafayette Dairy, LLC |
| Bass Ranch Inc. Grove | Lyons Poultry |
| Cannon Farms | Morgan & Washington Hay Farm |
| Edward Carter Farm | Nolan C. Galloway III, Canaan Ranch Timber Farm |
| Elda Mae Bass LLC | Peat Marsh Ranch, James Fraser |
| Elmo Douglas, MoBo Angus | Oak Creek, Pete Clemons |
| Elwyn Bass Ranch | Providence Property |
| Fat Cat Ranch | R W Ranch |
| Father & Son Farm | Rio Ranch |
| Glades Ag Corp | Rodney Dicks & Sons |
| Glenn Bass Ranch | Rothert Farms |
| Goolsby Farms | Sache Family, Sache Farms |
| Green Acres Farm | Stormant Farms |
| Haynes Williams | Swift Creek Farm |
| Heath Graham | UF IFAS Boston Farm/ Santa Fe River Ranch Beef Unit |
| Hunter Farm | |
| Indiantown Turf | |
| JC Bass – 4K Ranch | |
| Jerry & Sam Williams, Cognito Farm | |
| KayLee Farm | |

• The Vegetable and Agronomic Crop BMP manual is being revised to include forage grass, and to align the BMPs with the major cultivation or production system types.

For more information about OAWP programs contact Rich Budell, Director or Darrell Smith Assistant Director at 850-675-1700 or visit the OAWP webpage at www.floridawaterpolicy.com

