



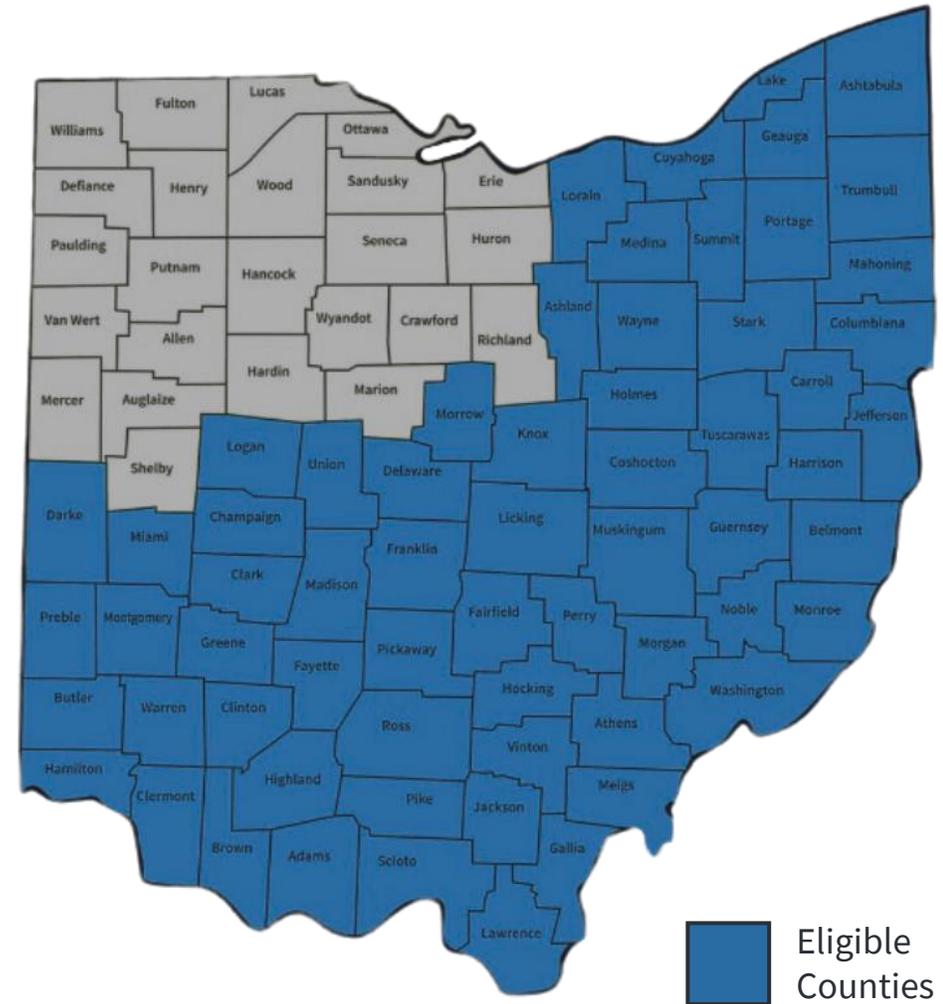
SWCD CONSERVATION PILOT PROGRAM

OFSWCD Annual Partnership Meeting

February 10, 2026

PILOT PROGRAM CONCEPT

- Funding for locally led, water quality-focused projects
- Projects proposed and led by Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
 - 64 statewide SWCDs are eligible
- Expansion of H2Ohio program footprint to non-row crop agricultural landscapes, focusing on pasture and hayland



PILOT PROGRAM GOALS

- Expand the experience and ability of SWCDs to deliver conservation programs
- Develop and evaluate water quality improvement approaches on Ohio's varied agricultural landscapes, considering potential larger scale delivery in the future
- Address nonpoint source phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment pollution through agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation



ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

- Water quality improvement practices not currently or previously funded by H2Ohio
- Focus on **pasture** and **hayland** practices
- Examples: livestock exclusion, stream crossing, alternative watering, manure management



AVAILABLE FUNDING

Total Available: \$2 million

Maximum Award: \$250,000 per proposal

Number of Awards: 8-12 SWCDs



APPLICATION PERIOD

February 9 – May 1, 2026

- Awardees notified by May 15, 2026
- SWCDs should discuss project proposals with Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) staff in advance
- DSWC staff will assist and support SWCD applicants



PROJECT PERIOD

Agreement Execution Deadline	September 11, 2026
Funds distributed	September 14-18, 2026
Project Start Date	October 1, 2026
Project Duration	Up to 5 years -- Starting in 2026
Latest Project End Date	September 29, 2031

MATCHING FUNDS



- Not required, but strongly encouraged
- Matching funds and in-kind support will be considered in proposal scoring

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

- 100% of project funding will support producer cost-share for BMP implementation
- Awardee administrative costs will instead be supported through separate H2Ohio technical assistance awards
 - Up to 20% of total project cost