

Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) got even higher results at State Line that same day, we were vindicated. Valdosta was belittling our WWALS test results in a public meeting on January 8, until the Chair of the Florida Counties Rivers Task Force in that same meeting revealed those FDEP results, reading from a WWALS report, which we had presented to the Task Force earlier that same day in Madison, Florida.

After discussions with the Lowndes County Chairman, the county also started testing on Okapilco Creek in Brooks County, which quickly revealed high results there preceding high results on the Withlacoochee River. Combined with WWALS tests in Brooks County and FDEP DNA markers, the trail of one source of contamination led to dairy cattle.

Valdosta is testing regularly now, not only at all of the above locations on the Withlacoochee River, but also at US 84 on Okapilco Creek in Brooks County. Their data is immensely useful. And it appears that Valdosta now understands that contamination that starts at Knights Ferry without appearing upstream is evidence that it did not come from Valdosta.

Our credibility is very important to our ongoing relations with some of the dairy farmers in Brooks County and elsewhere. It is also important in developing relations with horse farmers and others.

Our WWALS hard-won credibility is also related to the Georgia Power water quality testing grant. <https://wwals.net/?p=53196> We never would have gotten that grant without the credibility.

As new testers come on board, it is important that we assure quality control.

## When to test

1. Georgia Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) is most interested in baselines, so AAS recommends testing monthly or perhaps every two weeks.
  - a. WWALS needs baselines, so please test at least monthly.
  - b. AAS recommends **not** testing immediately after a rain, not for at least a day.
2. WWALS also needs tests to follow contamination events.
  - a. WWALS needs tests soon after a rain, sometimes even during the rain.
  - b. So after a big rain, please test as soon as you can.
  - c. While high test results continue to appear for an event, please continue testing.
  - d. Of course, safety first: don't test during a thunderstorm or when there is any danger of flash floods or slipping into the stream.
3. Please test on and before weekends if you can (we understand most of you have jobs).
  - a. If testing on Thursday before a weekend, try to get your results ready for review by noon Friday for Friday afternoon publication.
  - b. If testing on a weekend, try to have Saturday results ready for review by Sunday evening for Monday publication, and for Sunday by Monday evening for Tuesday publication.