



Ohio Department of Agriculture
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
H2Ohio Program Update

Putting H2Ohio To Work for You

May 25, 2023

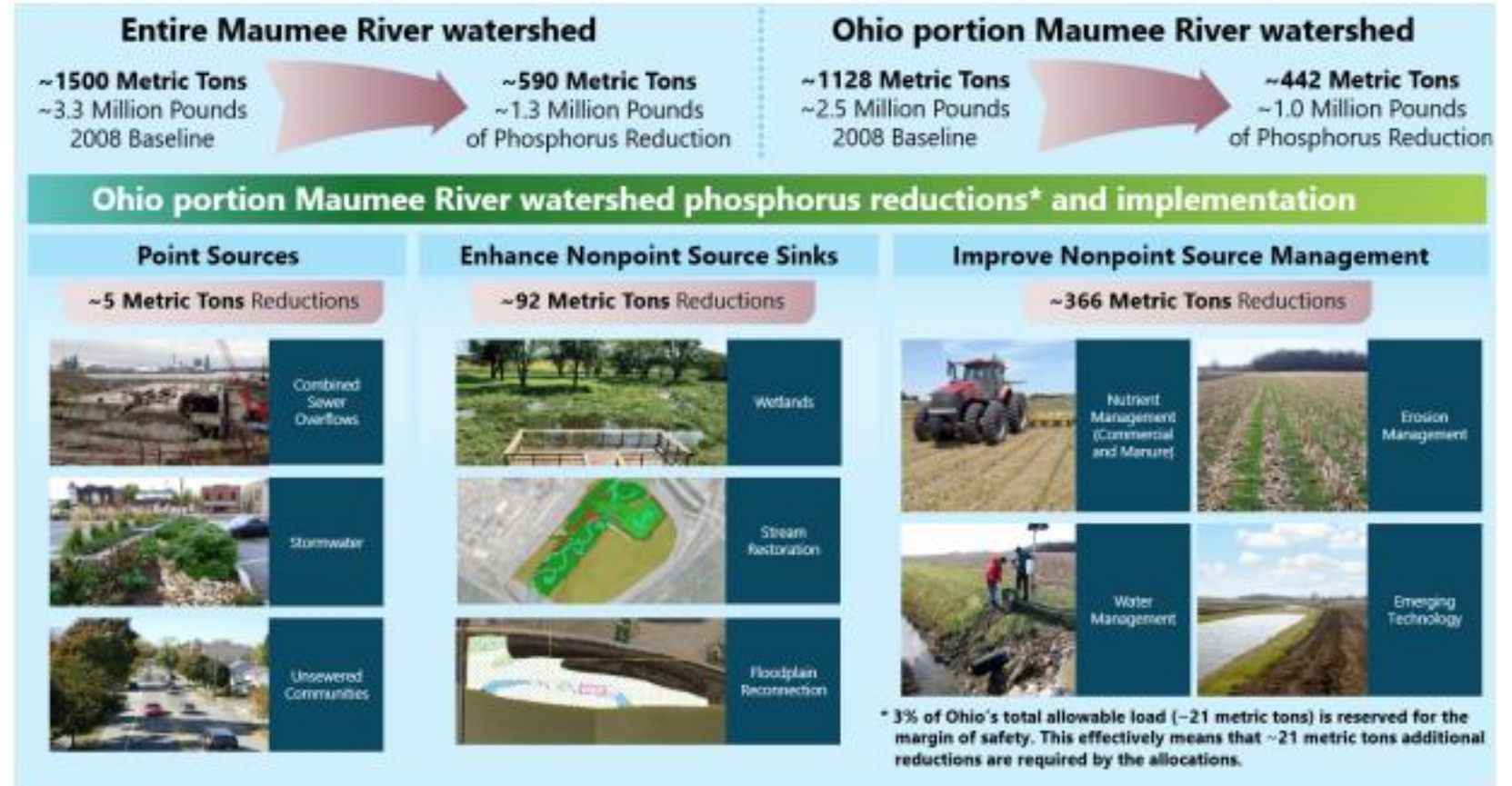


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Ohio's Phosphorus Reduction Goals - Maumee

