

FARMERS ADVOCATING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



DELTA F.A.R.M.

Advancing Environmental
Sustainability in the Delta

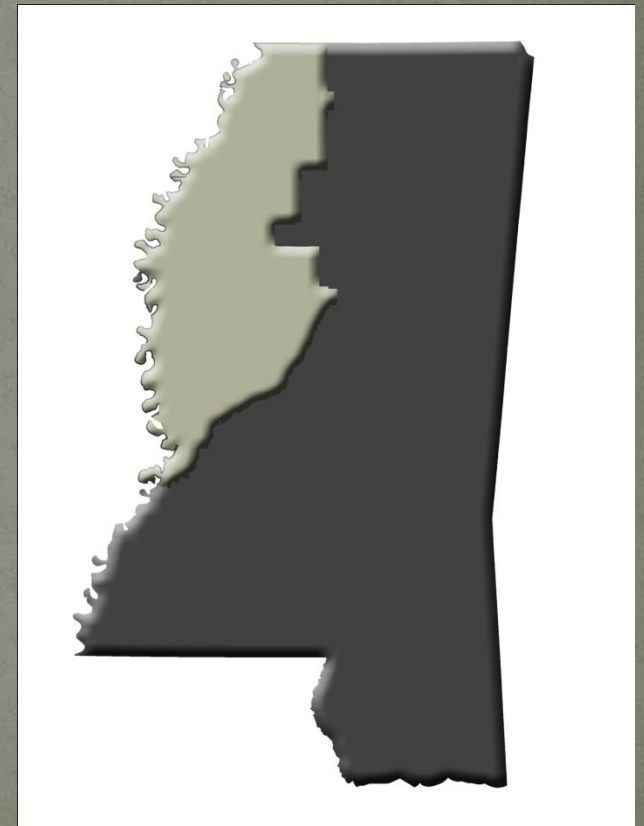
What is Delta F.A.R.M.

Delta F.A.R.M. is a 501c3 non-profit focused on developing an environmentally and economically sustainable future for agriculture in the Yazoo Mississippi Delta.

- Non-profits typically address a problem/concern or represent a certain group
- There are no owners in a 501c3
- Founders may serve on the organization's board, but they do not “own” the organization in any way.
- 501c3s are structured to ensure that the organization operates in a way in best meets the needs of the goal a certain group

The Roots run deep...

- Delta farmers wanted an organization that would strive to conserve, enhance and restore the natural resources of their region
- If this venture was to be successful, access to the farm gate would be critically important...So it must be FARMER LEAD.....



The Beginning...

- Delta F.A.R.M. was founded in 1998 by farmers, for farmers with the technical guidance of State & Federal resource agencies
- MDEQ and NRCS were the two primary technical leads in the development of Delta F.A.R.M.

Delta F.A.R.M. program— Farmers cited for environmental stewardship

IN THE MISSISSIPPI Delta F.A.R.M. submits to an evaluation of its environmental and conservation efforts. Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, Miss., were among the first to establish the program and cover crops are planted for erosion control.



Signs Of Environmental Stewardship



Trey Cooke of Delta F.A.R.M., grower Jaby Denton and Chris Bryant of Novartis Crop Protection erect a sign on Denton's farm near Belen, MS, advocating the environmental stewardship program. Delta F.A.R.M. (Farmers Advocating Resource Management) began in 1998 to educate and provide means for enhancing the environmental and economic health of Delta farmland.

More than 200,000 acres have already been committed to the effort in the 18-county Delta area.

ON FARM

Delta F.A.R.M.

Mississippi growers push profit-friendly conservation.

By Mary Ann Rood



Travis Satterfield inspects a drainpipe fitted for slotted board risers for better water management.

ship growers already j conservation practices th
Satterfield, who serves committee, produces abo Lemont, in Bolivar Cou Magnolia State's rice gye plants in last year's su feat on wheat he plan produces rice, catfish, wh for the land that supports
Heading for his fields bakes his pickup at a nea is a collection of used el the recycler. The conair rinse water poured int chemical storage tank i pesticides reach the groa weather station where p before taking off, to ruin
The well has a back a water running back in tanks or chemical tanks i valve in case you lose p keeps water from spoh very inexpensive." Most c
It's not Satterfield's ain are not his either. "Del concept," Satterfield ex; one little thing, like h chemicals from running; neighbor doesn't, it effe of small things people c
Another way of safeq whole community dep wells. "The big advanta from running directly b "An abandoned well is a and plugging it probab
Protecting and conse Delta F.A.R.M.'s effort, a Slotted board risers on control depth and the za "If you get a big rain, it be captured and retained goes out through a cone eliminate a lot of erosion.
"We have rehit pump that depend on surface processed environmental enhance- ment program."
In less than a year of existance, Delta FARM has already enrolled more than 175,000 acres of farmland. When a producer or landowner

Conservation

Enhancing Delta FARMS

Program promotes resource management and environmental stewardship.

