Thank Glades sugarcane farmers for improving water quality

On average, 48% of water flowing from Lake Okeechobee is sent south. Few people realize that farmers work hard to ensure that lake water leaving farms and reaching its ultimate destination in the Everglades is cleaner than most bottled natural spring water.

**Water facts**
Over the past five years, lake water had 138 parts per billion of phosphorus (PPB) — the scientific measure of water quality. Farmers use billions of gallons of rainfall and lake water to irrigate sugarcane, citrus, sweet corn and other vegetables.

- Following the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) over 20 years ago, water generally leaves our farms cleaner than when it left Lake O.
- In 2015, water leaving our farms was twice as clean as water leaving Lake O.

**Filtration makes it even cleaner**
Water leaving farmlands is released into 57,000 acres of manmade wetlands called Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs). There it is filtered and cleaned even more before entering the Everglades. STAs are highlighted in yellow on the map.

- The goal of the STAs is to clean the water to 10 PPB — cleaner than Florida’s bottled natural spring water.
- U.S. Sugar and neighboring farmers paid over $400 million to clean our water and help build and operate the STAs.

Learn more about STAs and the water sent south from Lake O.

Learn more about U.S. Sugar at www.ussugar.com