



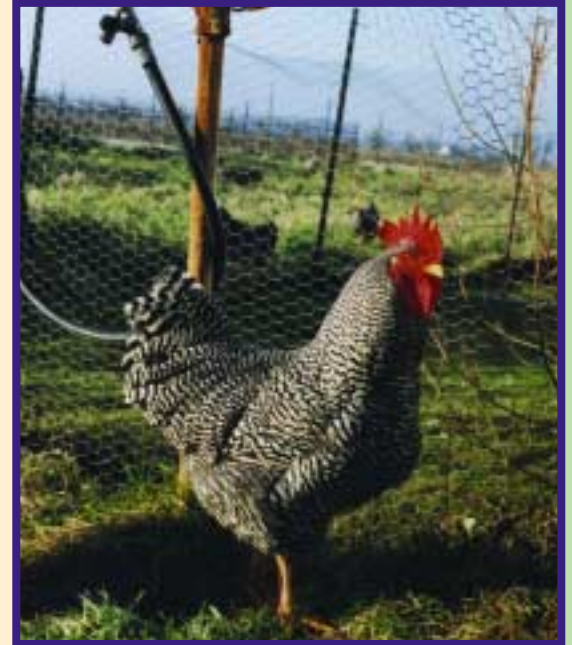
## Ohio Livestock Environmental Assurance Program

# LEAP

*“Helping livestock and poultry farmers take a proactive approach in blending sound production economics with concern about environmental quality.”*

## Environmental & Economic Incentives For Animal Agriculture

Environmental accountability of all business, industries and people is a growing testament in Ohio, the United States and the world that the general public is interested and concerned about the state of the environment. Sediment loss from agricultural land continues to be ranked as the leading source of water pollution. In Ohio, water pollution comes in many different forms and causes a variety of off-site impacts. Pollution from sediments, nutrients, pesticides and waste material (human and animal) enter surface waters as a result of various land uses and activities. These sources are called non-point source (NPS) pollution because their origin is difficult to identify. Impacts to surface water range in the billions of dollars lost annually to recreation uses, water treatment plants and infrastructure maintenance.



Excessive sediment loss in a watershed can lead to an increase in production costs for municipal water treatment plants for filtering and treating water for pesticides and fertilizers than would normally cost otherwise. Highway departments are required to spend additional time and money cleaning ditches and culverts. Sedimentation also reduces the recreational value of a body or stream of water, whereby fewer people utilize it for recreational activities. Many species within the aquatic ecosystem cannot survive within waters defined by high turbidity. The effects, impacts and costs are not only local in nature but also extend downstream.

Historically, the approach to resolving NPS pollution has been one of voluntary acceptance and adoption of programs. Educational and technical assistance programs have been utilized for many years and have seen great success in improving the acceptance of land management changes in the form of best management practices (BMPs). Incentive and cost-share programs are designed to offset the cost and reduce the risks of converting to or adopting less polluting farm management practices. Together with landowner cooperation, adoption of BMPs, education and technical assistance, as well as incentive and cost-share programs, the most successful approach to these types of challenges will hopefully remain voluntary. If not voluntarily adopted, pollution control practices may very well become non-voluntary or regulatory in nature, and the costs for adoption, implementation and development will become higher due to associated administrative costs. Economically, it's better to adopt under a voluntary umbrella. And it's good for the environment, too!



LEAP is coordinated and administered by the Ohio Livestock Coalition (OLC) in cooperation with program partners. OLC's purpose and mission is to assist Ohio's livestock and poultry sector in expanding its positive contributions to the Buckeye State. In achieving its mission, the OLC affirms an industry that is environmentally friendly, socially responsible and economically viable, and the development and communication of a unified message. Original funding source: U.S. EPA Non-point Source Management Program pursuant to Section 319h of the Federal Clean Water Act as amended in 1987. Current funding source: partially funded by a grant from the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Conservation.



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One of the most successful incentive and cost-share programs is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a voluntary program, EQIP provides technical assistance, cost-share payments and

incentive payments to assist crop and livestock producers with environmental and conservation improvements on farming operations. Under the 2002 Farm Bill, EQIP will provide:

- On a national basis: \$400 million in funding in 2002, \$700 million in 2003, \$1 billion in 2004, \$1.2 billion in 2005 and 2006, and \$1.3 billion in 2007.
- 75% cost-share unless the producer is a limited-resource or beginning farmer/rancher. In these two situations, the cost-share can be increased to a maximum of 90%.

