Dear H2Ohio Producer,

**H2OHIO News**

Happy Spring! I wish everyone a safe, successful planting season. ***Please contact me with any questions or concerns about your farming practices and H2Ohio.*** My goal going into this planting season was for both producers and ag consultants to have a better understanding of H2Ohio and their guidelines so producers can reach the programs full potential. I will continue sending letters in the mail, making phone calls, and sending remind texts to help everyone as well as myself stay organized and on top of things.

**Contracts Adding Acres/Adjusting Practices:** I am hoping more clear instructions from ODA will come about this soon. As of right now, from my understanding this is how we are going about this. If you have turned in your soil tests and nutrient management plans for those additional fields, then they are enrolled in the program and can receive 2022 practice payments. At the end of the year (once you are done applying fertilizer on the field for the year and or have cover crops in the field) we will set up a meeting to modify your contract.

Once we have modified your contract, depending on how much you are over your original contracted funds, we will have to get ODA approval for payment of practices.

**2021 Crop Year Wrap Up:** The goal is to completely have 2021 crop year practices completed by the beginning of summer. If you have not yet turned in records/documentation for ANY 2021 practices and or gotten a payment for a practice you were enrolled in, please contact me.

**H2Ohio Record Sheet:** Attached with this letter is a copy of a record keeping sheet. During this planting season keep track of ALL fertilizers you are applying and record the rate of application (please write field names or Farm/Track #s on the side). If you need more copies, go to the VW SWCD website under H2Ohio > Helpful Links > Record Keeping Guidance > Templets. I always have copies on hand in the office or I can email one to you. Along with record keeping, don’t forget to save all receipts/invoices to turn in.

**H2OHIO REMINDERS**

**2022 Implementation/VRT/Subsurface Practices:** Planting season is here so please review your Nutrient Management Plans! If you are doing anything different than what is in your plan (different fertilizer or different rate of application) then please review the H2Ohio guidelines and call/email with any questions or concerns. Understand that over applying recommended nutrients or not applying at least 20 lbs. of P2O5 will result in forfeiting payment (VRT/Subsurface Practices).

**2022 Crop year Payments:** Paymentsfor the 2022 crop year cannot be distributed until after the side-dress of corn is completed and all fertilizer documentation/records are turned in. Therefore if you did any fall applications, you could bring in documentation for me to keep on file now or you may keep it until I can approve it which will approximately be mid-summer.

**Soil Samples/Tests:** Please check if your soil samples are 4 years or older. I will need updated soil tests for the 2022 / 2023 crop year if your soil tests are from 2017 or older. I would recommend doing soil tests every 3 years if you plan on staying in the program. I do not have the time to go through every field in every contract to check. This is the producer’s responsibility to have updated soil samples. **Any applications made onto fields that do not have a 2018 soil test or newer WILL NOT get any H2Ohio payments for 2022.**

**Sending Documentation through Email:** If you are emailing me any documentation, I have found it best to send it as a pdf if you can. It is a hit or miss for me to able to download/save documentation any other way.

***FAQ:* If I use manure as a spring fertilizer application can I get a Manure Inc. practice payment?**

The answer to this question is no… Manure Inc. practice can be done in one of four ways

* 1. Manure is applied via side dress injection to a growing corn crop after emergence.
  2. Manure is surface applied to a growing corn crop after emergence and incorporated using a row cultivator **within 24 hours of application**.
  3. Manure is surface applied after the harvest of a crop and **incorporated within 24 hours** of application; furthermore, all incorporation shall be completed prior to October 15.
  4. Manure is injected directly into the soil through a strip-till toolbar or similar tool with minimal surface disruption after harvest and prior to October 15.

Thank you,

Kady Fuhrmann

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