USDA Programs Focusing on Water
Virtual Meetings 101

- This event is being recorded.
- The recording will be available later today at
  https://csgmidwest.org/events-past/ and at
  https://greatlakeslegislators.org/
- All lines will be muted while our speakers are talking
- To ask a question:
  - Under “participants,” click “raise hand”
  - Type into the “chat” pane
  - Or just unmute yourself and ask a question
Agenda

Welcome and Introductions
Indiana Representative David Abbott,
Task Force on Nutrient Management

USDA Funding Focused on Water
Each of the cluster categories represents farm types that are similar in terms of commodities produced, farm resources, and employment and income on- and off-farm. Eastern and southeastern states are characterized by smaller, more diverse production activities (e.g., mixed dairy, woodlots, specialty crops) than those in the Midwest and Northern Plains.

LEGEND
- Red: Corn, Soybeans, Hogs
- Yellow: Poultry
- Teal: Dairy
- Dark blue: Cattle, Wheat, Sorghum
- Blue: Tobacco
- Orange: Part-time Cattle
- Green: Fruit
- Pink: Other Crops
- Green: Vegetables, Nursery Products
- Green: Wheat, Oats, Other Grains
- Pink: Cotton
- Brown: Sheep, Oats, Other Livestock
- Blue: Sheep, Cattle, Other Livestock
- Gray: Insufficient Data

Source:
USDA Economic Research Service, Diversity in U.S. Agriculture
**Speaker – Lori Ziehr– Acting Ohio State Conservationist**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is pleased to announce Lori Ziehr as the Acting Ohio State Conservationist. Ziehr comes to Ohio from Texas where she serves as the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. During her 23 years with NRCS, Ziehr has served in technical positions such as rangeland management specialist and agronomist, in addition to technology and leadership positions. She also served as Acting ASTC for Management and Strategy in Louisiana and Acting State Conservationist in Montana.
NRCS Programs and Opportunities

Lori Ziehr, Acting Ohio State Conservationist
Summary

- Scope of Issue
- NRCS Strategy & Practices
- NRCS Program Implementation & Successes
- Future Opportunities
Scope of Issue

- Recreation
- Economy
- Drinking Water
- Wildlife Habitat
- Economy
- Drinking Water
- Wildlife Habitat
NRCS Role

Land Treatment Strategy
Science-Based
Systematic
Targeted
Adaptive
NRCS Nutrient Load Reduction Strategies

**AVOID**
- Avoid loss of nutrients by ensuring placement at the right time, rate, place & with the right source

**CONTROL**
- Control movement of nutrients and water off fields through residue, tillage & drainage management

**TRAP**
- Trap nutrients and water at edges of field with buffers, wetlands and other practices

oh.nrcs.usda.gov/
NRCS ACT Principles

- Erosion Control
- Nutrient Management
- Water Management
- Soil Health
Erosion Control Practices

- No-Till & Strip Till
- Cover Crops
- Grass Waterways
- Erosion Control Structures
- Critical Area Planting
Nutrient Management Practices

- NRCS Nutrient Management Standard
- Subsurface Placement
- Phosphorus Removal Structures
Water Management Practices

- Wetlands
- Grass Filter Strips
- Two-Stage Ditches
- Drainage Water Management
Soil Health Practices

- Cover Crops
- No-Till & Strip Till
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- NRCS Nutrient Management Standard
Voluntary Land Treatment Strategy

Science-Based
Systematic
Targeted
Adaptive
Science-Based: Edge-Of-Field Research

Determines conservation practice effectiveness

Operating since 2005

oh.nrcs.usda.gov/
Science-Based: Watershed-Level Research

Model Predicts Changes for
- Sediment
- Total Phosphorus
- Nitrogen
- Soil Carbon
Regulatory Certainty

Nearly 2/3 of all federally listed species exist on private land.

If producers maintain conservation practices, lands remain ESA compliant for up to 30 years.
Partnerships: Demonstration Farms

Barry Bubolz, NRCS DC & Derek Van De Hay, a farmer in the Lower Fox Demonstration Farm Network.
Partnerships

Generates
Awareness
Adoption
Advocates

oh.nrcs.usda.gov/
NRCS Program Successes
EQIP CIG

Rid-All Foundation

Urban Farm & Education Center

2020 CIG Award to teach urban agriculture

Aquaponics, start-ups, & anaerobic digestion

oh.nrcs.usda.gov/
Mission:
Source water protection to protect public health

NRCS dedicated 10% of funds to protect drinking water sources

Work with EPA & state water utilities to target funding

oh.nrcs.usda.gov/
GLRI

By the Numbers:

- 2,880 conservation contracts
- $125M in financial assistance
- +654,000 acres
- +1.5M pound reduction of phosphorus in targeted areas

oh.nrcs.usda.gov/
GLRI Successes

God’s Country Creamery

Utilized NRCS for Nutrient Control

Practices included a waste storage facility, nutrient management, structure for water control

oh.nrcs.usda.gov/
WLEB Initiative

By the Numbers:

2,609 conservation contracts

$88.5M in financial assistance

755,105,875 acres
WLEB Successes

Clint Rodabaugh

Utilized NRCS to install erosion control practices

Practices included: cover crops, nutrient management, grassed waterways
CSP

Natural Resources Conservation Service
New enrollment option

Offers flexibility in directing funds to cover new suite of conservation practices

Creates access to enhancements to treat resource concerns and improve conservation performance
Easements
RCPP
RCPP
Continuing to Innovate
Informed Education & Outreach
Leveraging Layered Partnership Resources
Questions? Comments?

- Under participants click “raise hand” and unmute your line when we announce your name.

- Type your question in the chat pane to be read by staff or have staff call on you.

- Just unmute yourself and ask a question.
Thank you to our sponsors!

The Joyce Foundation

Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation