



Department of  
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

David T. Daniels | Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Brett Gates, (614) 752-9817

[bgates@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:bgates@agri.ohio.gov)

**FUNDING AVAILABLE TO OHIO WESTERN LAKE ERIE BASIN FARMERS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY**

*Signup deadline is November 17, 2017*

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Oct. 16, 2017) – The next round of funding is now available through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), as part of a five year, \$17.5 million program funded by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The goal of the program is to reduce nutrients entering Ohio waterways to lessen harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. Funding is available to assist farmers in installing conservation practices that benefit water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

This year, Ohio livestock producers will receive priority funding. Nutrient management practices that allow for proper storage, timing and placement of nutrients will help livestock producers comply with Ohio’s nutrient management laws. Ohio livestock producers located in the Western Lake Erie Basin interested in applying for technical and financial assistance to implement these practices should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#). The application deadline is November 17, 2017.

The Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative is a partnership effort that includes public, private and non-profit organizations and is led in Ohio by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. These partner organizations assist with promoting conservation opportunities and monitoring the impact of these practices implemented through the initiative.

For more information about conservation assistance available through the Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative, visit the Ohio USDA-NRCS website at [www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov).

- 30 -



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