



FAQs

Is this program mandatory?

No. The H2Ohio program is a voluntary program with economic and natural resource benefits for producers who successfully follow its guidelines.

Why should I enroll in H2Ohio?

The H2Ohio program provides education, financial resources, tools, and in-field assistance to identify and implement conservation practices. H2Ohio dollars will also fund research into new conservation practices to reduce phosphorus runoff and harmful algal blooms.

Do I have to participate in all the best management practices (BMPs)?

No. H2Ohio is set up so that you can choose which practice(s) suit your operation the best. However, the voluntary nutrient management plan (VNMP) is the cornerstone of the program and is mandatory to participate. If you develop, or already have, a nutrient management plan you are eligible to sign-up for any of the other practices.

Can I bundle BMPs together?

Absolutely. Most of the program's practices can be combined. See the BMP compatibility sheet and example BMP combination sheets for more information.

Can I apply for H2Ohio if I already receive or want to receive CSP, EQIP, or MWCD funding?

Yes, if the programs cover different acres. Acreage already receiving funding through a different program will not be eligible to also enroll in H2Ohio. For acres enrolled in another H2Ohio practice, you are not eligible if the practices accomplish the same thing. For example, you are not eligible for Manure Incorporation if you have already completed Subsurface Phosphorus Incorporation on those acres within the same crop year.

Do I need a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?

This depends on how much manure is produced by your operation. You will be required to have a CNMP if you produce at least 350 tons of solid manure, or 100,000 gal of liquid manure. Operations that produce less than this must be assessed to determine if a CNMP is required. If you do not produce or store your own manure, you do not need a CNMP.

How long does this program last?

If you sign up by August 31st, 2021, your contract will last for one year. You will then have the option to renew your contract in late spring/early summer 2022 to be enrolled in the program through crop-year 2025. If you sign up in late spring/early summer 2022, you will be enrolled through crop-year 2025.

What happens if I miss the August 31st deadline?

The August 31st, 2021, deadline is to sign up for VNMP development, overwintering cover crops, and conservation crop rotation-small grains practices. If producers want to receive incentive payments for **developing** their nutrient management plans, they must fill out a sign-up sheet by the Aug. 31, 2021, deadline. VNMPs do not need to be developed by the Aug. 31 deadline but should be developed to include crop years 2022-2025 and submitted to RSWCD for approval prior to the next enrollment period. If producers miss the Aug. 31, 2021, deadline, there is another chance to enter the program in late spring/early summer of 2022. However, producers will need to bring a **completed** nutrient management plan for crop years 2022-2025 to this secondary sign-up and cannot get paid to develop it.

Who can write my VNMP/CNMP?

Any agronomist, certified crop advisor or agricultural service provider should be able to assist you with this. Utilizing a 4R provider to write a VNMP is highly recommended. Technically, you as the producer are allowed to write a VNMP, however it is encouraged that you seek the expert assistance of any of these entities.

Will money be available for equipment for these practices?

H2Ohio funding is distributed *after* BMPs have been verified as implemented according to H2Ohio's guidelines. After a producer has been paid for their practice, they may use that money in any way they see fit.

Will my application data be kept confidential?

Yes. Information gathered in the H2Ohio process is protected by law from disclosure. To enroll in H2Ohio, producers will be requested to participate in the Ohio Agricultural Certification Initiative (OACI) Program. Farm information provided in the certification program will be kept confidential and aggregated at a county or watershed basis only. Like other state conservation programs where Ohio dollars are provided to fund best management practices, general information is sometimes requested by the state to assure eligibility.

Do I need to be OACI certified to get H2Ohio funding?

No, but you are required to be registered with OACI. Registration involves creating a farmer profile and applying for certification. Certification is achieved when certain management practice standards are met, and not all farmers will meet these requirements when they apply. This does not disqualify them from H2Ohio funding. Whether you are OACI certified or not, you will get the full funding offered through H2Ohio. For farmers earning certification, H2Ohio funds will be available for continuous improvement in the implementation of conservation and nutrient management practices. Those not meeting the minimum criteria for certification will be given tools to create an action plan to become certified and will be eligible for H2Ohio funds to support their work.