



Working Lands Buffer Program



The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is offering a new program to incentivize producers to voluntarily enroll cropland prone to flooding and erosion into a working land buffer or filter strip. The H2Ohio Working Lands Buffer Program encourages producers to convert specific cropland into a buffer growing warm season or cool season grasses, or a forage mix.

Benefits:

- Buffers filter surface water before it enters into streams and other water sources that contribute to harmful nutrient runoff to Lake Erie
- Streambanks with buffers are more stable and have lower erosion rates
- Conservation buffers are a visual demonstration of producers' commitment to land stewardship

Eligibility and Specifications:

- Acres converted from cropland or an existing filter strip, hay buffer, or field border with perennial vegetative cover
- Along ditches, perennial streams, and rivers
- An existing filter strip or hay buffer area that has expired from receiving funding through the USDA, ODA, and local grants
- Buffer must be between 20 feet wide minimum and 300 feet wide maximum
- Harvesting the buffer area is encouraged
- Two-year contract (minimum) to maintain a buffer or filter strip for an annual \$200 per acre rental payment

Ineligibility:

- The new buffer cannot be installed adjacent to an existing buffer or filter strip
- Filter strips and field borders that were previously meadows, existing pasture, and ditch maintenance right of ways

Please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.



**Department of
Agriculture**