

2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Farmers in the Honey Creek Watershed in Seneca, Crawford, and Huron Counties attended a field day in August featuring the CORE4 elements. The field day was made possible through an EQIP Education Grant provided by the Ohio State University Extension (OSUE). The watershed, a tributary of the Sandusky River and Lake Erie, is about 115,000 acres; 86 percent, or 95,000 acres, is devoted to agriculture. The area is beginning its third year as an USDA funded EQIP priority area. Farmers in the watershed are currently earning incentives to match nitrogen application rates to realistic crop yield goals and to modify herbicide usage by either reducing rates of pesticide usage or by substituting methodologies or chemistries. Agronomic practices are also used to implement CORE4 principles.

Speakers addressed the CORE4 topics of conservation buffer strips, conservation tillage, crop nutrient management, and weed and pest management. Dr. Robin Taylor of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) gave a presentation on new pesticide sprayer technology developed at OARDC. The technology enables reductions in the use of many contact herbicides, typically as much as 50 percent. Mr. Clark Hutson (OSUE) updated participants on weed and pest management, stressing the importance of crop and chemistry rotations. Dr. Steve Prochaska (OSUE) provided topical information on improving farm nutrient management, specifically stressing the importance of understanding critical soil test levels for crops grown and how resources are wasted when unneeded fertility is applied. Steve Davis (NRCS) gave the importance and benefits of conservation buffers in the Lake Erie Watershed and highlighted programs used to install buffers. Frank Gibbs (NRCS) spoke on the relationships between various forms of conservation tillage and soil quality.

Mr. Frank Lessister, editor and publisher of *No Till Farmer* magazine gave the keynote address on nine trends related to agriculture and conservation tillage.

Ohio Summary

Overview

In FY 2000 Ohio continued to utilize the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to provide technical, educational, and financial assistance to producers with serious natural resource concerns. This year Ohio has overwhelming interest in EQIP. Over 400 applications requesting \$3.7 million in Federal financial assistance were accepted. Thirty-six of these applicants were from Farmers with Limited Resources. Working through Ohio's State Technical Committee, 10 Conservation Priority Areas were designated to receive financial assistance in FY 2000.

Accomplishments

Of the 444 applications received 313 was accepted for conservation plan and contract development, obligating approximately \$2.2 million in Federal financial assistance. Approximately 75 percent of Ohio's funding were directed to 10 Conservation Priority Areas, and 10 percent to Farmers with Limited Resources.

Outlook

Additional funding would help provide needed financial incentives for producers to address critical natural resource concerns.

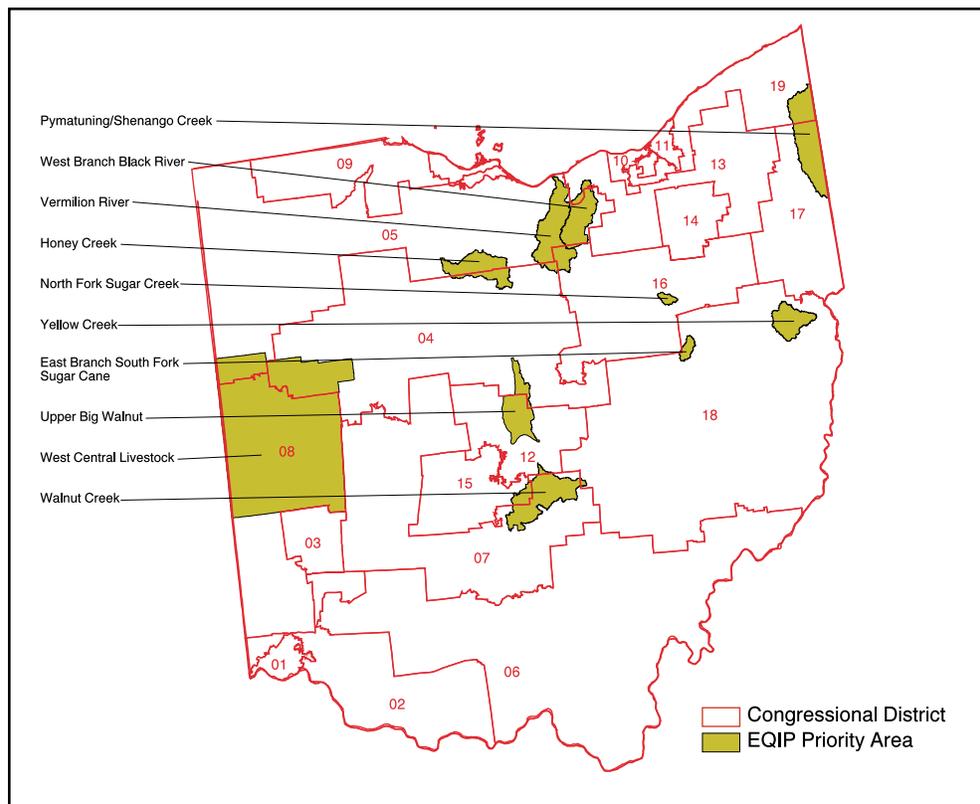
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Local farmers within the Honey Creek Watershed and in surrounding areas are implementing CORE4 principles.



Ohio EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Ohio EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$601,892	77	\$2,867,671	543
District 5	460,785	64	2,914,793	467
District 7	181,082	17	352,231	35
District 8	428,915	96	2,732,237	354
District 12	151,832	34	670,292	257
District 16	10,868	1	10,868	1
District 17	81,200	5	180,892	9
District 18	249,999	19	346,562	23
State Totals	\$2,166,573	313	\$10,075,546	1,689

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas, which may include more than one district

Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns, which can be in any Congressional District in the state

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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