



# Jackson County

## Grass Rotation Production Program for the Protection of Jackson Blue Spring



***The Northwest Florida Water Management District has cost-share funding available to assist producers in implementing grass rotation production in the Jackson Blue Spring groundwater contribution area.***

***Eligible projects will increase efficiency in both irrigation and fertilizer use in Jackson County—the largest agricultural area in northwest Florida.***

## Cost-Share Funding Available - at least \$120,000 per producer

### **Participant Eligibility:**

1. The project site must be located within the Jackson Blue Spring/Merritts Mill Pond Groundwater Contribution Area.
2. The project site must be in regulatory compliance.
3. The producer must enroll in an applicable FDACS-adopted BMP program.

### **Candidate Selection Guidelines:**

All eligible producers will be considered for cost-share with priority given to producers willing to enroll more than the funded 160 acres and to property closer to Jackson Blue Spring. There are other considerations for priority related to project optimization listed below.



### **Prioritization Considerations:**

- Enrollment of additional acres, beyond the funded 160 acres, provides additional benefit.
- Being close to the spring shows results faster.
- Putting half of the acreage into grass in the first year shows benefits faster.
- Inclusion of cattle in the rotation increases the benefits. It also allows access to additional funding.
- Use of cold weather forage on grass and row crop area increases the benefits.
- Having available irrigation increases the chances for successful establishment of grass and cold weather forage.

### **Amount for BMPs and Tools:**

*Only purchases of new equipment or services will be eligible for cost-share payments.*

**Per acre cost-share of \$340/acre for up to 160 acres**

**Per foot cost-share of \$1.10-\$1.97/ft for needed perimeter & cross fencing**

**75% cost-share reimbursement for equipment necessary to implement the production with grass rotation. This includes but is not limited to: strip till equipment, weed wipers, troughs, gates, chain harrows, and handling pens.**

### **For more information, please contact:**

#### **For Cost-Share Questions**

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#### **To Enroll in FDACS BMPs**

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#### **For Irrigation Evaluation**

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