Name-calling or search for solutions?

Our critics call us BIG SUGAR to create hatred, fear and dislike. They have been doing this for decades in an effort to discredit and shame thousands of hardworking farmers. They make BIG SUGAR a bumper sticker slogan, and wrongfully blame our hardworking farmers for algae and pollution in our local waterways.

We don’t appreciate the name-calling, the misinformation, and like you, we are only interested in real solutions to make our waterways better. We care, because we live here too. We are U.S. Sugar... 2,500 strong, hardworking employee-owners and American farmers.

The name-calling and attempts to demonize our farmers and employees accomplish nothing! Calling us BIG SUGAR doesn’t lessen the discharges, it doesn’t clear up the algae, and it certainly does not help us find solutions for our waterways.

Let’s set the record straight!

1. Scientists, engineers and studies DO NOT support a one-solution flow-way.
   • The Army Corps of Engineers has never supported a one-solution flow-way.
   • Scientists and engineers from the South Florida Water Management have never supported a one-solution flow-way.
     –SFWMD Feasibility Study, 1999
   • The University of Florida Water Institute Study, 2015, page 9 states:
     “Independent assessments suggest that an expansive gravity driven wet flow-way throughout the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) may not be feasible or provide maximal benefits to the estuaries.”
   • Lake Okeechobee discharges are due to excessive rainfall from Orlando and north of the lake and from rainfall on Lake Okeechobee. The discharges also protect lives and communities south of the lake as water is released to protect the integrity of the aging Herbert Hoover Dike.

2. There are many solutions, and here are just a few that we all must work together to get done.
   • Fund and complete the Comprehensive Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), which upon completion will store more water south of the lake, clean it, and move it into the Everglades.
   • Right now there is nearly 120,000 acres of publicly owned land south of the lake for projects to store and move water south.
   • High performing water storage and treatment projects have been constructed on tens of thousands of acres, but additional funding from the Federal Government is needed to maximize storage and treatment on these lands.
   • Fund and complete Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP) like the C-44 Reservoir in Martin County, which will reduce discharges into our waterways and expedite repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike.

Who we are:
We’re American farmers – 2,500 strong. For nearly 100 years, U.S. Sugar has been farming in Florida. Our farms are located in and around Clewiston approximately 60 miles southwest of Stuart. A lot of our 2,500 hardworking employees own the company and many of them live in Martin County.

What we do:
We are American farmers who grow sugarcane, sweet corn and citrus. We are scientists and biologists who manage water quality on our farms. We are your neighbors who care about our local waterways, because many of us live right here.

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