

News From:
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie



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**OHIO TAXPAYERS PAY \$23.5 MILLION MORE SUBSIDIZING ANIMALS FACTORIES
TO MAKE LAKE ERIE WORSE**

A new farm subsidy program that environmentalists say will worsen harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie, will be explained tonight at Wood Soil and Water Conservation Service (SWCS) meeting, 6:00pm meeting, 8699 S. Dixie Hwy., in Rudolph, Ohio. SWCS is an agency of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

The “Ohio Working Lands Small Grains Program,” part of Ohio SB 299 passed last year, encourages grain farmers to plant cover crops and get up to \$75 per acre if they apply manure up to **ten times** what's considered the proper "agronomic" rate of 15 parts per million (ppm) of Phosphorus recommended by [Ohio State University](#). *

Environmentalists claim the \$23.5 million plan has four major problems:

1. It will increase the amount of excess nutrients, animal waste and antibiotic-resistant bacteria going into Lake Erie
2. Subsidizes only farmers who use manure from hog, dairy and poultry factories but not those using commercial fertilizer which is applied more responsibly because it costs more
3. Allows winter application of manure on frozen ground that has a “growing crop.” Crops don’t grow in winter, they go dormant.
4. Violates the [ODA’s own rules](#) **

Vickie Askins, a Wood County resident and member of Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie (ACLE), said, “As a taxpayer, I’m outraged that the ODA is using our money to support privately-owned factory farms and fund the over-application of manure in our watershed. The [Ohio EPA confirms](#) *** that agriculture contributes 88% of the excess nutrients overwhelming Lake Erie and now the ODA wants to increase that amount and even worse, **have taxpayers pay for it!**”

Mike Ferner, ACLE coordinator, added, “This summer’s algal bloom will show what happens when hog, dairy and poultry factory operators control our environmental policies. Lake Erie is waiting for us to build a fire under Governor DeWine and legislators to stop funding programs that make matters worse – like the [\\$900 million fund](#) he introduced – and start holding polluters accountable.”

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* [Best Management Practices for Mitigating Phosphorus Loss from Agricultural Soils](#) Robert Mullen, Keith Diedrick, and David Henry (pg. 2)

** Ohio Admin. Code 901:10-2-14 [Contents of manure management plan: land application methods](#). (sec. E3d,e)

*** [Nutrient Mass Balance Study for Ohio’s Major Rivers](#), April 16, 2018 (pg. 24)