Dear H2Ohio Producer,

**THANK YOU!!!**

Crop year 2021 is coming to an end and I want to thank you for your endless hard work to feed and provide for our communities, country, and world. I would also like to thank you for being apart of H2Ohio and taking that step to help improve wastewater infrastructure and prevent contamination. I understand that this program can be unpredictable and frustrating at times, but thank you for being patient with me and the program as we work together in understanding practices and gathering information. I am optimistic and excited for the 2022 crop year!

**H2OHIO News**

**Open enrollment for new applications:** H2Ohio will accept new applications until January 15th, 2022. In order to apply, you must provide soil samples/tests and a VNMP or CNMP. New producers also need to register for OACI program (<https://bit.ly/3jKmyEv>). New practices under 2022/2023 contract will not begin until March 15th. One exception is Small Grains. Your small grains crop must be harvested as a grain to be eligible for payment. (ONLY FOR NEW APPLICANTS)

**Existing Contracts:** You may now add acreages to your existing contract. Any changes must be approved by a technician and the SWCD Board. If the dollar amount exceeds 10% of original payment amount agreed upon, the contract must be sent to ODA (Ohio Department of AG) for approval. Additional acres must also come with soil tests and VNMP before being eligible for practices.

Contracts that had VNMP’s only until 2021 or 2022 will need to contact Kady to get a Farm Summary update by Jan. 15th.

**H2OHIO REMINDERS**

**TURN IN DOCUMENTATIONS ASAP!!!:** There is no deadline to turn in paperwork, but you can not get paid for your practices until I have all your information. I would recommend trying to get as much turned in by the end of the year for tax purposes. With this letter is a page describing exactly what I need to see from you to fulfill your practices. The SWCD is open from 7:30am – 4:00pm M-F. Please try and call ahead of time to make sure I will be in the office/available when you arrive.

**Cover Crops:** Many have voiced their concerns about cover crop practices in H2Ohio. I hear and understand your concern. This year ODA extended the deadline to Nov. 1st due to the incompatible weather we had this harvest season. This is NOT a permanent change to the program. Crop Year 2022 and 2023 will still have the Oct. 15th cover crop deadline. I understand that can be hard to do, especially in a year like we have had. In spite of this, we must keep in mind this program’s focus is nutrient management. The dates are set in purpose to do what is best for the soil with the goal in mind to have something in the ground holding the nutrients as long as possible. Therefore, H2Ohio’s rules/regulations at this time for cover crop practices for crop year 2022 and 2023 will remain the same. Cover Crops need to be planted by Oct.15th and remained untouched until March 15th.

**Manure inc. and Cons. Crop Rotation (small grains/forages/overwintering cover crops) Practices:** I will be doing field checks between now and March 15th to check/document Cover Crop seeding and growth. Once I have all your documentation and it is past the March 15th deadline, I will process the payments for these practices.

**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 2018 or older. I would recommend doing soil tests every 3 years if you plan on staying in the program.

Thank you,

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