

COUNTY
ALLIANCE FOR
RESPONSIBLE
ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP



MISSION

To promote environmentally sound farming practices while educating the public on agriculture's role in protecting Florida's natural resources.

CARES BACKGROUND

- The CARES program was implemented in 2001 to promote environmentally sound and economically viable farming.
- The program focuses on recognizing producers who have voluntarily implemented BMPs on their operations.
- Brings agricultural associations, public agencies and institutions, farmers and the public together to increase environmental awareness on farms
- Over 600 farmers and ranchers have been recognized throughout the state

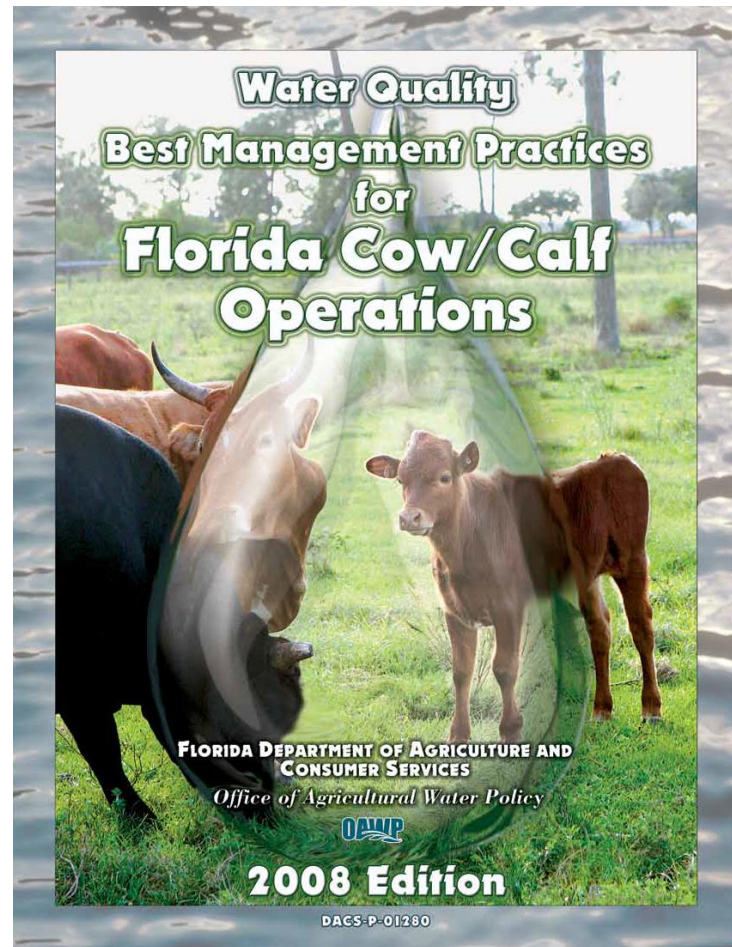
CARES ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- A producer must sign a Letter of Intent with FDACS- OAWP to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- A producer must implement FDACS' BMPs on their farm or ranch.
- An FDACS OAWP staff must verify the producer is properly following the prescribed BMPs.
- A producer must continue to maintain FDACS' BMPs
- A producer must be in good standing with the FDACS Implementation Assurance program.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Multiple commodity specific manuals
 - Citrus, container nursery, vegetable, sod, cow/calf, specialty fruit and nut, equine, aquaculture, forestry
- Consolidation of citrus manual is under development

<http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com/BestManagementPractices.html>



BENEFITS OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Provides a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards for the pollutants addressed in the BMPs
- Eligible for any available cost-share for certain BMPs
- The Florida Right to Farm Act generally prohibits local governments from regulating an agricultural activity that is addressed through BMPs
- Increase production efficiency
- Reduce costs

BMP ENROLLED ACRES BY USAGE

Usage	# of NOIs	Acres Enrolled
Citrus	3,320	579,549.36
Cow/Calf	832	1,969,323.90
Dairies	26	47,265.77
Equine	24	964.46
Fruit/Nut	150	5,614.13
Mixed Use	4	101,323.65
Nursery	1,181	29,602.98
Row Crops	1,198	1,029,242.92
Sod Farms	61	36,551.29
Total Enrolled	6,796	3,799,338.46

*Data provided by FDACS OAWP September 2013

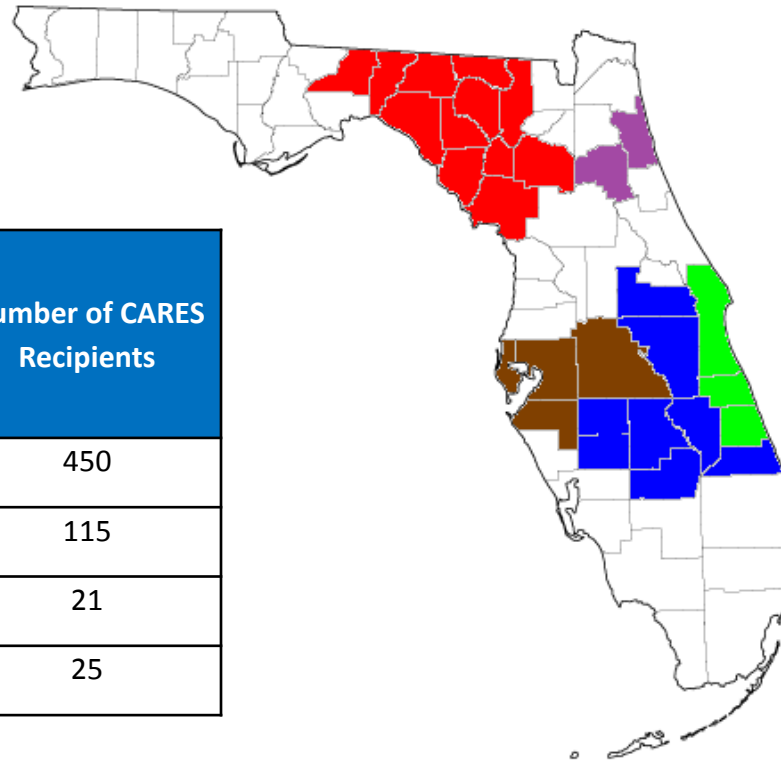
FARMER RECOGNITION

- Local Events
- Media Outlets
- Website



CARES RECOGNITION AREAS

CARES Area	Number of CARES Recipients
Suwannee and Santa Fe	450
Northern Everglades	115
Indian River Citrus	21
Tampa Bay	25



WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

- Thisfarmcares.org
 - Farmer Profiles
 - Media Page
 - Events Page
- Like us on Facebook
- Find us on Twitter



Questions?

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