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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to the Innovative Agricultural Water
 Quality Enhancement Pilot Program; creating s.
 403.068, F.S.; establishing the Innovative
 Agricultural Water Quality Enhancement Pilot Program
 within the Department of Environmental Protection for
 a specified purpose; providing program application and
 project selection requirements; requiring projects to
 be available for certain inspection; providing that
 certain projects are eligible for specified funding
 and continuation of system operations; directing the
 department to evaluate the program in consultation
 with specified entities and submit a report to the
 Legislature by a specified date; providing for future
 review and repeal of the program; providing that
 certain project partnerships are binding until
 terminated by the department; directing the department
 to adopt rules; providing an appropriation; providing
 an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 403.068, Florida Statutes, is created
 to read:

403.068 Innovative Agricultural Water Quality Enhancement

26 Pilot Program.—

27 (1) (a) The Innovative Agricultural Water Quality
 28 Enhancement Pilot Program is established within the department.
 29 The purpose of the program is to develop, operate, and maintain
 30 innovative water quality enhancement projects in partnership
 31 with dairy farms as defined in s. 502.012 that are designed to
 32 evaluate the efficacy of innovative, environmentally sustainable
 33 agricultural practices and technologies for dairy farms and
 34 other agricultural sectors and to improve surface and ground
 35 water quality.

36 (b) At least one project must be located within the
 37 geographic boundaries of:

- 38 1. The Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan.
- 39 2. The Lower Suwannee River Segment of the Suwannee River
 40 Basin Management Action Plan. If a project is not located in
 41 Lower Suwannee River Segment of the Suwannee River Basin
 42 Management Action Plan, the department may select a project
 43 within the geographic boundaries of the Santa Fe River Basin
 44 Management Action Plan.

45 (2) A program applicant must submit an application to the
 46 department in a format prescribed by the department.

47 (a) The application must include all of the following
 48 information:

- 49 1. A plan for the design, construction, operation,
 50 management, maintenance, and monitoring of water quality

51 enhancements from the agricultural properties that are
52 participating in the project.

53 2. The location of the agricultural properties
54 participating in the project, including whether the properties
55 are located within a geographic area subject to a basin
56 management action plan, a water use caution area, or a
57 prevention or recovery strategy for a minimum flow or level.

58 3. A financial plan, including financial commitments for
59 the development and long-term maintenance of the project. The
60 financial plan may include a cooperative agreement among
61 multiple dairy farms to collectively pool resources to support
62 systems designed to capture, reuse, and treat stormwater to
63 reduce nutrient loading to waters of the state. The financial
64 plan must address any federal, state, regional, or local grants
65 or other funding sources that have been applied for or secured
66 for the project. However, a financial commitment by an applicant
67 is not a prerequisite for participation in the program.

68 4. A plan to reduce nutrient loading to waters of the
69 state from existing loading for each participating dairy farm.

70 5. A water quality monitoring plan to evaluate the
71 performance of innovative, environmentally sustainable
72 agricultural practices.

73 6. A statement as to whether the applicant anticipates
74 that the proposed innovative, environmentally sustainable
75 agricultural practices may be applied in other agricultural

76 sectors.

77 7. A demonstration that the project does not cause or
78 contribute to:

79 a. Adverse water quantity or flooding impacts to receiving
80 waters and adjacent lands.

81 b. Adverse impacts to existing surface water storage and
82 conveyance.

83 c. Adverse impacts to the maintenance of surface or
84 groundwater flows established pursuant to s. 373.042 or works of
85 the district established pursuant to s. 373.086.

86 d. Violations of state water quality standards.

87 (b) The application may include the following supplemental
88 information:

89 1. Any partnerships or collaborations through an in-kind
90 contribution, financial support, or other arrangement with a
91 water management district, the Department of Agriculture and
92 Consumer Services, the University of Florida Institute of Food
93 and Agricultural Sciences, or other private or governmental
94 entity.

95 2. Any power cogeneration components related to methane
96 digesters, renewable natural gas, electricity, or other
97 renewable energy technologies.

98 3. Any water quality credit trade pursuant to s.
99 403.067(8) associated with the project.

100 (3) Projects shall be selected at the discretion of the

101 department and subject to department review and comment. All
102 aspects of projects planned and developed pursuant to this
103 section must be available for inspection by the department, the
104 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and water
105 management districts.

106 (4) A project approved by the department that meets the
107 requirements of this section and that operates in accordance
108 with department rules and plans approved by the department is:

109 (a) Eligible for state funding pursuant to this section.

110 (b) If the project is incorporated into the applicable
111 basin management action plan, eligible for state funding
112 pursuant to s. 403.067(7)(e).

113 (c) Not required to continue operating if the program is
114 terminated unless the participant voluntarily chooses to
115 continue operating the system.

116 (5) By June 30, 2024, the department shall evaluate the
117 program in consultation with program participants, the
118 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the
119 applicable water management districts and report its findings to
120 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
121 Representatives. The report must examine, at a minimum, the
122 costs associated with the projects; the environmental benefits
123 demonstrated by projects, including the level of nutrient load
124 reductions into the waters of the state by participating
125 properties; whether the innovative, environmentally sustainable

126 agricultural practices and technologies used by the projects may
127 be applied in other agricultural sectors; and the factors that
128 prohibit or complicate the expansion of the innovative,
129 environmentally sustainable agricultural practices used by the
130 projects and how those factors can be mitigated or eliminated.

131 (6) This section is repealed on October 2, 2025, unless
132 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the
133 Legislature. Any commitments entered into or benefits received
134 pursuant to this section are binding for any project
135 partnerships entered into before the repeal date unless or until
136 the department terminates the project partnership.

137 (7) The department shall adopt rules to implement and
138 administer this section.

139 Section 2. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the sum of \$1.3
140 million in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General
141 Revenue Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection for
142 the Innovative Agricultural Water Quality Enhancement Pilot
143 Program under s. 403.068, Florida Statutes.

144 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.