Dear H2Ohio Producer,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and are ready for what 2022 has in store for us. This last month I have been busy approving crop year 2021 practices, gathering documentation, signing up new contracts and adding acres to contracts. Going into 2022 I want to make sure everyone understands H2Ohio expectations and deadlines.

**H2OHIO News**

**Nutrient Management Technical Guidance:** I have had a lot of questions and concerns about the guidelines in the nutrient management technical guidelines (was in the previous letter). I hosted a meeting with ODA and Ag consultants/retailers to gain a better understanding of the guidelines and how it can/will coincide with everyone’s farming practices. Please reach out to me or your ag consultant/retailer if you have questions or concerns regarding these guidelines.

**Adding Acres/Modifying Practices:** I want to reiterate what happens when a producer adds acres or modifies their practices for the 2022-2023 crop years. Producers were allowed to add acres to their contracts if they turned in soil tests and VNMP by the Jan. 15th deadline. These acres are now eligible to be paid for practices. **I can only approve up to 10% of the contracted amount agreed upon when you signed up for the program.** If you full-fill your practices and exceed the 10% contracted dollar amount, I will have to send it up to ODA for their approval. Getting approved will all depend on how much funds are available.

**H2OHIO REMINDERS**

**TURN IN CROP YEAR 2021 DOCUMENTATIONS ASAP!!!:** Please turn in any records/documentation for 2021 fertilizer applications/cover crops if you have not done so already. Call or email if you need to know what to bring in.

**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.

 **2022 Crop year Payments:** Payments2022 crop year can not be disturbed 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.

**2022 Manure Inc. and Cover Crop Guidelines**: As of right now, we are going to go back to the October 15th deadline to have manure incorporated and cover crop planted. I do not foresee this changing. Keep in mind this is a nutrient management program. I understand that the date is hard to complete for majority corn and bean fields. From my understanding this date is set with the small grains program in mind. If you would like a cover crop payment after a bean or corn crop, I would suggest to plan ahead this planting season.

**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.

**Remind App:** Please join the remind text messages to receive important information, updates, deadlines, ect. for H2Ohio. To join, text @vwh2o to the number 81010. If you have trouble, try texting @vwh2o to (240) 428-2760.

The remind app can be used just like sending a text message to someone. If you send a message, only I will receive it and I can reply just to you. This may be a good option for people who don’t use email and they just have a quick question or information for me.

Thank you,

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