

Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines



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General Program Information and Guidelines

Background

In 2003, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) began to develop a comprehensive program to provide technical assistance and funding for agricultural landowners in the Region of Peel to voluntarily implement agricultural best management practices (BMP's) on their land. With assistance from the following program partners and supporters, the Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP) was created in 2005:

- Region of Peel
- Great Lakes Sustainability Fund
- Peel Federation of Agriculture
- Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Program Principle

A voluntary, confidential, agriculturally-based program that promotes and supports the implementation of Best Management Practice projects that address:

- Rural water quality;
- Environmental enhancement and sustainability; and,
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Program Goals

- To provide technical and financial assistance to the agricultural community in the Region of Peel to achieve their environmental and stewardship goals;
- To protect agricultural lands as a natural resource of major importance in the Region of Peel;
- To support Region of Peel farmers and agricultural organizations as valuable contributors to the environment, community and economy of Peel;
- To promote healthy rural communities that respect the natural environment and water resources;
- To promote and facilitate the adoption of environmentally sound land management practices that protect, restore, and enhance surface and ground water, air and soil quality and/or fish and wildlife habitat in the Region of Peel; and,
- To seek partnerships with others invested in agri-environmental protection in order to leverage resources and obtain greater environmental impact for dollars spent.

Program Partner Roles

Approvals Committee:

The Peel Agriculture Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) acts as the Approvals Committee for all PRWQP project proposal applications as outlined in the Working Group's Terms of Reference. PAAWG consists of representatives from Region of Peel's agricultural organizations, rural interest groups, citizens at large, as well as representation from Region of Peel Council.

Region of Peel:

Region of Peel staff provide:

- An internal technical review of proposed projects;
- A recommendation based on the projects' conformity to the PRWQP guidelines; and,
- Administrative support and guidance to the Approvals Committee based on PAAWG's Terms of Reference.

Projects that fall within an identified Source Water Protection threat area are reviewed by the Region of Peel's Source Water Protection Risk Management Office to ensure that the project adheres to the Clean Water Act and Risk Management Plan for that property, if required.

Peel Rural Water Quality Program Staff:

Credit Valley Conservation and/or Toronto and Region Conservation provide technical support to PAAWG and landowners to assist by providing:

- Site visits;
- Landowner consultations; and,
- Education and outreach opportunities.

Grant Assistance

The following grants are available to farmers who implement projects to construct new structures, upgrade or repair existing structures (under certain circumstances), improve land and water resource management as part of their PRWQP project proposal application. A single farm property* may be eligible to receive grants under each category up to the category cap each calendar year (some exceptions apply).

**Note: A farm property refers to one or more contiguous parcels that are managed as a unit.*

For large projects that are planned to be implemented in phases, applicants are encouraged to present the complete project as well as the immediate phase that is requesting funds. Each phase of the project must provide a demonstrable

environmental improvement as determined by the Region of Peel and the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group. Applicants are encouraged to seek funding from other sources as grants may be combined. Total grants paid from the Peel Rural Water Quality Program in combination with funding from other sources cannot exceed 100% of the total project cost. Applicants are required to inform Program Staff if additional funding is secured.

Refer to Table 1 for a list of project categories and their associated grant rates and caps.

Table 1. Eligible projects, grant rates and grant caps.

| Eligible Project | Grant Rate | Grant Cap |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| Barnyard Runoff Control & Clean Water Diversion | 50% | \$12,000 |
| Cover Crops | \$40/acre for additional acres up to 300 acres ¹ | |
| Crop Nutrient Plan | 70% ² | \$3,000 ² |
| Education | 100% | \$1,500 ³ |
| Erosion Control Structures | 70% | \$10,000 |
| Forest Plantation Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management • Inventory, silvicultural prescription, marking and prescription implementation | 30% | \$500 |
| | 50% | \$6,000 |
| Fuel & Chemical Storage | 50% | \$3,500 |
| Integrated Pest Management | 50% | \$5,000 |
| Irrigation Management | 50% | \$10,000 |
| Livestock Fencing from Environmentally Sensitive Features | 80% ⁴ | \$20,000 |
| Manure Storage & Handling Systems and Composting Facilities | 50% ⁴ | \$30,000 ⁴ |
| Milkhouse Washwater Disposal | 50% | \$10,000 |
| Natural Area Enhancement & Creation | 100% | \$20,000 |
| Nutrient Management Plan | 70% ² | \$3,000 ² |
| Nutrient Management Strategy | 70% ² | \$2,000 ² |
| Private Well Abandonment | Offered through the Region of Peel | |
| Private Well Upgrade | 50% | \$3,000 |
| Silage Storage Enhancement & Relocation | 50% | \$18,000 |
| Tree Planting | 100% | \$10,000 |

1. Limited to a maximum of 50 ac/year/farm business and 300 ac/farm business over the life of the program
2. Rate and cap listed in table refer to first application. Reduced rate and cap will be applied to subsequent applications. See *Project Specific Information and Guidelines* for details.
3. Limited to once per year/organization
4. 100% grant rate will apply on materials only if installed by landowner.

How to Apply for Grants

1. Contact Program Staff to verify that your proposed project meets PRWQP guidelines and to arrange a site visit at your project location prior to project implementation. Program Staff can help provide and co-ordinate technical assistance to develop your project as well as provide guidance on current project eligibility.
2. Obtain a PRWQP project funding application from Program Staff.
3. Complete all sections of your PRWQP project funding application, sign the project funding application form and submit it with supporting documentation to Program Staff. Program Staff are available to assist you in this process.
4. Using the information gathered from your PRWQP project funding application, site visit, and communications Program Staff will develop an anonymous* project summary and circulate it to relevant Region of Peel Staff to review the project's technical components, adherence to the PRWQP guidelines, and its potential to achieve program goals. From this review Regional Staff will provide project recommendations to the Approvals Committee.
5. The Approvals Committee will evaluate the project based on its adherence to the PRWQP guidelines and on its potential to protect and improve environmental quality. The Approvals Committee has the option to approve, deny, defer and/or place conditions on funding. The Approvals Committee meets on a quarterly basis or as required.
6. Once the PRWQP project funding application has been reviewed and approved by the Approvals Committee, you will be notified by Program Staff to proceed with the project.
7. When the project is complete, paid for in full, and you have copies of all receipts and other pertinent documents (i.e. permits), notify Program Staff who will conduct a final site visit to confirm that the project has been completed as outlined in the project funding application.
8. Upon confirmation of completed Step #7 requirements, Program Staff will provide you with an expense claim form for you to complete, sign and submit. This may be done at your final site visit.
9. Your cost-share payment will be processed and sent to you via mail.

** Projects on properties within a vulnerable area, defined by the Clean Water Act, 2006, where sources of municipal drinking water may be at risk and which require a Risk Management Plan will be reviewed by the Region of Peel's Source Water Protection Risk Management Office. Property information, such as owner name and address, will be shared with the Risk Management Office during this review process. If the project is approved by both the Risk Management Office and the Approvals projects may be viewed as a higher priority for funding.*

Project Funding Application

PRWQP project funding applications are specific to each individual project category. Each application incorporates specific questions pertaining to that category and provides a place for you to describe the combination of best management practices and/or structures that your project will utilize. The application will also address how your project will protect, enhance and/or restore water, air and soil quality, and fish and wildlife habitat, and/or address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The project funding application includes:

- * Name and address information for Program Staff use.
- * Description of farm type and area farmed.
- * Information on current farming practices and relevant structures (e.g., manure storage).
- * Description of existing conditions and how the proposed project will improve the existing management practice.
- * Description of new structures, upgrades and/or enhancement of land resources required to improve environmental quality.
- * Supporting documentation such as engineered drawings, quotes from contractors, etc.
- * Photo documentation of conditions prior to project implementation.
- * Applicant's signature.

