



OACI

Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative



[Who We Are]



The Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative (OACI) is an innovative, collaborative effort of the agricultural, conservation, environmental and research communities to improve water quality by establishing a baseline understanding of current conservation and nutrient management efforts and building farmer participation in a new certification program.

Membership



Ohio Environmental Council



OHIO SOYBEAN COUNCIL ✓



Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative

[Advisory Committee]



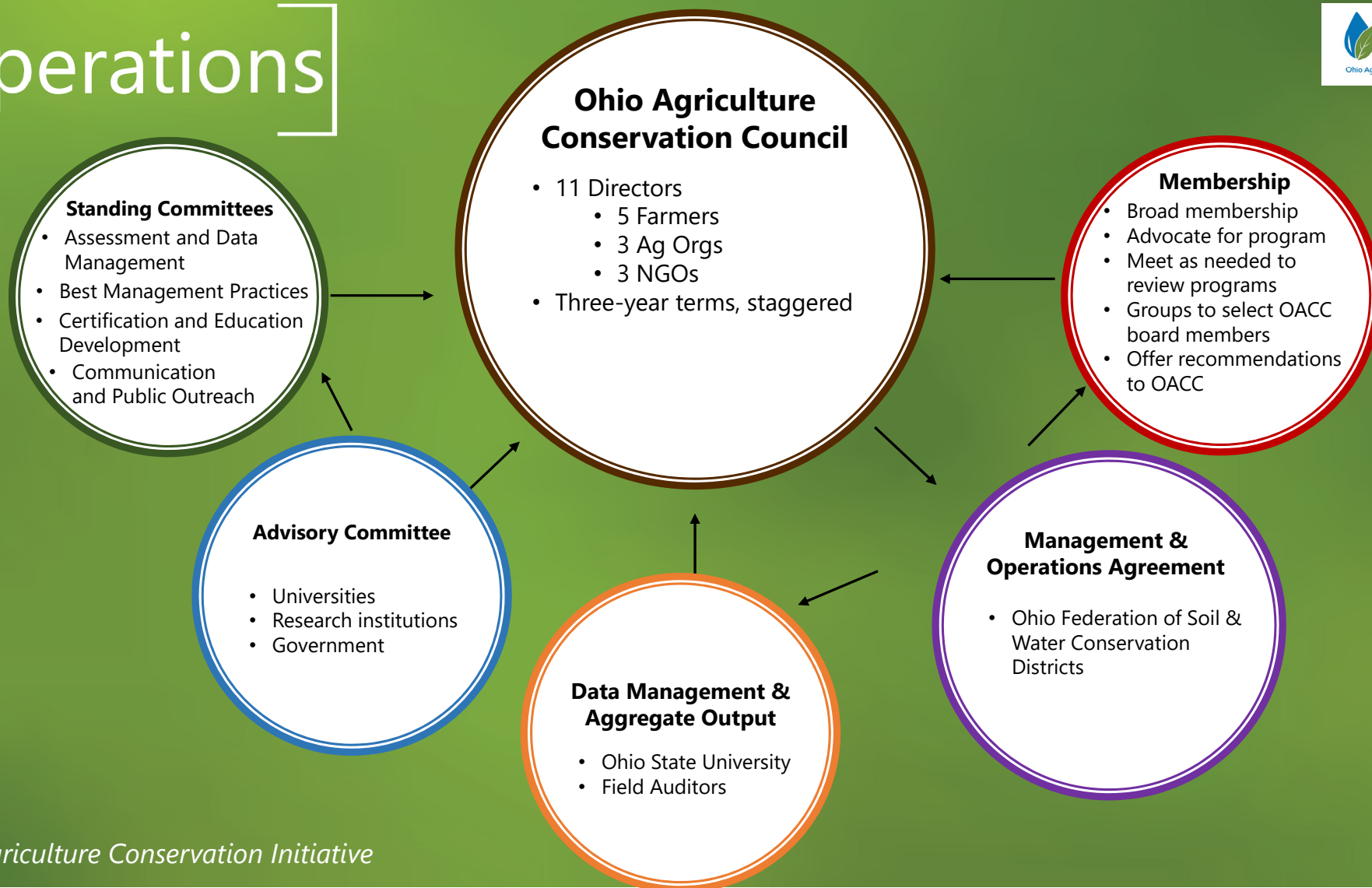
Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative

Mission



- **Bring together diverse stakeholders to improve Ohio's water quality through measurement, education, and certification of Ohio's farmers in the successful implementation of on-farm conservation and nutrient management practices**
- **Achieve meaningful improvement of water quality in Ohio, assure the future viability of Ohio agriculture, and build widespread participation of farmers**

Operations



Assessment



- **OACI surveys fields, not farmers (although farmers are part of the process).**
- **Pilot survey conducted in the Lower Maumee Watershed (HUC8).**
- **Identified 500 fields within HUC8 to be surveyed (expect 375 completed surveys).**
- **OACI contracted with Iowa Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (CSSM) for final survey design.**
- **Data will move from mobile app to cloud at OSU for aggregation and statistical analyses. Data will be kept confidential.**

