

FARMERS ADVOCATING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



DELTA F.A.R.M.

2024 DELTA F.A.R.M.
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
REPORT

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2024 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report

A REPORT OF THE B. F. SMITH FOUNDATION AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF DELTA FARMERS ADVOCATING RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT.

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DELTA F.A.R.M.



INTRODUCTION

The Delta F.A.R.M. Program began operation in the summer of 1998. The organization serves the farmers and landowners of the Mississippi Delta by providing technical information on conservation practices and promoting their current conservation efforts.

Membership to Delta F.A.R.M. is free, as are the services Delta F.A.R.M. provides its members. However, members are asked to submit an annual evaluation provided by the Delta F.A.R.M. staff. The staff will also provide assistance to the membership in completing the evaluation.

The Delta F.A.R.M. evaluation serves two general purposes. First, the evaluation is used by the Delta F.A.R.M. staff to document the current non-regulatory conservation efforts of its members and give farmers credit for their efforts. Second, the evaluation identifies those areas on members' lands, which may be improved through the implementation of additional conservation measures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Syngenta

Bayer Crop Science

Farmers Grain Terminal

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



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METHODS

DEVELOPMENT

With the guidance and support of the Delta F.A.R.M. Executive Committee, numerous State, Federal and private resource agencies helped to develop the Delta F.A.R.M. Program and its subsequent Evaluation. This group of farmers and resource agency personnel identified a list of recognized BMPs (Best Management Practices) for all types of agricultural production systems found in the Mississippi Delta. This list was utilized to establish the Delta F.A.R.M. Program Manual and the Evaluation.

The Program Manual provides detailed information on recognized BMPs advocated by Delta F.A.R.M. The Evaluation portion of the program serves to document all BMPs that are currently implemented on Delta F.A.R.M. member properties.

DESIGN

The evaluation takes place annually, following a cropping season. Each Delta F.A.R.M. member submits to an Evaluation through a questionnaire. The staff also makes field visits to a number of the member's farms each year to ensure the evaluations are done properly and are consistent from farm to farm. Data is collected through the questionnaire and is analyzed to develop this document, the annual Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report.

ANALYSIS

Each evaluation is entered into a database to form a composite data set for all Delta F.A.R.M. lands. The data yields percent utilization statistics for each recorded BMP. These statistics represent the percentage of farmers in the program that utilize a particular BMP. This statistic does not identify to what extent the BMP is being implemented, only that the BMP is being implemented at some level. Treatment area (acres) is also recorded on some BMPs to more thoroughly document the extent of BMP usage and also to track trends in conservation.

Although each farm's data is entered into a composite data set, farms are scored individually in order to recognize those producers and/or landowners who are exceptional stewards of the Delta's natural resources. Each farm is scored using a weighted system developed by cooperating natural resource agencies. Weight is given to the most important BMPs with consideration given to each BMP's economic feasibility.

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RESULTS: GENERAL STATISTICS

Acres enrolled represent all acres enrolled into Delta F.A.R.M. since inception. All acres reported have been evaluated and are broken down by crop types.

CROP TYPE:	ACRES EVALUATED:
Cotton	140,569
Rice	79,671
Soybeans	477,912
Corn	237,671
Wheat	32,963
Grain Sorghum	21,678
Other Crops	25,142
Timber or Recreational Lands	101,795
TOTAL	1,117,401 ACRES

PERCENT UTILIZATION:	BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE:
	Pesticide, Fertilizer, and Petroleum Stewardship
49%	Filter Strips or Containment Barriers
82%	Closed or Semi-closed Mixing Systems
94%	Precision Application technologies
100%	Drift Reduction BMPs
95%	Integrated Pest Management
92%	Variable Rate Fertilizer Applications
98%	Rotate Herbicide Chemistries
92%	Split or Multiple Nitrogen Applications
92%	Urease Inhibitors


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RESULTS: PERCENT UTILIZATION

Delta F.A.R.M. recognizes certain Best Management Practices used in Northwest Mississippi. Each evaluated data set recognizes the utilization or non-utilization of any particular BMP. As a composite, the data is then used to calculate the percentage of Delta F.A.R.M. members' who utilize a specific BMP.

PERCENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE: UTILIZATION: Soil Conservation, Irrigation Water Management



49%	CAP Plan
74%	Enrolled in a Voluntary Conservation Program (EQIP or CSP)
71%	Grass Waterways
99%	Water Control Structures
31%	Burn Crop Residue
64%	Sub-soiling
95%	Precision Land-formed Fields
93%	Raised Turn-rows or Pads
65%	Grass Cover on Turn-rows
44%	Filter Strips or Buffers
55%	Cover Crops
72%	Multi-species Cover Crops
36%	No-till
86%	Minimum or Reduced Tillage
58%	Impound Winter Water
27%	Grow Rice
83%	Straight Levees in Rice Production
39%	Zero Grade Fields in Rice Production
83%	Side-inlet or Alternate Wetting and Drying in Rice Production
58%	Grow Row-Rice
1%	Farm Catfish
91%	Flow-Meter
60%	Timers on Irrigation Wells
61%	Surface Water Sources for Irrigation
36%	Tail-water Recovery or On-farm Storage Reservoir
62%	Pivot Irrigation System
49%	Drop Nozzles on Pivots
93%	Pipe Planner/Computerized Hole Selection Tool
36%	Surge Valves
79%	Soil Moisture Sensors to Schedule Irrigation
31%	Telemetry to Monitor Irrigation Wells
97%	Soil Sample
92%	Sample Using Grids or Zones
81%	Soil Sample 1/3 of Farm Every Year
36%	Compaction Testing or Top Soil Mapping
51%	Sap or Tissue Samples for Crop Fertility Needs

**PERCENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE:
UTILIZATION: Hazardous and Solid Waste Disposal**

- 76% Recycle Empty Pesticide Containers**
- 94% Recycle Used Motor Oil**
- 97% Recycle Used Batteries**
- 83% Recycle Used Tires**
- 99% Recycle Used Polypipe**

**PERCENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE:
UTILIZATION: Wildlife Management and
Wildlife Habitat Enhancement**

- 85% Leave Crops for Wildlife**
- 91% Plant Food Plots**
- 74% Impound Winter Water for Waterfowl**
- 36% Pollinator Habitat**

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