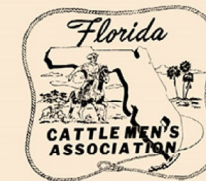


Florida Cattle

Best Management Practices



Florida ranchers work with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loads in water leaving their properties.

As of 2017, nearly

11,000

individual BMP projects had been implemented since the program began in 2005.

Over

5 million

acres of Florida agricultural land are enrolled in BMP programs.

Over **80%** (1,926,000 acres) of the agricultural lands within the

Lake Okeechobee watershed are currently enrolled in the Notice of Intent BMP program, and

325,000

acres have been enrolled in a BMP cost-share program.²

Best Management Practices include:

- Maintaining adequate vegetative cover by adjusting stocking rates and using prescribed grazing systems. Well-established and managed forage stands effectively reduce soil erosion, absorb nutrients, and provide nutrition for livestock.
- Carefully planning watering and feeding sites.
- Carefully planning temporary holding areas.
- Using structural techniques to abate pollution.
- Minimizing offsite water discharges.
- Minimizing the potential for erosion.¹

The Value of Agricultural Research and Extension

It is estimated that every

\$1 invested

in agricultural research and Extension results in a

return of \$20

from increased productivity.³