

6/23/09

Hello out there!

Plenty to tell you about this time... Fertilizer Bill is Signed, TMDL meeting, PCO ID Cardholder/Four Hours of Core, and Limited Pesticide Applicator training.

Fertilizer Bill Signed on Thursday

While we think of it in terms of required certification of fertilizer applicators, the bill, SB 494, actually covers quite a bit on irrigation and opens up a variance for using soil moisture sensors to determine irrigation applications rather than strict adherence to particular watering days. This bill was signed on Thursday, June 18 and will require commercial applicators of fertilizer to get a limited certification to apply fertilizer by 2014.

It sets up a renewal for BMP certification every four years. It encourages local governments to adopt the 2008 model fertilizer ordinance proposed by Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Force, FDACS, DEP and IFAS. It directs local governments to adopt this ordinance or a stricter one if they have impaired water bodies, which Hillsborough County does.

Reading the law, it appears to apply to anyone making fertilizer applications as part of their employment, so those of you that have asked if it applies to you working for a school or PCO ID Cardholders, take a look and read it for yourself, and see what you think. I am expecting to hear more information on how the process will actually work and confirmation of exactly whom it applies to soon.

See the actual bill here

<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2009/Senate/bills/billtext/pdf/s0494er.pdf>

July 7 TMDL Meeting/ Workshop

We have some activity coming regarding TMDLs for local water bodies. If you remember there has been one meeting already, but the meeting was focused on coliform (bacteria). This upcoming meeting will include nutrient issues. I have requested an agenda.

See detailed info here:

Verified lists <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/assessment/index.htm>

Actual draft TMDL documents for water bodies:

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/draft_tmdl.htm#Group1

I have spoken with Terry Hansen with DEP about the process to get more familiar with how TMDL development process works in general. Terry helps to develop the action plans for implementing TMDLs.

If you should look at any of these, start with this little bit of background:

- The state has been divided up into five groups based on water management district and population.
- Not all the water bodies of concern in a geographic area are within one group. This is in attempt to stagger the workload of reviewing the current status and formulating a plan of action. For example, if you look at these for our area, it looks like many fall in Group 1 and Group 2.
- Mr. Hansen relayed that Group 1 are those water bodies of concern that drain directly into Tampa Bay, while the water bodies in Group 2 are those which drain to smaller water bodies, like the Hillsborough and Alafia Rivers.

Hansen said data collected over seven to ten years has indicated that these water bodies are impaired. There are multiple reasons for a water body to be considered impaired, two of which are measured levels of coliform and nutrients, as we have seen.

- The data that the decisions are based on is collected by sampling water using a set procedure.
- Many different (mostly) government entities collect the data reported.
- Hansen indicated that EPC collects this information in Hillsborough County.

The meeting on July 7 will discuss the draft TMDL documents for five different rivers or water basins. The meeting is followed by a public comment period and then the action plan or BMAP development starts. I have another meeting on that day that I am trying to reschedule so I'm not sure if I will be there or not.

See the end of this email for meeting details. If you look at the notice, each of those basins may be composed of multiple water bodies and there is about a 50+ page report for each of them. The meeting gives generalities but does not discuss the depths of each of the water bodies of concern.

PCO ID Cardholder Training July 1

Four hours of basic pesticide safety info, approved for 4 Core CEUs.
Use this for ID cardholder initial training or yearly required training.

Many other license holders could attend to earn Core CEUs for license renewal. See flyer here <http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/files/pdf/4%20hour%20core%20flyer%202009.pdf>

This will be canceled if at least 15 do not sign up.

See this and other training here: <http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/events/index.shtml>

Limited Commercial Maintenance and Limited L&O Training
Required training for the "Roundup license"
Hillsborough County Extension
Wednesday July 8
Thursday October 8

See the flyer here [http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/files/pdf/Limited%20Flyer2009\[2\].pdf](http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/files/pdf/Limited%20Flyer2009[2].pdf)
Find your date and register here <http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/events/index.shtml>
This will be canceled if at least 15 do not sign up.

Arborist Training

Interested in becoming an ISA certified arborist?

Begins this September, but you must register by mid August

See flyer here

<http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/files/pdf/Arborist%20Certification%20Training%20brochure.pdf>

Electrical Safety in the Landscape Services Industry
From Dr. Carol J. Lehtola <http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu>
<http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu/snn/snn-09-06.html#F2>

An article appearing in Green Industry Pros.Com covers the topic of electrical safety for the landscape services industry. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), employees in this industry are more likely to die from electrocutions (9.8% of their job-related fatalities from 2003-2006) than those in the U.S. workforce overall (4.4% of the job-related deaths during that same period).

