

**Ag Solutions and
the farmers who are
part of our group...**

- ...live and work in the same communities and care about protecting that quality of life;
- ...share the communities' concerns about Grand Lake St. Marys and the watershed;
- ...are committed to protecting the land, air and water in our local communities;
- ...are taking proactive steps to help address lake issues; and
- ...believe it is essential for area farmers to be part of the solution.



Ag Solutions welcomes all farmers in **Mercer, Darke and Auglaize** counties to attend our meetings and learn more.

Send your contact information to:

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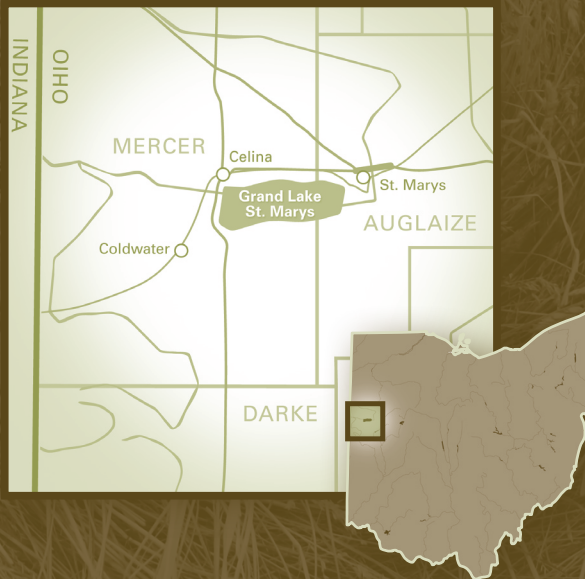
**Farmers working together
for effective solutions.**





AG Solutions

is a group of farmers who live and work in the Grand Lake St. Marys watershed area who have come together to seek effective, affordable *solutions* to the environmental issues impacting the lake while promoting growth and vitality in our farm communities.



Mission

To identify and eliminate, through the use of technology and environmentally sound farming practices, agricultural factors that are negatively affecting the environmental health of Grand Lake St. Marys, while also enhancing the vibrant, prosperous farming economy that is an integral part of the local community.

A Closer Look at Ag Solutions

Leadership

Our group was formed and is facilitated by the Marion Community Development Organization (MCDO), a 501(c)3 non-profit registered in Ohio that passed a resolution to represent all the farmers in the Grand Lake St. Marys watershed.

Transparency

All information, knowledge and developments generated by the group are available for public review. Our meetings are open to the general public.

Resources

Ag Solutions provides a point of contact for questions and feedback about farming issues in the watershed.

Innovation

Our intent is to embrace numerous technologies and approaches that offer complete or partial solutions, such as:

- Additives to isolate nutrients in the solids
- Chemical processes that remove phosphorus as struvite
- Composting
- Digesters
- Lagoons (aerobic and anaerobic)
- Membrane filtration
- Processes based on municipal waste treatment technologies
- Swine manure to asphalt or organic fertilizer
- Transporting manure to fields that can safely absorb it

Partnership

Our group is endorsed by all the lake organizations and is supported by the Lake Restoration Commission, as well as state organizations, including the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources, The Ohio State University Extension office, and the Mercer and Auglaize Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Communication

Regular monthly and sub-group meetings are held on an as-needed basis.

Education

Our commitment is to educate farmers about essential farming practices designed to absorb nutrients in soils and prevent them from leaching into waterways.

- A full-time Agriculture Extension agent, with a part-time assistant, has been assigned to assist watershed farmers in cover crop and minimum/no-till practices. These practices improve soil conditions, absorb excess nutrients, and prevent soil erosion.
- An On-Farm Network has been organized to provide a forum for farmers to learn best practices from science-based trials on their land. Test results from these trials are used to provide knowledge concerning what works and what doesn't. This network is being funded by a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Farmers are strongly encouraged to attend "Field Days" and other similar events to learn and see firsthand the benefits of cover crop and minimum/no-till practices.