

## **Salinity Meeting**

University of Florida Partnership for Water, Agriculture, and Community Sustainability (PWACS) in Hastings, Florida continues to educate Tri-County Ag Area (TCAA) growers on salinity issues and the importance of understanding the dynamics of salt water intrusion. A one day workshop was held in Flagler County on August 21, 2012, outlining the dynamics of salt water intrusion and discussion on possible solutions and strategies. In this class, growers received a brief history lesson on how the issue of salt water intrusion into TCAA wells has been affecting area growers for over 50 years, the recent trends of high salinity water in the TCAA, and how the Florida Aquifer functions. An overview of recent data, collected and analyzed by extension agents and UF specialists, was also summarized. Through this information, TCAA local industry leaders, UF specialists, and local growers are working together to find both short and long term strategies and solutions. The goal is to minimize uptake of salts, find new irrigation schemes and technologies, and learn how cropping systems may effect salt movement through both irrigation water and soil as well as what future actions may need to be taken.

Following the meeting, a post-survey was distributed to the attendees. The class was composed of industry professionals, University of Florida IFAS Extension employees, and TCAA growers. Responses showed that, due to this educational program, growers have a better understanding of salinity issues facing the TCAA, they have plans to monitor salinity on their farm, and the majorities are willing to have extension agents perform research projects on their farms. It is imperative to understand the water which TCAA growers depend on to feed the nation and UF IFAS Extension is continuing to do its part to find workable solutions.

For questions on salinity, contact:

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