Please Note: Projects that propose repairs to existing agricultural infrastructure will generally not be accepted but may be considered on a project-by-project basis when program benefits can be demonstrated.

Program Eligibility

1. A grant to implement all or parts of a PRWQP project funding application may be paid to an individual applicant* who:
 - a) Is a resident of Ontario; and
 - b) Is a registered owner of the property** that:
 - i) Has a valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN); or
 - ii) Has a copy of a FBRN Religious Exemption letter obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Appeal Tribunal; and/or
 - iii) Has an income exemption from the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program (i.e., Start-up farm businesses, Business structure change, Not a normal production year, Age/Illness/Death of a spouse).

- * A partnership or corporation, controlled by Ontario residents, is considered to be one applicant and must meet all of the above conditions.
- ** Under this program, a person is deemed to be the owner of land if:
 - i) The person is the registered owner of the land and resides in the Province of Ontario for a minimum of 180 days per year: or
 - ii) The person leases the land for farming from the registered owner and has signed a lease that is satisfactory to Program staff.
- 2. Completes a current edition Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP).
- 3. The project must be located in the Region of Peel and protects, restores and/or enhances surface or ground water quality, air or soil quality, and/or fish and wildlife habitat in the Region of Peel.
- 4. Projects must meet all legal requirements including but not limited to:
 - Canada Farm Building Code
 - Conservation Acts
 - Ontario Building Code
 - Provincial Acts
 - Provincial and Regional highway setbacks
 - Regional and Municipal official plans and by-laws
- 5. The following costs are eligible for grant assistance:
 - Required permits.
 - Purchased materials and supplies.
 - Professional fees.
 - Fees for design, construction, and supervision. Renovations to existing structures must demonstrate a program benefit.
- 6. Innovative technologies and projects that do not fall within current project categories may be considered on a project-by-project basis and are subject to approval by Program Staff, Region of Peel and the Approvals Committee. Innovative technologies and projects must clearly demonstrate program benefits. For more information on what may or may not be considered an eligible innovative technology or project please contact Program Staff.
- 7. The Region of Peel, in consultation with the PRWQP partners, will review the eligible project categories and program guidelines from time to time and may alter these at its discretion.

Please note:

- *All approvals and permits are the responsibility of the applicant.*

- *The labour, machinery use and in-kind time of the applicant, the applicant's immediate family and the applicant's business are not an eligible cost.*

Limitations to Grant Availability

1. Grants are limited to properties in the Region of Peel, with a completed PRWQP project funding application, that have the potential to protect, enhance and/or restore environmental quality.
2. Grants are limited to enhancing and/or restoring water, air, soil or fish and wildlife habitat quality; or preventing water, air, soil or fish and wildlife habitat impairment on existing farms.
3. New operations, additions to the farmstead, new buildings or building expansions to increase herd capacity are not eligible under this program. An exception may apply for livestock fencing projects. A grant may be paid on a pro-rated basis for livestock operations only under the following circumstances:
 - In cases where the structure has been sized and constructed for an expanded operation, a simple arithmetic formula will be used. For example, a farmer currently has a herd of 50 dairy cows (including heifers and dry cows) and plans to expand to 75; the storage is sized and constructed for the 75-herd size. The eligible grant would be calculated based on 50/75 or 66% of the final cost of the project.
 - In cases where the herd size has not increased and where the structure has been constructed larger than that proposed in the approved PRWQP project proposal application and in excess of the 400-day program maximum, a simple arithmetic formula will be used. The volume of the approved structure will be divided by the volume of the structure constructed to arrive at the pro-rating factor.
4. Grants will not be paid to applicants who have been ordered to implement a project by a governing authority.
5. Grants will not be paid to support the purchase of farm equipment.
6. Any applicant who proceeds with a project before it has been approved by the Approvals Committee has no assurance that financial assistance will be provided.
7. An applicant must specify the program year in which the project will be completed. If the project cannot be completed within the specified year, the grant will not be paid. However, applicants may request, in writing, an extension from Program Staff.
8. Projects initiated and/or completed before April 1st of the previous program year are not eligible for funding. For completed projects applying for retro-

active funding, the Approvals Committee reserves the right to approve a project with conditions so that the maximum environmental benefit is ensured.

9. Funds will be allocated on a priority basis. Those projects with the higher potential for improving environmental quality will be considered first.
10. If the projects proposed in a single year exceed the annual budget, the Approvals Committee may restrict the number of grants available to meet local priorities and budgets. Applicants may apply again in the following year.
11. PRWQP grants may be combined with funding from external partners or alternative funding sources. Grants cannot exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform PRWQP Program Staff of additional cost share funding applied for and received.

Program Commitment

All PRWQP project funding applications include a Terms and Conditions section that outlines the project commitments. By signing the application, program participants agree to adhere to the Terms and Conditions.

Collection of Information

Personal information being collected under the authority of the PRWQP is being conducted for the purpose of providing project information as deemed required by PRWQP Program Staff, the Approvals Committee and program funding agencies, as well as for maintaining an application database of PRWQP projects. Personal information collected under the authority of the PRWQP will not be used or disclosed for purposes other than those for which it was collected, except with the consent of the individual, as required by law or for projects on properties that fall within Source Water Protection threat areas. The PRWQP is committed to maintaining your personal data confidentially with your safety and security as our number one priority.

Photos will be taken by Program Staff to document project development prior to, and upon completion of the project. These photos will be kept by Program Staff for reporting purposes to the Approvals Committee and funding agencies. Use of these photos by Program Staff for other purposes will require program participants' approval through the "Peel Rural Water Quality Program Participant Photography Release".

Although the Region of Peel, Credit Valley Conservation, Toronto and Region Conservation, Peel Agriculture Advisory Working Group, and other program partners may provide information regarding the applicant's PRWQP project funding application and the practices and structures contained in the application, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the practices and structures undertaken are suitable to the applicant's operation and are technically and structurally adequate.

The Region of Peel, Credit Valley Conservation, Toronto and Region Conservation, Peel Agriculture Advisory Working Group and other program partners are not liable for any loss arising from the use of any advice or information provided as part of or under this program.

Project Specific Information and Guidelines

In addition to the general program information and guidelines provided above, each project must adhere to the guidelines described in the project description and eligibility criteria.

Barnyard Runoff Control & Clean Water Diversion

Cost Share Rate: 50% up to \$12,000

Purpose

- To reduce the amount of contaminated runoff from manure storages and exercise yards by diverting clean rain and snow meltwater away from sources of contamination to a satisfactory outlet.
- To reduce the volume of stormwater runoff which helps prevent flooding and erosion and improves land management.