- 40% Phosphorus reduction in annual loads in WLEB
- Ohio's baseline load is approx. 2.5 million pounds annually
- Ohio's 40% reduction results in a reduction of roughly 1 million pounds
- Load reduction assigned to agriculture NPS is approximately **800,000 pounds annually**



Ohio's H2Ohio Project Area

- Program is focused on reduced nutrient losses through improved nutrient management, reduced soil erosion, and better water management practices
- ODA started the H2Ohio program delivery across the Maumee River Watershed in 2021
- H2Ohio project area was expanded to 10 additional counties in 2022 with VNMP development, and all practices in 2023

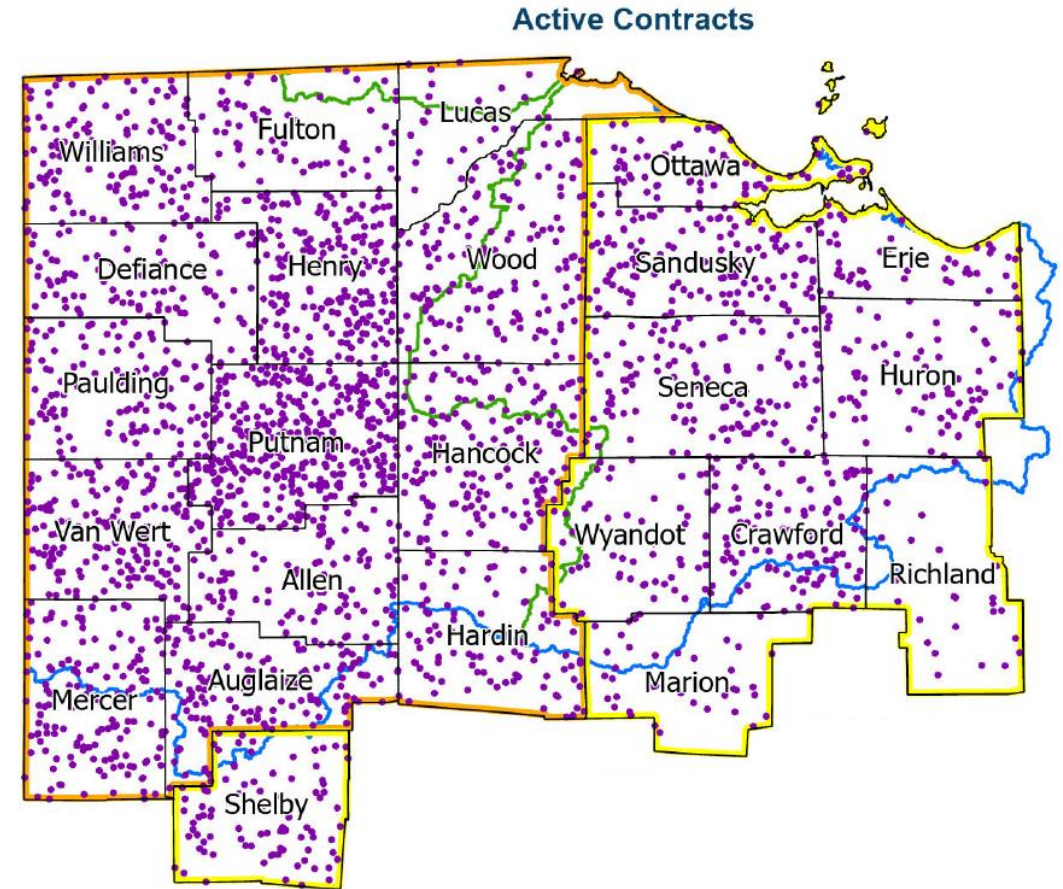


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Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP)