Training materials for electrical safety:

- Tailgate training, Electrical Shock (English and Spanish)
- Tailgate training, Overhead Electrical Hazards (English and Spanish)

A South Florida Landscaper was killed by lightning on Monday while mowing. The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration says lightning causes more deaths in Florida than all other weather hazards combined, including hurricanes and tornadoes, and Florida has more lightning casualties than any other state.

(<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090609/ARTICLES/906099989/1105/NEWS?Title=South-Florida-landscaper-killed-by-lightning>
)[.http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090609/ARTICLES/906099989/1105/NEWS?Title=South-Florida-landscaper-killed-by-lightning](http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090609/ARTICLES/906099989/1105/NEWS?Title=South-Florida-landscaper-killed-by-lightning)

HOT! HOT! HOT!

Look out for heat related illness

Are you drinking plenty of water, starting early, and taking plenty of breaks?

See more info on heat stress at the new NIOSH blog

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/>

And check out this California site with a video to download

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/etools/08-006/index.htm>

On another note:

My evil 3 year report has been submitted and has circulated around the state. Yahoo! It has come back for revisions yesterday. Great relief to have it mostly over, still the haunting continues.

15 Credits down. 15 To go! Half way done towards my masters and I am buying myself a cool book of bug and plant drawings done in the spirit of old National Geographic stuff. Getting halfway there makes me eligible for a decent raise and I'm feeling some sense of relief. It's all downhill from here. Yahoo!

July 9 - 22 I will be running/ digging around after termites in Rancho Grande, a national park in Venezuela. This is part two of a tropical entomology class taught by Howard Frank, something of a legend in entomology land. Yahoo!

My abstract on the technology of the Tree and Landscape Short Course was selected for a poster at the National Association of County Ag Agents meeting in Portland Oregon. Don't know that I will be able to go this time, but will send the poster along if nothing else. Yahoo!

Mary Beth Henry

Extension Agent I Professional Horticulture Services, Pesticide Licensing

UF/IFAS Extension, Hillsborough County

Need notice of upcoming training and other info?

Sign up for email newsletter at

http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletters/growing_concerns_subscribe.shtml

5339 CR 579, Seffner, FL 33584-3334

T: 813.744.5519 x 103 F: 813.744.5776 mbhenry@ufl.edu www.prohort.net

We're In A Drought: Reduce Your Use -

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/reduce_your_use/

Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

From

<http://www.flrules.org/gateway/readFile.asp?sid=6&tid=7276957&type=2&file=62.htm>

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

RULE NO: RULE TITLE

62-304.600: Tampa Bay Basin TMDLs

62-304.605: Alafia River TMDLs

62-304.610: Hillsborough River Basin TMDLs

62-304.615: Manatee River Basin TMDLs

62-304.620: Little Manatee River TMDLs

The Department of Environmental Protection announces a workshop to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, July 7, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest District Office, Main Conference Room, 13051 North Telecom Parkway, Temple Terrace, FL 33637-0926

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To receive public comments on draft total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for impaired waters in the Tampa Bay, Alafia River, Hillsborough River, Manatee River, and Little Manatee River basins, to be adopted in Rules 62-304.600, 62-304.605, 62-304.610, 62-304.615, and 62-304.620, F.A.C. respectively. The draft TMDL documents for the impaired waters to be presented at the workshop will be placed on the Department's TMDL website:

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl> by June 19, 2009, and will be provided upon request to interested parties by mail or via e-mail distribution. The Department will accept written comments on the draft TMDLs through July 20, 2009.

Written comments should be directed to: Jan Mandrup-Poulsen, Environmental Administrator, Watershed Evaluation and TMDL Section, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Mail Station 3555, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400, or via email at: jan.mandrup-poulsen@dep.state.fl.us.

These rule developments have been given the following OGC case numbers: 09-0718 for 62-304.600, 09-0722 for 62-304.605, 09-0720 for 62-304.610, 09-0717 for 62-304.615, and 09-2870 for 62-304.620.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Ms. Pat Waters, Watershed Evaluation and TMDL Section, MS 3555, Department of Environmental Protection, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400, (850)245-8449.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 48 hours before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Ms. Pat Waters at (850)245-8449. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).