



# The Conservation Strip

## John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

### 2021 Cost-Share Program

The Coronavirus pandemic has given us time to slow down and reflect on life. The seasons are still coming and going, “Turn,Turn,Turn”, now is the season to take a look at conservation projects needed on our agriculture lands to protect natural resources.

The John Marshall SWCD will be receiving \$1.2 million in cost-share this fiscal year which will be available to producers through June 30, 2021 (or whenever the money runs out). Although less than last year, this still represents one of the largest allocations ever for Fauquier County. The District is looking forward to continuing the momentum from FY2020.

Landowners, Land manager, Famers, farm Managers are encouraged to apply for the cost-share program.

The VACS program is funded by the State and focuses on water quality, so the closer your project is to a water source, such as a spring, stream or river the higher the priority. Projects can range from fencing streams off from livestock to sowing winter cover on cropland, from nutrient management plan writing to treating critically eroding gullies. These conservation practices will help protect our soil resources from sediment, and nutrient loss, to water resources receiving sediment, and nutrient loading. There are fifty-one conservation practices

that can help you protect your land’s resources with technical, and financial assistance or state tax credits.

For more information on the cost-share program or to sign up, please call the JMSWCD office at 540-347-3120 x3.



### Summer 2020

#### Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide leadership, technical assistance, information, and education to the citizens of Fauquier County in proper soil stewardship, agricultural conservation methods, and water quality protection so as to ensure the wise use of the county’s natural resources.



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# JMSWCD Office Status

At the time of publication, the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District office is currently closed to visitors. Staff are still teleworking part time and are in the office 2-3 days per week. At this time, the office is not accepting visitors. If you need to reach us, you can call 540-347-3120 x3 or email: johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org.

Staff may be delayed in responding to phone calls and voicemail messages. Emails sent directly to staff are more likely to be returned sooner than calls to the office. We hope to return to full service as soon as it is safe and we are permitted to do so.

## Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing support to farmers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). CFAP provides financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb sales declines and increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability Act (CARES Act) and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act authorized the funds for the CFAP. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administer the program. **FSA is accepting applications for CFAP from May 26, 2020, to August 28, 2020.**

Eligible producers of specified agricultural commodities who have suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and who face substantial marketing costs for inventories are eligible for CFAP payments. These specified commodities include certain specialty crops, non-specialty crops, wool, dairy, and livestock. For a list of eligible commodities and payment criteria, visit [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap).

To be eligible for payments, a producer must either: have an average adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000 for tax years 2016, 2017, and 2018; or derive at least 75 percent of their adjusted gross income from farming, ranching, or forestry.

Producers must also:

- Comply with the provisions of the "Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation" regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions;
- Disclose if a foreign person, provides land, capital, and a substantial amount of active personal labor to the farming operation; and
- Not have a controlled substance violation.

The commodities currently included in the program are those for which USDA data was available to determine that a five percent-or-greater price decline occurred from mid-January 2020 to mid-April 2020. USDA is requesting data from the public on agricultural commodities not already included in CFAP which may have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and for which sufficient information is not currently available to USDA. The Department is particularly interested in the obtaining information with respect to aquaculture, nursery products and cut flowers. More information on submission requirements can be found in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap).

CFAP payments are subject to a per person and legal entity payment limitation of \$250,000. This limitation applies to the total amount of CFAP payments for all eligible commodities.

Unlike other FSA programs, special payment limitation rules apply to participants that are corporations,

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (contd.)...

(Continued from page 2)

limited liability companies, and limited partnerships (corporate entities). These corporate entities may receive up to \$750,000 based upon the number of shareholders (not to exceed three shareholders) who are contributing at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management.

For a corporate entity:

- With one such shareholder, the payment limit for the entity is \$250,000;
- With two such shareholders, the payment limit for the entity is \$500,000 if at least two members contribute at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management, or combination thereof, with respect to the operation of the corporate entity; and
- With three such shareholders, the limit is \$750,000 if at least three members contribute at least 400 hours of active personal labor or active personal management, or combination thereof,

with respect to the operation of the corporate entity.

