

Ohio Working Lands Small Grains Program



OVERVIEW

What is the Small Grain Program?

The small grain program is a voluntary program that encourages producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed to plant small grains such as wheat, barley, oats or cereal rye on eligible cropland. This program promotes the planting of small grains not only for the conservation benefits, but to provide livestock producers with a longer time period to land apply manure and nutrients. As the “working lands” name implies participants can plant and harvest small grains, land apply manure, and plant a cover crop to receive a cost-share payment to help offset operating costs. Livestock producers are encouraged to work with neighboring grain farmers that are able to utilize manure as a source of nutrients for their crops.

Benefits:

- Planting small grains and cover crops can be beneficial to soil health.
- Expanding the time period to land apply manure and nutrients can minimize the risk of nutrient runoff.
- “Working Lands” programs maintain a level of agriculture production while providing conservation benefits.
- Cost-share incentive payments, \$75/acre allow producers to practice conservation with minimal out of pocket cost.

Requirements:

- A small grain must be planted and harvested.
Eligible small grains include: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Cereal Rye, Spelt, and Triticale
- The land must be used for manure application following harvest of the small grain.
- A cover crop must be planted following the manure application.
- Manure application records are required prior to any cost-share payment.
- Current soil tests and manure analysis are required.



How to Apply?

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

Partners in the Ohio Small Grain Initiative:

