Beasley Farms



Upicktopia



JG Ranch



The Olive Grove



Riverbend



Sweetfields



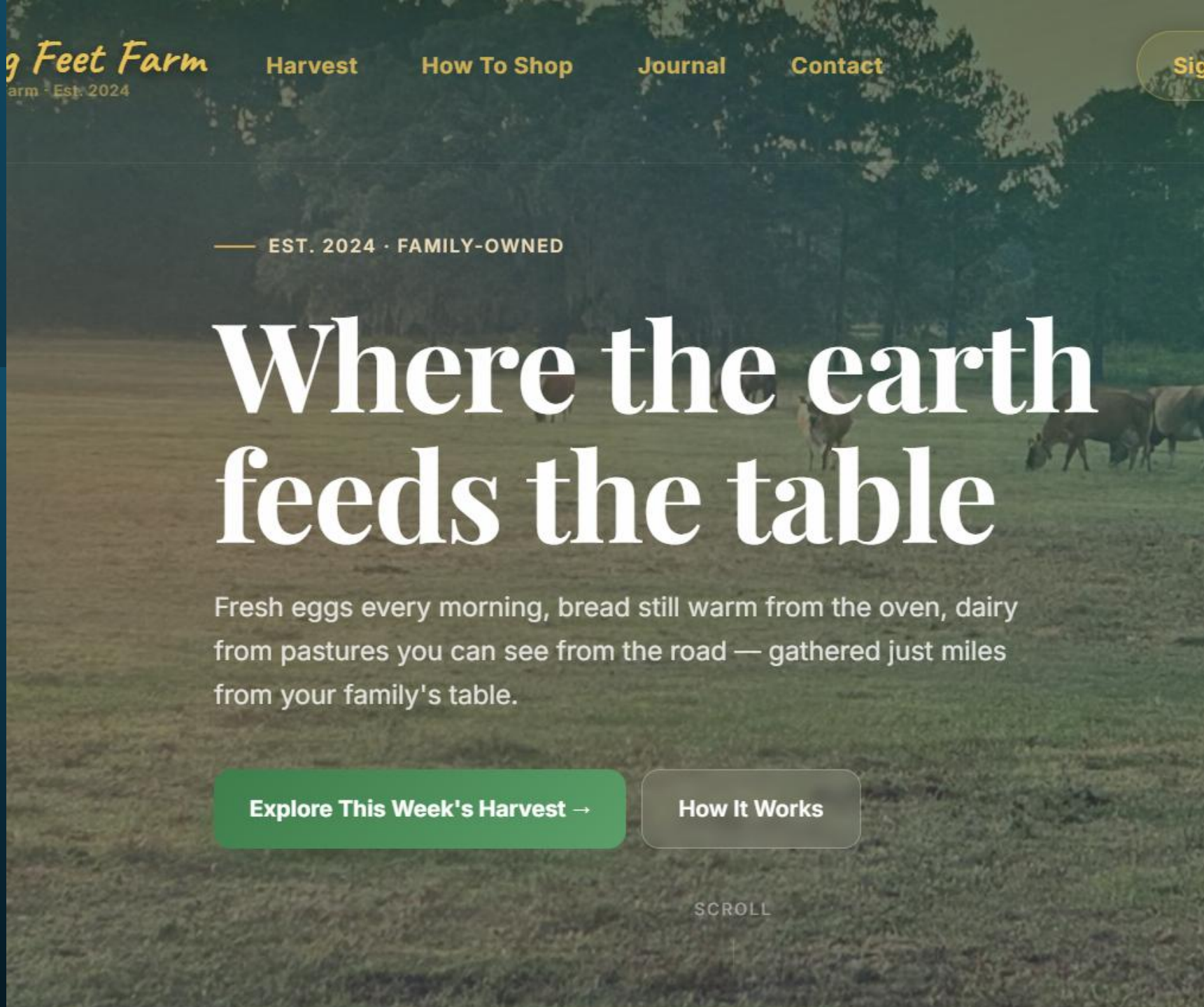
Frazier Farms



Finest Farms



Frog Feet Farm



Irish Acres Farm



Waffle Family Farm

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Join us for our Fall Season!

We're open Wednesday, November 11, for Veterans Day! us
Visit us from **11 AM to 5:30 PM**.

We're open
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Happy Tails Farm





Happy Tails Farm

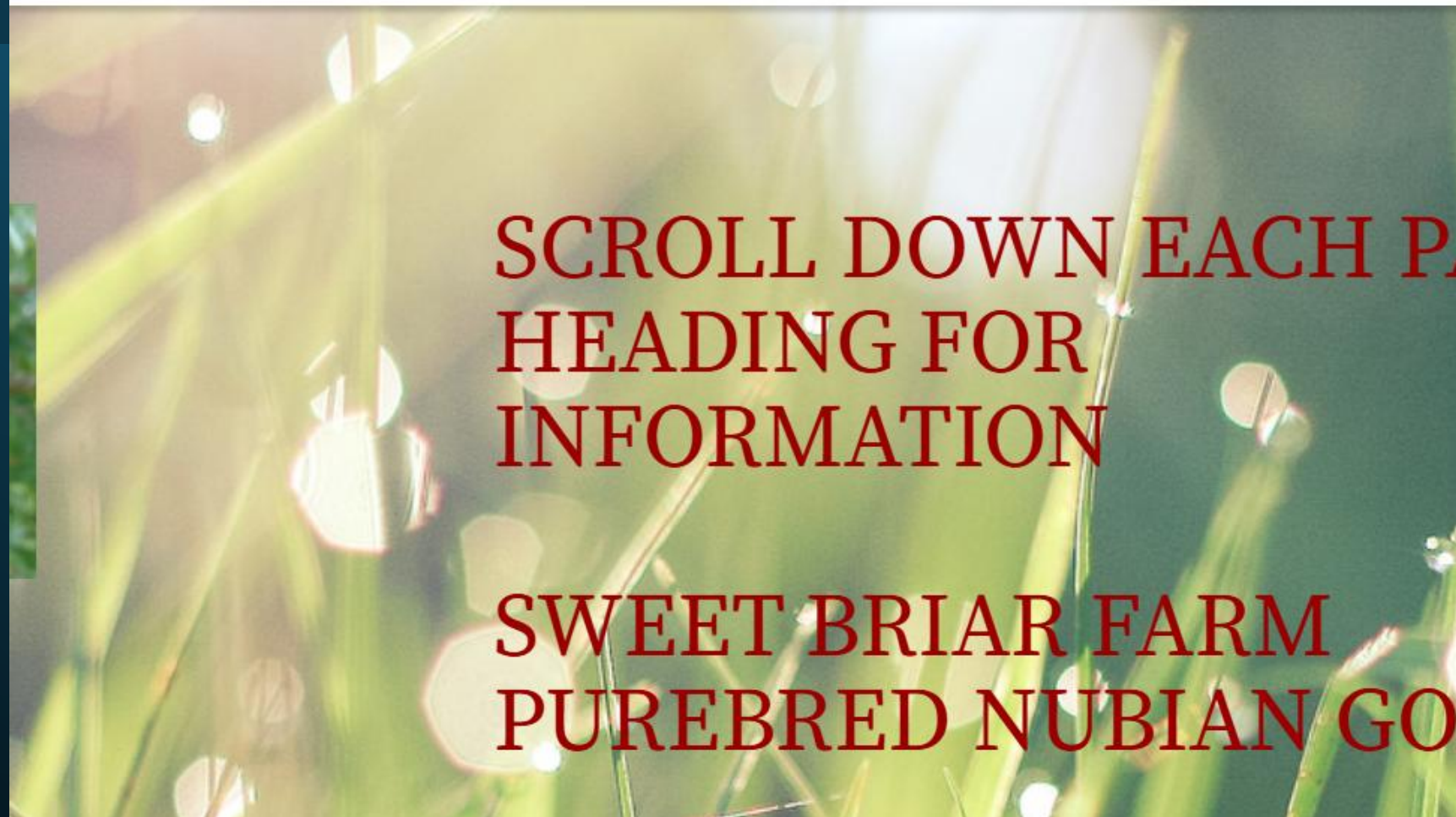
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Whitehead Farms



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Harvest Moon





Third Acre Farm

FARM

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Central Florida, dedicated to
growing healthy food with car
and making it easy for familie
enjoy the benefits of fresh, loc
and sustainable meals.

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and care, cultivating connections within our community. Our mis
make it easy for families to enjoy the health benefits and amazi
of our microgreens and pasture-raised poultry. By sharing simpl
and versatile recipes, we're helping you reimagine your meals
local food. We believe in honest farming and are dedicated to e
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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems

Carole Estes

FARMS Program Manager

Southwest Florida
Water Management District







Southwest Florida Water Management District

FARMS

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Southwest Florida Water Management District

Shell, Prairie and Joshua Creeks

Watershed Management Plan

Stakeholders Agreement

Background

Whereas, the Parties to this Agreement are interested in preserving and improving water quality and ecology of Shell Creek, Prairie Creek and Joshua Creek; and

Whereas, the Parties to this Agreement recognize that a comprehensive watershed approach is needed to address water quality issues within Shell Creek, Prairie Creek and Joshua Creek; and

Whereas, a multitude of regulatory, technical assistance, research and education programs have been developed which must be better-coordinated and used in combination with incentives and other non-regulatory tools to form a comprehensive approach to address the full scope of water quality issues within Shell Creek, Prairie Creek and Joshua Creek; and

Whereas, a substantial level of state, federal and private resources are being sought and committed to, and a new coordinated approach must recognize and build upon the effort and progress from the work of all these programs; and

Whereas, the resource management actions referenced in Table 3.1 in the Plan are deemed effective in improving water quality within the Shell Creek, Prairie Creek and Joshua Creek watersheds.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the foregoing premises, which are made part of this Agreement, the Parties hereby agree to the following. This commitment is based on mutual cooperation, shared objectives, fairness, and support and participation from the Parties to this Agreement.

Mission

The signatories agree to assess sources of salinity to Shell Creek, Prairie Creek and Joshua Creek to optimize reductions in concentrations to waters of these watersheds, emphasizing voluntary, incentive-based programs for protecting the environment and public health.

Guiding Principles

The signatories agree to adopt the following guiding principles in achieving the mission:

1. Implement water quality measures to the greatest extent practicable throughout the Shell Creek and Prairie Creek watersheds to achieve Class I surface water standards.
2. Avoid duplication and maximize the efficient coordination of agency resources and programs, including consolidated and coordinated funding of projects.
3. Use a comprehensive watershed management approach to address Class I surface water quality standards and encourage implementation within the watersheds.
4. Seek reasonable, incentive-based solutions that can be embraced by leaders and stakeholders at all levels of government and the community.
5. Focus on management approaches which are technically feasible, economically practicable, and protective of the environment and public health.
6. Develop consensus measures of success that include recognized risk management techniques.
7. Achieve results that satisfy regulatory requirements.
8. Ensure water quality monitoring to measure the effectiveness of implemented water quality improvement measures.
9. Continue to make good faith efforts in funding incentive-based programs.

Organization

The signatories agree to create and participate in the Shell, Prairie and Joshua creeks Watershed Management Plan (SPJCWMP) that shall be chaired by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District). The District will continue to function as the chair of the group to address the specific impairments to water quality recognized at the time of signature. Future impairment to water quality, due to other parameters documented by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the Impaired Waters Rule, might require other stakeholders to take the lead responsibility of the group for those specific parameters. The SPJCWMP Stakeholders shall meet as agreed upon by the members or at the call of the chair.

Education, Outreach and Implementation

For the SPJCWMP Stakeholders to accomplish their mission, education on the issues and solutions, including effective transfer of knowledge and technology, are essential components of implementation of the efforts of the Technical Working Groups.

Stakeholder Involvement

For the SPJCWMP to be successful the involvement of stakeholders is critical. As part of this framework agreement, a process for stakeholder involvement is developed and will be implemented by the signatories.

Measures of Success

Water quality issues in the Shell, Prairie and Joshua creek watersheds have developed from various inputs over an extended period of time. Successfully addressing these issues will require sufficient time to implement management changes and evaluate their effect. The signatories will make a good faith effort in implementing the recovery projects referenced in the SPJCWMP to restore and maintain water quality conditions to the levels set forth in the Impaired Waters Rule, Chapter 62-303, Florida Administrative Code.

The Undersigned Agree, on December 3, 2004, to the above.

United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service
By: Timothy P. Hafner, Assistant State Conservationist

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
By: Jon Iglehart
Acting Director of District Management, South District

Southwest Florida Water Management District
By: Watson L. Haynes II, Chair

Peace River Basin Board
By: J. Kenneth Harrison, Vice-Chair

DeSoto County
By: Ronald P. Neads
Ronald Neads
Chair

City of Punta Gorda
By: Stephen M. Fabian, Jr., Mayor

Peace River Soil and Water Conservation District
By: Dan Ryals/Chair

Joshua Water Control District
By: Dana A. Clement, District Manager

Florida Farm Bureau Federation
By: Rory S. Martin, District 16 State Director

Florida Citrus Mutual
By: Andrew W. LaVigne, Executive Vice President/CEO

Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association
By: Barbara Carlton, Executive Director

2x4 Ranch
By: Pat Pfeil, Ranch Manager

4N1, LLP
By: Michael A. Carter, Managing Partner

B & D Veach, Inc.
By: Michael A. Carter, Secretary

Horton & Veach Groves, LLP
By: Michael A. Carter, Managing Partner

Carlton Bar A
By: Pat Carlton, Managing Partner

Bright Hour Ranch
By: Howard P. Bateman, Manager

RO-LEN Properties
By: Terry Hill, Property Manager

Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.
By: Raphord Arrington
Vice President, Marketing/Industry Relations

TRB Groves, LLP
By: Wesley W. Brumbeck, Partner

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
By: Lisa B. Beever, PhD., Director

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
By: Charles C. Aller
Director of Agricultural Water Policy

South Florida Water Management District
By: Nicolas J. Gutierrez, Jr., Chair

DeSoto/Charlotte County Farm Bureau
By: J. Kenneth Harrison, Chair

University of Florida – Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
By: Larry Arrington, PhD.
Cooperative Extension Service Dean and Director

Charlotte County
By: Sara Devos, Chair

Charlotte County Soil and Water Conservation District
By: Tom Pinder, Chair

East Charlotte Drainage District
By: Dana A. Clement, District Manager

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center
By: Alton L. Cheatham, Chief Executive Officer

Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
By: H. F. "Butch" Calhoon III, Director, Governmental Affairs

2x4 Ranch
By: Brady Pfeil, Natural Resource Manager

Williams Farms Partnership
By: Jim Williams, Managing Partner

I-5 Groves, LLP
By: Michael A. Carter, Managing Partner

Bailey Branch, Inc.
By: Michael A. Carter, Treasurer

Short-80, LLP
By: Michael A. Carter, Managing Partner

Doe Hill
By: Bryan Paul, President

American Citrus Products Corporation
By: Matthew M. Sullivan, Jr., Vice President, General Manager

Ryals Cattle Company
By: Ann H. Ryals, Partner

Symons' Groves, Inc.
By: Patsy C. Symons, President

VCH Citrus and Cattle
By: V. C. Hollingsworth, Partner

Southwest Florida Water Management District













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FARMS
A Public / Private Partnership

- Facilitating
- Agricultural
- Resource
- Management
- Systems

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MiniFARMS

- Smaller farms and smaller projects
- 523 District-funded projects
- $3.1 million reimbursed
- 2.7 MGD estimated groundwater reduction





