



Advisory Councils: *Speak Out*

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Regulations on nutrient management that have been proposed in the Grand Lake St. Marys Watershed could have ripple effects for farmers across Ohio. Consider the following issues:

1) Nutrient management plans provide a blueprint for how and when farmers will apply manure and fertilizer. If more farmers were required to develop and follow these plans, how would this affect members of your community? What are the potential positives and negatives?

2) What is the responsibility of individual farmers to manage nonpoint source pollution, such as farm runoff? Should the public help fund efforts to take land out of production and implement conservation practices such as buffer strips? What policy suggestions does your council have for dealing with nutrient management issues?

3) Regulations are often driven by public opinion. If farmers are already following best management practices on a voluntary basis, how can we assure the public that appropriate measures are being taken to protect the environment without additional regulation?