



The Huron Soil and Water Conservation District (Huron S.W.C.D.), has begun to administer the four year, **Huron-Vermilion River Watershed** "North Central Ohio Sediment Reduction Project". The objective is to reimburse eligible producers in the watershed for installing 15,500 acres of winter cover crops, 10 acres of grassed waterways, and 250 acres of filter strip to reduce erosion and phosphorus loading. \$593,300.00 cost share dollars are available to parts of Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Richland, and Seneca Counties. Interested producers should contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or the Huron S.W.C.D. at 419-668-4113 ext. #3 for an application.

It is advised to check with the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and your crop insurance agent to avoid program conflicts or affects to crop base, cropping history, or crop insurance as a result of participating in the "North Central Ohio Sediment Reduction Project"

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North Central Ohio Sediment Reduction Project

Taking applications
Now!



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NORWALK, OH 44857

PHONE: 419-668-4113 #3

FAX: 419-663-8405

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"An Equal Opportunity Provider
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COVER CROPS

- Improve soil quality
- Improve fertility by adding nitrogen
- Suppress weeds and disease
- Insect control

[Managing Cover Crops Profitability by SARE](#)

EROSION PROTECTION

A cover crop can slow the action of moving water, reducing its soil carrying capacity by creating an obstacle course of leaves, stems, and roots through which the water must maneuver on its way downhill. It can increase the soil's ability to absorb and hold water, through improvement in poor structure, thereby preventing large quantities of water from moving across the soil surface. It can help stabilize soil particles in the cover crop root system.

ORGANIC MATTER ADDITIONS

The benefits of organic matter include improved soil structure, increased infiltrations, and water holding capacity, and more efficient long term storage of nutrients

COVER CROPS HELP GLUE SOIL

When microorganisms digest plant material, their by product of complex sugars act as glues to cement soil particles into clusters or aggregates. A well aggregated soil has good aeration and are less prone to compaction

NITROGEN (N)

Cover crop legumes with the help of rhizobial bacteria can add N to enrich soil. It is one of nature's gifts. N-fixation is used efficiently in natural ecosystems as a result of soil's complex interaction of physical, chemical, and biological process. Soil and crop management can interfere with soil's natural ability to fix N.

PHOSPHORUS (P)

Some cover crops enhance P. The roots of many common cover crops house beneficial fungi that have efficient means of absorbing P from the soil and help tap more P from the soil. Cover crops help retain P by reducing erosion.

Calcium and Potassium (K)

Cover crops help bring other nutrients back into the upper soil profile from deep soil layers. Calcium and potassium have a tendency to travel with water. These nutrients can be brought up from deeper soil layers by deep rooted cover crop and released back into the organic matter when the cover crop dies or decomposes.

Other Benefits

Cover crops like sweet clover and forage radish can penetrate and break up compacted soils. Cover crops increase the total numbers and diversity of soil organisms which is key to a healthy soil. Crop rotations that include cover crops tend to reduce pest concerns. Cover crops aid in drying out and warming the soils during cold, wet seasons.

Maximum 300 acres per operation per year up to 3 years. Cost share rate through the grant is \$28.00 per acre.

GRASSED WATERWAYS

A grassed waterway is a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established with suitable vegetation to convey runoff from water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding, to reduce gully erosion, and to improve or protect water quality. *Up to 100% cost share of eligible components based on approved allocation through the grant.*

FILTER STRIPS

A filter strip is defined as an area of grass like cool season grass or other vegetation like alfalfa used to reduce sediment, organics, nutrients, pesticides, and other contaminants from runoff from contaminant sources like crop fields.

The strips may be hayed. Maximum of 15 acres per operation through the grant. Eligible widths: 20' to 300'. Cost share is \$300.00 per acre. For more information, contact your local S.W.C.D. listed below.

Ashland SWCD	419-281-7645
Crawford SWCD	419-562-8280
Erie SWCD	419-626-5211
Huron SWCD	419-668-4113 #3
Lorain SWCD	440-326-5800
Richland SWCD	419-747-8686
Seneca SWCD	419-447-7073