BMAPS, BMPs and Cost-Share Opportunities for Producers

Andrea Albertin
Regional Water Resources Agent
Pecan Field Day
September 13, 2018

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

What is a BMAP?

A Basin Management Action Plan is a management plan developed for specific water body (spring, river, lake or estuary) that does not meet the water quality standards set by the state (FDEP)

Water bodies in Florida can be impaired by one or more pollutants:

- **Nutrients** (nitrate most common)
- **Bacteria** (*E. coli*, *Enterococcus* species)
- **Metals** (mercury most common)

The BMAP includes the entire land area that contributes water to the impaired water body – Wakulla BMAP is 1,325 square miles

What is the Goal of the BMAP?

Once a water body is listed as impaired, FDEP sets a **Total Maximum Daily Load** for the pollutant

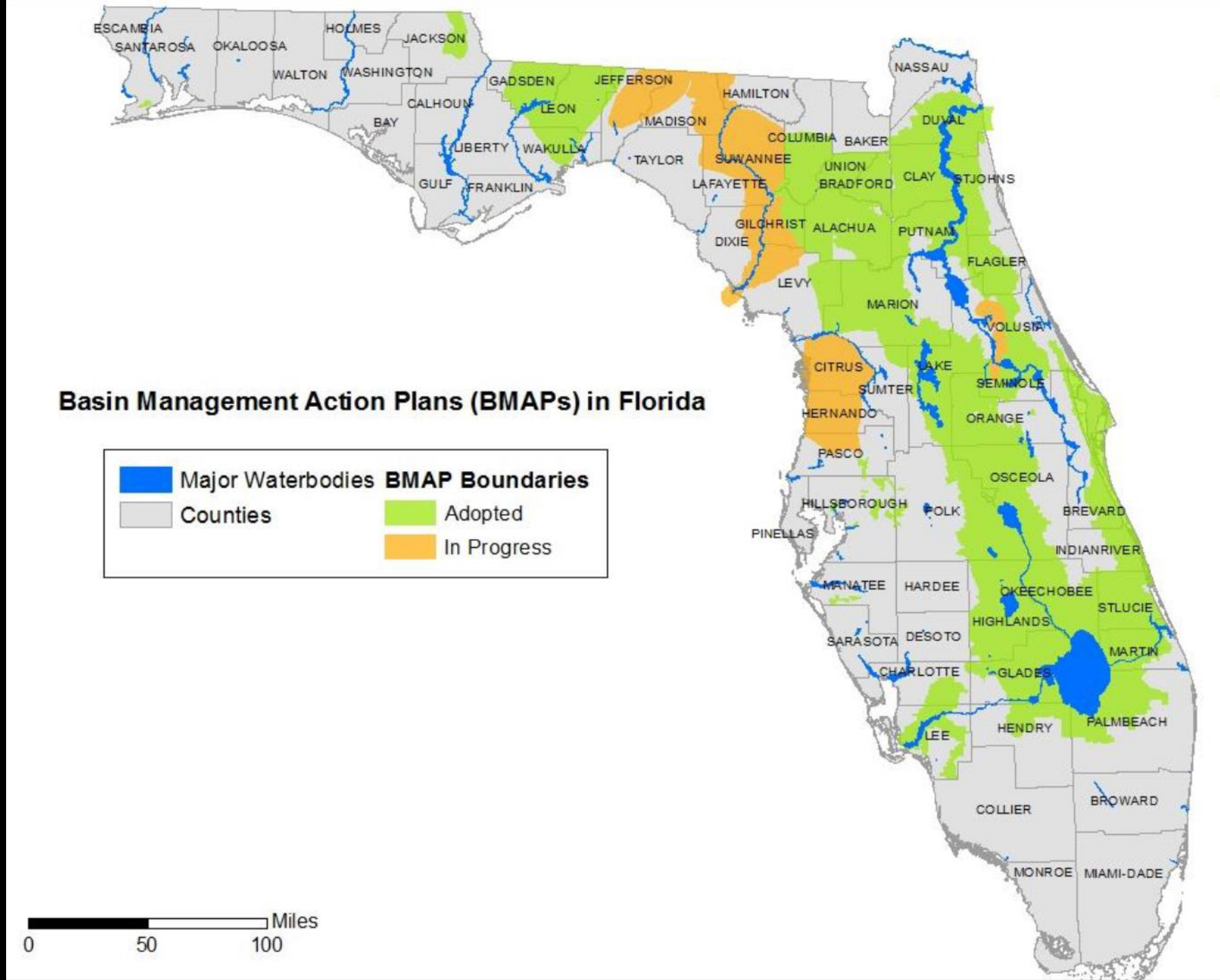
- The max amount of the pollutant allowed in that water body to meet water quality standards

BMAP Goal: Reduce the pollutant load to meet the water quality standards

BMAPs are road maps with lists of projects and action items to reach the TMDL in 20 years

- They are assessed and can be modified every 5 years

BMAPs in Florida



Source: FDACS

Wakulla Springs BMAP

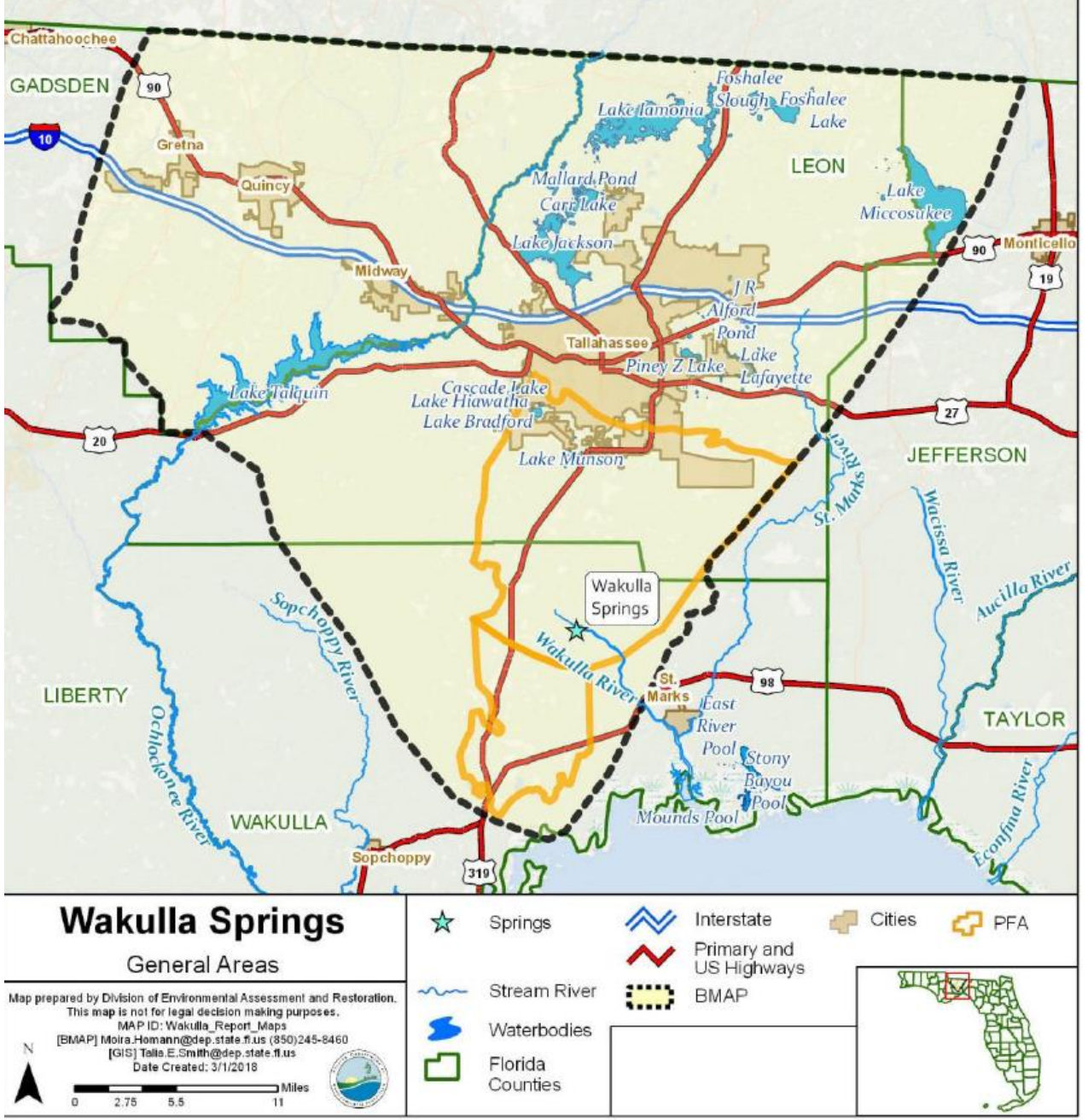
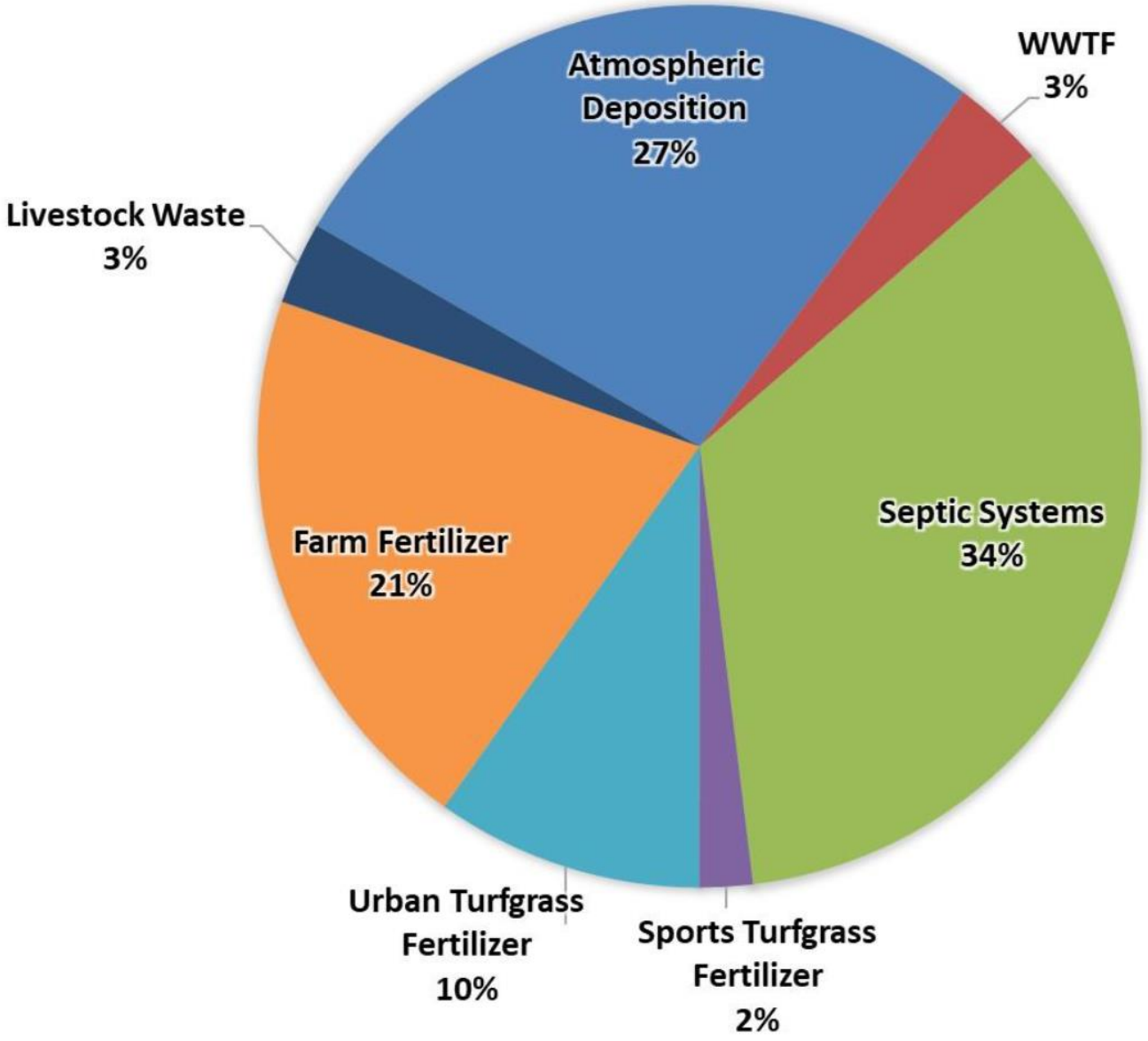