Eligible Projects

- Eavestroughs that direct water away from exercise yards and manure storage areas.
- Clean water diversion structures such as berms and ditches that direct clean water away from exercise yards or manure storage areas.
- Roofs on exercise yards.
- Any other permanent technique to keep rain and snow from becoming contaminated by manure or adding to the volume of contaminated runoff.
- Impermeable surfaces and curb walls (maximum height 0.6 metres above grade) on livestock yards or container nursery yards to direct runoff to storage or treatment areas.

Project Details

- Eavestroughs must be made of galvanized steel or material of similar or greater strength to reduce the risk of ice damage.
- Downpipes located where livestock can access them must be made of schedule 40 PVC (or stronger materials) and be well secured to prevent dislodging.
- All clean water diversion projects must discharge clean water away from any source of contamination and not pose other hazards such as soil erosion.
- Berms and ditches must be permanent and require little maintenance.
- If a new barn is constructed, funding eligibility will be pro-rated to the problem associated with the previous barn. For example:
 - In cases where the structure has been sized and constructed for an expanded operation, a simple arithmetic formula will be used. For example, a farmer currently has a herd of 50 dairy cows (including heifers and dry cows) and plans to expand to 75; the storage is sized and constructed for the 75 herd size. The eligible grant would be calculated based on 50/75 or 66% of the final cost of the project.

- In cases where the herd size has not increased and where the structure has been constructed larger than that proposed in the approved PRWQP project proposal application and in excess of the 400-day program maximum, a simple arithmetic formula will be used. The volume of the approved structure will be divided by the volume of the structure constructed to arrive at the pro-rating factor.

Eligible Costs

- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).
- Permits and engineering fees.
- Professional assessment of the surface and groundwater properties of the site and soil materials for the purpose of verifying that the project meets prescribed structural and environmental criteria.

Ineligible Costs

- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).
- Permits and engineering fees.
- Professional assessment of the surface and groundwater properties of the site and soil materials for the purpose of verifying that the project meets prescribed structural and environmental criteria.

Cover Crops

Cost Share: \$100/acre for the first 50 acres enrolled

Until December 31, 2026 - \$40/acre for subsequent acres up to a total of 300 acres

Purpose

- To promote the establishment and over-wintering of cover crops (living or dead), to help provide soil protection and reduce erosion to water features.
- To assist with the management of soil fertility, soil quality, water, pests, disease, biodiversity and wildlife in an agro-ecosystem.
- To protect groundwater by promoting biological nitrogen fixation.

Project Details

- The \$100/acre cost-share grant will apply to a maximum of 20 hectares (50 acres) per farm business number. For the life of the program.
- The \$40/acre cost-share grant will apply to a maximum of 102 hectares (250 acres) per farm business number for the life of the program.
- Farm businesses cannot apply for more than 20 hectares (50 acres) in a single application but are not required to apply for the entire 20 hectares (50 acres) in a single application. There is no minimum area per application.
- Priority will be given to areas directly adjacent to watercourses or with tile drainage.
- Applicant must register all potential fields and provide a crop rotation plan. Eligible fields may be owned or rented. In the case of rented fields, the grant will be paid to the tenant farmer.
- Crops may be tilled no sooner than April 1st of the year following planting (crops may be chemically destroyed the previous fall).
- Applicants are encouraged to consider planting multi-species cover crops to ensure adequate germination and residue coverage.
- Applicants are encouraged to consider the use of winter killed cover crops to reduce the necessity for additional herbicide applications.
- Cover crops must be destroyed before June 1st, unless applicant can demonstrate that the crop is not being maintained for commercial harvest. Cover crops maintained beyond June 1 to maximize the soil health benefits provided by the cover crop may be eligible.
- The cover crop must be verified by Program Staff. Applicants are responsible for contacting Program Staff prior to chemical destruction, winter freeze, or

tillage of cover crops to ensure that they are providing at least 50% ground cover.

- Cover crops that are grazed will be considered on a case-by-case basis, based on the crop rotation, stocking density, timing of grazing, topography and distance to surface water.
 - Payment for grazed cover crops will be reduced to 50% of the per acre grant, and the same maximum number of acres will apply (i.e., for grazed acres, grants may be awarded at a rate of \$50/acre for the first 50 acres enrolled, and \$20/acre for subsequent acres to a total of 300 acres).

Eligible Costs

- Cover crops seeded to provide winter cover (e.g., cereal rye, oats, clover or multi mixes).
- Crop consultant fees.

Ineligible Costs

- Purchase of equipment.
- On-going operating and capital costs.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.
- Crops that will be harvested (e.g, winter cereals and forages).
- Establishment of permanent or annual pastures.

Crop Nutrient Plan

Cost Share Rate: 70% up to \$3,000

Purpose

- To encourage the most effective use of available nutrient resources, optimize yields, and protect groundwater and surface water on cropping operations without livestock housing.

Eligible Projects

- A written crop nutrient plan covering at least one full crop rotation and a minimum of three years that describes the timing, source, placement, and rates of all applied nutrients.
- First time applications for Crop Nutrient Plans are eligible for 70% funding up to \$3,000.
- Second and subsequent applications for Crop Nutrient Plans, on the same property are eligible for 35% funding up to \$1,500.

Project Details

The Crop Nutrient Plan must outline, at a minimum, each of the following details on a per field basis:

- Soil sampling and analysis (including frequency of sampling, sampling plan, and soil test results that include organic matter, soil phosphorus, pH etc)) maps of fields showing locations of any sensitive features requiring management or setbacks;
- Crop rotation, acreage and soil type;
- Tillage practices for each crop;
- Timing, source, placement, and rates of all applied nutrients;
- Crop removal and the nutrient balance for each crop, including credits from legumes and/or manure;
- Fertilizer recommendations (for all inputs including organic amendments) for each crop; and,
- Management practices to reduce risk of nutrient loss.

The Crop Nutrient Plan may also include the following other eligible activities to support the development of the Crop Nutrient Plan:

- Manure sampling and analysis.
- Field profitability mapping services (one time).
- Plant tissue sampling and analysis.

Note: grants for Nutrient Management Plans and Crop Nutrient Plans cannot be combined for the same acreage within the same year(s).

Eligible Costs

- Soil and manure nutrient sampling and analysis by an accredited laboratory. A list of accredited laboratories can be found on OMAFRA’s website. www.omafra.gov.on.ca
- Professional fees for preparation of a written crop nutrient plan.

Ineligible Costs

- Crop scouting fees.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant’s family and/or the applicant’s business.

Education

Cost Share Rate: 100% up to \$1,500/year

Purpose

- To support educational initiatives that promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of surface and/or groundwater quality, air or soil quality and/or fish and wildlife habitat as promoted by the Peel Rural Water Quality Program.
- To provide support to an organization or collaborations that wish to educate or train agricultural producers on agri-environmental related subjects.

Eligible Projects

- Production of new materials (e.g., brochures, pamphlets, etc.).
- Reprints and distribution of existing materials.
- Development and implementation of events (e.g., workshops, farm tours, etc.).

