Fence It. Pad It. Protect It.
Pike SWCD's Practical Solutions to Cleaner Water

Implementation

The program will be implemented in multiple phases, with Stage 1 serving as a mandatory foundational component for all participating producers, regardless of the additional practices they elect to implement.

Stage 1: (Beginning Spring 2027)

All selected producers will complete soil and forage testing (as applicable) and receive a pasture condition assessment. These evaluations are intended to establish baseline conditions and guide targeted improvements. An additional requirement of Stage 1 is participation in an educational workshop series hosted by Pike SWCD in partnership with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), The Ohio State University Extension, and Pheasants Forever.

Stage 2: (Beginning Spring 2028)

Upon successful completion of Stage 1, producers may elect to advance to Stage 2. This phase focuses on the implementation of structural and management practices, including:

- Fencing (interior, perimeter, and livestock exclusion) (Code 382)
- Water facilities and livestock pipeline systems (Code 614 and 516, respectively)
- Pasture and hay field improvements through inter-seeding (no land conversion) (Code 512)
- Stream Crossing (Code 578) Only available if exclusion fencing makes this practice necessary for livestock or equipment crossings. Not offered as a standalone practice. To support pasture improvement efforts, producers will have access to Pike SWCD no-till drills at a reduced rate, with no minimum rental fee and a cost of $1.00 per acre planted. Participation in Stage 2 practices is optional; however, all Stage 1 requirements must be completed prior to advancement. Producers may proceed to the next stage if Stage 2 practices are not applicable to their operation.

Stage 3: (Beginning Spring 2029)
Stage 3 represents the final implementation phase for additional conservation infrastructure. Practices included in this phase are: • Heavy-use area protection (gravel/geotextile pads) (code 561) • Access road improvements (code 560). Producers must complete all applicable practices from Stages 1 and 2 prior to entering Stage 3. However, producers may proceed directly to Stage 3 if Stage 2 practices are not relevant to their operation. In certain situations where available space to implement the practices is limited, Stage 3 could be implemented at the same time as Stage 2.

Stage 4: (Beginning Spring 2031)
Stage 4 serves as the evaluation and closeout phase of the program and is required for all participants, regardless of the level of prior implementation. This phase will include follow-up soil and forage sampling to assess improvements relative to baseline data collected in Stage 1. Results will be used to evaluate changes in soil health, nutrient management, and overall pasture condition. Additionally, each producer's Grazing Management Plan will be reviewed and updated to reflect implemented practices, operational changes, and opportunities for continued improvement. Final recommendations will be provided to support long-term conservation stewardship beyond the life of the program.