

Clean Water Rule

ISSUE:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released the text of the proposed revised definition of “Waters of the United States,” otherwise known as the Clean Water Rule. This rule will replace the 2015 Waters of the United States promulgated by the previous administration.

This is an encouraging, common-sense step that provides regulatory clarity for Florida’s farmers, ranchers, small businesses and landowners.

IMPACT:

Florida has long been a leader in addressing water quality issues. In fact, the majority of water quality sampling in the United States has been conducted in Florida. This new rule will assure that decisions regarding water quality stay at the state and local level where they can be effectively addressed without additional, onerous federal regulation.

ACTION:

Once published in the Federal Register, the rule will be open for public comment for sixty (60) days. Florida Farm Bureau members and county Farm Bureau boards will be encouraged to provide public comment and Florida Farm Bureau staff will assist by providing bulleted points that may be included. All members are encouraged to provide both quick and substantive comments.



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FFBF POLICY:

253. Federal Clean Water Act: “We oppose any attempt to broaden the jurisdiction of the CWA (Clean Water Act) to re-define waters formerly considered isolated as Waters of the United States.”

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Florida Farm Bureau (FFB) is the state’s largest general agriculture membership organization, with 147,000 member-families. Florida Farm Bureau’s Agricultural Policy Department facilitates the policy development process initiated by its active membership and ratified annually by the organization’s voting delegates. FFB National Affairs works to advance policies through Florida’s congressional delegation and federal regulatory agencies.