By AL FAVA

P roducing cotton, wheat, soybeans, corn, rice and catfish near Rolling Fork, MS, has afforded Laurance Carter and his family a way to earn a living and provided a quality of life only rural American can offer. So, when a program began that would build on and enhance land and resource stewardship, Carter jumped on board.
"We just want to make our own farm a better farm — one that is not being continually diminished or degraded by soil erosion or pollution," he says. "We'd rather put some effort and expense into it to simply make it a better farm."

GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Carter and many other Mississippi Delta producers are involved in the Delta FARM (Delta Farmers Advocating Resource Management). The project's goal is to bring recognition to the existing environmental stewardship attitudes that have already been implemented in the Mississippi Delta and facilitate further environmental improvements to the farm level, according to the program's chairman, WA "Billy" Percy.
"There are a lot of important natural resource stewardship initiatives already ongoing in the Mississippi Delta by the agricultural community," says Percy, a Washington County producer. "In fact, Delta producers have led the way in many environmental programs that have been adopted throughout the county. Delta FARM will build on this foundation to develop a unique producer-led environmental enhancement program."

In less than a year of existance, Delta FARM has already enrolled more than 175,000 acres of farmland. When a producer or landowner

signs up his acreage — at no charge — for the program, he pledges to make every attempt within his resources to adopt recognized environmental practices in agriculture.
The implementation of Best Management Practices and the documentation of existing and expanded resource conservation practices will be a key priority of the program. These recognized agricultural practices — which address soil and water conservation, pesticide stewardship and wildlife management — will aid in conserving, restoring and enhancing the agricultural and non-agricultural environment of the Mississippi Delta.



A slotted board riser allows a grower to hold water in a field and control the depth or amount of water held. This may allow a grower to irrigate more efficiently by better controlling soil water or by utilizing rain water for irrigation. In the winter, slotted board risers are used to hold water in the field for weed control and helps create a waterfowl habitat for overwintering ducks and geese.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

The staff of Delta FARM, led by Trey Cooke of Leland, MS, will coordinate with each interested landowner about his operation's enrollment in the program. Either Cooke, a representative of Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation or a representative of the Mississippi Extension Service will visit with him and evaluate his current operation. After the evaluation, the representatives will suggest some proven voluntary

stewardship initiatives that could be adopted in a cost-effective manner. "All of the practices we advocate have proven to be environmentally sound and, in many cases, will only serve to enhance the producer's bottom line," says Percy.
Stewardship initiatives include establishing grass waterways to slow soil erosion, utilizing subsoil plows and reduced tillage practices and the installation of slotted board risers to irrigate rice fields and create winter waterfowl habitats.

Principal sponsor for the program is Novartis Crop Protection Company, which made a \$30,000 grant. Other sponsors include Delta and Pine Land, FMC Corporation, Farmers Grain Terminal, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the EPA. ■

Partnerships – Foundations for Success



FARMERS ADVOCATING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



DELTA F.A.R.M.



Protection · Promotion · Service

Mississippi State Department of Health



Leadership

Chairman

Reese Pillow – Greenwood, MS

Directors

C.D. Simmons, III – Arcola, MS

Dan Branton – Leland, MS

Nolen Canon – Tunica, MS

Bobby Carson – Lambert, MS

Rob Coker – Yazoo City, MS

Mattson Flowers – Clarksdale, MS

Jeremy Jack – Belzoni, MS

W. A. Percy, II – Greenville, MS

Travis Satterfield – Benoit, MS

Darrington Seward – Louise, MS

Mike Sturdivant III – Glendora, MS



Mission



Ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture in the Delta.

Delta F.A.R.M. Corporate Sponsors

The Syngenta logo features the word "syngenta" in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font. A single green leaf is positioned above the letter 'n'.

Bayer CropScience

Membership



Producers and landowner who have joined the association of Delta Farmers Advocating Resource Management manage approximately 1.4 million acres in the Mississippi Delta.

JOIN FOR FREE Over 1.3 Million Acres and Growing

or Membership to Delta F.A.R.M. is FREE to any landowner, farm operator or land manager in the Delta and part-Delta counties of Northwest Mississippi who agrees to complete the Delta F.A.R.M. Personal Conservation Assessment on an annual basis. The Personal Conservation Assessment Tool documents voluntary conservation practices utilized by Delta F.A.R.M. members. While the data collected by this tool poses no risk or liability to members, individual information is kept confidential.

To join please contact Delta F.A.R.M. at 662-686-3370 or fill out the contact form below.

Tracking Conservation

FARMERS ADVOCATING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



DELTA F.A.R.M.

PERSONAL CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT TOOL



P.O. BOX 257
STONEVILLE, MS 38776
662-686-3370
WWW.DELTAFARM.ORG

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Farm Name _____

Name of Landowner or Operator _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____

LAND USE:

Please fill out each blank completely based upon the cropping year just completed.

