

Water Quality Incentive Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility:

1. *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.
2. *According to FSA, my cropland is eligible for CRP/CREP, but I can only enroll up to 10% because I have not owned the property for a year. May I enroll the 10% and additional acres into the WQIP?*
 - a. Answer: Yes. In most scenarios, the cropland where the proposed project is planned will likely go through another year of cropping which will result in the landowner reaching their 1-year ownership requirement prior to the execution of the CREP contract.
3. *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.
4. *My CRP/CREP contract is currently in the last year (expires this September). If I re-enroll my contract for another 15 years, am I eligible for the WQIP?*
 - a. Answer: Yes, if the contract is currently not a CP22 (forested riparian buffer), CP23 (floodplain wetland), or CP23A (non-floodplain wetland) and will be converted to a CP22, CP23, or CP23A. This is the only situation where existing CRP/CREP is eligible to apply for the WQIP. Ranking points will be deducted from the application score because these projects are less desirable than new CREP contracts.
5. *If I cancel my existing CRP/CREP contract and attempt to enroll the same acreage into CREP as a CP22, CP23, or CP23A, will I be eligible for the WQIP.*
 - a. Answer: No.
6. *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.

Application:

7. *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.
8. *Is there a deadline to apply for the WQIP?*
 - a. Answer: Yes. The deadline is **January 29th, 2021**. It is recommended to contact a conservation field staff representative 2 weeks prior to start your application.
9. *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.
10. *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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. Is there a maximum payment limitation for the WQIP?

- a. Answer: No.

After the application is submitted to ODNR

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

- a. 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. Soil and Water Conservation Districts for each county with applications submitted will also receive a summary of the status for each application.

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

- a. 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

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

- a. 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.

CONTACTS

R103020

LAKE ERIE CREP WETLANDS

MARK WITT

PHONE: 419-889-3706
 EMAIL: mark.witt@dnr.ohio.gov
 COUNTIES: Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Williams, Wood

EMILEE HARDESTY

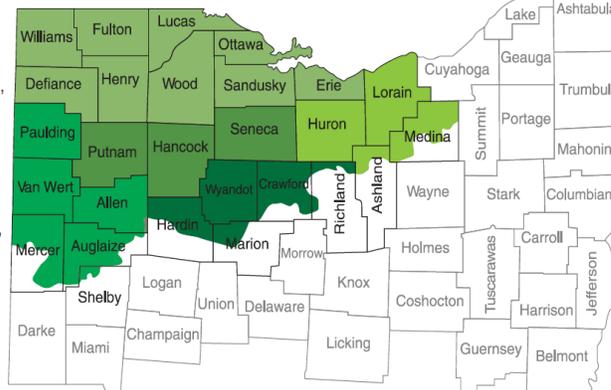
PHONE: 614-314-1315
 EMAIL: Emilee.hardesty@dnr.ohio.gov
 COUNTIES: Crawford, Hardin, Marion, Richland, Wyandot

RYAN JACKSON

PHONE: 330-245-3023
 EMAIL: ryan.jackson@dnr.ohio.gov
 COUNTIES: Ashland, Huron, Lorain, Medina

CHRISTINA KUCHLE

PHONE: 419-348-5073
 EMAIL: christina.kuchle@dnr.ohio.gov
 COUNTIES: Hancock, Putnam, Seneca



CALEB SHIELDS

PHONE: 937-347-0926
 EMAIL: caleb.shields@dnr.ohio.gov
 COUNTIES: Allen, Auglaize, Mercer, Paulding, Van Wert

LAKE ERIE CREP RIPARIAN BUFFERS

DANIEL BARTLETT

PHONE: 419-379-8171
EMAIL: daniel.bartlett@dnr.ohio.gov
COUNTIES: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams

JOHN JOLLIFF

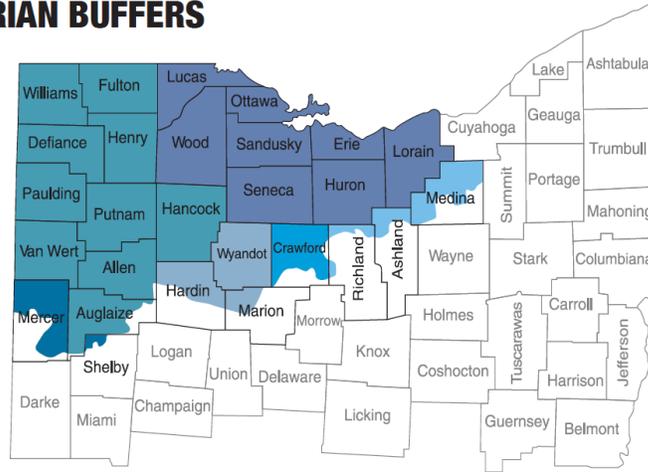
PHONE: 614-439-2807
EMAIL: john.jolliff@dnr.ohio.gov
COUNTIES: Ashland, Medina, Richland

SAM KAISER

PHONE: 614-420-6496
EMAIL: samuel.kaiser@dnr.ohio.gov
COUNTIES: Erie, Huron, Lorain, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Wood

JUSTIN LAW

PHONE: 614-212-3286
EMAIL: justin.law@dnr.ohio.gov
COUNTIES: Mercer, Shelby



STEVE MCGINNIS

PHONE: 614-212-3291
EMAIL: stephen.mcginnis@dnr.ohio.gov
COUNTIES: Hardin, Marion, Wyandot

JAKE PEER

PHONE: 614-425-7767
EMAIL: john.peer@dnr.ohio.gov
COUNTIES: Crawford