

Working Lands Buffer Program Producer Agreement

Project Name: _____
example: (WLBP last name, first name, county)

To: Chairman of the _____ Soil and Water Conservation
District (SWCD)

From: _____
(Entity or Name of Legal Adult)

I (we) the undersigned producer(s)/owner(s) of the real property request a cost share payment for enrollment into the Working Lands Buffer Program and agree to install the conservation Best Management Practice (BMP) as indicated below, to assist the State of Ohio, through the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) in attaining the goals and objectives of reducing phosphorus in the Western Lake Erie Basin. I (we) understand and agree that:

1. The technical representative of the Soil and Water Conservation District, herein after referred to as the "District," must certify that the practice(s) is complete and meets the required technical specifications set forth in the Criteria for Working Lands Buffer Seeding, Establishment, and Maintenance before any cost share payment will be made by the district.
2. Producer agrees and certifies by signature that these acres under this contract are not enrolled in any USDA Farm Bill program for the following offered practices.
3. Cost share payments are available only to producers who have completed this agreement for participation and agree to maintain the practice(s) as described. (See Criteria for Working Lands Buffer Seeding, Establishment, and Maintenance)
4. Producers must receive approval for participation by the District. After the practice(s) is approved by the District, the District will keep a copy of the approved agreement for its files and return a copy to the applicant(s).
5. When this agreement is approved by the local District office, and the producer has installed the practice(s), and the District representative has approved practice installation, the District office will then make a payment to the producer and request funding from ODA if needed.
6. All practices will be installed and completed within one crop year (Spring 2019 - Spring 2020) of District board approval.
7. The District must be notified if any substantial change is proposed for the practice(s) to be installed (i.e. starting/completion dates). The technical representative of the district must certify such changes as proper and reasonable.
8. Payments will be made on a flat per acre rate for working lands buffers.
9. The District shall monitor the maintenance of practice(s) established. The technical representative of the District and ODA shall have the right of ingress and egress to the land enrolled in this agreement for the purpose of fulfilling this agreement.

Obligation Worksheet

Practice	Cost Share Payment	Number of Acres	Total Payment (cost share x acres)	Previous Crop(s)/Landuse
Working Lands Buffer	\$600 Per Acre paid over a 5- year period			

I (we) understand that if I (we) destroy, alter, fail to operate and/or maintain the structural practice(s) for its designed life as per the BMP criteria, the District may recover the full amount of the cost-share payment.

Hereby agreed to by:

Signature(s) Owner of Real Property/Producer

Tax ID # or SSN

(Address)

(Phone)

This agreement has been reviewed by the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors on _____, and certified that the Landowner(s) is eligible for State funding under the Soil and Water Phosphorus Program for the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Signature/Chairman Board of Supervisors

Best Management Practices Criteria - Working Lands Buffer: Only acres converted from cropland to perennial vegetative cover will be considered eligible for this program. The maximum width eligible is 300 feet average. The minimum eligible width is 50 feet. Cost-share funding is authorized at a rate of \$600 per acre paid over a 5-year period. Practice must be maintained for 5 years from the date of practice installation. Forage plantings must include a minimum of 50% of cool season grass(es), with a minimum of 2 species in buffer planting. Cost share funding is not authorized for: Filter strips and field borders that were previously meadows, existing pasture and hayland, and ditch maintenance right of ways. Soil tests are required and must be submitted to the SWCD, if fertilizer application is requested or needed, before any payments can be made. Phosphorus fertilizer application is only permissible at the time of establishment, manure should not be used. Applications of nutrients shall be limited to the Criteria for Working Lands Buffer Seeding, Establishment, and Maintenance found in the Ohio Agronomy Guide 15th Ed. recommendations for legume-grass mixtures. Residual forage height must be a minimum of 4" height by September 15th each year and must be maintained during the non-growing season. The completed practice must meet Criteria for Working Lands Buffer Seeding, Establishment, and Maintenance.

**Working Lands Buffer Program
Verification Form**

Project Name: _____

Participant Phone Number or Contact Number _____

Review:

- _____ Acres of buffers established
- _____ Prior crop/land use meets criteria
- _____ Copy of seed tag provided
- _____ Project map completed
- _____ Soil test provided
- _____ Project created and mapped in Beehive

Species mix planted:

Species of Cool/Warm Season Grass: _____

Species of Legume: _____

Verification and Approval:

1st Year establishment _____
(name) (date)

Payment Years 1 & 2 _____
(date paid) (amount paid) (check #)

2nd Year verification _____
(name) (date)

3rd Year verification _____
(name) (date)

Payment Years 3 _____
(date paid) (amount paid) (check #)

4th Year verification _____
(name) (date)

Payment Years 4 _____
(date paid) (amount paid) (check #)

5th Year verification _____
(name) (date)

Payment Years 5 _____
(date paid) (amount paid) (check #)