

Ohio Department of Agriculture - Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Soil Health - Technical & Financial Assistance

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Division of Soil & Water Conservation

MISSION

Provide leadership and services that enable Ohioans to conserve, protect, and enhance soil, water, and land resources.

VISION

To be a leader in soil and water resource management by providing the highest quality customer service.

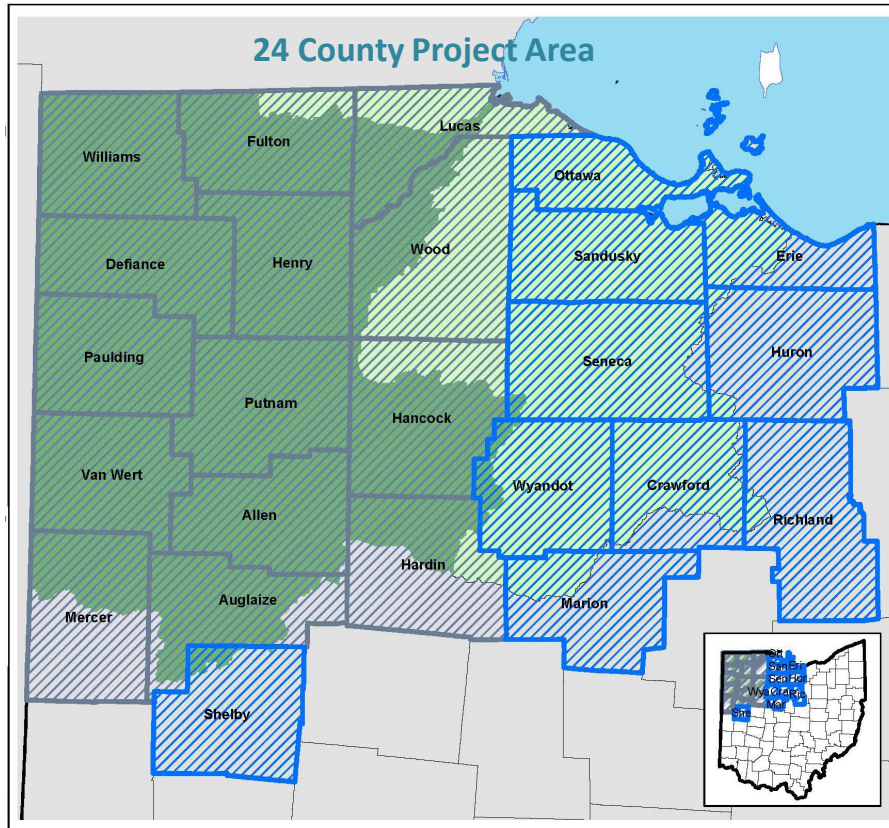
Technical Assistance: Conservation Works of Improvement, Soils Investigations, Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans, etc.

Financial Assistance: H2Ohio, Ag Pollution Abatement, Cover Crop Programs etc.



Launched by Governor Mike DeWine in 2019, H2Ohio is a comprehensive water quality initiative that is working to strategically address serious water issues that have been building in Ohio for decades. Such problems include harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie caused by phosphorus runoff from farm fertilizer, failing drinking water, wastewater, and home sewage treatment systems due to aging infrastructure, and lead contamination from old water pipes and fixtures.

- Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency



- 5.8 Million cropland acres within the project area
- Project area includes 24 counties in NW Ohio.
- Launched in 2020. 2-3 Year contracts
- Currently enrolling participants in 10 counties and will be accepting new applications in original 14 counties

- Nutrient Reduction Program focused on reducing nitrogen and phosphorus loading into Ohio's water.
- Overlap between these H2Ohio practices and soil health practices.



H2Ohio Practices

VNMP - Development & Implementation

Variable Rate Phosphorus Application

Subsurface Phosphorus Placement

Manure Incorporation – All Other

Manure Incorporation – Poultry

Conservation Crop Rotation – Small Grains

Conservation Crop Rotation – Forages

Overwintering Cover Crops



Soil Health Principles

1. Minimize disturbance - New technology can reduce tillage passes or eliminating them all together by placing the nutrients in one pass or reducing passes required to get the nutrients in the soil.

2. Maximize soil cover - Conservation Crop Rotation and Cover Crop practices require over-wintering cover in most situations to meet program requirements.

3. Maximize biodiversity - Conservation Crop Rotation and Cover Crop practices encourages the use of small grains and forages to add diversity to fields. In conjunction with Manure Incorporation we are adding organic nutrients to feed the soil and increase biodiversity.

4. Maximize presence of living roots - Manure Incorporation, Conservation Crop Rotation, and Cover Crops practice all require adding living roots later into the year than we traditionally see.



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