

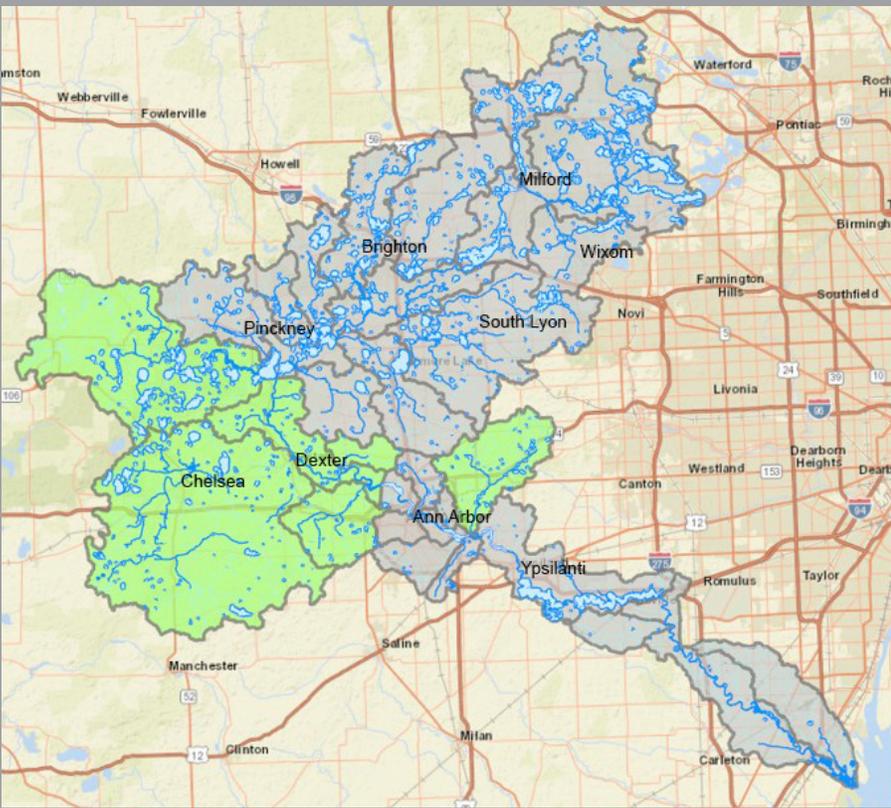
Grow a healthy business  
while improving water quality

# Whole Farms for Clean Water

**Get paid to reduce phosphorus runoff into the Huron River and Lake Erie with sustainable and profitable long-term conservation approaches that benefit your whole farm.**

Work with our farm consultants to explore flexible and cost-effective conservation techniques. Your farm and field data combined with our watershed-level nutrient and economic modeling will predict measurable reductions in phosphorus loss. A Whole Farm Plan will outline a strategy specific to your farm to maximize your payment, meet your business goals and protect water quality. You choose which techniques are best for you and get paid if and when you implement them.

## Huron River Watershed



Whole Farms for Clean Water Project Area in shown in green.

**Eligible farms that are in the project area and that are 25 acres or more can earn a *minimum of \$20 per acre.\****

Whole Farms for Clean Water is a project of the Huron River Watershed Council that aims to reduce overall agricultural sources of phosphorus and sediment entering the Huron River system and Lake Erie by 10.5 tons per year.

The project team works with farmers to identify the most effective techniques at reducing phosphorus losses for their farm—and then puts money directly in the pockets of those who make a positive impact in the watershed when they implement the techniques.

Payments are based on the amount of phosphorus loss reduced.



# Conservation Practices to Reduce Phosphorus Losses

We have found the following strategies to be the most effective across the watershed, resulting in higher payments from the project:

- Conversion to grassland (pasture and conservation)
- Buffer/filter strips
- Cover crops
- Reduced application rates of fertilizer
- Subsurface placement of phosphorus fertilizer

Our project team, including farm consultants and agronomists work with your farm and field-specific information. We use a model to predict measurable results for a variety of conservation practices. YOU choose which practices to implement and get paid for the amount of phosphorus loss you prevent.

## How to Enroll

**Step 1:** Sign up to schedule a pre-application phone call with a farm consultant at [www.hrwc.org/wholefarms](http://www.hrwc.org/wholefarms) under "how to sign up."

**Step 2:** After confirming that your farm is eligible (in the project area and at least 25 acres) we'll collect information about your farming operation and share estimated payments for some targeted conservation practices.

**Step 3:** If you would like to proceed, practices and payment amounts will be confirmed and we will prepare your Whole Farm Plan. You choose which techniques to pursue.

**Step 4:** A contract will be signed detailing all expectations, including the payment timeframe and practice commitment (at least one growing season).

**Step 5:** Payments will be sent following installation and verification of practices.

## Payment Rates

A guaranteed minimum payment of **\$20 per acre** for qualifying farms. The bigger your phosphorus loss reduction, the more you get paid!

*\*This offer applies to the first 1,000 acres that commit to carrying out recommended conservation practices. Funding is limited and available first come, first served.*

## Contact

Farm consulting is provided by Solutions in the Land (Ron Doetch) and ECT (Patrick Judd).

Questions? Ric Lawson, Huron River Watershed Council, (734) 769-5123 x 609, [rlawson@hrwc.org](mailto:rlawson@hrwc.org).

**For more information and to sign up for a pre-application phone call visit [www.hrwc.org/wholefarms](http://www.hrwc.org/wholefarms).**



The United States Environmental Protection Agency is providing financial support to the Whole Farms for Clean Water project in the amount of \$649,353.