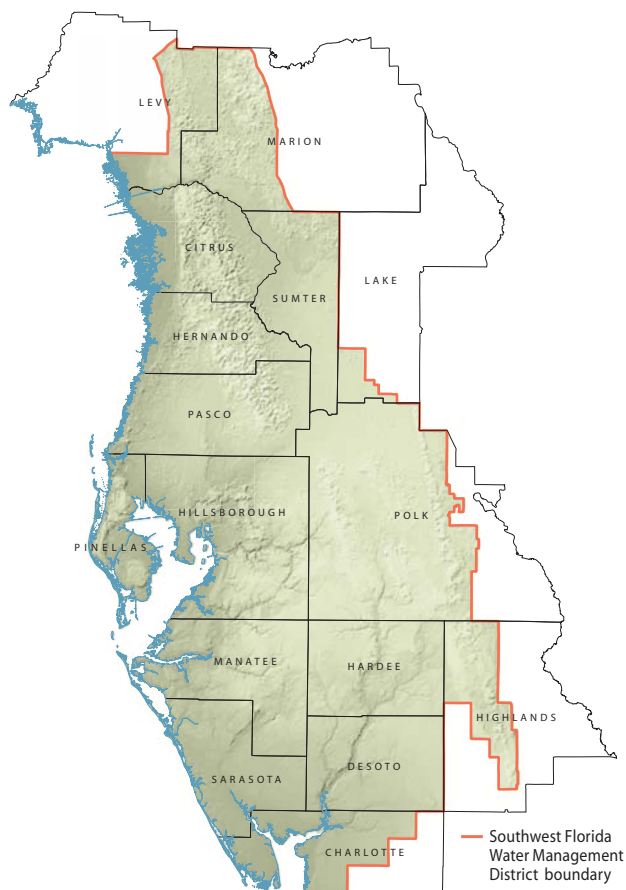


Mini-FARMS projects are for agricultural operations that are enrolled in an FDACS-adopted best management practices program and located within the District.



For More Information

Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Office of Agricultural Water Policy

Northern Counties Field Staff Contact

(Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Sumter,
and portions of Lake, Levy, Marion and Polk counties)

Matt Warren

Environmental Manager

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Southern Counties Field Staff Contact

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Environmental Specialist III

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Southwest Florida
Water Management District

WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476



**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 Office 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).

COMAY 03-18

Mini-FARMS

Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems Program



Mini-FARMS

Mini-FARMS is a cost-share program that assists agricultural operations of 100 acres or less to conserve water and protect water quality within the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District). Mini-FARMS projects implement the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)-adopted best management practices (BMPs)*.

Under the Mini-FARMS Program guidelines, the District will reimburse growers 75 percent of their project costs up to \$8,000 per project.

Mini-FARMS Program Guidelines

Growers who wish to participate in Mini-FARMS must be:

- Actively engaged in agriculture for the last two years.
- In compliance with District regulatory requirements.
- Enrolled in the applicable FDACS-approved BMP program.

In addition, growers will be required to complete an application and budget estimate of project costs. Project materials cannot be purchased prior to receiving approval from the District. FDACS staff is available to assist with the application process.

*A quick link to FDACS-adopted BMPs can be found at WaterMatters.org/FloridaBMPs



Soil Moisture Metering



Weather Station



Field Soil Moisture Telemetry



Rainwater Harvesting

Mini-FARMS Program Process

1. Grower contacts FDACS staff.
2. Grower and FDACS staff complete BMP enrollment.
3. Grower completes project budget and two-page application and submits to FDACS staff.
4. District releases a purchase order and sends letter to grower.
5. Grower signs maintenance agreement (can be a two- to three-year agreement).
6. Grower completes project and contacts FDACS staff.
7. FDACS staff verifies completion and submits proof of payment to the District.
8. District releases payment within 30 days.
9. FDACS staff follows up on project annually.

Eligible Cost-Share Project Items

Mini-FARMS projects can include, but are not limited to:

- Soil moisture probes/tensiometers
- Weather stations with evapotranspiration measurements
- Water quality and soil pH testing kits
- Soil and tissue testing
- Irrigation pumps, controls, filtration and infrastructure

Eligible items may also include other approved water conservation projects.