- Funding for livestock operations is targeted at 60% of the annual program allocation.
- There is no animal unit cap for cost-share eligibility. Under the previous Farm Bill, large operations, typically those that required permits, were ineligible.
- Contracts are evaluated and offered based upon the use of cost-effective conservation practices; the use of practices that address national priorities; and an optimization of environmental benefits.
- To be eligible, the producer is required to prepare a conservation plan stating the intended practices and environmental purposes. Confined livestock feeding operations must prepare a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).
- Length of the contract period is one to 10 years, and there is no annual payment limitation.

However, the sum of all EQIP payments to an individual or entity cannot exceed \$450,000 from 2002 to 2007. Under the previous farm bill, producer payments were limited to \$10,000 per year or \$50,000 for any multi-year contract.

Implementation of EQIP is guided in part by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Advisory Committee, which provides direction, guidance, counsel and advice to the USDA NRCS State Conservationist. Members of the technical advisory committee include representatives from state and federal agencies, farm and commodity organizations, industry and environmental groups, agricultural producers, and the Ohio State University (OSU) Extension. Committee meetings are open to the public and are typically held four to six times per year.



In addition to the State Technical Committee, locally led conservation advisory groups have been established to guide natural resource conservation efforts. While the mission of these local advisory groups is to define and set conservation priorities and secure funding sources to resolve environmental problems, they hold much of the responsibility for implementing EQIP on a local basis. Local advisory groups also have the initial responsibility for developing local ranking criteria changes in farming practices and structures that will improve environmental quality. The State Technical Advisory Committee and State Conservationist will also provide evaluation and ranking criteria. The local advisory groups review producer applications, contracts and monetary distributions based upon previously identified local needs. Local soil and water conservation district (SWCD), NRCS and OSUE staffs provide technical and educational assistance to agricultural producers. This assistance will be available for developing CNMPs, conservation plans and implementation of approved plans.

## FEDERAL INCENTIVE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN OHIO

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Program Purpose</i>	<i>Contact Agency</i>
<b>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)</b>	<b>To protect soil, water and wildlife while improving water quality.</b>	<b>USDA/FSA, USDA/NRCS, SWCD.</b>
<b>Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)</b>	<b>To reduce threats to life and property in the wake of natural disasters.</b>	<b>USDA/NRCS, SWCD.</b>
<b>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</b>	<b>To address significant natural resource concerns on agricultural lands.</b>	<b>USDA/NRCS, USDA/FSA, SWCD.</b>
<b>Farmland Protection Program (FPP)</b>	<b>Purchase of conservation easements to reduce erosion.</b>	<b>USDA/NRCS, SWCD.</b>
<b>Flood Risk Reduction (FRR)</b>	<b>Provides incentives to not farm frequently flooded lands.</b>	<b>USDA/FSA.</b>
<b>Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP)</b>	<b>To encourage the long-term sustainability of non-industrial private forest lands by assisting owners of private forest lands and their related resources through the use of state, federal and private sector resource management expertise, financial assistance, and educational programs.</b>	<b>USDA/Forest Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry.</b>

## FEDERAL INCENTIVE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN OHIO continued

Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC & D)	Enhance environmental and economic well-being through resource conservation.	USDA/NRCS.
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	Provides funds to help off-set costs of wetland restoration and production loss.	USDA/NRCS, USDA/FSA, SWCD.
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	Develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands.	USDA/NRCS, USDA/FSA, SWCD.
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	To protect soil, water, wildlife and improve water quality.	USDA/NRCS, USDA/FSA, ODNR/DSWC, SWCD.

## STATE ENVIRONMENTAL INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program	Corrects NPS pollution problems arising from agricultural and silvicultural sediments and animal manure.	Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil & Water Conservation (ODNR/DSWC), SWCD.
Clean Ohio Fund (Agricultural Easement Fund)	Provides grants across the state for purchase of development rights (PDRs) to protect rivers and streams.	ODNR/DSWC, SWCD.
NPS Watershed Program	To target watershed NPS pollution efforts.	ODNR/DSWC, SWCD.
Ohio Environmental Education Funds (OEEF)	Enhance public awareness of environmental quality.	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).
Section 319 Program	To address water pollution from point and NPS .	Ohio EPA.
Partners for Fish & Wildlife	Riparian area, wetland and native grassland restoration.	U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)	Provides below market interest rate loans for planning, designing and construction needs.	Ohio EPA.
Linked Deposit Program through WPCLF	Financial assistance for implementation of NPS pollution control projects.	Ohio EPA.
Wetland Reserve Piggy Back Program	Enhances WRP for wetland restoration efforts improving water quality.	USDA/NRCS, ODNR/DSWC, SWCD.

## STATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO ASSIST WITH TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICE TRANSFER

<i>Program Name</i>	<i>Program Purpose</i>	<i>Agency or Organization</i>	<i>Local Contact</i>
Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program	To ensure a safe, wholesome food product for consumers from farm to table.	OSU Extension, Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA)	OSU Extension office.
Certified Crop Advisory (CCA)	To train advisors who assist farmers with crop production, nutrient management and natural resource decisions.	Ohio Agribusiness Association (OABA)	OABA.
CORE 4	Provides a common sense approach to improving farm profitability while being environmentally friendly.	USDA/NRCS	USDA/NRCS, SWCD.
Certified Livestock Manager Program	Certifies an individual to manage manure at a major concentrated animal feeding facility or to broker large volumes of manure.	Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)	ODA, USDA/NRCS, SWCD.
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning (CNMP)	A CNMP will provide valuable assistance to livestock operations in storing, applying and utilizing animal manure.	USDA/NRCS	USDA/NRCS, SWCD, Ohio Livestock Coalition (OLC), OABA.
Equine Forage Management Schools	Assist equine producers in efficient management, establishment, production and utilization of forage.	OSU Extension.	OSU Extension, SWCD, USDA/NRCS, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF).
EQIP Educational Grant Program	Provides mini-grants to local agencies to aid in the development of educational programs.	USDA/NRCS.	USDA/NRCS, OSU Extension, SWCD.
Livestock Environmental Assurance Program (LEAP) Level 1	Helps livestock producers economically address the environmental challenges on their individual farms.	Ohio Livestock Coalition (OLC)	OSU Extension, SWCD, USDA/NRCS, OLC.
LEAP Level 2	Helps livestock producers obtain information and identify BMPs that will be adopted and implemented and lead to development of a CNMP.	Ohio Livestock Coalition (OLC)	OSU Extension, SWCD, USDA/NRCS, OLC.

## STATE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO ASSIST WITH TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICE TRANSFER cont...

<b>Environmental Assurance Program (EAP) local</b>	Designed specifically for pork producers. Helps producers achieve economic success while meeting regulatory compliance issues.	Ohio Pork Producers Council (OPPC)	OSU Extension, SWCD, pork producers groups.
<b>Livestock mortality composting certification training</b>	Provides education and technical assistance programs to aid livestock producers establishing, managing and utilizing compost facilities on their farms.	OSU Extension	OSU Extension, SWCD.
<b>NPS Pollution Education Grant Program</b>	To improve water pollution programs by strengthening educational efforts of local SWCDs and their partners.	ODNR/DSWC	Local SWCD offices.
<b>Ohio Forage Production Short Course</b>	The curriculum covers aspects of forages from production to storage in utilization. Emphasis is placed upon management and how to produce high quality forages more efficiently and effectively.	OSU Extension	OSU Extension.
<b>Ohio Grazing Schools</b>	Provides assistance to operators in identifying BMPs, plant and animal needs to increase opportunity and address environmental concerns.	OSU Extension, USDA/NRCS, SWCD	USDA/NRCS, OSU Extension, SWCD offices.
<b>Ohio Egg Quality Assurance Program</b>	To ensure a safe, wholesome food product for consumers from farm to table.	Ohio Poultry Association (OPA)	Ohio Poultry Association (OPA).
<b>Pesticide Application Training (PAT) certification</b>	Provides training and re-certification of all applicators of restricted use chemicals.	Ohio Department of Agriculture, OSU Extension	County OSU Extension office.
<b>Pork Quality Assurance (PQA)</b>	To ensure a safe, wholesome food product for consumers from farm to table.	Ohio Pork Producers Council (OPPC)	OSU Extension, local pork producers groups.
<b>On-Farm Assessment &amp; Environmental Review (OFAER)</b>	Provides a critical overview of beef, dairy, poultry and pork farms' overall site management and the risks posed to air quality, surface water and groundwater.	Ohio Livestock Coalition (OLC)	SWCD, USDA/NRCS, OSU Extension, OLC.
<b>Agricultural Watershed Awareness and Resource Evaluation (AWARE)</b>	A voluntary water quality education and assessment program designed to help landowners make the link between land-use and water quality.	Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF)	County Farm Bureau agricultural ecology coordinator.



### References

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- "The Environmental Quality Incentive Program: EQIP (OSU Extension Fact Sheet AE-2-97)." Jon Rausch, Extension Associate; Brent Sohngen, Extension Specialist, Natural Resource Economics, Department of Agricultural Economics, and Eric Norland, Program Leader, Natural Resources, School of Natural Resources, Ohio State University.
- "The 2002 Farm Bill: Title II – Conservation." Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture.



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts



OSU Extension & OARDC Waste Management Team



Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil & Water Conservation