



Southwest Florida
Water Management
District Boundary

To qualify for FARMS funding, projects must be located in the Southwest Florida Water Management District.



Surface Water Wet Well and Engine



Automated Irrigation Valve



WaterMatters.org/FARMS

All FARMS cost-share reimbursement is provided pursuant to Chapter 40D-26, Florida Administrative Code.

Southwest Florida
Water Management District



**Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Bureau Chief, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4703; or email ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice).

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FARMS Program



*Facilitating
Agricultural
Resource
Management
Systems*



FARMS is an agricultural cost-share reimbursement program that reduces groundwater withdrawals from the Upper Floridan aquifer through conservation and alternative water supply best management practices (BMPs). In conjunction with water supply BMPs, water quality and natural systems improvement BMPs also may be cost-shared in certain priority areas.

FARMS reimbursement can amount to as much as 50–75 percent of the total project cost for eligible BMPs.

Benefits of FARMS

- Improved crop yields
- Optimized irrigation scheduling, which leads to decreased pumping, equipment maintenance and energy costs
- Reduced fertilizer use and improved weed control
- Free flowmeter calibration testing that satisfies regulatory requirements
- Active water resources conservation and environmental stewardship

Meeting Growers' Needs

Growers decide on the most appropriate BMPs for their operation and coordinate with FARMS staff to obtain funding for eligible projects. Growers manage, operate and maintain their own projects and are reimbursed for eligible expenses. FARMS staff assist eligible growers with implementation of BMPs, regulatory issues and reimbursement.



Weather Station with Telemetry



Riser Culverts and Water-Control Structures



Surface Water or Tailwater Irrigation Pumps and Filters



Remote Irrigation Zone Controls, and Soil Moisture and Climate Sensor Telemetry

Examples of BMPs Eligible for Cost-Share

- Tailwater recovery/surface water irrigation pump stations, including pump, engine, fuel tank, filters and mainline pipe
- Irrigation system conversion to a more efficient system
- Weather stations, including rain gauge, anemometer and wireless telemetry
- Soil moisture sensors, including wireless telemetry
- Water-control structures
- Reclaimed/reuse water connections
- Automatic pump start and stops
- Automated irrigation valves
- Rainwater harvesting systems

Other water quantity and/or water quality BMPs may be eligible for cost-share within specific priority areas or areas of concern. Contact FARMS staff to learn about what BMPs and/or programs are available for your operation.

Getting Started

Growers should contact a FARMS staff member to determine project eligibility and funding prior to beginning the application process. Completed FARMS applications are submitted to the District's Governing Board on a monthly schedule.

For more information on the FARMS program, call (813) 985-7481, ext. 4413 or visit WaterMatters.org/FARMS.