



Jackson-Vinton FSA News

NAP Application Deadline

The deadline to sign-up for and pay the administrative fee for the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage for spring seeded crops is **March 15, 2010**.

NAP provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which federal crop insurance is not available in the county.

The fee is \$250 per crop per county per producer or with a cap of \$750 per county. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of the fees.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Producers are reminded about the need for crop insurance or NAP coverage on all crops of economic significance in order to remain eligible for the Disaster Assistance Programs (SURE, LFP, TAP, and ELAP) as contained in the new Farm Bill. Producers must purchase at least catastrophic (CAT) level of insurance for all insurable crops through a crop insurance agent.

NOTE: The federal crop insurance deadline is also March 15th of the crop year for spring seeded crops.

SURE

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster conditions occurring in crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011.

To trigger a SURE payment, either of the following must occur:

- a portion of the SURE farm is located in a natural disaster county designated by the Secretary, including contiguous counties; or
- an overall loss greater than 50 percent of the actual production on the farm compared to expected revenue for the farm for that crop year.

To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is not required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage. At least one crop of economic significance must have suffered a production loss of 10%

Eligible farmers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

Sign-up for 2008 losses has begun with no deadline announced yet. Sign-up for 2009 will be announced after the 2008 process is completed.

Note: Jackson and Vinton have Secretarial designations for both 2008 and 2009.

Jackson-Vinton FSA
2026 Fairgreens Rd
Jackson, OH 45640

740-286-5208 or
800-223-8248
FAX: 740-286-0389

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed Holidays

Area Committee

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Jim Brown
Daryl Dempsey
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Program Technicians:

Diana K Phillips
Judy Caldwell
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Julie Weber

March 2010



2010 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP)/ACRE

The deadline for 2010 Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment (DCP) Program enrollment for farms with crop base acres is **June 1, 2010**. All signatures and supporting documentation must be received by that date. There will be no late-filed provisions.

The ACRE options may be elected for 2010 by the same deadline as listed above. Payment is based on a revenue guarantee calculated using a 5-year average state yield and the most recent 2-year national price for each eligible commodity. For 2010, the 2-year price average will be based on the 2008 and 2009 crop years.

An ACRE payment is issued when both the state and the farm have incurred a revenue loss. The payment is based on 83.3% (85% in 2012) of the farm's planted acres times the difference between the state ACRE guarantee and the state revenue times the ratio of the farm's yield divided by the state expected yield. The total number of planted acres for which a producer may receive ACRE payments may not exceed the total base on the farm. In exchange for participating in ACRE, in addition to not receiving counter-cyclical payments, a farm's direct payment is reduced by 20%, and marketing assistance loan rates are reduced by 30%.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers loans for farmers and ranchers to purchase farmland and finance agricultural operations. FSA loan programs are designed to help producers who are temporarily unable to obtain private or commercial credit. In many cases, applicants are beginning farmers who have insufficient net worth to qualify for financing through a commercial lender. In other instances, borrowers might have suffered setbacks from natural disasters or might be persons with limited resources.

FSA makes two different types of loans, direct and guaranteed. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans (loans made by a commercial lender where FSA acts as guarantor) can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Rural Youth Loans, Loans to Beginning Farmers and Loans for Socially Disadvantaged Applicants are other types of direct loans also available through FSA.

Socially Disadvantaged Applicants (SDA) are one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as a member of the group without regard to their individual qualities. SDA groups are Women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Certain FSA loan funds are targeted to beginning farmers and SDA.

Rural Youth Loans makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Loans to Beginning Farmers assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years;
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm;
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA;
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median farm size; and
- Also, the applicant must meet the loan eligibility requirements of the program to which he/she is applying.

For more information on any of these loan options, call the office to schedule an appointment with a loan officer.

2009 Area Committee Election Results

James E Brown II was elected to the Jackson-Vinton Area FSA Committee in the election held for Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 which covers Harrison and Richland townships in Vinton County along with Jackson, Coal, and Washington townships in Jackson County. Joseph Tanner was elected as the First Alternate for the committee.

The 2010 elections will be held in LAA #1 (Brown, Eagle, Elk, Jackson, and Swan townships in Vinton County) and LAA #5 (Bloomfield, Franklin, Lick, Madison, and Milton townships in Jackson County).

COMMITTEE MEETING AND MINUTES REMINDER

The committee has set the second Thursday of the month as their regular meeting date starting at 9:00 a.m. All meetings are held in the Jackson-Vinton USDA Service Center and are open to the public. Should the meeting date be changed due to scheduling conflicts it will be posted on the bulletin board at the office. Also regular sessions minutes are available for viewing at the office.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

Major changes to this program announced last fall makes most crops produced on the farm eligible for a storage facility loan.

- Eligible commodities include grain crop harvested as grain or other than whole grain, hay, fruits and vegetables, and renewable biomass storage.
- Must show a need for additional storage of the loan commodity.
- Loan terms can be 7, 10, or 12 years depending on the loan amount.
- Loan amounts are 85% of Net Cost of the facility.
- Maximum loan amount is now \$500,000.
- Application fee increased to \$100 per borrower.
- The facility must have a useful life of at least 15 years.

The March 2010 interest rates start at 3.125%. Details and provisions can be discussed as they pertain to the specific individual or operation by scheduling a time to stop by the office.

Livestock Disaster Program Reminder

The 2008 Farm Bill enacted the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to be in effect through 2012. The program provides a payment on livestock deaths due to natural disaster conditions. These deaths must be documented with verifiable evidence. Therefore, anyone suffering livestock losses should contact our office for specific details on documenting the loss and maintaining eligibility for payment under this program.

2010 Wool, Mohair and Unshorn Lambs LDP's

Sheep producers need to file their 2010 CCC-633EZ form before selling any 2010 crop lambs or wool in order to remain eligible for an LDP for 2010 production. Continuing low wool prices make these payments available to wool producers. Call the office before selling 2010 wool or lambs.

CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Most USDA programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. If new fields will be planted this year, stop by the office to verify all determinations are made to ensure program eligibility under this provision.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid this possibility, it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before converting wetland areas to make possible the planting of a crop.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Jackson – Vinton FSA Committee
2026 Fairgreens Rd.
Jackson, OH 45640 -9057

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Important Items in This Newsletter

NAP coverage Deadline - March 15, 2010
Farmers Club Meeting Schedule
Disaster Program Updated
Grazing Management Workshop

DCP/ACRE Deadline - June 1, 2010
Program Compliance Notes
Loan Programs

Annual Reminders

Spousal Signature - A husband and wife may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the County Office from either spouse. Exceptions include claim settlements and lien filings.

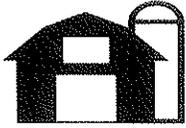
Foreign Buyers Notification - The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

Controlled Substance - Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

Special Accommodations - Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the CED, Carl A Nelson, directly by phone at 740-286-5208.

Carl A Nelson, County Executive Director

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA, Office of Communications at 202-720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DD, 20250, or call 202-720-7327 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.



CONSERVATION PROGRAM NEWS

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SMALL ACREAGE CRP CONTRACTS REMAIN AVAILABLE

The Continuous Sign-up provisions remain in effect for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) including the following incentives as long as the funds are available:

- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) which is simply a one-time payment of \$100 per acre as an incentive to install these practices on the farm.
- Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) is a one-time payment equal to 40% of the total eligible installation cost of completing required cost share practices. This is in addition to the normal 50% cost share for CRP practices.
- Scioto River Enhancement (CREP) provides the above incentives plus increased rental rates (up to double the rate) for installing filter and buffer strips in the Scioto River Watershed.