- VNMP development and implementation is required on all cropland to receive program incentives
- Requires current soil tests and crop rotations. Nutrient prescriptions in accordance with NRCS 590 standard
- Over 2500 active contracts with nearly 1.5 Million acres in approved VNMPs currently in the program

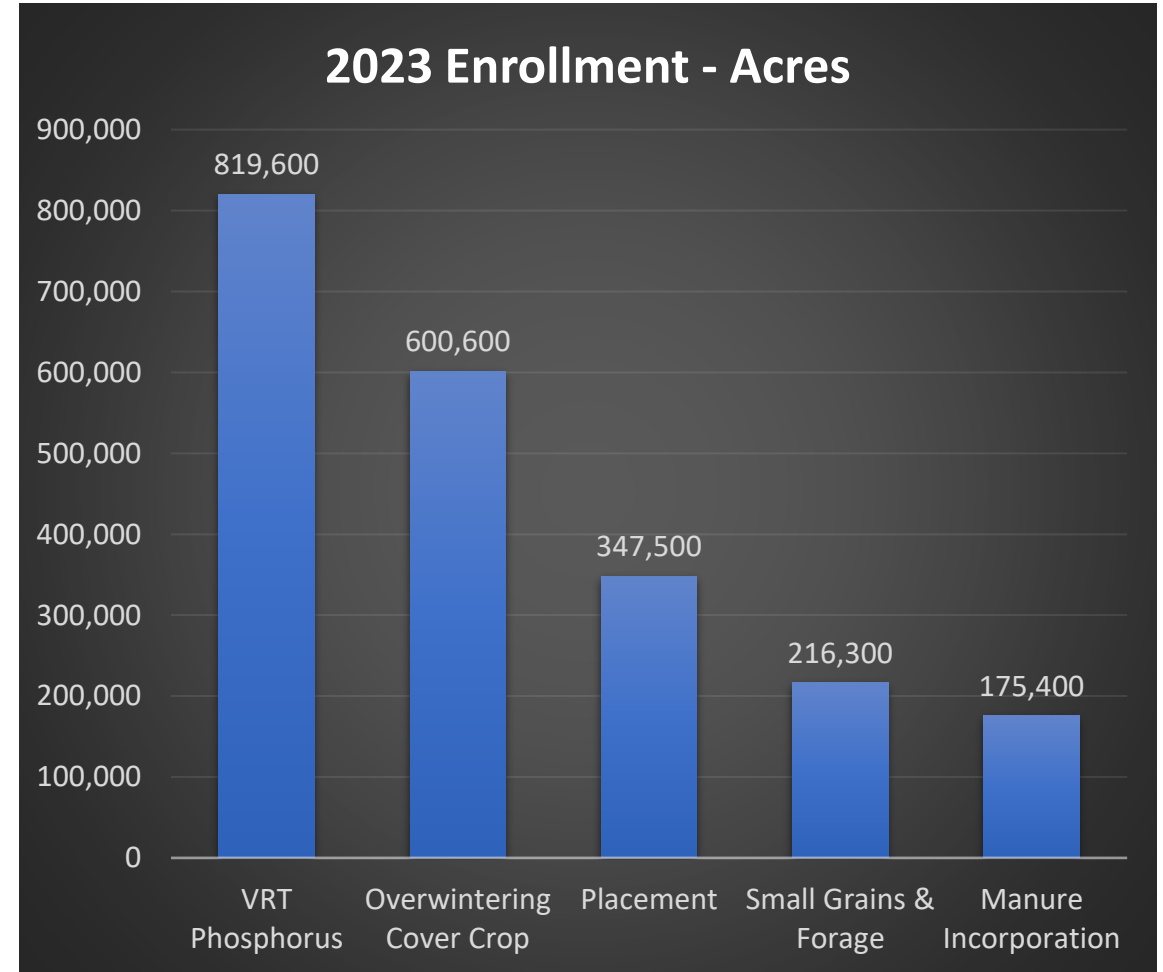


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Supporting Practices

- **Enrollment** – 1,560,000 acres of cropland for 2023, represents over 35% of the cropland across the project area
- **Additional Practices** – Program participants are encouraged to enroll in additional practices to improve nutrient application method and timing and reduce erosion

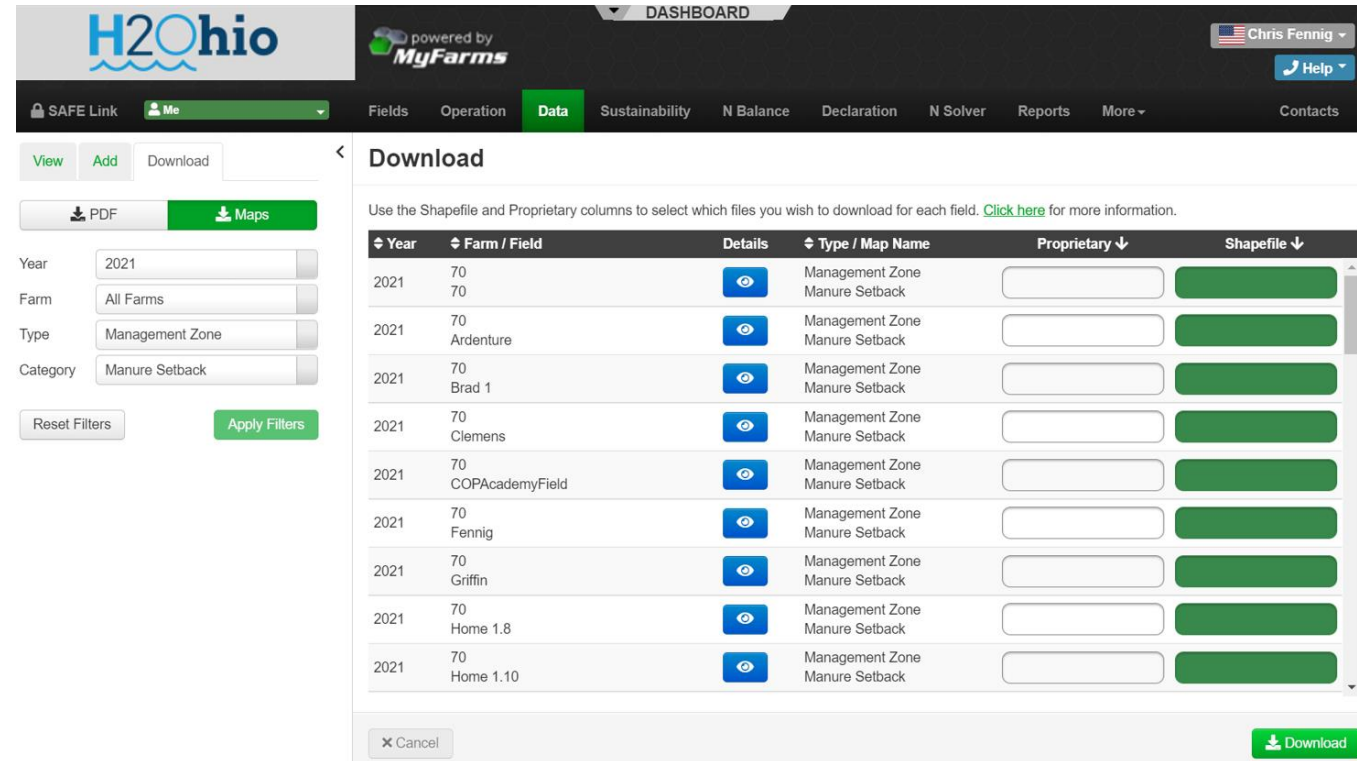


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Program Software for New Enrollment

- The Ohio Controlling Board approved the purchase of MyFarms software on 4/24/23
- Delivery of the first MyFarms H2Ohio modules are targeted for July 1, 2023
- Enrollment for H2Ohio practices across the 14 County Maumee Watershed project area will begin in Aug/Sept for 2024 and beyond