Project Details

- Applicants* are eligible for one grant per year for educational initiatives. The Approvals Committee may consider additional project funding applications from one group if funds remain at the end of the Program year.
- Applicants* will provide a plan identifying the need for the initiative, the target audience, goals and objectives, draft content, distribution plan, itemized cost estimates, timeline, and potential or secured funding.
- The plan must demonstrate that the project is a priority in the context of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program.
- Applicants* are encouraged to seek multiple funding partners. Applicants must identify all funding (potential and received) from other partners or cost recovery aspects at the time of application.
- Applicants* are encouraged to develop materials and events that address the needs of various rural stakeholders including agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial.
- Projects must not duplicate the work being done or previously completed by other agencies or organizations. The Program will make use of existing educational materials and events whenever possible, providing that they adequately meet the objectives of the Program.
- Applicants* requesting funds for educational initiatives will not be required to complete a Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan.

- The Peel Rural Water Quality Program will not fund projects initiated by for-profit companies and organizations, government or government agencies and conservation authorities.
- The program will not fund projects targeted at audiences exclusively outside the Region of Peel.
- Successful applicants will consult with their local conservation authority (Credit Valley Conservation or Toronto and Region Conservation) on the final content and layout of publications and events to ensure that Peel Rural Water Quality Program objectives are met.

Eligible Costs

- Material costs.
- Professional/speaker fees.
- Translation.
- Printing costs.
- Rental of halls or equipment for events.
- Permits and approvals.
- Meals and non-alcoholic beverages.

Ineligible Costs

- Purchase of equipment.
- On-going operating and capital costs (e.g., costs associated with an annual general meeting).
- Individual courses that solely benefit a single farm business.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.
- Mileage.

** An 'applicant' represents the interests of their organization at its highest representative level within the Region of Peel. Therefore, individual applications, without the consent of their organization, will not be considered. Funding allocated to the applicant will be considered as funding to the entire organization and will be subject to the yearly grant maximum.*

Erosion Control Structures

Cost Share Rate: 70% up to \$10,000

Purpose

- To control soil erosion problems on farmland which impact surface water quality, air, or soil quality and/or fish and wildlife habitat.

Eligible Projects

- Grass waterways.
- Water and sediment control basins.
- Terraces.
- Streambank stabilization including:
 - Ditch bank seeding
 - Culvert protection
 - Bioengineering techniques
- Drop inlet structures.
- Machinery crossing

Project Details

- Obtaining funding for erosion control projects will be enhanced if conservation tillage practices are used on adjacent fields.
- Design by professional engineers may be advisable on complex and/or large projects. For such projects, construction activities shall be supervised by the engineer.
- Projects must be constructed to the standards specified in the OMAFRA Soil Erosion Manual.
- Applicants are responsible for obtaining approvals from appropriate agencies prior to construction. In addition, any work done on municipal drains also requires prior approval from the municipality.
- All collected water must be taken to a sufficient and legal outlet.

1. Field Erosion Control Measures

- Field erosion control measures shall be implemented where soil erosion presents an impact to local surface water quality.

- Structures should be properly engineered to withstand expected water volume and velocities. The landowner and their contractor/engineer will be responsible for the structural integrity of the construction project. Applicants may refer to OMAFRA factsheets for design information: www.omafra.gov.on.ca

2. Stream Bank Stabilization

- The following stream bank stabilization structures and practices will be allowed where erosion problems exist:
 - Stream Bank/Riparian Zone Planting:
 - To establish a vigorous vegetative cover.
 - Planting of native trees and shrubs. If seeding, seeding should only take place when sufficient moisture is present, and the ditch bank is rough enough to hold the seed.
 - Channel Protection:
 - To protect the channel from erosion and scouring at locations where sod is not sufficient.
 - Options may include bioengineering, rock, rip rap over filter cloth or log cribs. The materials chosen will depend on the site conditions.
- For the purpose of this program, the riparian zone will refer to the area of transition between the aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent terrestrial ecosystem. It is located immediately landward of watercourses and other water bodies. Soils that exhibit signs of regular saturation and vegetation tolerant of periodic inundation characterize this zone. Conservation Authorities generally define this zone as a minimum 10 metres (30 feet) wide area along both sides of a watercourse or waterbody. Stream bank re-vegetation projects should be a minimum of 5 metres (16 feet) wide to provide proper filtering action.
- Only existing private ditches/streams will be considered, not Municipal Drains.
- Final grading on bank slopes shall be a minimum 2:1 (two horizontal to one vertical) or greater (three horizontal to one vertical), depending on soil type, water table or lateral seepage conditions.

Eligible Costs

- Permits, engineering design and consultation fees. Construction supervision by engineer.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).
- Native plant materials (e.g., seed, shrubs, trees, fertilizer, mulch, etc.)
- Professional assessment of the soil materials for the purpose of verifying that the project meets prescribed structural and environmental criteria.

Ineligible Costs

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.
- Artificial windbreaks.
- Erosion control measures where no demonstrated adverse impact to surface water quality exists.
- Trees or shrubs, such as fruit trees or Christmas tree species such as Scotch pine, which mature or are commercially marketable in less than fifteen years, are not eligible under this program.
- Systematic tile and other subsurface drainage that is not an integral part of an erosion control project.
- Catch basins and surface inlets without adequate sediment control.

Forest Plantation Management

Cost Share Rates: Preparation of a forest management plan-30% up to \$500

Inventory, silvicultural prescriptions, marking and prescription implementation -50% up to \$6,000.

Purpose

- To promote good forestry practices to maintain healthy, sustainable forests that improve landscape resilience to climate change and prevent soil erosion, mitigate flooding, and reduce contamination of local waterways.

Eligible Projects

- The preparation of a new Forest Management Plan with a member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association or certified Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program Approver.
- Inventory; silvicultural prescriptions; and tree marking and cutting for improved forest health.

Project Details

- All projects must occur in forest plantations * that meets the Region of Peel Official Plan definition of a woodland (any area greater than 0.1 hectare in size with a minimum number of trees per hectare).
- Forest management plans must include active management actions that address forest health considerations. Examples of forest management plan objectives could include, but are not limited to:
 - silviculture (e.g. thinning),
 - invasive species management,
 - grazing/livestock shelter mitigation,
 - biodiversity enhancement.
- Prescriptions must be completed by a member in good standing with the Ontario Professional Foresters Association.
- Tree marking must be completed by a certified Ontario Tree Marker.
- Thinning and other silvicultural practices must be completed following the approved prescription.
- All activities carried out under this category must be completed following "good forestry practices" as defined by the Forestry Act, R.S.O 1990, c. F.26.
- Work must be completed by an individual or organization with appropriate qualifications; this may be a private consultant or Conservation Authority forestry staff.

- Applicants must obtain approval from appropriate agencies prior to any removal of trees. This includes adherence to (but is not limited to) Provincial Plans and Acts, Regional and Municipal Official Plans, Municipal Zoning and Tree-Cutting By-laws, and required approvals and permits.

Eligible Costs

Note: If thinning or other silvicultural practices result in profit from timber sales, only the costs that exceed any profits are eligible.

- Fees for a forest management plan created by, or under the direction of a professional forester or MFTIP Plan Approver.
- Costs associated with prescriptions, and tree marking are only eligible if the prescribed silvicultural activities occur. For example, if thinning is prescribed, approved costs will be reimbursed after the completion of thinning.

Ineligible Costs

- Labour and the use of machinery by the applicant, the applicant's family, and the applicant's business.
- Forest Management Plan updates and progress reports.

Fuel & Chemical Storage

Cost Share Rate: 50% up to \$3,500 per fuel tank and/or chemical storage

Purpose

- To prevent contamination of surface and ground water and soil and air quality by fertilizers, farm chemicals, and fuel products.

Eligible Projects

- Farm chemical storage structure.
- This category is limited to the replacement or upgrade of three (3) tanks per farm.
- Chemical mixing/sprayer washing structure.
- Liquid fertilizer handling facility.
- Upgrading existing facilities to prevent groundwater contamination.

Project Details

- Chemical storage structures must be able to contain any spills that may occur within the structure. No floor drains are permitted in storage structure and the non-permeable floor must have a minimum 5-centimeter (2 inches) curb.
- Chemical Storage buildings must satisfy Canadian Farm Building Code. Buildings must be used exclusively for farm chemical storage.
- If fuel tanks are being replaced, they must be above ground, double-walled, vacuum sealed tanks and must be located on a reinforced, poured concrete pad.
- Tanks must be protected from vehicle collisions with a safety barrier (i.e. bollards).
- If an existing fuel storage system has single-walled tank(s) in good condition, the tank(s) may not require replacement in order to be eligible for funding to upgrade other components of the system (i.e. emergency shut off, bollards).
- In accordance with Regulation 217-01, Liquid Fuels, any alteration to a tank(s) must be completed by a Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) registered contractor. Information on registered contractors can be found on the TSSA web-site: www.tssa.org
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the project meets all applicable requirements (i.e. separation distances from buildings, bollard specifications, etc.).

- Fuel storage spill containment must meet or exceed Gasoline Handling Code standards.
- A copy of an emergency plan for accidental exposure and spills must be submitted with the project proposal application.

Eligible Costs

- Permits, engineering and design and consultation fees.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).

Ineligible Costs

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.
- Pumps, nozzles, or hoses.
- Primary hydro.

Please note: Please Note: By law, tanks, pumps, and hoses must be Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) approved.

Integrated Pest Management

Cost Share Rate: 50% up to \$5,000

Purpose

- To minimize the potentially harmful effects of pesticide application through the use of new sprayer technology, improved pest monitoring, selective use of cultural control practices, and the promotion of biological control methods.

Eligible Projects

- Installation of application equipment components to provide more efficient pesticide application.
- Use of approved cultural control practices.
- Use of approved biological control agents and raptor perches.
- Equipment for information collection and monitoring.
- Consultation fees to develop Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans and produce a report.
- Planning and decision support tools.

Project Details

- Application equipment modifications include spray curtains, air induction tips, low drift nozzles, pesticide injection systems, spray rate controllers, automatic boom height controllers and seed treatment systems.
- Cultural control practices can include permanent field perimeter strips or in-barn modifications.
 - Please refer to OMAFRA publications for further information on biological control agents and cultural control practices: www.omafra.gov.on.ca
- Information collection and monitoring can include equipment, materials, and services related to weather monitoring/reporting/prediction equipment, trapping devices and insect sampling equipment.
- A copy of the IPM plan will be required prior to a payment being issued.
- Applicants are only eligible to apply to the integrated pest management category once during the life of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program.

Eligible Costs

- Permits and engineering fees.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).
- Installation costs.
- Consultant fees, other than professional crop scouting.

- Related computer software, maps and air photos.
- Training specific to IPM related management practices on the applicant's farm.

Ineligible Costs

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.
- Computer hardware.
- Professional crop scouting fees.

Irrigation Management

Cost Share Rate: 50% up to \$10,000

Purpose

- To increase water and nutrient use efficiency on farms that irrigate (in field or greenhouse).

Eligible Projects

- Low pressure sprinkler nozzles and/or drop tubes.
- Drip irrigation system.
- Monitoring equipment such as soil moisture sensors, evapotranspiration monitoring equipment, flow meter (with totalized output), rain gauges, electronics/radio frequency units to link meters/sensors to computer.
- New or improved backflow prevention mechanism/equipment for an existing irrigation system.
- New or improved irrigation water recapturing system.

Project Details

- Applicants are only eligible to apply for the irrigation management category once during the life of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program.

Eligible Costs

- Permits, engineering and design and consultation fees.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).

Ineligible Costs

- Intake systems for new water supply development projects.
- New irrigation system to support increased irrigated acres (expansion).
- Pumps, pump houses or main pipe infrastructure.
- Repair or maintenance of an existing backflow prevention system.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.

Livestock Fencing from Environmentally Sensitive Features

Cost Share Rate: 80% (100% of materials for fencing installed by landowner) up to \$20,000 and \$16/meter of fencing.

Purpose

- To restrict livestock from existing or created, environmentally sensitive features including but not limited to woodlands, wildlife corridors, buffer strips, watercourses, wetlands, ponds, meadows and prairies.
- To promote alternate watering sources and systems.
- To assist with the rehabilitation of natural areas.

Eligible Projects

- Fencing livestock from environmentally sensitive features with:
 - Permanent fencing.
 - Temporary Fencing
- Livestock crossings:
 - Spanning bridge.
 - Culvert crossing.
 - Bed-level crossing.
- Alternate watering systems.

Project Details

1. Fencing livestock from Environmentally Sensitive Features

- Funding will only be provided for the portion of fencing that protects an environmentally sensitive feature or restricts livestock from an identified Source Water Protection threat area.
- Wildlife corridors must be a minimum width of 5 metres to be considered eligible for funding under this category. For details on what constitutes a wildlife corridor, please refer to the Natural Area Enhancement and Creation category.
- In some cases, it may be desirable to manage meadows and prairies through controlled livestock grazing. In such cases, a rotational grazing plan must be submitted with the application.
- The proposed fence should restrict livestock access over the entire length of the feature or identified Source Water Protection threat area.
- For a contractor installed fence the grant rate is 80% of the total project cost (labour and materials) paid up to a maximum of \$16/metre.

- For a landowner installed fence the grant rate is 100% of the material cost paid up to a maximum of \$16/metre.
- Temporary fencing will require a signed agreement requiring the applicant to install the fence prior to livestock being introduced to the pasture.
- Fencing must be a minimum of 5 metres (16 feet) from the top of bank of any water feature, ditch or municipal drain. In the case of a wetland, the setback will be measured from the highest seasonal water level.
- It is recommended that fencing be installed outside the drip-line of trees to reduce the likelihood of damages due to fallen limbs.
- Fencing setbacks from an identified Source Water Protection threat area will be in accordance with the Risk Management Plan for that property, if required.
- New fencing installed on existing farms, to create a new pasture area, may be eligible for funding if the project clearly demonstrates protection of an environmentally sensitive feature.

2. Livestock Crossings

- Projects must obtain approval from appropriate agencies (e.g. Conservation Authority, OMAFRA, Municipality, etc.).
- For bed-level crossings, gates must be installed on each streambank to allow livestock to be restricted out of the crossing. Gates shall be opened only for the purposes of moving livestock to the other side for pasture rotation purposes.
- Crossing projects must include fencing along the streambank to restrict livestock from entering the riparian areas.
- If the project is proposed on a Municipal drain, the municipal drain superintendent is to be contacted.
- For crossings intended to also accommodate machinery, refer to the Erosion Control category.

