

Ohio Working Lands Buffer Program



OVERVIEW

What is the Ohio Working Lands Buffer Program?

The Ohio Working Lands Buffer Program encourages producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed to establish year-round vegetative cover on eligible cropland. The program promotes the conversion, establishment and maintenance of forage/hay land on certain cropland acres. As the name implies “Working Lands Buffers” act as a buffer on cropland and provide another line of defense to filter surface water while allowing participants to harvest forage from established areas.

Benefits:

- Receive annual payments for maintaining established forage.
- You can harvest hay and forage from your Working Lands Buffer.
- Improve soil health with year-round conservation cover.
- Treat surface runoff with vegetative cover that helps capture and retain nutrients.
- Working Lands Buffers are a visual demonstration of your commitment to land stewardship.



Guidelines:

1. Land must be located in the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed.
2. Only cropland acres where sediment and nutrients have the potential to be transported from the field and enter environmentally sensitive areas are eligible for the Working Lands Buffer Program.
3. The maximum enrollment width is 300 feet average. The minimum eligible width is 50 feet.
4. An annual payment of \$120 per acre per year over a 5-year period is available for establishment and maintenance.
5. Practice must be maintained for a 5-year period.
6. FY2020 Program enrollment will begin June 17, 2019.

How to Apply?

If interested, contact your local soil and water conservation district:

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Partners in the Ohio Buffer Program include:

