Dear H2Ohio Producer,

**H2OHIO News**

This past month I have been busy collecting and organizing what documentation I have for the 2021 Crop Year. My goal is to have all 2021 practices completed by the summer before we start making any payments for crop year 2022. I have had several producers add acres onto their contracts. How much of those added acres can be paid is dependent on what funds are left over in the H2Ohio program from 2021. **If you are enrolled in the 2021 Manure, Small Grains, and or Overwintering cover crop practices there is an important message at the end of this letter!**

**H2OHIO REMINDERS**

**2021 Manure Inc., Small grains, and cover crop practices:** Please keep in mind that in order to full-fill the practice requirements you have to leave these fields undisturbed (no applications or tillage) until after March 15th. I have mapped out fields to check and will be going out at the beginning of March.

**2022 Crop year Payments:** Payments2022 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.**

**Manure Incorporation Practice:** There seems to be confusion about the guidelines for the manure incorporation practice for multiple producers this past year. Here are some key guidelines to keep in mind if you are enrolled for this practice:

1. ***You must notify Kady before you plan on spreading manure.*** 
   1. You can call, email, or send a text through remind. Please let me know when, what field, and how many acres you plan to incorporate.
   2. I will create a Manure Guidance tool to send you that will provide a Minimum and Maximum amount advised to spread. **If you go over the Maximum amount you forfeit your H2Ohio manure payment.**
   3. Please make sure you have an up-to-date manure analysis before you plan on spreading.
2. **Method and Timing** (listed are when and how you can get paid for applying manure)
   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.
3. ***A cover crop or double crop bean must be implemented afterward.*** 
   1. If there is not any cover on the ground by Oct. 15th you will forfeit your H2Ohio manure payment.
   2. Your cover crop does NOT have to be overwintering… If at least 50% of the mix is over wintering, you can receive an additional $25/Acre (if you are not enrolled in overwintering practice we will have to modify your contract).
4. ***Deadlines… ugh…*** 
   1. I understand that deadlines are very frustrating, but this a nutrient management program therefore it is necessary to have for healthy soil conservation…
   2. **Oct. 15th** is the first deadline you need to mark down in your calendar. All Manure incorporation AND cover crops/double crop beans must be established by this date. 2021 crop year it was pushed to Nov. 1st due to weather, I do not foresee this happening again according to ODA.
   3. **March 15th** is the second deadline requirement. Fields you want a manure/cover crop payment on must stay undisturbed until March 15th. Absolutely no fertilizer application and/or tillage made.

**Important Message!!**

**2021 Manure Inc., Small grains, and cover crop practices:** Listed on the chart below is how many acres I have accounted foras completed in these practices. If my numbers do not match yours, please notify me asap. These payments will be approved and mailed out in April. I will have noted whether you have initialed the verification checklist. If you have NOT initialed the verification checklist you will have to stop in the office or get ahold of me to send it to you. **I will not approve a payment without having initials on the verification form.** Please call or stop in to fulfill this requirement.

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| **Practice:** | Manure  (Poultry & Other) | Conservation Crop Rotation  (Small Grains & Forages) | Overwintering Cover Crops |
| **Acres:** |  |  |  |
| **Payment:** |  |  |  |

Thank you,

**Do I need to get ahold of Kady to initial verification form?**

YES NO

Kady Fuhrmann

Special Projects Technician

1185 Professional Drive

Van Wert, OH 45891

Phone: 567-259-4258

Email: kaidlyn.fuhrmann@nacdnet.net