3. Alternate Watering Systems

- Watering systems for livestock will be eligible only where the water feature is properly fenced to exclude livestock.
- Nose pumps, spring boxes, electric and solar pumping units are eligible. Other systems may be proposed for consideration. Electrical pump systems are eligible but the cost of primary hydro lines is not covered.
- Digging/drilling of a new well to replace a surface water source. The intention is NOT to pay for drilled wells at the farmstead (except for extraordinary circumstances acceptable to Program Staff and the Approvals Committee).

Eligible Costs

- Permits and engineering fees.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's immediate family).
- Relocation of an existing fence so as to provide significant environmental gain.
- Permanent and temporary fencing.
- Alternate watering system.

Ineligible Costs

- Fencing to restrict livestock from a windbreak.
- Well drilling to supply an alternate water system (except in exceptional circumstances).
- Primary hydro lines.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.
- Repair and/or maintenance of existing fences.

Manure Storage & Handling Systems and Composting Facilities

Cost Share Rate: 50% up to \$30,000*

Purpose

- To protect and preserve surface and groundwater and soil quality from contamination during the storage and composting of livestock manure and/or raw organic materials (e.g. fruit and vegetable waste, livestock mortalities).
- To prevent contamination of surface and groundwater from exercise yard runoff.
- To encourage environmentally responsible manure handling and spreading practices.

Eligible Projects

- First time projects are eligible for 50% funding up to \$30,000.
- Second and subsequent applications on the same property are eligible for 35% funding up to \$20,000.
- Unroofed solid manure storages with runoff containment or treatment (e.g. vegetated flow path).
- Roofed solid manure storages.
- Concrete or steel liquid manure storage tanks (with or without lids).
- Manure storage run-off containment and/or treatment system.
- Manure composting structures that meet the requirements of a manure storage structure (i.e. runoff containment, treatment or roof).
- Deadstock composting facilities that meet OMAFRA guidelines and provincial regulations.
- Vegetable and fruit waste composting structures.

Project Details

1. Livestock Manure Storage Facilities:
 - Under the Nutrient Management Act, manure storage facilities must have a minimum 240-day storage capacity for all solid and liquid wastes, unless approved otherwise by OMAFRA in writing. Funding for storage facilities will be based on the program maximum of 400-day storage capacity. Information on manure storage facility requirements can be found on OMAFRA's website: www.omafra.gov.on.ca
 - Must have a certified Nutrient Management Strategy and Nutrient Management Plan, unless:

- If under the Nutrient Management Act and municipal by-laws, the manure storage facility does not require a certified Nutrient Management Strategy and the manure storage is less than 5 Nutrient Units, Program Staff will work with technical advisors and the applicant to determine appropriate sizing.
- Manure is not spread on the applicant's farm. In this instance, Program Staff will work with technical advisors and the applicant to determine appropriate BMPs to address disposal of manure.
- If a new barn is constructed, funding eligibility will be pro-rated to the volume of storage that was required for the existing/previous conditions. For example:
 - In cases where the structure has been sized and constructed for an expanded operation, a simple arithmetic formula will be used. For example, a farmer currently has a herd of 50 dairy cows (including heifers and dry cows) and plans to expand to 75; the storage is sized and constructed for the 75 herd size. The eligible grant would be calculated based on 50/75 or 66% of the final cost of the project.
 - In cases where the herd size has not increased and where the structure has been constructed larger than that proposed in the approved PRWQP project proposal application and in excess of the 400 day program maximum, a simple arithmetic formula will be used. The volume of the approved structure will be divided by the volume of the structure constructed to arrive at the pro-rating factor.
- Pro-rating for funding eligibility for manure storage and handling systems to the volume of storage required for existing/previous conditions is not required in the following case:
 - The proposed manure storage and handling system exceeds a minimum regulatory standard required under the Nutrient Management Act;
 - The project will provide a substantive water quality benefit; and,
 - The Nutrient Management Strategy and Plan that is required for the farm operation is updated to ensure the project is subject to a regulatory requirement.

2. Deadstock Composting Facilities:

- Compost facilities must meet the most recent OMAFRA guidelines and Provincial regulations. Information on deadstock disposal options can be found on OMAFRA's website: www.omafra.gov.on.ca
- Where a deadstock composting facility is constructed as part of a roofed solid manure storage, it must have a separate entrance from outside the building and be separated from the manure storage by a concrete wall.

3. Green Manure Composting Facilities:

- Green manure composting facilities (generated from vegetable and fruit waste) will be considered on a project by project basis.
- Further details on green manure composting structures can be found on OMAFRA's website: www.omafra.gov.on.ca. The applicant is responsible for ensuring the technical adequacy of the project and that the structure is sized to contain 100% of the materials generated on-farm.
- Green manure composting structures must prevent or contain or treat any runoff from the compost pile. To prevent, contain or treat compost runoff, the following design criteria should be considered: a roof or other method of cover, a holding tank and/or a permanently vegetated area to filter run-off.
- Applicants are responsible for obtaining approvals from appropriate agencies prior to construction.

Eligible Costs

- Permits, engineering and design and consultation fees.
- Temporary storage sumps for use prior to transfer to long term storage.
- Permanent transfer piping from the barn gutters or sumps to long term storage.
- Gas traps incorporated to prevent gases from entering the barn.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or applicant's immediate family).
- Professional assessment of the surface and groundwater properties of the site and soil materials for the purpose of verifying that the project meets prescribed structural and environmental criteria.
- Constructing a permanent roof over an existing storage.

Ineligible Costs

- Equipment associated with moving manure to a permanent manure storage.
- Equipment associated with the land application of manure.
- Slats or solid floors over in-barn storage including support posts, beams and roofs.
- Barn gutters.
- Timbers that are treated with creosote, pentachlorophenol or other toxic substances.
- Compost barrels, open heaps on bare soil, plastic bag composting or prefabricated composting structures.

- Repair or maintenance of an existing compost structure.
- Tarps and associated items used to temporarily cover the compost structure.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.

Milkhouse Washwater Disposal

Cost Share Rate: 50% up to \$10,000

Purpose

- To eliminate water quality impairment from milkhouse washwater discharges into ground or surface waters.
- To encourage environmentally responsible management of wastewater.

Eligible Projects

- Storage in a separate milkhouse washwater liquid storage tank.
- Milkhouse washwater tank and treatment trench systems that meet the current MECP/OMAFRA design criteria and regulations.
- Milkhouse washwater storage within an existing or proposed manure storage system that meets the minimum storage requirements.
- Water conservation fixtures in a milkhouse provided that all other program standards are met.

Project Details

- Applicants are responsible for obtaining approvals from appropriate agencies prior to construction.
- Systems utilizing storage of liquids must provide at least 240 day capacity for the washwater produced or as per guidelines provided by OMAFRA.

Eligible Costs

- Permits and engineering fees.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).
- Permanent transfer piping from the milkhouse or parlour to a liquid manure or runoff storage, including necessary plumbing traps and drain covers.
- Sump (when required) and permanent pump plus all associated electrical connections.
- Water meters to monitor the amount of washwater discharged from the system.
- Low water use sinks or retrofits.

Ineligible Costs

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.
- Cost of milkhouse and/or parlour structure.
- Portable sump pumps.

- Repair or maintenance of existing storages and treatment systems without upgrades that enhance the overall environmental performance of the storage or treatment system.

