






**Best Management Practices
For Potato Operations in the Tri-County Agricultural Area
When Applying More Than IFAS-Recommended Rates for Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P)¹**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
Office of Agricultural Water Policy**

July 18, 2011

		N	P	
Education/Technical Assistance	With assistance from IFAS Extension, analyze fertilizer application amounts for N, P, and K, and explore options for reducing applications.	◇	◇	
	Attend educational workshops scheduled specifically for TCAA growers on nutrient management and other BMPs contained in this table.	◇	◇	
	Work with FDACS to assess the feasibility of implementing alternative measures, including regional and on-site water management to retain nutrients. ²	◇	◇	
VAC 13 - Land Leveling	As stated in manual	◇	◇	
VAC 24 - Cover Crops	Up to 50 lbs N/acre, as needed to sustain the function of the cover crop.	◇		
	No P applications.		◇	
VAC 26 - Soil Testing	As stated in manual. (Reminder: <i>Keep records of soil testing results for each field and crop</i>)	◇	◇	
VAC 32 - CRF	Use only as practicable for the operation; consult manual and IFAS materials for guidance.	◇		
VAC 33C-4 - Banding	Transition to banding as soon as practicable. Work with IFAS Extension and FDACS field staff to evaluate the feasibility of banding options, including the cost/benefit of purchasing banding equipment relative to potential reduced fertilizer costs. ²		◇	
VAC 33C-6 - Split Applications	As stated in manual.	◇		
VAC 39B and E - Irrigation System Maintenance/Evaluation	As stated in manual; also, MIL evaluation every 5 years - use of water table observation wells to be addressed in MIL evaluation. ²	◇	◇	
VAC 42 - Water Control Structures	As stated in manual. Also, in order to retain sediment behind water-control structures and reduce water movement off site, leave flashboards in place after potato digging operations and during cover crop establishment.	◇	◇	

 **Record keeping required** - Records are subject to inspection upon request, in accordance with a mutually agreed-upon time and manner.

¹ This set of BMPs will be included with the Notice of Intent submitted to FDACS for the **Water Quality/Quantity Best Management Practices for Florida Vegetable and Agronomic Crops** manual, and will be in addition to any other BMPs in the manual applicable to individual operations.

² Implementation of related measures may require cost-share assistance.