



1. What are your qualifications?

- a. I am a local farmer, small business owner, and entrepreneur. I started my farming career in 1980. I have 40 years of experience in soil and water conservation. As a farmer, I used best management practices to conserve our land and water. Those best management practices include soil sampling, fertilization management, and drainage run off mitigation. I served on the St. Johns County Agriculture Advisory Board from 1996 to 1998. My career as a farmer has required me to learn about the newest irrigation methods, technology, and programs available to private landowners in regards to conserving water and soil. For more information, please visit www.charleschuckowen.com

2. If elected, what are your goals for the office, and what would you like to achieve in this position?

- a. Advocate for more investment in water conservation by seeking available grants and programs that will allow farmers and private property owners to conserve water. For example, current government funding provides landowners with a chance to install Euro drain irrigation systems. Euro drain systems deter runoff and fertilizer leeching because it is subsurface system and dispels water into the soil from under the ground (this prevents water evaporation). I believe more investment in these systems benefits the public because these systems have shown a 50 percent reduction in water consumption amongst our local farms.
- b. I would like to educate the community on the importance of installing drip irrigation systems in their yards. These systems could be invaluable for lowering water consumption because they are another form of subsurface irrigation that requires installing a network of soft pipe and hoses that steadily drip into the soil and deter evaporation like a typical sprinkler would.
- c. I would also like to coordinate with the local school district to bring our students out to local farms so they can be exposed to best management practices that farmers use every day to conserve our land and water.

3. What is your vision for the County?

- a. I would like to see the county, state agencies, and federal agencies invest more in educating the public and providing them with resources to conserve our water and soil. Our community will continue to grow and we must meet the demands of growth by putting in the right infrastructure to save our natural resources. Now, more than ever, water consumption is an issue. My vision is to see local, state, and federal government work with private owners to find solutions to water quality - not just find problems. We need to work with farmers, homeowners, and business to conserve our future - not work against them.

4. Educational Background

- a. Graduated from St. Augustine high school in 1977. Attended St. Johns River Community College. Registered and license insecticide application.

Paid for by Charles C. Owen, NPA, for St. Johns County Soil & Water Conservation District 4