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