

Respondent:

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Question From Summit Or From Audience Cards	Response
Explain erosion levels and what the Lake will accept – hold?	Erosion levels are generally related to T or Tolerable Soil loss. This is the amount of erosion in tons per acre per year that a soil can endure and still remain productive
What about ‘T’ level – will the Lake ‘process’ ‘T’?	In many cases erosion needs to be reduced below T to meet water quality goals.
Can you explain the incentives that are already in place for landowners to perform BMPs?	There are numerous Federal and State Cost Share programs. These assist farmers with the part of the cost of installing many kinds of erosion control and water quality practices.
How do T levels affect USDA benefits – IE HEL determinations and eligibility	T levels classify whether the land is considered Highly Erodible. If land is highly erodible, erosion control practices must be installed to reduce erosion to a tolerable level before the land is eligible for USDA program benefits.
What is a CNMP – Who can write?	A CNMP is a comprehensive Nutrient and Manure Management Plan. It can be written by anyone who has taken the special training needed to be certified by USDA to write these plans.
Can the writing of a CNMP be cost shared? How?	Yes, in Ohio NRCS offers cost share incentive payment to farmers for the cost of developing one of these plans.
What does a CNMP do for a producer if they follow it to the letter?	It helps them with an “affirmative defense” if there is a complaint lodged against them under Ohio’s State Pollution Abatement Program.
Explain mission of NRCS. Are they regulatory?	NRCS works with voluntary participants and does not have regulatory authority.
What’s in it for a farmer to take acres of land out of production and put it into filter strips?	Many farmers in Ohio have enrolled land so there must be benefits. Most have found that the CRP rental payments offset any economic losses due to loss of crop production, that the filter strips offer farming conveniences, and that they are viewed as doing their part for conservation.

<p>Because of the animal numbers and farmland acres why can't farmers enroll in a program that will pay them to move their hay fields along open water courses and allow them to harvest hay? The payment would serve as a reimbursement for the farmers inconvenience of small, strip hay fields and yet provide a conservation benefit that otherwise would not be enrolled into CRP.</p>	<p>This is a good idea. To date no federal or state program has been established that allows this. Some locally funded programs have operated this way.</p>
<p>How do land tenants talk their land lords into putting CRP filter strips in that pay \$90 - \$130 when they could rent the land to their tenant or another less conservative tenant for \$140 - \$200?</p>	<p>Good question. CRP rental rates are supposed to reflect the value of the land for crop production. If this is the case maybe rental rates haven't been properly set or the cropland rent doesn't really reflect what the land can produce.</p>
<p>I noted the mention of CRP for reduction of soil load in the water, mainly in the effort to slow the lakes in fill. Why isn't WRP combined with flood plain restrictions to slow the water after it leaves the lake (Beaver Creek & Wabash) to reduce (through dry dam & active wetlands) both/all sediment & pollutant loads? (tertiary or even primary in this instance type treatment before reaching the Wabash)</p>	<p>WRP is a voluntary incentive program. NRCS could do some of this if there were landowners who were interested in doing this.</p>
<p>What support is being considered or generated for new procedures to minimize nutrient loading? Such as modified drainage tiles (to allow for actively changing water level and thus keep nitrogen in the soil until it breaks down further).</p>	<p>NRCS nationally and also Ohio NRCS recently allocated significant grant funding to OSU and ARS to develop numerous controlled drainage demonstration and research projects in Ohio. This project is underway and the project sponsors are looking for sites to do work of demonstrating the benefits of these practices.</p>
<p>If all producers in the watershed were following a CNMP, would the water quality be acceptable?</p>	<p>Water quality would certainly be much better than it is today. Extensive watershed modeling work would be needed to predict the exact post project water quality level.</p>