Figure ES-1. Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Spring BMAP and PFA boundaries

Source: FDEP



Nitrate loading to the Wakulla BMAP Area by source

Figure 2. Loading to groundwater by source in the Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Spring BMAP area

<u>Recommended actions for Ag Sector</u>:

Implement Best Management Practices

Source: FDEP

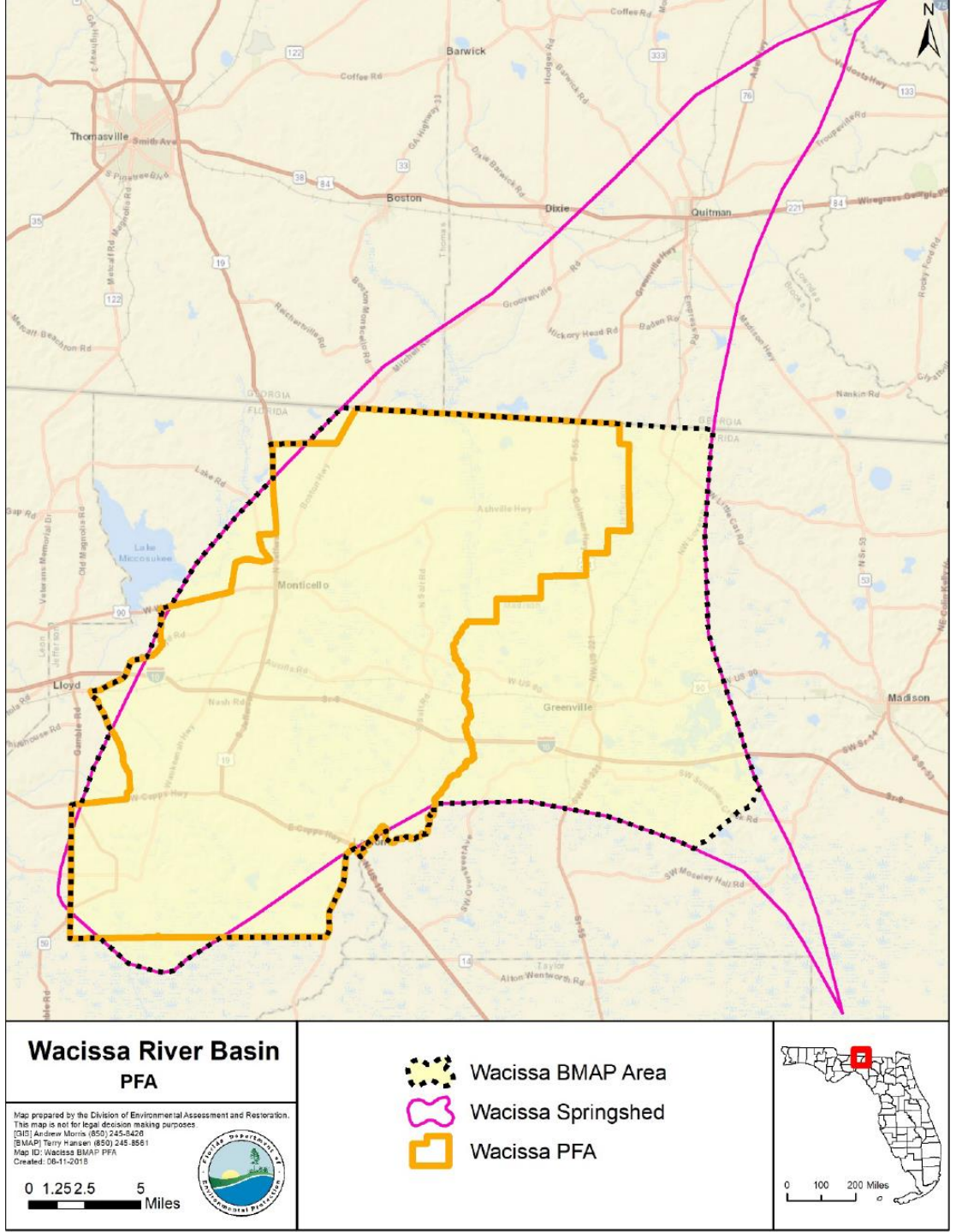
Wakulla BMAP Nitrate Reduction Goal

The total load reduction required to meet the TMDL at the spring vent is 139,564 pounds of nitrogen per year (lb-N/yr). To measure progress towards achieving the necessary load reduction, DEP is establishing the following milestones:

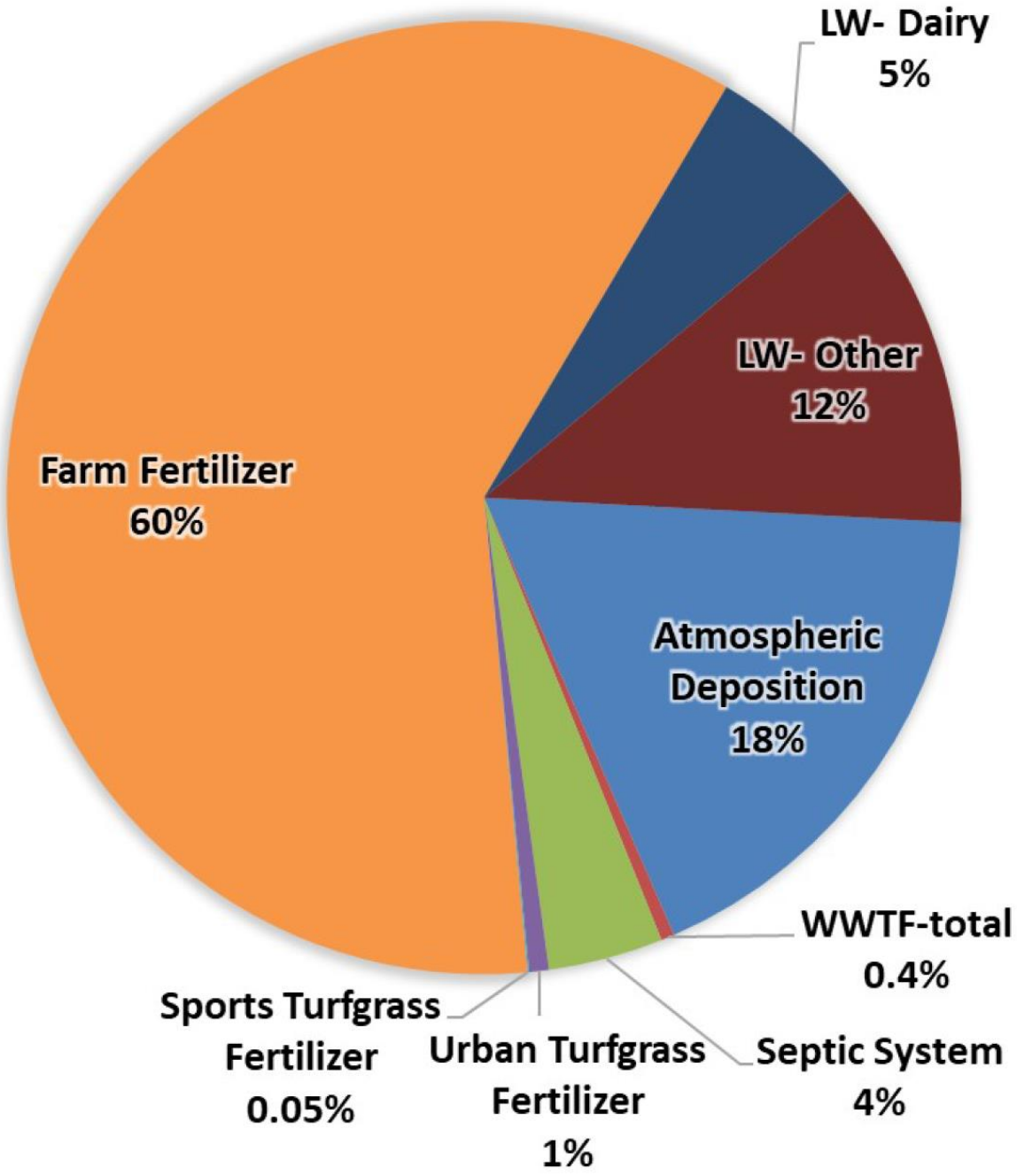
- Initial reduction of 41,869 lb-N/yr (30 %) within 5 years.
- An additional 69,782 lb-N/yr (50 %) within 10 years.
- The remaining 27,913 lb-N/yr (20 %) within 15 years.
- For a total of 139,564 lb-N/yr within 20 years.

Source: FDEP – Wakulla BMAP 2018

Wacissa Springs BMAP



Source: FDEP



Nitrate loading to the Wacissa BMAP Area by source

<u>Recommended actions for Ag Sector</u>:

Implement Best Management Practices

Source: FDEP

How did the 2016 Florida Water Bill change things for Ag?

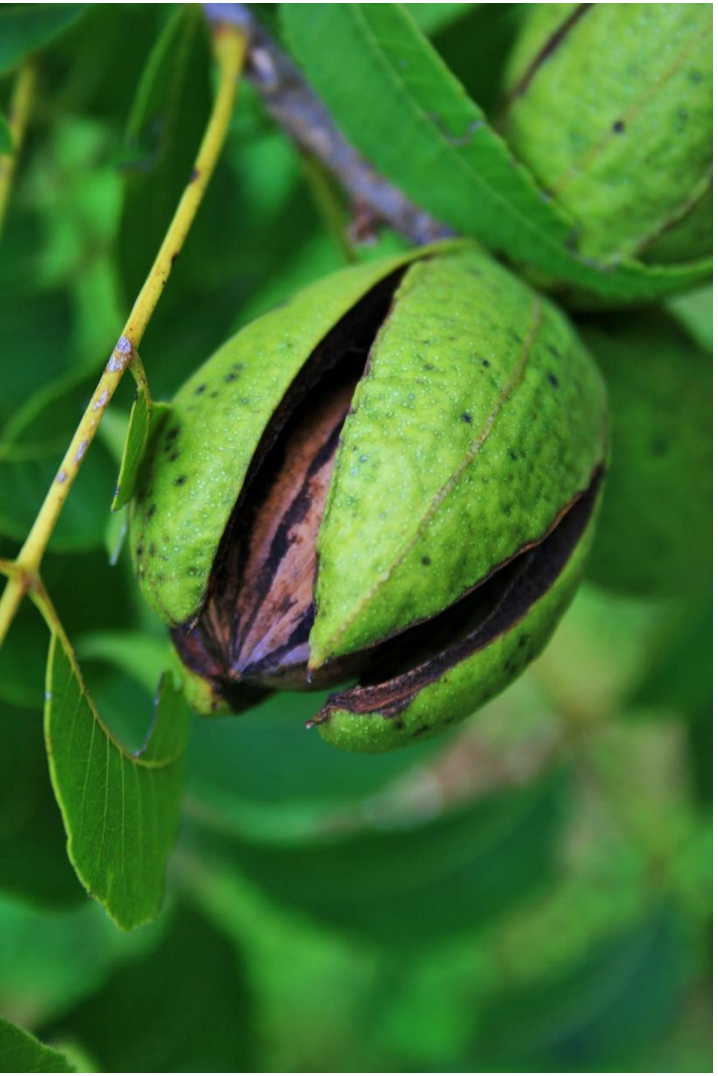
The Water Bill establishes that BMAPs are enforceable

…and that "management strategies, including **BMPs** and **water quality monitoring** are enforceable…

Farmers in a BMAP can choose to either:

1. Enroll in the FDACS BMP program and implement BMPs, or
2. Monitor water quality

It is extremely important for producers to maintain accurate records to show they are implementing BMPs



Who provides financial assistance to implement BMPs?

FDACS

NRCS

Water Management Districts

Mobile Irrigation Labs

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services FDACS

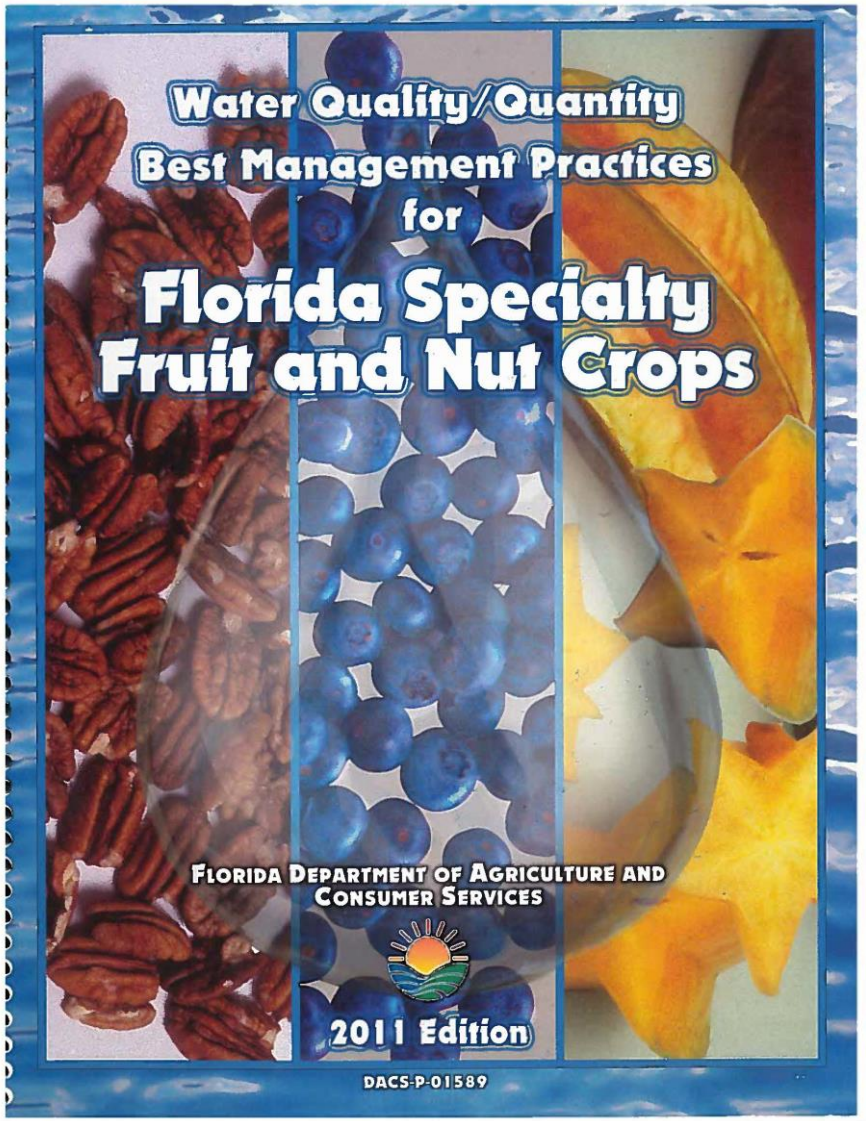
To enroll in the BMP program, staff work with producers one-on-one to determine which BMPs apply to the producer's operation

BMPs fall under 3 categories:

- **Nutrient Management**
- **Water Resources Protection**
- **Irrigation Management**