Acres Owned Rented or Leased:

Cotton : _____ Rice : _____ Soybeans : _____

Corn : _____ Wheat : _____ Grain Sorghum : _____

Other Crops : _____ Timber or Recreational Lands : _____

Total : _____

Instructions: In this section, use the answers "yes," "no," or "n/a" to answer the questions as they relate specifically to your farming operation during the past cropping year. All answers are confidential but will be added to the information gathered from all other Delta F.A.R.M. members to document the environmental benefits of voluntary conservation practices implemented by all Delta F.A.R.M. members.

SOIL CONSERVATION, IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Do you have grass waterways (vegetation in ditches)? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Have you installed water-control structures (pipes/culverts) in fields? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Do you burn crop residue? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Do you sub-soil in the fall? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Have you precision land-formed fields? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Do you have raised turn-rows or pads around your fields? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Do you maintain grass cover on turn-rows? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Do you have filter strips or buffers on your farm? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Do you plant cover crops? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Do you plant multi-species cover crops? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Do you practice no-till? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | |
| Do you practice minimum or reduced tillage? (15-30% residue left) | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | |
| Do you hold winter water on your fields? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Did you grow rice? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | |

Environmental Stewardship Report



2022 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report

B. F. Smith Foundation
Delta F.A.R.M.
433 Stoneville Rd.
P.O. Box 257
Stoneville, MS 38776

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:	2021 ACRES EVALUATED:
Cotton	223,627
Rice	59,389
Soybeans	419,378
Corn	207,246
Wheat	15,353
Grain Sorghum	3,180
Other Crops	61,025
Timber or Recreational Lands	109,770
TOTAL	1,103,468

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:	2021 PERCENT UTILIZATION:
Soil Conservation, Irrigation Water Management	
CAP Plan	56%
Enrolled in a Voluntary Conservation Program (EQIP or CSP)	79%
Grass Waterways	69%
Water Control Structures	96%
Burn Crop Residue	22%
Sub-soiling	71%
Precision Land-formed Fields	92%
Raised Turn-rows or Pads	92%
Grass Cover on Turn-rows	59%
Filter Strips or Buffers	48%

Tracking Conservation *Monitoring Trends*



BMP	2009	2013	Change
Side-Inlet Rice	50%	69%	+19%
Flowmeters	23%	47%	+24%
Well Timers	29%	39%	+10%
Surface Water Sources for Irrigation	50%	60%	+10%
PHAUCET	12%	25%	13%
Surge Valves	n/a	5%	n/a
Soil Moisture Probes	n/a	7%	n/a

Assist in Conservation Implementation

Technical Services

1. Technical Service
Provider for the NRCS
2. BMP Information Resources
3. Conservation Planning
4. Conservation Project Surveying
5. Conservation Project Design
6. Conservation Project Mapping



MDEQ

Sediment Reduction



NRCS Sediment Reduction



Cover Crop Trials

EPA Gulf of Mexico



Promoting Conservation In Print

Mississippi Fact Sheet

Meet the Wildflowers

One main Operation Pollinator goal is to establish regionally adapted native wildflower populations to promote the health of native pollinator populations in agricultural landscapes and increase overall biodiversity on the farm.

Plot establishment and data collection was conducted by researchers at the University of California – Davis, Michigan State University and University of Florida. The project has confirmed that high-quality wildflower seed mixes can be established in one year.

Wildflower plots attracted pollinators in greater numbers than weedy vegetation commonly found next to crop fields. These results give confidence that creating wildflower habitats could increase pollinator numbers and biodiversity across the farm.

Sowing details

Ideally, sowing should take place during the fall to allow establishment.



Butterfly Milkweed perennial
Echinacea spp. species



Goldenrods perennial
Echinacea spp. species



Sowing Milkweed perennial
Echinacea spp. species



18 www.deltafarm.com FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2014

Benefit of cover crop system— Rob Coker seeking healthy soil prescription

By Denise Wood
Contributing Writer

Planting a winter cover crop has many benefits, but one is the most important: increased soil health. Rob Coker, a farmer in the Mississippi Delta, is looking for ways to improve his soil health and reduce his reliance on synthetic fertilizers.



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Mississippi Water Conservation Management Project Aquaculture

General Information:

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191 - Irrigation Water Management (IWM)

191 - Irrigation Water Management (IWM) project in the Delta. The project is designed to improve water efficiency and reduce water consumption. The project is designed to improve water efficiency and reduce water consumption.

Example Contract:

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Supporting Photos:

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PROGRAM MANUAL

AGRICULTURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE GUIDE

An official publication of Delta Farmers Advocating Resource Management



EVALUATION

PERSONAL CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT TOOL

An official publication of Delta Farmers Advocating Resource Management



2013 Delta F.A.R.M. Environmental Stewardship Report

B. F. Smith Foundation
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Stoneville, MS 38776

Mississippi Water Conservation Management Project Furrow Irrigation

General Information:

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Mississippi Water Conservation Management Project Flood Irrigation

General Information:

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Mississippi Water Conservation Management Project Center Pivot

General Information:

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Current Projects and Initiatives



Questions?

FARMERS ADVOCATING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



DELTA F.A.R.M.