Natural Area Enhancement & Creation

Cost Share Rate: 100% up to \$20,000

Purpose

- To preserve surface and groundwater sources through the restoration and creation of natural habitat.
- To control sediment, nutrients, and peak flows from agricultural runoff.
- To increase natural cover throughout the Region of Peel.
- To improve habitat value of natural areas.
- To mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Eligible Projects

- Wildlife corridors and hedgerows.
- Grassland, meadow and prairie enhancement/creation projects.
- Wetland enhancement/creation.
- Pond enhancement.
- Stream enhancement (includes removal/mitigation of on-line ponds).
- Installation of habitat structures when part of a more comprehensive natural enhancement or creation project.

Project Details

- Floodplains, sensitive groundwater recharge areas, steeply sloped and erosion prone land can be suitable for planting projects.
- A planting plan is required specifying species, planting density, location, site preparation and maintenance. The plan should be developed in conjunction with Conservation Authority staff or a private consultant.
- Appropriate species that are native to Ontario are encouraged. Justification for the use of non-native species and percentage of non-natives in the planting, must be approved by Conservation Authority staff. Invasive species are not eligible.
- Livestock must be permanently excluded from the site. Special considerations may be given for grassland, prairie and meadow restoration where sustainable rotational grazing is proposed. The cost associated with fencing may be eligible for a grant. For details, please contact Program Staff.
- For grassland, prairie and meadow projects, the applicant may be responsible for proper site preparation as well as the care and maintenance of the plantings. For example, mowing may be required during the establishment period to reduce competition from broadleaf annual weeds.

- Applicants must consult with Program Staff to discuss the details of their project to determine if professional design is required.
1. For wildlife corridor and hedgerow projects:
 - Corridors and hedgerows must be a minimum of 5 metre and 1 metre wide, respectively and must contain a mix of native tree and/or shrub species (i.e. no mono-culture planting). Applicants are encouraged to increase the width as its length increases; and,
 - Applicants must demonstrate the project will provide a rural water quality or ecological benefit and provide details of the expected environmental improvements and the species that will benefit from the project. Program Staff can assist with wildlife corridor and hedgerow design.
 2. For wetland enhancement/creation projects:
 - Wetland size should be sufficient to catch and store a one in two year storm for the catchment where the wetland is located; and,
 - All projects must have an outlet (i.e. control structure, culvert) and overflow spillway.
 - If a dugout or berm is utilized and stores 50,000 litres (13,200 gallons) or more in any day, the landowner will require a Permit to Take Water from the Ministry of Environment.
 3. For pond enhancement projects:
 - The pond should be naturalized to provide improved water quality and improved habitat value.
 - The cost of aquatic plants is only eligible if it is part of a larger pond enhancement project (i.e., an on-line pond retrofit).
 - Project designs must include native vegetation only.
 4. For stream enhancement projects:
 - Eligible projects include: thalweg (low flow portion of stream) narrowing, tile drain decommissioning for the purpose of bringing a water feature back to a natural state, online pond dam removal, online pond bypass channel, online pond improved outlet structure, fish passages and/or re-naturalizing an existing watercourse with pool and riffle features.
 - Habitat structures such as a duck nesting box, are an eligible expense if part of a larger enhancement or habitat creation project. Priority will be given to projects that address a critical habitat enhancement requirement.
 - Conservation Authority Staff can assist with the planning and in some circumstances, the implementation of natural area enhancement and creation projects.

- Applicants must obtain approval from appropriate agencies prior to the construction of any natural area enhancement or creation project.
- 5. For grassland, meadow, and prairie enhancement/creation projects
- Grants for this project category will not exceed \$3,500/acre of restoration (to a total maximum of \$20,000).

Eligible Costs

- Permits, engineering and design and consultation fees.
- Consultant fees.
- Water sampling and analysis costs.
- Cost to prepare report and design for permitting.
- Construction costs.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).
- If large caliper stock is used, funding eligibility will be pro-rated to the per plant cost cap as set by the local Conservation Authority annually. For example:
 - A maple tree whip (2 metres) has a cost of \$14 when purchased from the Conservation Authority. If an applicant wishes to plant a larger sized maple tree (supplied by a private nursery) with a value of \$50, the program will only pay cost-share funding up to \$14. A tree price list can be requested through Program Staff.
- Planting costs, tree guards, seed, fertilizer*, mulch, mulch mats, etc.

** The application of fertilizer within a Source Water Protection threat area will require review from the Source Water Protection Risk Management Office.*

Ineligible Costs

- The enhancement or creation of a natural area intended purely for landscaping or irrigation.
- New pond construction – pond construction is not encouraged but ecological based wetland creation and restoration programs and services are available.
- Dredging or expansion of existing ponds.
- Aerators.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.

- Trees or shrubs such as fruit trees or Christmas tree species such as Scotch pine which mature or are commercially marketable in less than fifteen years, are not eligible under this program.
- The labour associated with the planting of large caliper sized stock.

Nutrient Management Strategy & Plan

Cost Share Rate: Nutrient Management Strategy: 70% up to \$2,000*

Nutrient Management Plan: 70% up to \$3,000**

Purpose

- To encourage the most effective use of available nutrient resources, optimize yields, and protect ground and surface water sources.
- To provide continued learning opportunities for nutrient management planning.

Eligible Projects

- First time applications for Nutrient Management **Strategies** are eligible for 70% funding up to \$2,000.
- Second and subsequent applications for Nutrient Management **Strategies**, on the same property are eligible for 35% funding up to \$1,000.
- First time applications for Nutrient Management **Plans** are eligible for 70% funding up to \$3,000.
- Second and subsequent applications for Nutrient Management **Plans**, on the same property are eligible for 35% funding up to \$1,500.
- A nutrient management strategy or plan created using OMAFRA's NMAN software program.
- Full cost of registration fees for one producer (or producer's employee) to complete Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, nutrient management training courses.
- This project category is only available to farms that are 1) not currently phased into nutrient management legislation or 2) required to update an existing strategy and/or plan as a result of a voluntary best management practice project.

Project Details

Note: There is a difference between a nutrient management strategy (NMS) and a nutrient management plan (NMP). An NMS documents the type and number of livestock, volume of manure produced, available land base and manure storage requirements. An NMP documents where, when and at what rate manure/nutrients will be applied to the land.

- A copy of the NMS and/or NMP must be submitted to Program Staff.
- To receive funding, the nutrient management strategy or plan must address all manure produced on the farm without producing 'red flags' in the NMAN program.

- It is recommended that on-site soil and manure sampling and testing be completed as part of the NMP.

Note: grants for Nutrient Management Planning and Crop Nutrient Plans cannot be combined for the same acreage within the same year(s).

Eligible Costs

- Soil and manure nutrient sampling and analysis by an accredited laboratory. A list of accredited laboratories can be found on OMAFRA's website. www.omafra.gov.on.ca
- Professional fees for preparation of a nutrient management strategy/plan.
- Registration fees for nutrient management training sessions.

Ineligible Costs

- Crop scouting fees.
- Training courses associated with becoming a nutrient management consultant.

Private Well Abandonment

* This project is offered directly through the Region of Peel.

The Region of Peel provides a Private Well Abandonment Program to decommission old, unused private wells in accordance with Ontario Regulation 903 (as amended from time to time). The program intends to gradually eliminate potential pathways of groundwater contamination in areas where groundwater is the source for drinking water.