To ensure the availability of funding throughout the application period, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment, up to the payment limit, upon approval of the application. The remaining portion will be paid at a later date as funds remain available.

FSA staff at your local USDA Service Center will work with producers to file applications. Applications may be submitted via mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means. Please call your office prior to sending applications electronically.

The CFAP application and associated forms are available online at [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap).

For more information about the CFAP program, visit [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap) or contact your local FSA office.

## New Cover Crop Practice

HOT OFF THE PRESS! JMSWCD is offering a NEW cover crop practice that provides financial incentives to establish protective cover on cropland after harvest of a specialty crop or in situations due to an unforeseen circumstance or natural disaster (i.e., flood, fire, crop failure). If you participate in program year 2021, you could receive **\$15 to \$25 per acre** depending on

the number of days the crop remains on the land after achieving 60% cover. The cover crop must be planted within 45 days after the harvested crop or unforeseen circumstance. See the table below for more information. Cover crop and related practices are limited to a statewide payment of **\$100,000** per individual/farm.

Protective Cover for Agricultural Cropland	
What can be planted?	Depends on the seeding season (i.e., spring, summer). For more seed type and seeding rates, contact JMSWCD staff.
Must Be Planted...	45 days after crop harvest or unforeseen circumstances
Must Be Planted By...	No later than November 15 and no earlier than March 1
Maintained for 60-89 Days Rate	\$15/ac
Maintained for 90-119 Days Rate	\$20/ac
Maintained for 120+ Days Rate	\$25/ac
Is Harvest Allowed?	NO. Harvesting for seed/grain is not permitted. Vegetative cover shall be left on the land or incorporated.
Is a Nutrient Management Plan Required?	Yes. A certified nutrient management plan is required.

**John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District**

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Hours: 7:30 am-4:30 pm  
Monday-Friday

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Deirdre Clark, Vice Chairman  
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Conservation Specialist  
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Conservation Specialist  
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Conservation Specialist  
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Conservation Education Specialist  
Michael Trop  
Office Administrator  
Wendy Merwin

**NRCS Staff**

Acting District Conservationist  
Casey Dietzen James

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# Fall Cover Crops

It's never too early to start thinking about covering your fields this fall. The District is offering financial incentives to establish vegetative cover on cropland. You could receive **\$20 to \$60** per acre for using this best management practice, depending on the cover species, planting date, and harvest option. See the table below for more information. Cover crop and related practices are limited to a statewide payment of **\$100,000** per individual/farm.

	Non-Harvestable Small Grain	Harvestable Small Grain
What can be planted?	Tetraploid Rye, Winter Rye, Winter Wheat, Winter Barley, Winter Hardy Oats, Winter Annual Ryegrass, Triticale	
Must Be Planted By	November 1	October 10
Base Cost-Share Rate	\$20/ac	\$20/ac
Early Planting Date	October 10	None
Early Planting Bonus	\$30/ac	None
Rye Variety Bonus	\$10/ac	None
60% Cover By	December 1	
Stand Must Be Maintained Until	March 15	

Working together, we hope to prevent the loss of valuable nutrients, reduce erosion, improve soil health, and reduce the leaching of pollutants to groundwater, building a more sustainable agricultural community. District staff are available to help farmers apply for funding to assist in the implementation of cover crop best management practices.

For more information, contact the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District at 540-347-3120 x 3 or johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org.

## Calendar of Events

July 3		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
July 8	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	
August 12	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office
September 7		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed	
September 9	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting	JMSWCD Office

*Staying Connected:* The John Marshall SWCD makes it easy to stay connected through social media. If you're on Facebook, "Like" our page to get more-frequent updates on what's happening at the District.



The Conservation Strip is a quarterly publication of the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District. To be added to our email list, please send an email to Wendy Merwin at: wendy.merwin@fauquiercounty.gov.

All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status.