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# News Release

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## Accepting Applications for Western Lake Erie Basin Funding

*Application Deadline is January 15, 2021*

**COLUMBUS, OH, Dec. 9, 2020** — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a funding opportunity for conservation assistance to Ohio agricultural producers in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). Application deadline for FY21 funding consideration is January 15, 2021.

The WLEB Special Project targets funding to obtain the greatest environmental benefits in two ways:

- Applications containing the most effective systems of conservation practices to address water quality concerns will be given a higher priority.
- Applications with land located within the WLEB that contain soils with a high risk for leaching or surface run-off, land with high soil test phosphorus levels, and land with direct drainage to tributaries within the Basin will receive priority over applications that do not address these conditions.

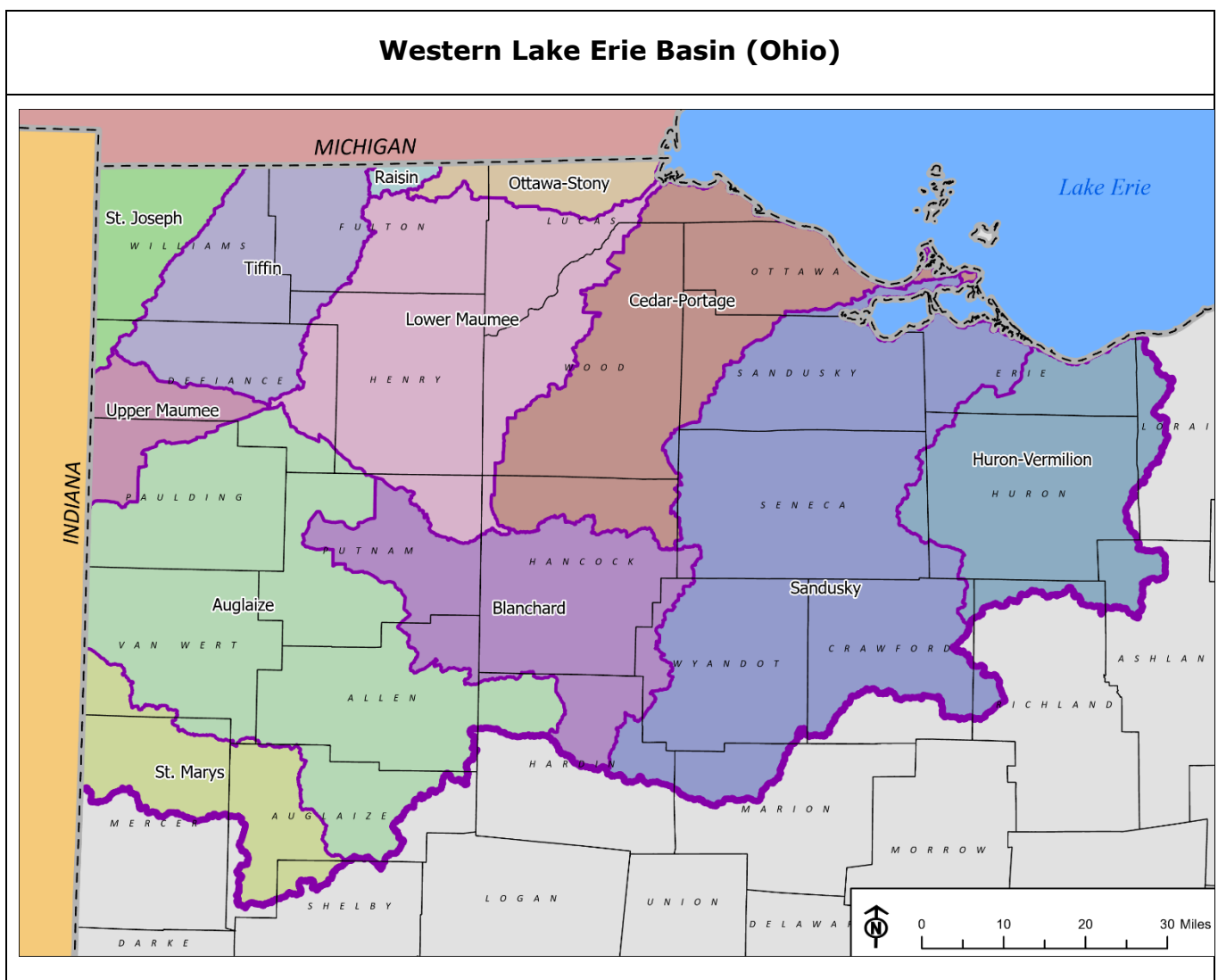
Ohio WLEB producers in Allen, Ashland, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lorain, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot Counties may apply (some counties have only a small area in the basin, see map below).

This project will utilize Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers protect the environment while promoting agricultural production. With EQIP, NRCS conservation experts provide technical assistance to implement environmentally beneficial conservation practices on working agricultural land.

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Individuals interested in applying for the WLEB Special Project should contact their [local NRCS conservationist](#) as soon as possible. Be sure to check the status of your Service Center when you reach out to us. For offices with restrictions on in-person appointments, we are still available by phone, email, and through other digital tools. Your Service Center's status is available at <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status>.

Applications signed and submitted to NRCS by the January 15 deadline will be evaluated for fiscal year 2021 funding. Visit Ohio NRCS website under "[EQIP Funding Categories](#)" for more details. To learn more about EQIP or other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS conservation programs, visit [Get Started with NRCS](#) or contact your local [USDA Service Center](#). In Sandusky County, contact Becky Duncan at 419-334-6330, extension 3.



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