

Water Quality Incentive Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility:

1. *Am I eligible to enroll my existing Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) wetland or riparian buffer in the H2Ohio Water Quality Incentive Program (WQIP)?*
 - a. Answer: No, only new Lake Erie CREP wetlands and riparian buffers that meet the WQIP requirements are eligible.
2. *How do I find out if I am eligible for the WQIP?*
 - a. Answer: You and your land must be eligible for the LE CREP to be eligible for the WQIP. You must check with your Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to learn this information. You can also read the WQIP fact sheet for more details.
3. *Are public entities eligible for the WQIP?*
 - a. Answer: Yes. Public entities will also be required to enroll into a CREP contract, and according to CRP rules, they are not allowed to receive any CREP payments.
4. *If I have a LE CREP contract for a filter strip up for contract renewal this year, would I be eligible for the WQIP if I plan to convert the filter strip to a riparian buffer or wetland?*
 - a. Answer: Yes. The primary goal of the program is to enroll new CREP contracts to restore new wetlands and riparian buffers. Ranking points will be deducted from the application score because these projects are less desirable than new CREP contracts.

Application:

5. *How do I apply for the WQIP?*
 - a. Answer: Contact your local ODNR Private Lands Biologist or Service Forester. You may also contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) or Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. All these conservation field staff can assist you with your application.
6. *Do I have to sign-up for the Lake Erie CREP prior to applying for the WQIP?*
 - a. Answer: No. However, if your application is accepted, you will have to sign-up for LE CREP and have a fully executed LE CREP contract before you sign the WQIP agreement with ODNR.
7. *Once I complete my application, how do I submit it?*
 - a. Answer: You will not do this. The conservation field staff member that assists you with your potential project will submit the application electronically to ODNR.
8. *Do I have to sign anything?*
 - a. Answer: Yes, you will need to sign and date your WQIP application before it is submitted. If your application is accepted and you want to proceed with the program, you will have to sign the WQIP agreement with ODNR.
9. *If I sign the WQIP application, does that commit me to the WQIP?*
 - a. Answer: No. The WQIP application is simply an application, not an agreement.
10. *May I submit multiple WQIP applications?*
 - a. Answer: Yes. An application must be submitted for each wetland or riparian buffer per farm tract. Therefore, if you want to enroll multiple practices on the same tract or the same practice on multiple tracts, you will have to complete more than one application.
11. *Is there a maximum payment limitation for the WQIP?*
 - a. Answer: No.

After the application is submitted to ODNR

12. How will I know if my application for the WQIP is accepted?

- Answer: ODNR staff will review all applications after the sign-up deadline and rank each according to scoring factors and other pertinent information. After projects are selected, ODNR will notify all applicants of the status of their application.

13. If my application is accepted when will I be paid?

- Answer: After the project is totally complete. Projects that require extra management requirements may include special payment distribution details.

After the WQIP agreement is signed with ODNR

14. If I cancel my LE CREP contract, will I still be committed to the WQIP Agreement?

- Answer: Yes. You will be required to maintain the wetland and/or riparian buffers for the life of the WQIP agreement with ODNR.

If you have any further questions, contact your local ODNR Contact for your County.

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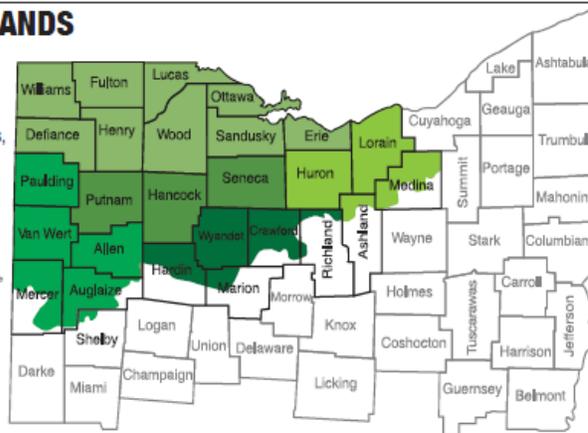
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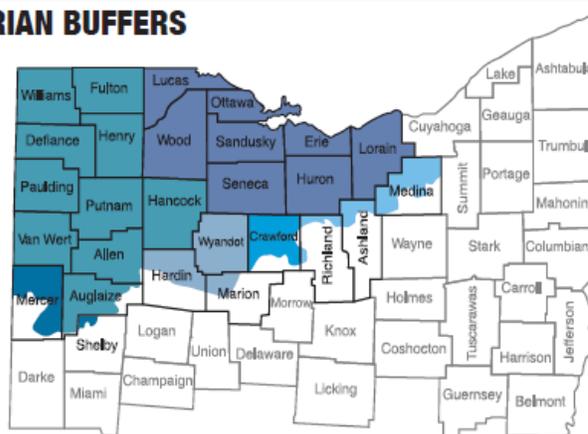
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