

## **H2Ohio Guidance**

### **When is a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Required?**

Nutrient Management Plans are the foundation for the practices offered through ODA's H2Ohio Program. Most program participants will be able to use the Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans to complete program requirements. Livestock producers who produce a significant amount of manure in their operations will be required to develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). A CNMP is not required for producers that have a few head of livestock for junior fair projects or freezer meat. This guidance document details when a CNMP is required to meet H2Ohio program requirements.

Operations that produce more than 350 tons of manure, or more than 100,000 gallons of liquid manure annually are required to develop a CNMP. An assessment of manure produced should be completed using manure production values from the Animal Waste Management software used to size manure storage structures or the Manure Management Planner software used to develop CNMP's to estimate annual manure production from the farm.

Operations producing less than 350 tons, or 100,000 gallons of manure annually must be assessed to determine the need for a CNMP. Current soil tests and livestock production facilities will be used to determine if a CNMP is needed for these operations.

Current soil tests must be reviewed to assess the operation's ability to utilize nutrients produced at the farm. Soil tests are an excellent indicator of historical nutrient management practices. High soil test levels indicate prolonged periods of nutrient application in excess of crop needs. Livestock farms with high soil tests levels often have insufficient cropland to utilize manure nutrients generated on the farm. Livestock producers with the majority of their cropland acres with soil test phosphorus levels at or above 50 ppm Bray P1 soil test (70 ppm M-III) must develop a CNMP to be eligible for H2Ohio programs.

The Division of Soil & Water Conservation wants to minimize the possibility of an H2Ohio program participant generating a valid pollution complaint. To minimize this potential, a site visit to the livestock production facilities must be completed. Program participants with potential violations of Ohio's Agricultural Pollution Abatement Rules at their livestock production facilities should also develop a CNMP to be eligible for H2Ohio programs.

Lastly, there are livestock operations that are required by Ohio Revised Code and/or Ohio Administrative Code to develop, maintain, and implement nutrient management plans. For these operations, H2Ohio incentives will not be dedicated to the development or implementation of nutrient management plans since the state of Ohio already requires these plans to be in place. Livestock producers meeting the Distressed Watershed Rules currently in place for the Grand Lake St. Marys Watershed and livestock operations required to maintain a permit under ODA's Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting Program are not eligible for incentives under the VNMP practice. However, these producers are eligible to participate and receive incentives under all of the remaining practices offered through H2Ohio.