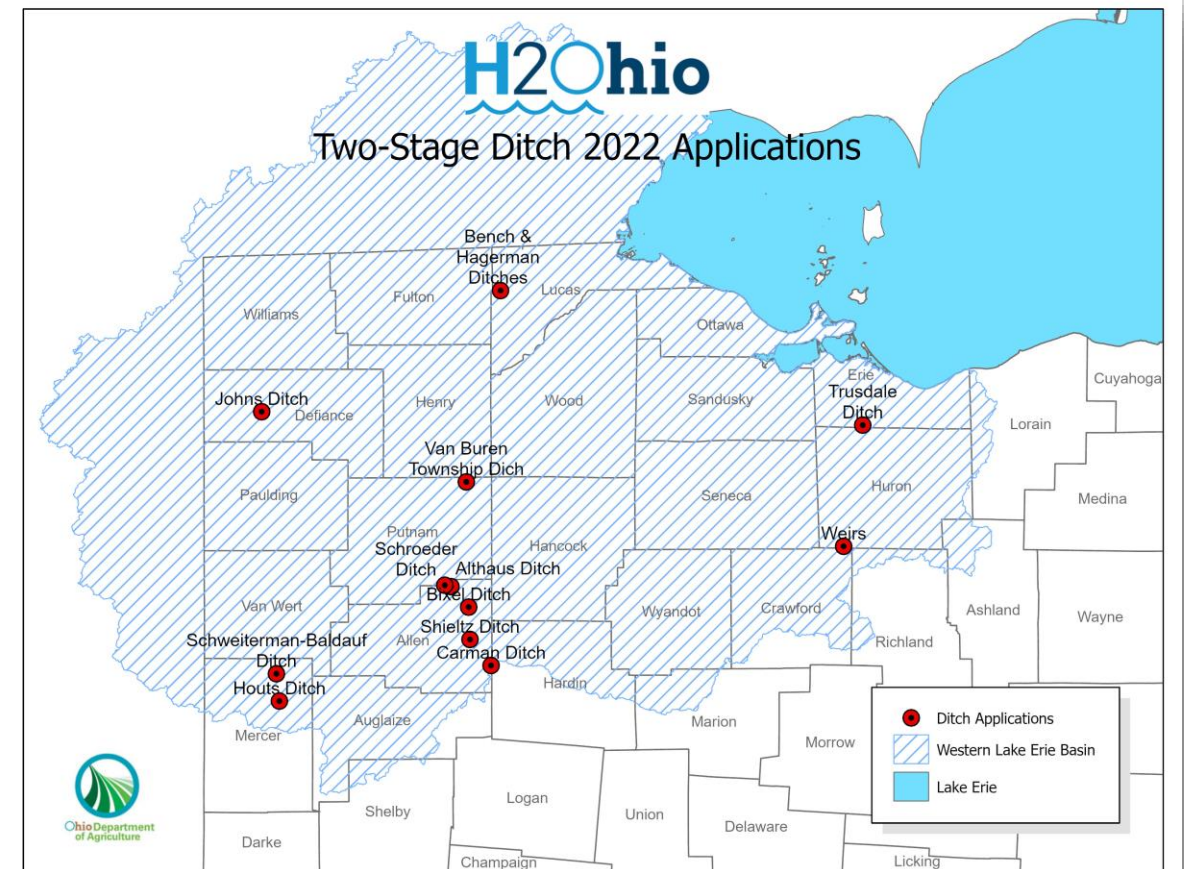
The screenshot shows the H2Ohio MyFarms software interface. The top navigation bar includes 'SAFE Link', 'Me', and various menu items like 'Fields', 'Operation', 'Data', 'Sustainability', 'N Balance', 'Declaration', 'N Solver', 'Reports', and 'More'. The 'Data' menu is currently selected. Below the navigation bar, there are filters for 'Year' (2021), 'Farm' (All Farms), 'Type' (Management Zone), and 'Category' (Manure Setback). A 'Download' window is open, displaying a table of field data with columns for Year, Farm / Field, Details, Type / Map Name, Proprietary, and Shapefile. The table lists 10 rows of data for the year 2021, all categorized as 'Management Zone Manure Setback'. Each row has a 'Proprietary' dropdown menu and a 'Shapefile' button. A 'Download' button is visible at the bottom right of the window.