Project Scope

The program is carried out on a first come, first served basis, with each well decommissioning request being evaluated prior to the commencement of any decommissioning work. The Region provides 100%* financial assistance to residential and agricultural well owners for well decommissioning work which is pre-authorized by the Region as part of the program. This assistance is dependent on the availability of project funds. The Program is **not** intended for developers or to provide well repair, testing, upgrades, plumbing work, or enhancements, or work that is not part of the Ontario Regulation 903 (as amended from time to time) standard well abandonment requirements.

Getting Involved

Getting involved in the program is easy. Residents and farmers in the Region of Peel who have wells on their property can call the Region at 905-791-7800, ext. 4685. The Region also takes requests from Peel Conservation Authorities for well decommissioning on their conservation lands.

Upon receipt of a well decommissioning request, the Region will direct the licensed well contractor to contact the resident and to arrange an initial visit to assess site access and work requirements.

*Extenuating Circumstances

If there are access issues or any other aspects of the work that are not part of the typical or regulatory well abandonment requirements, the contractor will contact the Region's program administrator to discuss additional work prior to the property owner signing the work agreement form. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Well over-drilling
- Multiple (nested) wells
- Flowing wells
- Wells that are collapsed or require removal of large quantities of debris
- Wells with difficult access
- Wells near structures that may be affected by the decommissioning work
- Wells with strong or visible evidence of contamination

- Wells in the setting where landscaping work would require expensive restoration work
- Any other work that is beyond the standard requirements of the typical well abandonment work

For questions and more information regarding the Private Well Abandonment Program, please call 905-791-7800. ext 4685 or go to:

www.peelregion.ca/pw/water/water-trtmt/wellhead-abandon.htm

Silage Storage Enhancement & Relocation

Cost Share Rate: 50% up to ~~\$15,000~~ \$18,000

Purpose

- To prevent contamination of ground and surface water by silage seepage and to encourage environmentally responsible management of silage.
- To reduce or eliminate the amount of silage seepage entering the environment through the use of a collection or treatment system.

Eligible Projects

- Decommissioning of existing silage storage located in an environmentally sensitive area and the construction of a new silage storage in a less environmentally sensitive area.
- Enhancement of existing silage storage with the addition of a seepage collection and/or treatment system. Design information can be found on OMAFRA's website: www.omafra.gov.on.ca
- Establishment of a permanently vegetated area or engineered vegetated filter strip to treat silage seepage from existing or proposed silage storage. Design information can be found on OMAFRA's website: www.omafra.gov.on.ca
- Construction of a silage seepage piping system that routes the silage seepage into an existing outdoor liquid manure storage system. For farms phased in under the Nutrient Management Act, the Nutrient Management Strategy and/or Plan must be updated to account for the addition of the silage seepage. The addition of the silage seepage must not reduce the manure storage capacity to less than 240 days. A copy of the updated Nutrient Management Strategy must be provided to Program Staff to ensure that storage capacity has not been reduced to less than 240 days.

Project Details

- Applicants are responsible for obtaining approvals from appropriate agencies prior to construction.
- Relocated horizontal silage storages must have a minimum wall height of 0.3 metres (1 foot) and be constructed of poured concrete.
- Vegetated filter strips must be designed in accordance with the design specifications listed in the Vegetated Filter Strip System Design Manual, produced by OMAFRA. Design information can be found on OMAFRA's website: www.omafra.gov.on.ca.

Eligible Costs

- Permits and engineering fees.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).

- Permanent transfer piping from the silage storage to a liquid manure or silage seepage specific storage, including necessary plumbing traps and drain covers.
- Fixed pump plus all associated electrical connections.
- If a new barn is/has been constructed, funding eligibility will be pro-rated to the issue associated with the original barn size/farm operation. In cases where the silage structure has been sized and constructed for an expanded operation, a simple arithmetic formula will be used to determine the pro-rated grant. For example, a farmer currently has a herd of 50 dairy cows (including heifers and dry cows) and plans to expand to 75; the storage is sized and constructed for the 75 herd size. The eligible grant would be calculated based on $50/75$ or 66% of the final cost of the project.

Ineligible Costs

- The labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and the applicant's business are not eligible.
- Portable pumps.
- Permanently fixed roof structures used to cover silage storage.
- Tarps and associated items used to temporarily cover silage.

Tree Planting

Cost Share Rate: 100% up to \$10,000

Purpose

- To maintain and increase forest cover throughout the Region of Peel.
- To improve woodland biodiversity, resiliency, and wildlife habitat value.
- To reduce wind and water induced soil erosion.
- To re-establish stream banks and wetland boundaries with adequate vegetated buffer strips and provide a buffer to overland runoff.
- To improve water quality by retiring fragile agricultural land.

Eligible Projects

- Permanent retirement of fragile agricultural land.
- Understory plantings.
- Stream bank stabilization plantings.
- Buffer strips.
- Tree windbreaks.

Project Details

- Conservation Authority forestry services are available for advice and assistance regarding planting design and species suitability. If Conservation Authority forestry staff are not utilized, then it is required that a private consultant with Registered Professional Forester designation be retained to approve planting plans.
- With the exception of windbreaks, no plant materials can be planted within 15 metres (50 feet) of a residence.
- Applicants are responsible for locating all property lines, easements and locating underground utilities prior to planting.
- Site preparation for planting areas may be required. For details, please contact Program Staff.
- Livestock must be permanently excluded from the plantings. With the exception of windbreak projects, the cost associated with fencing may be eligible for a grant. For details, please contact Program Staff.
- Minimum buffer width is 5 metres (16 feet). Wider widths are encouraged.
- Understory plantings must include a mix of native tree and/or shrub species so as to increase biodiversity.

- Buffer setback from a watercourse to be measured from top-of-bank. In the case of a wetland, the setback will be measured from the highest seasonal water level.
- Applications for tree windbreak projects will only be considered eligible when the windbreak is adjacent to cultivated lands (i.e. not next to pastures, permanent hay fields, orchard, etc.).
- Appropriate species that are native to Ontario are encouraged. Justification for the use of non-native species and percentage of non-natives in the tree planting, must be approved by Conservation Authority forestry staff. Invasive species are not eligible.
- The participant is responsible for the care and maintenance of any grass, forb, tree and shrub plantings.
- Fisheries, wildlife and flooding impacts must be considered when undertaking any project. Program Staff can assist with this process.

Eligible Costs

- Permits, engineering and design and consultation fees.
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family).
- If large caliper stock is used, funding eligibility will be pro-rated to the per plant cost cap as set by the local Conservation Authority annually. For example:
 - A maple tree whip (2 metres) has a cost of \$14 when purchased from the Conservation Authority. If an applicant wishes to plant a larger sized maple tree (supplied by a private nursery) with a value of \$50, the program will only pay cost-share funding up to \$14. A tree price list can be requested through Program Staff.
- Planting costs, tree guards, seed, fertilizer*, mulch, mulch mats, etc.

** The application of fertilizer within a Source Water Protection threat area will require review from the Source Water Protection Risk Management Office.*

Ineligible Costs

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and the applicant's business.
- Trees or shrubs such as fruit trees or Christmas tree species such as Scotch pine which mature or are commercially marketable in less than fifteen years, are not eligible under this program.
- The labour associated with the planting of large caliper sized stock.