



Program Overview

Overview:

The Ohio Department of Agriculture's H2Ohio program offers incentives to producers to implement science-based best management practices (BMPs) proven to reduce agricultural phosphorus runoff. H2Ohio supports farming efforts to reduce nutrient runoff from commercial fertilizer and manure to help prevent harmful algal blooms.

H2Ohio is Governor DeWine's statewide water quality initiative designed to address complex issues impacting Ohio's waters. Launched in 2019, H2Ohio uses a comprehensive approach guided by science and data to reduce algal blooms, stop pollution, and improve access to clean drinking water. ODA is leading the efforts to minimize agricultural loss of nutrients from farm fields.

Program Benefits:

H2Ohio provides producers with financial and technical assistance to implement BMPs

- Reduces financial risks of trying new BMPs.
- Utilizing a conservation systems approach for BMP implementation to maximize effectiveness for nutrient reduction.
- Schedule practices that fit the farmer's management goals and desired outcomes.

SWCDs and producers work together to reduce phosphorus loading by implementing BMPs that may reduce nutrient applications on their cropland.

Eligibility:

Enrollment is currently open through December 8th 2025 for producers in Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood counties. H2Ohio is a statewide program, and producers in all 88 counties can learn more through their local SWCD.

How do I enroll?

Please visit your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.

Requirements:

A voluntary nutrient management plan (VNMP) is **required** for all cropland enrolled in H2Ohio. For a VNMP the following are required:

- Qualifying soil tests within the last 4 years.
- Crop rotation with yield goals for the length of the plan.
- N, P, K fertility plan follows 2020 Tri-State.

Best Management Practice	Incentives
Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Implementation	\$10/Ac.
Subsurface Phosphorus Placement	\$15/Ac.
Manure Incorporation and Utilization	\$15/Ac.
Overwintering Cover	\$20/Ac.

Incentive rates may vary by project area. Check with your local SWCD for the most accurate information.



For more information,
visit h2.ohio.gov.



Department of
Agriculture

An approved Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) is **required** for all cropland enrolled in H2Ohio.



Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) - \$10/Ac.

- Soil tests must be no older than 4 years.
- Phosphorus rates shall not exceed more than a two-year recommendation, per 2020 Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations
- VNMP may be developed by an ag retailer, independent crop consultant, or producer.



Overwintering Cover - \$ 20/Ac.

- Establish crops that provided overwintering cover according to NRCS Appendix A.
- Overwintering cover can be harvested as a grain or forage.
- Overwintering cover must be maintained until March 15 of the contracted crop year.
- 50% of the mixes must contain overwintering species for cover crops.



Subsurface Phosphorus Placement - \$15/Ac.

- All phosphorus applied must be placed.
- Fields that receive broadcast applications of phosphorus fertilizer are not eligible for this practice until the applied nutrients are utilized through crop removal.
- Producers may be eligible for payment when recommendations are made for the field, but nutrients are not applied.



Manure Incorporation & Utilization - \$15/Ac.

- All manure applications must be completed by November 1.
- Manure application may be achieved through 9 different methods and timings of applications.

Incentive rates may vary by project area. Check with your local SWCD for the most accurate information.

Disclaimer: This document is intended as a high-level overview only and should not be used as a substitute for reviewing detailed practice standards. It does not provide comprehensive guidance on best management practices. For complete and accurate information, please refer to the relevant practice standards and guidelines.