Year	Farm / Field	Details	Type / Map Name	Proprietary	Shapefile
2021	70 70		Management Zone Manure Setback	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
2021	70 Ardenture		Management Zone Manure Setback	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
2021	70 Brad 1		Management Zone Manure Setback	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
2021	70 Clemens		Management Zone Manure Setback	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
2021	70 COPAcademyField		Management Zone Manure Setback	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
2021	70 Fennig		Management Zone Manure Setback	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
2021	70 Griffin		Management Zone Manure Setback	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
2021	70 Home 1.8		Management Zone Manure Setback	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>
2021	70 Home 1.10		Management Zone Manure Setback	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Download"/>



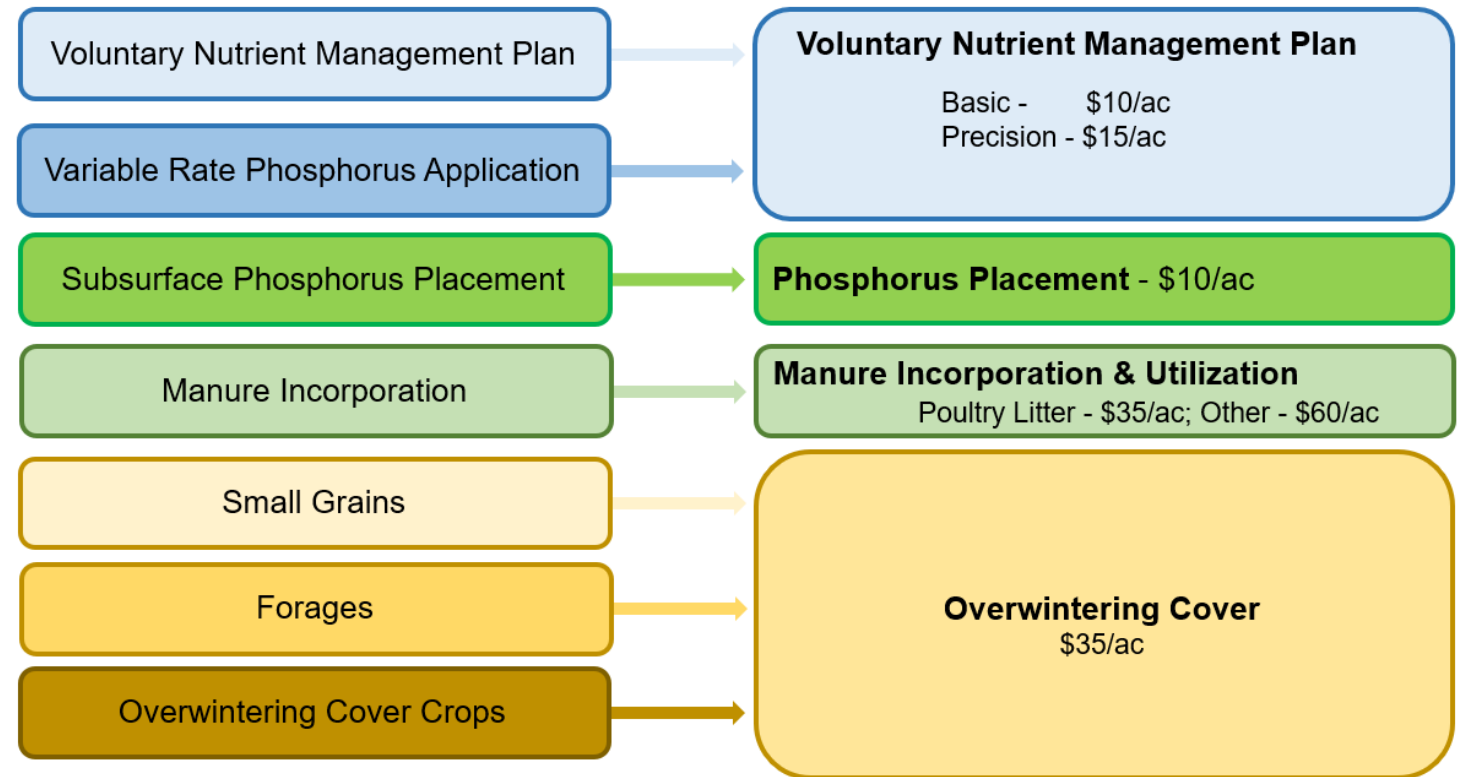
H2Ohio Two-Stage Ditches

- ODA awarded \$4.2 million for 12 two-stage ditch projects
- Eleven of the 12 projects are in the WLEB
- 8.4 miles of two-stage ditch projects will benefit more than 18,000 acres of watershed
- Construction will begin this summer, and all projects must be completed by Fall 2024



Practice Changes for FY '24 & '25

- Streamline practice offerings, while maintaining current program priorities
- Adjust practice standards for easier implementation, but preserve practice integrity



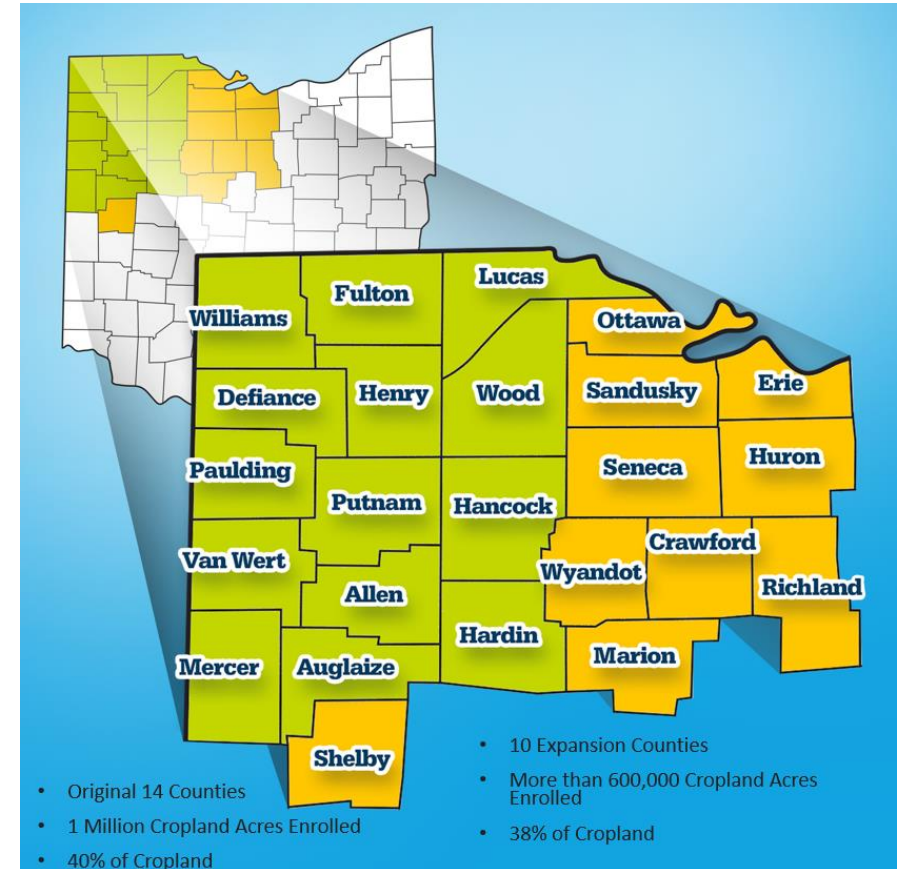
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H2Ohio Plans for Next Budget

