Vegetable BMP Web Site: A Quick Resource for Those Involved in the BMP Program for Vegetables in Florida

By Eric Simonne, Associate Professor, Horticultural Sciences, Teresa Salame, research assistant and Monica Ozoresh-Hampton, project coordinator, Southwest Florida-REC Immokalee.

When the “Water Quality/Quantity Best Management Practices for Florida Vegetable and Agronomic Crops” manual (commonly referred to as the “BMP manual for vegetables” by the vegetable industry members) was adopted in rule 5M-8 in February 2006, the BMP program for vegetables grown in Florida became a reality. Following the adoption of federal and state laws (1972 to 1999) that set the stage for BMP (Best Management Practices) and TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) development, drafting (2001-2004), reviewing (2004-2005), and adoption (2006) of the BMP manual for vegetables, the current task is to help land owners and growers understand the sign up process. The “Best Management Practices for the Florida Vegetable Industry” web site (http://www.imok.ufl.edu/bmp/vegetable/) was developed as a quick resource for growers, Extension educators, implementation team members, and all who are involved in the BMP process. Currently, the site is organized in four sections:

1. The BMP manual accessible on-line.
2. Background documents on how to participate in the BMP program. Among others, this section contains the BMP checklist for self evaluation of current BMP adoption.
3. A list of selected UF/IFAS on-line Extension publications applicable to the state-wide BMP program and interim measures.
4. Additional BMP-related resources. This section contains a link to a series of frequently asked question regarding BMPs, and how to locate and contact the implementation teams.

The web site is updated on a regular basis. If you have any questions or comments, or wish to contribute to or post additional documents on this web site, send an e-mail to esimonne@ufl.edu.