

Handbook of Florida Water Regulation: Table of Contents¹

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Preface

This handbook is designed to provide an accurate, current, and authoritative summary of the principal federal and state (Florida) laws that directly or indirectly relate to agriculture. This handbook provides a basic overview of the many rights and responsibilities that farmers and farmland owners have under both federal and state laws as well as the appropriate contact information to obtain more detailed information. However, the reader should be aware that because the laws, administrative rulings, and court decisions on which this handbook is based are subject to constant revision, portions of this publication could become outdated at any time. Several details of cited laws are also left out due to space limitations.

This handbook is distributed with the understanding that the authors are not engaged in rendering legal or other professional advice, and the information contained herein should not be regarded as a substitute for professional advice. This handbook is not all inclusive in providing information to achieve compliance with the federal and state laws and regulations governing water protection. For these reasons, the use of these materials by any person constitutes an agreement to hold harmless the authors, the UF/IFAS Center for Agricultural and Natural Resource Law, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, and the University

of Florida for any liability claims, damages, or expenses that may be incurred by any person as a result of reference to or reliance on the information contained in this handbook.

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Table 1. Description of handbook contents

Title	Description	DLN
Introduction and Overview		
Introduction	General purpose of handbook	FE580
Florida Water Policy Framework and Institutions	Overview of water quality and quantity/use regulations	TBD
Key Federal Laws		
Clean Water Act	Federal law to maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of US navigable waters (such as rivers and lakes)	FE582
Safe Drinking Water Act	Federal law to protect US drinking water systems from contaminants	FE587
Endangered Species Act	Federal law to protect US fish, wildlife, and plants that are threatened with extinction	FE592
Key State Laws		
State Regulatory Powers	Summary of Florida state regulatory powers	FE581
Florida Air and Water Pollution Control Act	State law to conserve, protect, and improve the quality of Florida's waters	FE607
Florida Watershed Restoration Act	State law to protect Florida's water quality through the Total Maximum Daily Load program	FE608
Florida Water Bill	State law that addresses Florida's critical water supply and quality issues	FE1018
Florida Pollutant Discharge Prevention and Control Act	State law to maintain the sea coast and coastal waters, beaches, and adjoining public lands in as close to a pristine condition as possible	FE585
Key State Agencies		
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Primary state agency for preservation of environmental integrity of Florida's physical environment, including water resources	FE593
Florida Water Management Districts	State regional agencies for management of water and related land resources	FE594
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	State agency for management, protection, and conservation of wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life	FE595
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	State agency that carries out functions related to farming practices and products, including projects to minimize impact of agriculture on water resource	FE596
Florida Department of Health	State agency for implementing procedures to promote and protect public health and safety, including protecting public drinking supply sources	FE597
Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Local agencies for providing assistance/guidance to landowners/stakeholders in implementing land and water resource protection practices	FE1017
Selected Permits Required for Water Resource Use		
Consumptive Use Permits	Permits for consumptive uses of water (any use of water that reduces water availability in the source from which the water is withdrawn or diverted)	FE604
Management and Storage of Surface Waters	Permits for construction, operation, or alteration of stormwater management systems, dams, impoundments, reservoirs, or appurtenances	FE605
Water Wells	Permits for construction, repair, or abandonment of water wells	FE603
Agricultural Best Management Practices		
Agricultural Best Management Practices	Overview of how farmers should utilize best management practices to minimize potential impacts of production activities on water resources	FE600
Wetlands and Connected Systems		
Activities in Wetlands	Overview of statutes that protect wetlands	FE606
Florida Everglades Forever Act	Restoration of the Everglades ecosystem by state and federal governments	FE609
Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program	Program to improve and protect the water quality and quantity in the Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee River, and St. Lucie River watersheds	FE610
Protection of Groundwater		
Federal Rules for Discharges into Groundwater	Overview of federal statutory directives that affect or have the potential to affect groundwater	FE602

Title	Description	DLN
State Rules for Discharges into Groundwater	Overview of state statutory directives for groundwater quality protection	FE601
Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act	State law to protect springs fed by the Floridan aquifer	FE1019
Water Wells	Summary of state statutory directives to safeguard the quality of both well water and aquifer water	FE603
Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal	Regulations for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (such as septic tanks)	FE614
Regulation of Toxic and Hazardous Substances with Potential Impact on Water Resources		
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	Federal law for investigation and cleanup of sites contaminated by hazardous substances	FE584
Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act	Federal law to regulate toxic chemicals, hazardous chemicals, and extremely hazardous substances	FE586
Toxic Substances Control Act and the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act	Federal law to regulate the manufacturing, disposing, importing, distributing, using, and processing of all toxic chemicals	FE591
Pesticide Regulations		
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act	Federal law to regulate all phases of pesticide sale, use, handling, and disposal	FE588
Food Quality Protection Act	Overview of the amount of pesticide residue that can be legally present in/on food	FE589
Florida Pesticide Law	Regulations for the distribution, sale, and use of pesticides in Florida	FE590
Pollutant Storage Tank Systems	Regulations for tank systems that store pesticides, oils, gasoline, or ammonia or chlorine compounds/derivatives	FE613
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