

CLASS NOTES

Season 2, Episode 6: Befuddled by BMPs? A Guide to Florida's Agricultural Water Usage

Featured Guests: Christa Court, UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Associate Professor and UF/IFAS Economic Impact Analysis Program Director and Jay Capasso, Northeast Florida Regional Specialized Extension Agent for Water Resources



Key Takeaways

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods of preserving both water quantity and quality.
- Because Florida Agriculture requires a significant amount of freshwater, implementing BMPs are one way they can contribute to managing the resource wisely.
- UF/IFAS Research and Extension contributes to the creation and dissemination of these BMPs.
- When implementing BMPs, it is important to balance the economic needs of the farmer, the societal needs of our global food system, and the environmental needs of the ecosystem.

Additional Resources

- Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Best-Management-Practices-BMPs>
- FACETS Project: <https://waterinstitute.ufl.edu/research/featured-projects/facets/>
- NFREC Water Resources: <https://svaec.ifas.ufl.edu/water-resources/best-management-practices---bmps/>

Discussion Guide

- What considerations might make it harder to implement BMPs as a small-scale farmer in Florida? Do you think it would be easier or harder to implement as the size of the farm increases, and why?
- Do you think BMPs should be voluntary? Are there any scenarios in which you think they should be mandatory?
- Who should be involved in the creation of BMPs?
- Outside of agricultural use, what are some other BMPs surrounding water use that you can think of?
- Activity: Look up the Best Management Practices in use across several states with varying climates and forms of agriculture. For example, California, Florida, Nebraska and Vermont. How do the regulations differ and how are they the same? Why do you think these differences exist?

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