

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, (DACS), F.A.C. Title 5.

Overview

DACS carries out functions related to farming practices and products. Responsibilities include:

- the registration, labeling, and inspection of commercial fertilizers, pesticides, and gasolines and oils.
- registration (i.e. licensing and regulation) of pesticide applicators, and
- soil and water conservation.

Like the other state agencies, DACS is divided into divisions, each with a separate concern. They are:

- Inspection Division: responsible for the administration and enforcement of laws relating to fertilizers and pesticides. This division has the authority to inspect commodities and farms, to require registration and licensing of products, to destroy violative products, to stop the sale of goods, and to seek judicial intervention where appropriate.
- Chemistry Division: tests pesticides and fertilizers to assure that they meet state standards.
- Standards Division: responsible for petroleum and underground tank inspections. Its functions include testing fuel quality and assuring fuel dispenser, scale, and measuring device accuracy.
- Division of Forestry: manages forest resources. Within this division is the Bureau of Forest Resources and Economic Planning which includes the Watershed Protection Section (WPS). The WPS offers professional hydrology (water use science) services to the public and other state agencies. It is also responsible for developing the silviculture (forestry) elements of the State Water Quality Plan (discussed under DER section). Most importantly, the WPS monitors impacts of water regulation on forestry and could be most helpful in assisting the farmer in managing their forest resources.
- Division of Administration: employs staff to administer soil and water conservation programs and coordinate efforts with the 63 organized Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Includes Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation (See Environmentally Safe Practices Section).

Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services, (DHRS), F.A.C. Title 10.

Overview

The DHRS is largely responsible for implementing procedures to preserve the public health. Farmers must be concerned with DHRS when they are involved in activities which might pollute public drinking supplies. Of particular concern to the agency is sewage pollution of the State's groundwater.

The Department issues permits for construction or installation of onsite sewage disposal systems. These permits include requirements for:

- distance and set backs from wells and surface waters,
- soil conditions,
- water table elevation, and
- daily flow thresholds (See Onsite Sewage Disposal Section).

Written permits from DHRS are required for any corporation or person discharging any sewage or draining any surface waters into the underground waters of the state when the discharge is within 5 miles of