

## Cost Share Program

Soil Sampling and VRT application for site specific nutrient placement:

- ◆ Pay \$7.00 per acre for grid sampling and VRT fertilizing
- ◆ Maximum acres – 160 Acres
- ◆ Farm has no prior history of grid soil sampling

Soil Sampling for improved nutrient and yield management:

- ◆ Pay \$4.00 per acre for grid based soil sampling
- ◆ Maximum acres – 160 acres per producer
- ◆ Farm with no prior history of grid sampling
- ◆ Document how information was used to manage fertility, manure, yield goals etc.

Establish demonstration sites for tile outlet control structures to reduce N discharge:

- ◆ Maximum of 5 sites
- ◆ District will pay for the structure if landowner installs and manages to NRCS specs
- ◆ Landowner agrees to host a field workshop or speak at a workshop

Tissue sampling to determine side dress rates

- ◆ Pay for CCA or producer to review field, take samples, complete testing and make recommendations
- ◆ A producer may apply once a year for this program and no more than three years
- ◆ Financial assistance will be a flat rate of \$250 per producer

**Contact  
Information**

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation  
1155 South 10th Street  
317-773-1406 or 773-2181



## Agricultural Stewardship Initiative

*sponsored by*

**Hamilton County  
Soil And Water Conservation District**



3 New Program Elements– Soil Management, Nitrogen Management and Pollution Prevention

### **Purpose of Agricultural Stewardship Initiative**

The purpose of Agricultural Stewardship Initiative is to improve or maintain soil and water quality, reduce sedimentation and nutrient loading by implementing conservation land treatment and pollution prevention practices. When and where possible this program will introduce or encourage the implementation of conservation practices that have an environmental benefit with an increased economic return for the producer.

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## ASI Goals

### Soil Management

Information gathered from soils data through maps or onsite testing can provide useful information for crop management and environmental protection. We will encourage the collection and management of soil data.

- ◆ The use of grid soil sampling for site specific nutrient application
- ◆ Track percent of organic matter as an indicator of productivity
- ◆ Recommend the variable rate application of lime based on pH levels while monitoring Ca:Mg ratios
- ◆ Recommend the optimum soil types to side dress
- ◆ Adjust yield goals and fertility rates based on soils information and soil tests
- ◆ Promote the benefits of tile and surface drainage
- ◆ Provide education about the installation of tile and surface drainage

### Nitrogen Management

The proper management of plant nutrients is important for good yields and the protection of our soil and water resources. Techniques are needed to reduce the loss of these nutrients. Benefits include improved water quality and reduced expense for fertilizer.

- ◆ Promote the use of tissue sampling for side dress N application
- ◆ Provide information about the utilization and management of tile control structures
- ◆ Promote the use of cover crops to store and release nutrients

### Pollution Prevention

Farmers are individual users of a large quantity of hazardous materials, fuels, oils and pesticides. It is important to properly store, handle and utilize the materials to prevent harm to the environment.

- ◆ Provide information about current regulations
- ◆ Provide updates on new regulations
- ◆ Provide information about storage, handling and utilization of hazardous materials
- ◆ Research the possible methods to recycle or dispose of empty containers

### Individual Assistance

Staff will assist individual producers to implement these and other traditional conservation practices. We will continue to assist NRCS, FSA and IDNR with the promotion and utilization of conservation programs.

## ASI Education Program

### Tip Sheets

#### Pollution prevention

Storage, Site Planning/Containment, Handling, Utilization, Container Recycling/Disposal and Regulations

#### Drainage

Operation of Tile Control Structure, Tile Installation Guide, Surface Water Management and Laws

#### Soils

Benefits of Grid Soil Sampling, Soil Health – & other topics

#### Nutrient Management

Protocol for Tissue Sampling, Application of Anhydrous Ammonium, Application of Liquid N, Cover Crops, RTK/ Auto Steer or Light Bar System.

### Long Term Field Trials

Cover Crops and Tile Control Structures

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