

LAKE ERIE CREP
H2OHIO WATER QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

LAKE ERIE CREP: The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a USDA Farm Bill conservation program that offers farmers and landowners financial compensation for taking cropland out of production and establishing conservation practices such as buffer strips, grasslands, and wetlands to improve water quality for a contract period of 15 years.

The new **H2Ohio Water Quality Incentive Program** is being offered in combination with Lake Erie CREP and provides a one-time payment of \$2,000 per acre for new Lake Erie CREP wetlands and forested riparian buffers (buffer strip with trees) to help improve water quality in the Lake Erie watershed. More wetlands and forested riparian buffers will help reduce phosphorus runoff into Lake Erie. Both conservation practices are on the H2Ohio top 10 list of phosphorus reduction practices.



LE CREP Wetland



LE CREP Forested Riparian Buffer

WETLANDS: \$2,000 per acre
 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Land must be eligible for Lake Erie CREP
- Eligible practices – Wetland Restoration CP23 & CP23A (non-floodplain)
- Must receive agricultural drainage from cropland and/or livestock manure sources
- Minimum of 1-acre wetland surface area (wetland pool)
- Payment provided for wetland pool and buffer area (up to 4x wetland pool area)
- Agreement length is 14 ½ years
- Must follow wetland management plan provided by ODNR Private Lands Biologist

FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFERS: \$2,000 per acre
 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Land must be eligible for Lake Erie CREP
- Eligible practice – Riparian Buffer CP22
- Must be in the 100-year floodplain
- Minimum average width of 100 feet
- Minimum of 3 acres in size
- Agreement length is 14 ½ years
- 100% of the riparian buffer must be planted to trees and shrubs
- Must follow riparian buffer tree planting plan provided by ODNR Service Forester

APPLICATION: To qualify for the H2Ohio Water Quality Incentive Program, interested farmers and landowners must be eligible for CREP and submit an application during the announced sign-up period. Applications will be scored and selected based on criteria to prioritize the best projects to improve water quality. Technical staff from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and local conservation offices are able to assist with the program details, project planning, and the application process.

CONTACTS

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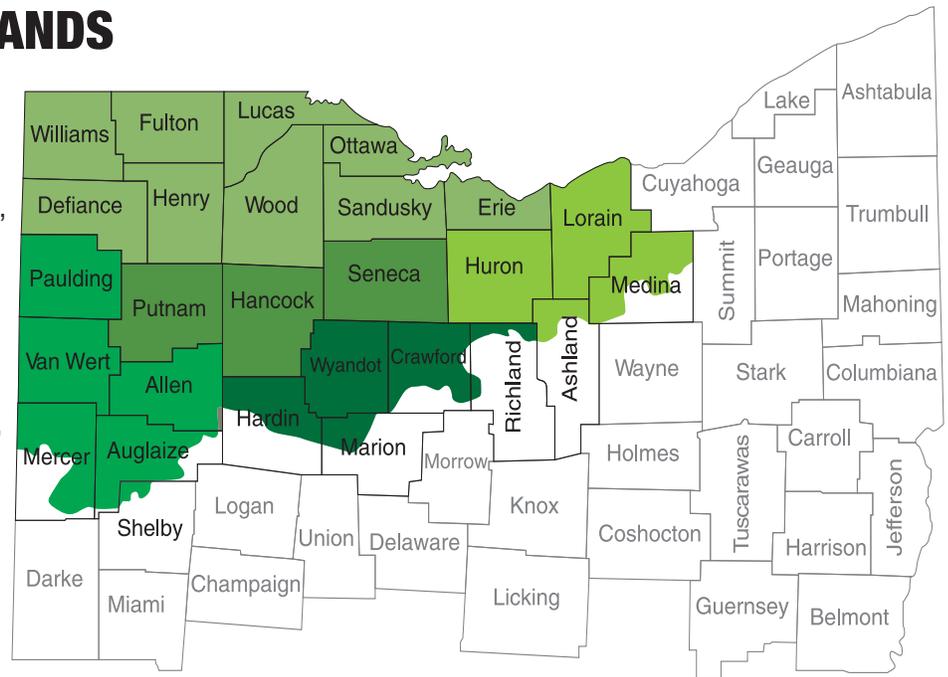
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LAKE ERIE CREP RIPARIAN BUFFERS

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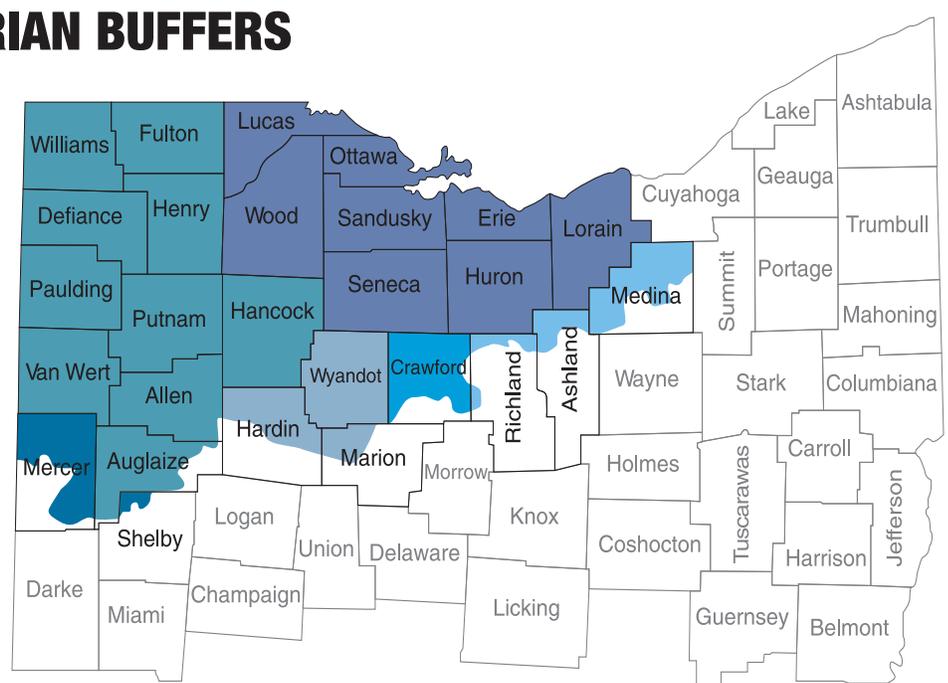
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