



**Agricultural Cost-Share Grant Program
for the Protection of Jackson Blue Spring
And the Chipola River Springs Groundwater Contribution Area**



The Northwest Florida Water Management District has cost-share funding available for projects to improve water quality and reduce water use demands in and around Jackson Blue Spring and the Chipola River Springs Groundwater Contribution Area (GWCA). Eligible projects will increase efficiency in both irrigation and fertilizer use in the largest agricultural area in northwest Florida.

Eligibility:

1. The project site must be located within Jackson Blue Spring BMAP or the Chipola River Springs GWCA.
2. The project site must be in regulatory compliance.
3. The producer and project site(s) must be enrolled in the applicable FDACS BMP program.
4. The producer must own or lease the project site(s).
5. Irrigation projects must have prior qualifying Mobile Irrigation Lab evaluation.
6. Project must not be funded from any other cost-share programs.
7. All equipment purchased under cost-share within the past 5 years must be inspected prior to the new cost-share agreement.

Equipment and Practices:

- **Conservation Tillage**
- **Nutrient Management**
- **Irrigation Management**
- **Livestock Management**

A complete list of eligible equipment can be found on the NFWFMD website at:

<https://nfwwater.com/water-resources/agriculture/jackson-blue-spring-grant-funding-programs/>

Cost-Share Application:

To apply for cost-share funding, producers must use their applicable Notice of Intent (NOI) issued by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Producers, including members of the same family, may apply for cost-share assistance using their unique NOI once per calendar year for equipment/practices and once per calendar year for cover crops. Multiple pieces of equipment can be included in a single application. Cover crop cost-share is limited to 300 acres per NOI each calendar year.

Additionally, all parcels must be enrolled in the applicable FDACS Best Management Practices (BMP) Program under the applying producer's NOI. BMP enrollment under vegetable/agronomic crop (row crop) is eligible for cost-share on items listed under conservation tillage, nutrient management, irrigation management, and sod-based rotation. BMP enrollment under cow/calf or dairy operations is eligible for cost-share on items listed under livestock BMPs.

Reimbursement:

Cost-share reimbursement can be up to 75%, with a combined maximum reimbursement of \$100,000 per grant. The \$100,000 maximum applies to each grant awarded to the District from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for agricultural cost-share activities (e.g. cover crops, equipment). Producers may be awarded funds under more than one FDEP grant, depending on the availability of funds.

All equipment purchased under the cost-share agreement will be inspected prior to reimbursement, as well as at least one additional time during the five-year agreement period. All equipment purchased under cost-share agreements with the District within the last five years will need to be inspected prior to any new cost-share agreements being approved.

Irrigation Evaluation

Rex Patterson

Northwest Florida Mobile Irrigation Lab

850-557-0144

850-482-1240 ext. 15

rex.patterson@fdacs.gov

Enroll in FDACS BMPs

Katherine Moore

Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

850-756-5408

Katherine.Moore@fdacs.gov

Cost-Share Questions

Case Pilcher or Gary Chew

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Case – 850-510-9358

Gary – 850-509-7056

case.pilcher@nfwwater.com

gary.chew@nfwwater.com