The Continuous CRP provision offers automatic acceptance of high priority conservation practices submitted for eligible land providing all acreage and producer requirements are met. A request under these provisions may be submitted at any time during the year. The following conservation practices are eligible under these provisions:

1. Sod Waterways – Applies to areas of cropped fields where runoff causes washing and gullies.
2. Filter Strips – A grass strip along a perennial or seasonal stream, to remove sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants from surface runoff.
3. Riparian Buffer or Wildlife Buffer Strips – A strip along a perennial or seasonal stream devoted to trees (planted or natural regeneration) or warm season grasses to remove sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants from surface runoff.
4. Upland Wildlife Habitat (Quail) Strips – Warm season grass strips along crop field borders to promote quail, song bird, and wildlife habitat.

Other incentives to encourage applications for these high priority small area CRP contracts include a 20% increase in the annual rental rates and a maintenance rate of up to \$7 per acre depending on the practices installed.

The current crop history period is 1996 through 2001. Fields having crop history have all four practices listed above available. Fields with no crop history are eligible for Riparian or Wildlife Buffer. Cost share is available to establish the approved cover, build the fence to exclude livestock from the buffer, as well as developing a water supply if the stream is the primary source of water for the livestock.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Jackson and Vinton Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, OSU Extension and OARDC are hosting a Grazing Management Workshop on May 18 from 6 to 9 p.m., May 22 from 6 to 9 p.m., and May 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop will be held at the OARDC Jackson Branch, 19 Standpipe Rd.

The presenters will be Bob Hendershot and Alan Rees, NRCS, Jeff Fisher and Rory Lewandowski, OSU Extension, and Curt Cline, an Athens County farmer. The topics on the agenda will cover: Principals of Managed Intensive Grazing, Evaluating your Resources, Matching your Plant and Animal Needs, Understanding Plant Growth, Forage Species Selection, Grazing Systems, Grazing Economics, Worm Control for Small Ruminants by Pasture Management, Managing Fescue, and Fence and Water Systems. After the presentations there will be a field exercise and a fence building demonstration.

By participating in this workshop you will learn about forage growth, how to increase your profits from grazing, and how to improve the environmental quality of grazing lands. Participants will obtain points from attending when applying for NRCS's EQIP.

RSVP by May 7. For more information contact Jackson SWCD at 740-286-5208 at Vinton SWCD at 740-596-5676.

Clip and Post for Future Reference

Jackson County Farmers Club

Farmers Club is an informal gathering that meets on a monthly basis for fellowship followed by a presentation and discussion of pertinent farm related topics. The meetings are held at a local restaurant where those wishing to eat and fellowship may do so before the meeting gets started. There are no membership requirements and the meeting are open to anyone interested in attending. The meetings are held on the third Monday of the month.

Upcoming meetings and topics include:

March 15, 2010	Wildlife Damage and Control Issues – Identifying coyote verse feral dog damage and black vulture damage. The program will be presented by Eric Householder with ODNR Division of Wildlife. The meeting will to be held at the Ponderosa restaurant on Main Street in Jackson at 6:30 p.m.
April 19, 2010	To be held at the Ponderosa restaurant on Main Street in Jackson at 7:00 p.m.
May 17, 2010	To be held at the Ponderosa restaurant on Main Street in Jackson at 7:00 p.m.
June 21, 2010	To be held at the Ponderosa restaurant on Main Street in Jackson at 7:00 p.m.
July	No meeting due to the county fair.
August 16, 2010	Field Day Planning Meeting. To be held at the Ponderosa restaurant on Main Street in Jackson at 7:00 p.m.
September 9, 2010	Farm-City Field Day – Place yet to be determined.

The topics for April, May, and June are still being finalized. However, the topics will be one of the following: Estate Planning – How is the best way to pass the farm to the next generation; Ohio Fence Law; Issue 2 Update; or Securing the Farm – How to reduce theft and other property losses.

In an attempt to save postage expenses for mailing Farmers Club meeting notifications, we are putting together an email list for Farmers Club. Therefore, if you would like to receive notification of Farmers Club meeting by email please send an email to andy.nelson@oh.usda.gov and you will be added to the Farmer Club email list.