Assessment



Practices & Considerations

- Land Tenure Arrangement
- Crop Rotation
- Soil Test Frequency
- Soil Test Intensity (Composite or Precision)
- Nutrient Recommendations
- Surface or Subsurface Placement (P and N)
- Fixed vs. Variable-rate Placement (P and N)
- Test Manure and Application Rate
- Tillage Practice
- Evidence of Erosion
- Cover Crop

Structural

- Blind Inlet
- Surface Inlet Buffers
- Grassed Waterways
- Alternative Ditch Design
(Natural Channel, 2-Stage, etc.)
- Controlled Drainage Structures
- P Filter/Bioreactor

	<i>Overflow</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Percent Complete</i>
<i>Defiance</i>	28	21	34	162%
<i>Fulton</i>	91	68	51	75%
<i>Hancock</i>	5	4	3	75%
<i>Henry</i>	255	191	272	142%
<i>Lucas</i>	28	21	13	62%
<i>Putnam</i>	31	23	28	122%
<i>Wood</i>	62	47	49	104%
	500	375	450	120%

HUC8 Map



Assessment – What's Next



HUC8	Region	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Lower Maumee	WLEB	X			X			X
Sandusky	WLEB		X			X		
Western Lake Erie Basin (whole)				X			X	
Scioto	Outside Basin		X			X		
Auglaize	WLEB			X			X	
Upper Great Miami	Outside Basin				X			X

[Certification]



- **Recognize farmers, on a whole farm level, who have adopted a high level of conservation practices**
- **Create a road map for adoption by increasing awareness, education and funding for farmers who wish to begin or strive for higher levels of conservation**
- **Farmers self-report farm information into mobile app**
- **Independent audit of certification requests (i.e., 15%)**
- **Program is administered by Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

Certification



- **Participants will be evaluated in the following categories: Soil Testing, Nutrient Application, Nutrient Placement, In-Field Management and Structural Practices**
- **Participant will record the number of acres involved in each scoring category**
- **Options within categories and rented vs. owned acres will be weighted differently**
- **Participant will be given a score for each category and an aggregated overall score that will determine their certification level**
- **Those not meeting minimum criteria for certification will be given tools to create action plan in order to become certified**

12:00

Farmer Profile

Address

City Zip Code

County(s)

Add County

Watershed(s) [Don't know your watershed, click here](#)

Add Watershed

Total Acres Farmed

Owned/Controlled	Rented
(Acres)	(Acres)

NMP ⓘ

NMP Complete

12:00

Farmer Profile

FACT ⓘ

FACT Complete

Nutrient Application

Frozen/Snow Covered Ground

Sensitive Areas ⓘ

Sensitive Areas Located and Mapped

Manure Storage ⓘ

Add Manure Storage

Cost Share(s) ⓘ

Add Cost Share

Cancel Save

Certification

Soil Test Frequency

Add number of acres that apply to each section

Owned

Owned Acres: 100

Requirement	Acres
I don't know	
No Soil Test	
More than 4 years	
3-4 years	
Every 2 years	

Rented

Rented Acres: 100

Requirement	Acres
I don't know	
No Soil Test	
More than 4 years	

Certification

Tillage

Add number of acres that apply to each section

Corn Acres: 200

Requirement	Acres
Conventional Till (min. residue, 6-12 in. deep till)	
Corn	
Conservation Till (over 30% residue, 1-6 in. deep till)	
Corn	
Strip-till (less than 6 in. wide)	
Corn	
No-till	
Corn	

Cover Crops

Certification

Cover Crops

Add number of acres that apply to each section

Owned

Owned Acres: 100

Requirement	Acres
No-cover crop	
100% Winter Kill	
Overwintering Mix	
Fall Seeded Grain	
Hay/Alfafa	

Rented

Rented Acres: 100

Requirement	Acres
No-cover crop	
100% Winter Kill	
Overwintering Mix	
Fall Seeded Grain	

Congratulations! You are now certified. You have passed with a score of 170.17/200

Certification passing score must be (126/200) or higher.

For further details on your score select the ^ to expand the section.



✓ Soil Test Frequency	(32/40)
Soil Testing Frequency	32 / 40
✓ Soil Test Intensity	(40/40)
Soil Test Intensity	40 / 40
✓ Nutrient Application RATE	(30/40)
Manure Application Recommendation	N/A
Biosolids Application Recommendation	N/A
Other Organic Nutrient Sources	N/A
Commerical Phosphorus Fertilizer Recommendations	33.33 / 40
Commerical Nitrogen Fertilizer Recommendations	26.67 / 40
✓ Nutrient Application PLACEMENT	(22.5/30)

[RETURN TO HOME](#)

[RETURN TO FARMER PROFILE](#)