



**2011 Delta F.A.R.M.
Environmental Stewardship
Report**

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2011 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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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
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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.

RESULTS

2011 General Statistics:

Total Acres Evaluated: 1,324,214

Acres Enrolled:

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:	2011 ACRES EVALUATED:
Cotton	192,985
Rice	113,628
Soybeans	504,238
Corn	361,430
Wheat	47,315
Milo	15,258
Catfish	11,401
Other Crops	14,637
Non-Cultivated/Forested	128,270
TOTAL	1,324,214

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.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE:	2011 PERCENT UTILIZATION:
Soil Conservation Plan	85%
Filter Strips (Grass or Trees)	81%
Grass Waterways	82%
Terraces (when needed)	32%
Conservation Tillage	92%
Water Control Structures	94%
Residue Management	80%
Sub-soiling	87%
Crop Rotation	90%
Containment Levees Around Fields	88%
Double Cropping	52%
Cover Crop	30%
Maintain Natural Riparian Areas	80%
Impound Winter Water on Fields	81%
Maintain Grass on Pond Levees	59%
6/3 Water Management on Catfish Ponds	39%
Extend Catfish Pond Drains Beyond the Toe of Levee	34%
Seining Pads Catfish Ponds	12%
Precision Landform Fields	70%
Straight Levee Production Systems	81%
Zero Grade Production Systems	27%
Side Inlet Irrigation	54%
Irrigation Water Use Flowmeter	22%
Timer on Irrigation Wells	28%
Tail Water Recovery System	41%
Capture and Use Surface Water for Irrigation	50%
Sprinkler Irrigation Systems	65%
PHAUCET Program	22%

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE: CONTINUED	2011 PERCENT UTILIZATION:
Filter Strips Around Mixing Facilities	28%
Back Siphon Check Valves	62%
Closed or Semi-Closed Mixing Systems	73%
Precision Application Technologies	77%
Drift Reduction BMPs (wind, droplet size, etc.)	90%
Integrated Pest Management System (IPM)	70%
Select Genetics Packages that Reduce Pesticide Use	94%
Rotate Crops	90%
Manage Crop Residues	80%
Impound Winter Water	79%
Variable Rate Mixed Fertilizer	80%
Spring Burn Down	93%
Resistance Management	90%
Optimize Planting Times	90%
Seed Treatments	95%
Multiple Nitrogen Applications	85%
Independent Crop Consultant	87%
Recycle Pesticide Containers	88%
Recycle Used Oil	92%
Recycle Used Batteries	93%
Recycle Used Tires	78%
Recycle Used Polypipe	91%
Wildlife Management Plan	57%
Leave Crops for Wildlife	85%
Maintain Riparian Areas	81%
Plant Supplemental Food for Wildlife	87%
Flood Fields for Waterfowl	80%
Construct or Maintain Wildlife Habitat	84%

RESULTS

Acres Treated:

Selected BMPs can be measured in acres affected by the practice. This can be in the form of protection, prevention, or area treated. The following represents data collected, which can be accounted for by acreage.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	2011 ACRES	% OF SURVEYED ACRES*
No-Tillage	113,074	8%
Minimum-Tillage	286,989	22%
Reduced-Tillage	275,843	21%
Conventional Tillage	648,308	49%
Drain thru Filter Strip	249,308	19%
Drain thru Structure	445,109	34%
Land Formed Fields	485,663	37%
Containment Levees	346,554	26%
Winter Water Acres	89,751	7%
Straight Levee Fields	203,989	15%
Tail Water Irrigation	65,464	5%
Surface Water Irrigation	74,180	6%
Ground Water Irrigation	781,254	58%
Timberland Acres	92,497	7%
Wildlife Food Plot Acres	10,795	0.7%
Recreational Pond or Lake Acres	25,798	2%
Riparian Area Acres	14,244	1%
Wildlife Habitat Acres	72,517	6%
Polypipe Rolls Recycled	10,116	n/a
Acres Enrolled in CRP	20,597	1.5%
Acres Enrolled in WRP	17,265	1.3%
Acres Enrolled in CSP	99,233	7%
Acres Treated by EQIP Practices	232,892	18%

*% OF SURVEYED ACRES = % of all evaluated acres (1,324,214).