

AWEP Application Deadlines:

Fiscal Year 2010 – July 23, 2010

Fiscal Year 2011 – July 23, 2011

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AWEP Application Information

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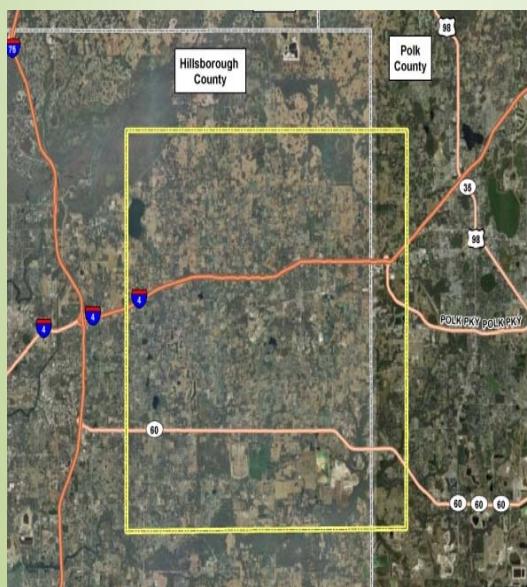
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FDACS BMP Manuals:

[*http://floridaaqwaterpolicy.com/BestManagementPractices.html*](http://floridaaqwaterpolicy.com/BestManagementPractices.html)

Dover/Plant City Project Area



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALTERNATIVE FROST-FREEZE PROTECTION PRACTICES

Funding is available for growers within the Dover/Plant City Project Area (shown at bottom left) to implement alternative frost-freeze protection practices through the federal **Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)**. Additional funding will be provided through the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) **Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program** and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) **MiniFARMS Program**.

The **AWEP** is providing \$750,000 for federal fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to cost-share tailwater recovery and high tunnels in the Dover/Plant City Project Area. As part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the **AWEP** operates through program contracts with producers to plan and implement water quality and water conservation practices. Interested growers in the project area must meet EQIP eligibility requirements, register with the Hillsborough County Farm Service Agency, and apply through the local Hillsborough County Natural Resources Conservation Service.

FARMS is a Best Management Practices (BMP) cost-share reimbursement program intended to expedite the implementation of practices that provide either water quality or water quantity benefits. Project cost-share rates are generally capped at 75 percent.

MiniFARMS is a BMP cost-share reimbursement program for growers located within SWFWMD boundaries that irrigate 100 acres or less. Interested growers must enroll in the appropriate FDACS BMP manual by submitting a signed Notice of Intent to implement BMPs. The program provides up to 85-percent reimbursement of total project cost, with a maximum reimbursement of \$8,000.

For the purposes of the Dover/Plant City Project Area, both the **FARMS** and **MiniFARMS** programs will provide cost share for alternative frost-freeze protection methods that are not covered by **AWEP**, such as weather stations, hoop houses, row covers, and protective foam and application equipment. Other water quality and water conservation practices also may be cost shared under these programs.