Western Lake Erie Basin - \$60M/yr

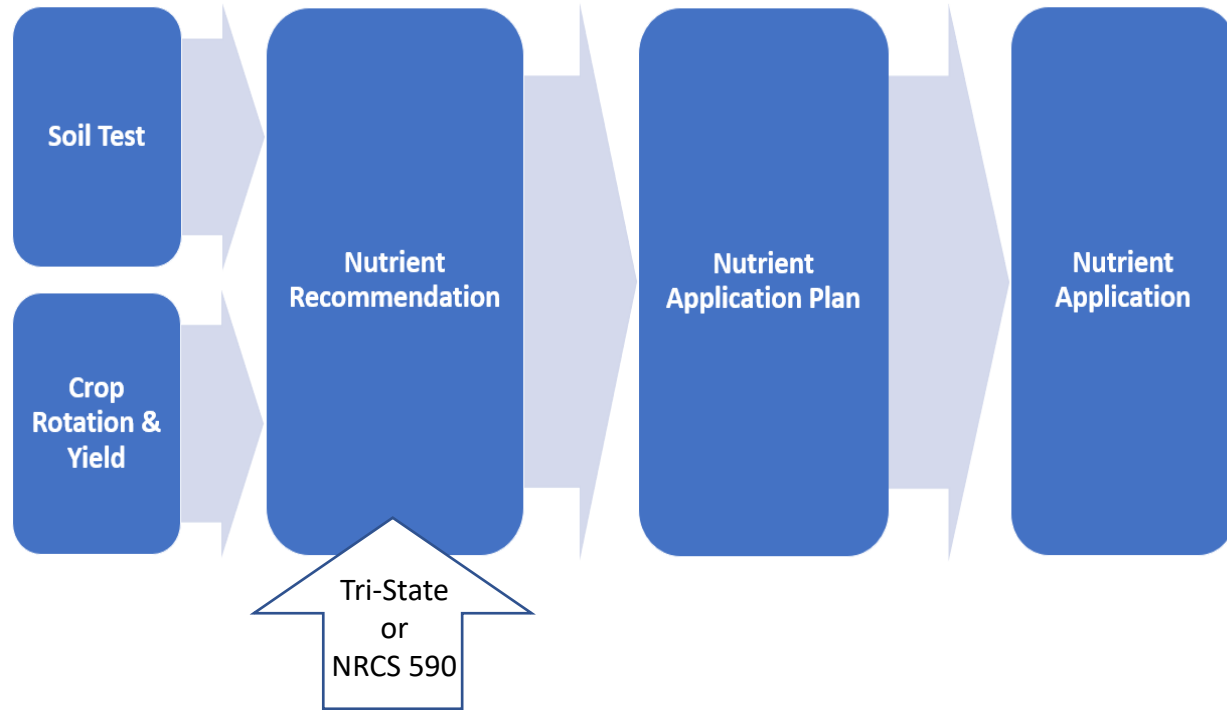
- **Grow Program Footprint - 2 Million Acre Goal**
 - Accept applications from for H2Ohio BMPs for '24-'26 across the Maumee Project Area
 - If funding & workload allows:
 - *Promote contract extensions for existing WLEB expansion area contracts to include '26 practices*
 - *Accept new applications from the WLEB expansion area for '24-'26 BMPs*



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H2Ohio Plans for Next Budget



Outside WLEB - \$10M/yr

- Promote VNMP development across 500,000 acres
 - Take applications for VNMP development across the remainder of Ohio
 - Build nutrient management & agronomic knowledge within SWCD staff
 - Build relationship between SWCD personnel and local consultants, agronomists, and ag retailers



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H2Ohio Plans for Next Budget

SWCD Technical Assistance - \$7M/yr

- Continue support of SWCDs in WLEB for program enrollment & implementation
- Provide funding for training and additional staffing outside of WLEB to build nutrient management capacity



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Questions?

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