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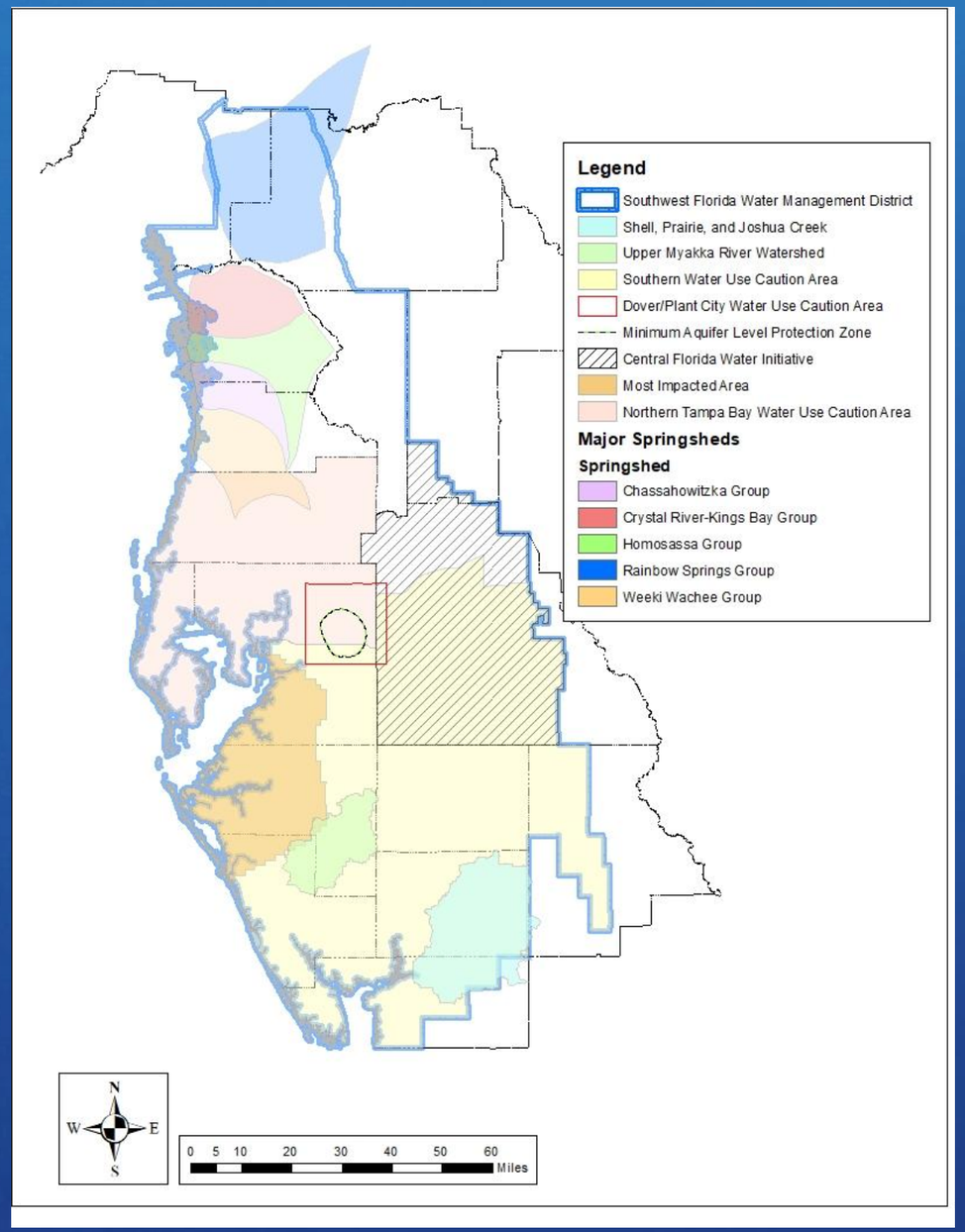




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FARMS Expansion Timeline

- 2002 – SPJC and UMRW Priority Areas
- 2003 – SWUCA added
- 2005 – MiniFARMS created
- 2007 – Funding available Districtwide
- 2011 – DPCWUCA
- 2020 – Water quality funded Districtwide









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Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)

- 10,000 square miles
- 16 counties
- 5 million people
- 2 billion gallons per day = Approx. water use
- 50% Public Water Supply
- 37% Agricultural Water Use









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FARMS Program Status

- 278 Board-approved projects
- 34.0 MGD projected groundwater offset
- Total invested: ~$103.3 M since 2003
    - District Costs $60.8 M
    - District 58% / Farmer 42%
    - $2.45/1,000 gallons saved
- $4 M budgeted for FY 2027







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FARMS Funded Best Management Practices

- All FARMS projects involve a reduction in groundwater used for daily irrigation.
- Projects get added funding to
  - Improve inorganic water quality (SPJC and Horse Creek)
  - Improve natural systems in the Upper Myakka River Watershed
  - Reduce the use of groundwater for cold protection in addition to daily irrigation
  - Reduce nutrient applications

Evaluating Proposed FARMS Projects

- We do outreach and describe our program
- A grower will propose an idea for a BMP that addresses a priority.
- Grower submits cost estimate for the BMPs they wish to implement
- Result $/1000 gallons saved OR $/pound N reduced
- We help the grower move the project through approval and contracting.

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Types of FARMS Projects

- Alternative Water Supply
- Conservation
- Cold Protection
- Nutrient Reduction or Retention







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Alternative Water Supply

- Replacing groundwater use with surface water use
  - Existing reservoir
  - Reclaimed water
  - Excavated reservoir
- Higher costs but greater groundwater reductions
- Lower pumping costs
- Sometimes better water quality
  - Lower salt content
  - Lower pH
- Average 30% reduction in groundwater use





Conservation

- Automated pump control
- Soil moisture sensors
- Some irrigation conversions
- Weather stations
- Irrigate per ET
- Grower convenience
- Lower cost, but lower reductions
- 5-10 % reductions in use









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Cold Protection Projects

- Wind Machines for Blueberries
- Crop cloth for Strawberries
- Alternative water supply for a variety of crops
- Saved 122 million gallons per year





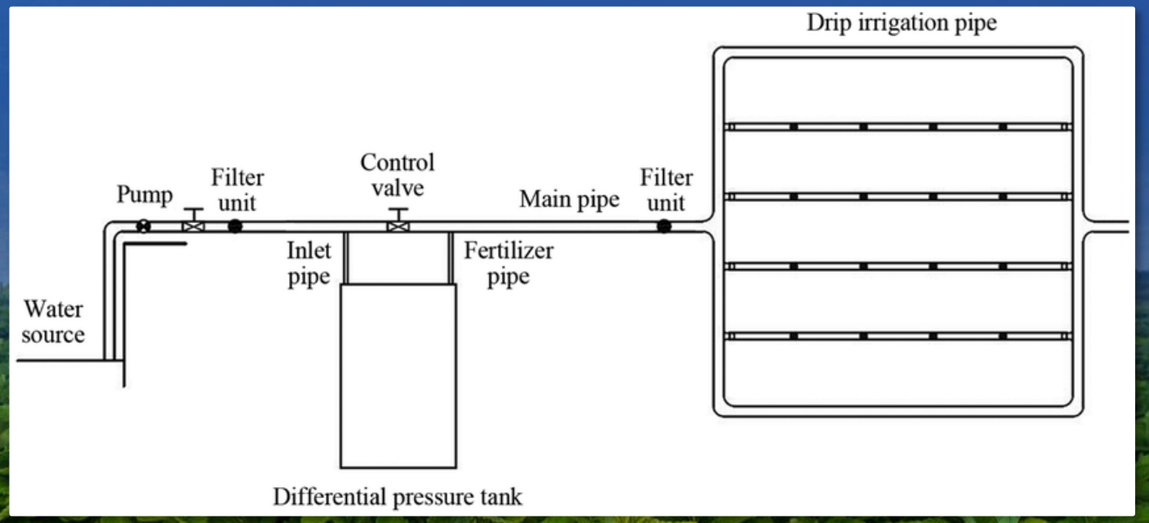




Nutrient Management Components

- Funded as part of groundwater reduction projects
- In the springs region since 2007
- Districtwide since 2020
- 45 Projects
- 13,374 pounds of Nitrogen per year





Example of FARMS Funding

- AWS Project – within a Priority Area
- Qualifies for up to 75% of total project costs

- FARMS Eligible Equipment costs $529,000 (69.7%)
  - Pumps, Engines, Fuel tanks
  - Mainline piping, Filters, Fertigation
- FARMS Not Eligible Costs $230,000 (30.3%)
  - Excavation
  - Labor to assemble eligible equipment
- Total Project Costs $759,000

- **FARMS funding = $529,000**

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Relating to Hernando County

- Northern District: North of Pasco County
- Top 5 crops (by water use permit)
  - Peanuts – could fund center pivots
  - Hay / Pasture – could fund center pivots
  - Melons – could fund automation
  - Nursery – could fund automation
  - Sod – could fund center pivots
- Obstacle – Karst topography



Comments and Questions

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Carole Estes
FARMS Program Manager
Water Resources Bureau