Special Fruit and Crop Manual provides a checklist of BMPs for enrollment

- BMPs must be technically feasible and economically viable for producers



FDACS

Once enrolled in the BMP program, producers are eligible for cost-share funds

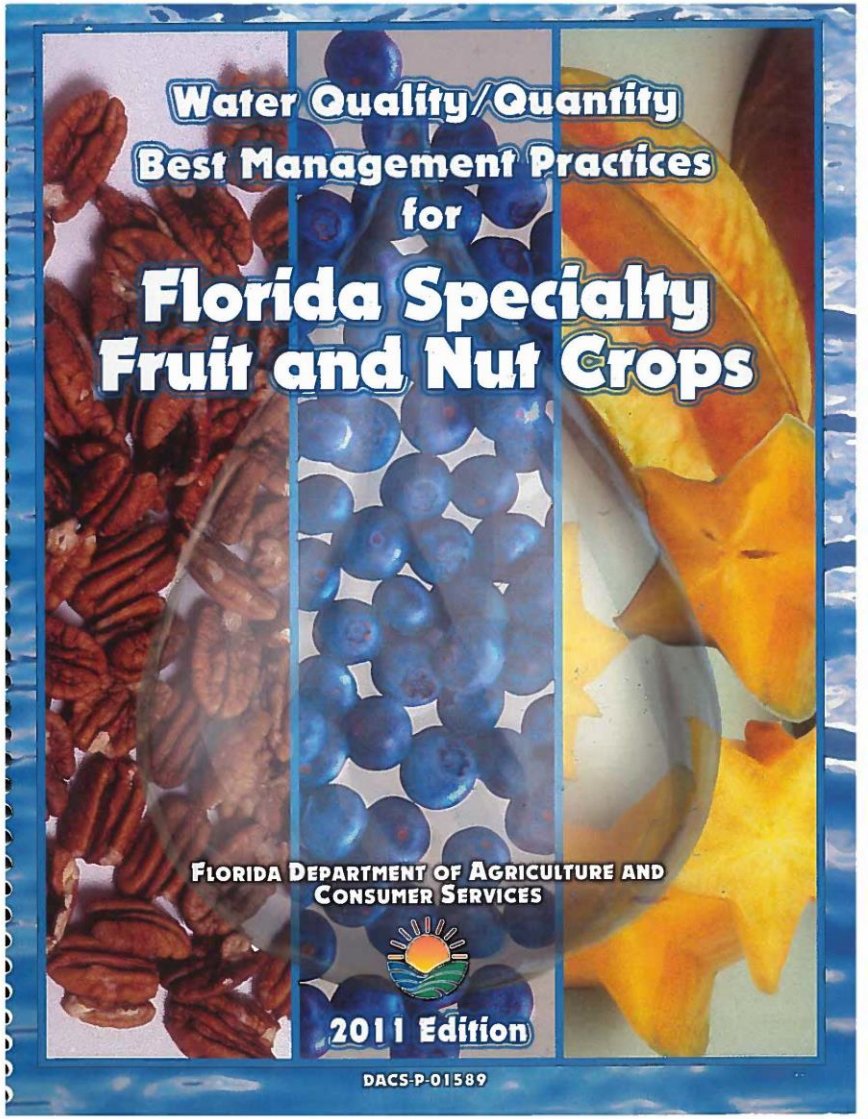
- FDACS provides up to 75% reimbursement
- Funding is largely, but not exclusively for equipment
  - Precision sprayers, automated irrigation equipment, strip and cover cropping

Contact information:

https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy/Organization-Staff

Barron Riddle – Field Technician for Jefferson, Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla Counties

Office: (850) 662 – 3284



USDA-NRCS
Natural Resource Conservation Service

Staff work with producers one-on-one to develop a **Conservation Plan** to address an environmental need or concern

- Erosion control, nutrient management, water quality, plant and soil health, wildlife habitat

Conservation plan outlines activities or practices to reach a producer's objectives

- Once a plan has been signed, producers are eligible to receive financial assistance

USDA-NRCS

Offers technical and financial assistance for farmers through 2 programs:

- EQUIP
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Examples of funded practices:

- **Invasive species control**: Kudzu, Cogon Grass, Japanese Climbing Fern
- **Cover crops between overhead rows:** 10 ft. strips between tree rows
- **Irrigation:** overhead, microirrigation
- **Increasing pollinator habitat**

USDA-NRCS

Applications are accepted year-round, with batching deadline **October 15, 2018**

Contact information

NRCS Local Service Centers Directory for Florida:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/fl/contact/local/

Monticello Service Center (Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla):

