

## Livestock Environmental Assurance Program

To help Ohio's livestock producers identify and address key management issues affecting environmental quality, the Ohio Livestock Coalition (OLC) developed the LEAP program, which provides producers with the opportunity to take a proactive approach in blending sound production economics with concern about environmental quality.



LEAP is a voluntary and confidential environmental assurance program for all major livestock species in Ohio – sheep, beef and dairy cattle, swine and poultry – and some areas may also be applicable for equine. By participating in LEAP, producers will learn that doing the right things results in doing things right. By increasing confidence, improving profits, reducing problems, enhancing relationships and enriching an image, LEAP will accomplish its primary objective – to promote sustainability by seeking profitable environmental solutions.

- ♦ **LEAP Level 1** is designed primarily for confined animal feeding operations.
- ♦ **LEAP Pasture** is designed primarily for pasture or grazing-based livestock systems, including, but not limited to, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, and equine
- ♦ **LEAP Level 2** is designed to help livestock, dairy, and poultry producers gather the information and identify best management practices necessary to develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan.

This brochure was created by the staff of the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District under the authority of the Board of Supervisors and with assistance and photos from the USDA— Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources— Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

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### Additional Resources

The Ohio State University Extension - OhioLine  
<http://ohioline.osu.edu>  
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/county/index.php>

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)  
<http://ohiodnr.com>

United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)  
<http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov>

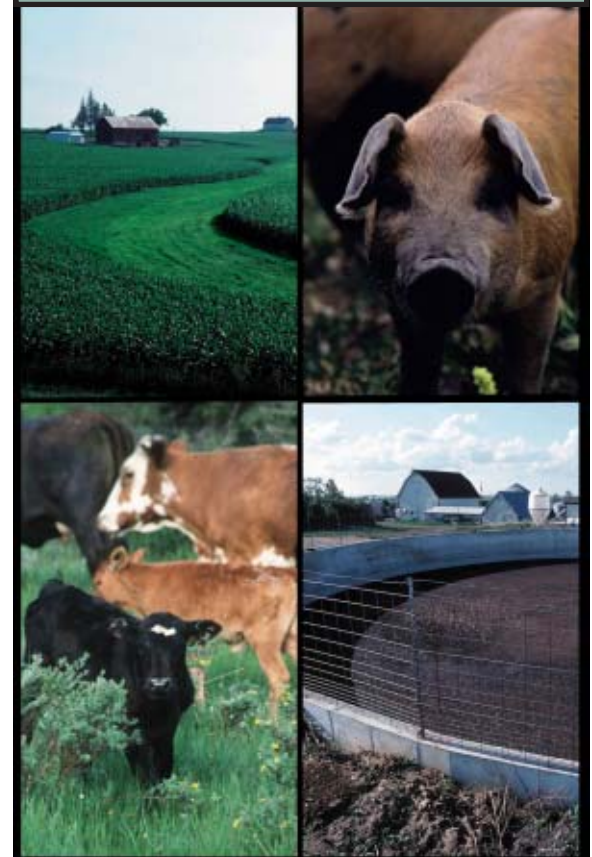
To contact your local **Soil and Water Conservation District** please refer to the following sources:

- ♦ The county government section of your local phone book
- ♦ Online at [www.dnr.state.oh.us/soilandwaterswcd.htm](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/soilandwaterswcd.htm)
- ♦ ODNR-Division of Soil and Water Conservation (614) 265-6610

*All services are provided without regard to race, religion, gender, age, physical or mental handicap, national origin or politics.*

## Ohio's Agriculture Pollution Abatement Program:

### Protecting Our Soil and Water Resources



**Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
 Division of Soil and Water Conservation**

**-in collaboration with-**

**Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the  
 United States Department of Agriculture  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service**

## Ohio's Agriculture Pollution Abatement Program

### What is the Agriculture Pollution Abatement Program?

Ohio farmers have made great strides in protecting our soil and water resources by utilizing State and Federal programs. These programs provide farmers with the opportunity to select best management practices (BMPs) that are environmentally sound and cost-effective for their farm.

Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP) may provide farmers with cost share assistance to develop and implement BMPs to protect waters of the state (i.e. streams, creeks, and rivers). This program has been successful throughout the state in helping to alleviate resource concerns associated with agricultural production and silvicultural operations. These practices have the potential to create soil erosion and manure runoff, which are both types of nonpoint source pollution (NPS). NPS pollution occurs when precipitation picks up contaminants (i.e. manure and sediment) and carries them to a watercourse.

The APAP is administered by Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Soil and Water Conservation (ODNR-DSWC) and implemented locally by all 88 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Farmers wanting to know more about the program need to contact their local SWCD for technical and potential financial assistance. (See back panel for local SWCD office listings.)

APAP offers three levels of funding caps—high (\$15,000), medium (\$10,000), low (\$5,000)—dependent upon the BMP being installed. Each funding level has a 75% cost share rate “not to exceed” a total of \$15,000 per producer per year.

### Why Would a Farmer Participate in Ohio's APAP?

This program has the potential to provide agricultural producers with state funds to alleviate burdens associated with the cost of the practice. Also, this voluntary approach is perceived as environmentally friendly and good for livestock. In addition, it has the ability to strengthen neighbor relationships and can alleviate potential resource concerns that may otherwise lead to a complaint if left unmanaged.

## Best Management Practices

The following practices are eligible for funding through the program:

- ♦ Animal waste storage structure
- ♦ Settling basins and filter strips
- ♦ Critical area protection
- ♦ Off-stream watering and stream crossing stabilization
- ♦ Roof and gutters
- ♦ Water diversions
- ♦ Grassed waterways
- ♦ Water and sediment control basins
- ♦ Erosion control structures
- ♦ Wetland treatment facilities
- ♦ Manure and mortality composting facilities
- ♦ Heavy use areas
- ♦ Swine manure aeration systems
- ♦ Tile outlet control for liquid manure



*Vegetated buffer strip*



*Manure storage structure*

## Complaint Resolution

ODNR-DSWC has adopted rules and standards (OAC 1501:15-5) for agricultural pollution abatement. These rules and standards address appropriate application standards for animal waste in addition to proper design and construction of manure storage and treatment facilities.

*Excluding livestock from watercourses helps protect our natural resources*



## Complaint Resolution Continued

Other potential sources of pollution from livestock operations, such as milk house waste and silage leachate, are also addressed in these rules and standards.



*Manure and feedlot runoff*

The DSWC rules are enforceable when a written, signed, and dated complaint from an individual or organization is submitted to the local SWCD or Chief of the DSWC and when the subsequent investigation results in the discovery of ground and/or surface water pollution as a result of failure to use BMPs.

Although there are APA rules and standards, we recommend that all producers voluntarily address identified resource concerns, especially in the face of growing complaints by neighbors against livestock operations. Working together not only benefits the environment, but also helps to bring social acceptance and economic viability to the livestock industry.

Livestock pollution can originate from a number of mismanaged practices regardless of livestock species including the following: inadequately managed feedlots or barnyards, unprotected manure facilities, improper handling of manure, and, not containing or treating milking facility waste waters, silage leachate and other waste waters.

If a complaint situation arises regarding pollution of waters of the state from agricultural practices from sediment or manure runoff, the situation is investigated. If after the initial investigation a rule violation exists, a resolution and compliance deadline will be established.

If voluntary resolution of the complaint cannot be accomplished at the local level and the complaint persists, the next tier of the complaint process invokes an ODNR-DSWC, Chief's Order and, potentially, involvement by the Attorney General's office.