



# NEWSLETTER



## 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*

Larry Johnson, Chair  
Daryl Dempsey  
Bruce Fout  
Delmar Jones  
Joe Tanner  
Carol Landrum, Advisor

### *Office Staff*

Carl A Nelson, CED  
Frankie Stith-Scott, FLM

*Program Technicians:*  
Diana K Phillips  
Judy Caldwell  
Lisa Adkins  
Julie Weber

### *RSVP*

Dorothy Hutchison

## February 2011

### GENERAL CRP SIGN-UP

A general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been announced and scheduled for March 14 to April 15, 2011. A general sign-up allows for whole fields to be offered for enrollment under this program. Accepted offers will be effective for the 2012 program year which begins October 1, 2011. Contracts will be 10 to 15 years in length depending on the practice to be established. The rental rate is determined by the soils in the offered acreage. Fifty percent cost share is available for establishing the approved cover.

To be eligible, the land must:

- have been owned for at least 12 months to meet the ownership provisions.
- have been cropped 4 of the 6 year period of 2002 to 2007. This can include being cropped in a rotation with hay or in some cases grassland meeting the seeding requirements will be considered as having crop history.
- have a soil erosion index of 8 or greater.

This sign-up will be a competitive process to accept the most cost effective offers to meet the program goals based on an environmental benefit index (EBI) score. Various options are available to enhance and increase each offers environmental benefit index (EBI) score. Anyone interested can call for details or schedule a time to stop in and discuss the program.

### 2011 DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

The annual enrollment for the Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) program must be completed for the 2011 year by **June 1, 2011**. The same deadline applies to anyone wanting to elect the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) options under this program. Advance payments equal to 22% of the guaranteed direct payment is available upon request with final payments issued in October 2011.

### 2009 SURE SIGN-UP

The sign-up period for the 2009 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program has began and will continue until July 29, 2011. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters.

To be eligible for 2009 SURE, the farm operation must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance.
- A policy or plan of insurance under Federal Crop Insurance or the Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) for all economically significant crops.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer, or a limited resource farmer may be eligible without insurance or NAP coverage.

## COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS & MEETINGS

The results of the 2010 committee elections are as follows:

LAA 1 which covers Brown, Eagle, Elk, Jackson, and Swan townships in Vinton County.

Bruce Fout – Committee Member (No alternates were elected)

LAA 5 which covers Bloomfield, Franklin, Lick, Madison, and Milton townships in Jackson County.

Larry Johnson – Committee Member

Bob Spurlock (Write-In) – First Alternate

James Edwards (Write-In) – Second Alternate

The 2011 elections will be held in LAA 3 which covers Clinton, Knox, Madison, Vinton, and Wilkesville townships in Vinton County along with LAA 4 which covers Hamilton, Jefferson, Liberty, and Scioto townships in Jackson County.

**Committee Meeting dates and Times** – The committee has established the second Thursday of each month as the regular meeting date starting at 9:00 a.m. in the FSA Office.

### 2011 Spring 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, 2011**.

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 15<sup>th</sup> of the crop year for spring seeded crops.

### Loan Programs

**Conservation Loans** - This program provides farmers with the funding necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The available limit for a direct CL is \$300,000, and the limit for a guaranteed CL is \$1,119,000.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will work with applicants to develop a conservation plan containing approved conservation practices. Examples of some conservation practices are: water conservation structures, forest cover, permanent pastures, manure digesters, and other installations.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact our office to setup an appointment with a Loan Officer.

**Operating/Ownership Loans** - Farmers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your loan is processed and approved as early as possible so that planting decisions can be made.

Not applying early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Contact your local FSA Loan Approval Official for more details and assistance in applying.

## ANNUAL REMINDERS

**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 our office.

**Power of Attorney** - FSA has a required power of attorney form available for those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., that enables the participant to designate another person to conduct his or her business at the office. This can be done by completing an FSA-211, Power of Attorney. The form is available at your local USDA Service Center or online at:

[http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0211-0211A\\_081217V02.pdf](http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/efcommon/eFileServices/Forms/FSA0211-0211A_081217V02.pdf).

**Faxed Signatures** - Certain faxed signatures shall be accepted for all applicable program forms or other documents approved for faxed signatures, if all other signature requirements are met.

**Bank Account Changes** - Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

**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.

**Appeal Process** - After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree. Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

**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.

**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 these provisions.

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.

**Loans for Socially Disadvantaged** - FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating, purchasing, or improving farms. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants. A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

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

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**SWCD Notes – ANNUAL TREE SALES UNDERWAY**

The Jackson and Vinton Soil & Water Conservation Districts would like to announce their annual tree sale is underway. There are a variety of tree species available in the sale ranging from fruit and nut trees to native hardwoods and conifers. Also available in the tree sales are deer repellents, wildlife food plot seed, ground cover plants, wildflower seed and bluebird and bat houses. For more information or an order form contact the Vinton Soil & Water Conservation District at 740-596-5676 or the Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District at 740-286-5208 extension 3. Orders must be received by the end of business on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Dates to Remember	
Feb. 21	President's Day Holiday. <b>FSA Offices Closed.</b>
Mar. 15	Deadline to obtain 2011 NAP coverage on spring planted crops.
June 1	Final date to sign-up for 2011 DCP/ACRE
Mar. 14 – April 15	General CRP Sign-up
July 29	Deadline for 2009 SURE
Continues	Continuous Conservation Reserve program.

**Current Reminders**

- Sheep and Wool producers need to file their CCC-633 Page 1 before selling unshorn lambs or wool to maintain eligibility for the LDP payments available due to loss prices.
- The February interest rates for the Farm Storage Facility Loans range from 2.75% to 3.625%.
- Report changes in ownership and operation of farms as they occur so we can keep our records up-to-date.
- Livestock losses occurring as a result of weather conditions should be reported to our office when they occur in order to maintain eligibility for potential payment under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

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Carl A Nelson, County Executive Director

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