Stephen Tullar, District Conservationist

(850) 997-2072 Ext 3

Water Management Districts

Suwannee River WMD

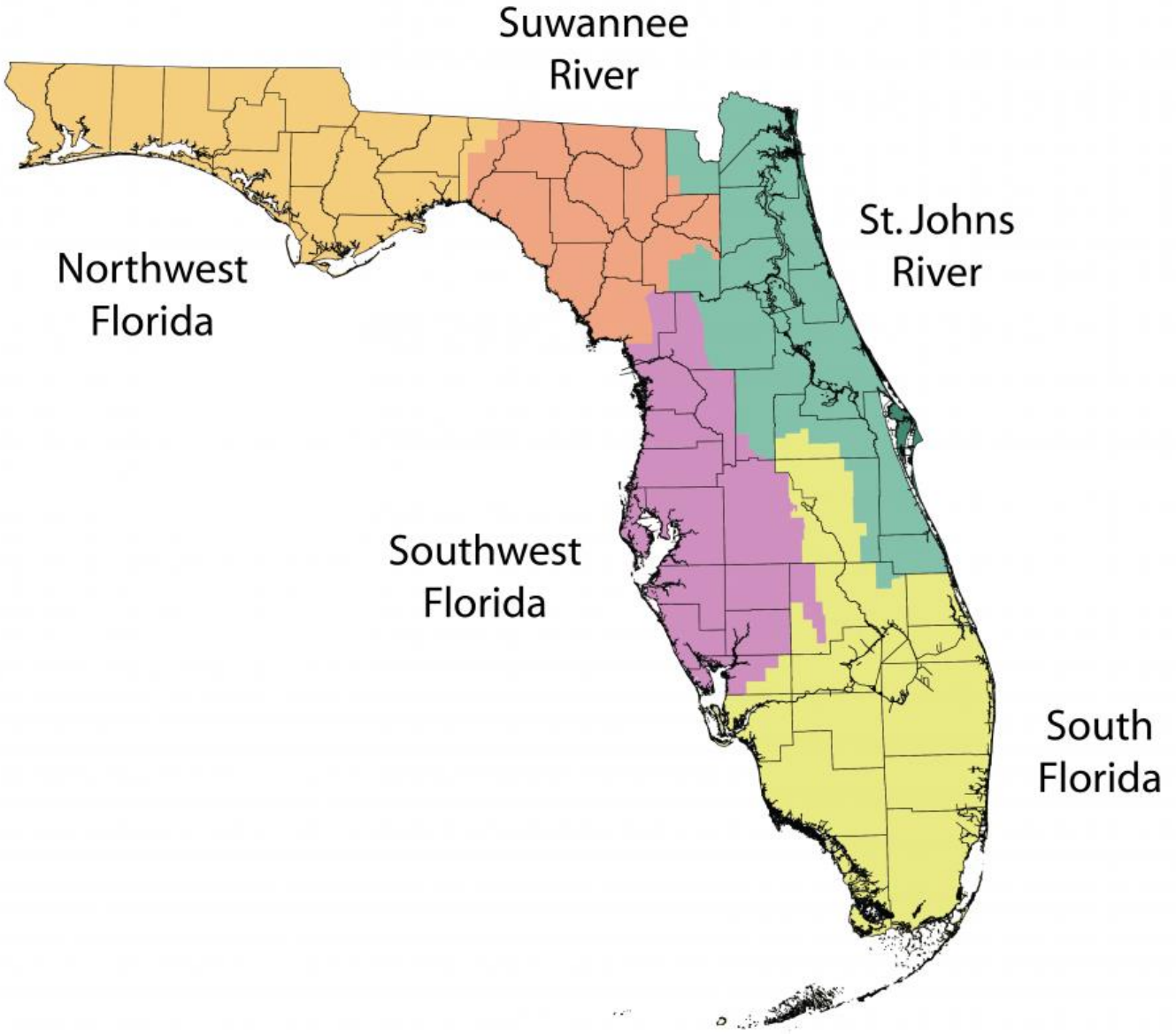
- Cost-share focused on nutrient and irrigation management, and dairy waste

(386) 362-1001

Northwest Florida WMD

- Cost-share focused on nutrient and irrigation management in Jackson Blue Springs Basin

(850) 539-5999



Source: FDEP

Mobile Irrigation Labs (MIL)

Free service to help producers increase irrigation efficiency by evaluating irrigation systems and their operation

- **Northwest Florida MIL**

  (850) 482-0388

- **Natural Resource Conservation Partners MIL (Suwannee Basin)**

  (850) 766-0736

Funded by FDACS, NRCS and Water Management Districts

Thank You!

Andrea Albertin

Northwest Florida Regional Water Resources Agent

North Florida Research and Education Center (NFREC)

155 Research Rd., Quincy

Office: (850) 875-7111

albertin@ufl.edu

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA