

Wetland Incentives for Agriculture

Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES)

Overall: Mission is to increase awareness of the values of agroforestry and woodlots in the landscape

Payment: Technical assistance and contract services to assist in repairing riparian areas and upland forests through afforestation. Provides assistance in potential funding options for related services.

Where: Across Alberta

More info: <http://www.awes-ab.ca>

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)

Overall: Designed as a way to protect wetlands and other natural features by paying farmers and ranchers for the increased ecosystem services that they produce when they adopt agro-environmental beneficial management practices (BMPs). This is a producer-driven system, with producers and local “Partnership Advisory Committees” deciding on projects.

Payment: Establishment (or BMP implementation) costs are shared, and an annual payment for ecosystem services is made for the duration of the contract. Payments vary by community. E.g. in Red Deer County \$30.00/acre/year for ecosystem services from pasture lands, or \$40.00/acre/year for ecosystem services from croplands. Contract length varies by community, from one year to 10 years.

Where: In participating counties, as of March 7, 2016: Vermilion River, Parkland, Red Deer, Mountain View, Lac Ste Anne, Wetaskiwin, Leduc, Brazeau, Northern Sunrise, Flagstaff.

More info: <http://www.alus.ca>

Conservation Auctions

Overall: The University of Alberta is piloting a study where producers get paid for letting them restore wetlands.

Payment: Bids are submitted and the amount paid varies depending on the results of a reverse auction.

Where: Rocky View County.

More info: <http://restoreourwetlands.ca>

Conservation Offsets

Wetland Offsets

Overall: Landowners can participate in the supply of wetland conservation offsets by providing historically drained wetland areas to a wetland replacement agent to undertake wetland restoration work.

Payment: The landowner and the replacement agent may come to a financial arrangement that compensates for the lost opportunity cost of restoring or constructing a wetland in land that has been used for agricultural uses.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More info: Alberta Wetland Policy Implementation page

<http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/wetlands/alberta-wetland-policy-implementation.aspx>

Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive

<http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/wetlands/documents/AlbertaWetlandMitigationDirective-Jun2015.pdf>

Cows and Fish (Alberta Habitat Management Society)

Overall: Assists producers with managing wetlands and riparian areas.

Payment: Technical support.

Where: Across Alberta.

More info: <http://cowsandfish.org>

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) 10 year Wetland Restoration Lease Program

Overall: Aimed at restoring wetlands, while letting the landowner continue to manage the land.

Payment: Wetland restoration costs are paid by DUC, followed by an upfront payment and 10 annual payments, based on current fair market value for the restored wetland area. The landowner is allowed to manage the restored area during the lease, which may include haying or grazing.

Where: DUC priority delivery areas throughout Alberta.

More info: Website: <http://www.ducks.ca/resources/landowners/ten-year-lease-program>

Phone: 1-866-479-3825 Email: restoremywetlands-ab@ducks.ca

Ducks Unlimited Canada Revolving Land Purchase (RLP) Program

Overall: DUC purchases land, wetlands and upland habitat are restored, a conservation easement is placed on the title protecting the habitat in perpetuity, and the land is then sold.

Payment: Dependent on current land values.

Where: DUC priority delivery areas throughout Alberta.

More info: <http://www.ducks.ca/resources/landowners/revolving-land-conservation-program> Phone: 1-866-479-3825

Email: restoremywetlands-ab@ducks.ca

Ducks Unlimited Canada Forage Program

Overall: Subsidizes forage seed costs, in return for keeping the restored land in perennial cover and conserving associated wetlands for a 10 year term.

Payment: DUC pays up to \$100.00 per 50 lb bag of forage seed, on varieties purchased from Crop Production Services.

Where: DUC priority delivery areas throughout Alberta.

More info: <http://www.ducks.ca/news/provincial/alberta/duc-cps-announce-forage-incentive-program-for-producers>

Phone: 1-866-479-3825 Email: restoremywetlands-ab@ducks.ca

Growing Forward 2 Agricultural Watershed Enhancement

Overall: Works with legal organizations involved in watershed stewardship to implement good management practices for water quality. Includes riparian area fencing and management, remote watering systems, and wetland restoration.

Payment: 100% coverage of invoiced expenses.

Where: Areas throughout Alberta at high risk for degraded water quality.

More info:

http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm?contentId=AGRI_WTRSHED_PRG&useSecondary=true&active=yes

Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Stewardship

Overall: Designed to help producers a good management practices for water quality. Includes Riparian area fencing and management, remote watering systems, wetland restoration.

Payment: Cost share of projects, up to 70% with various maximums.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More info: <http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/GF2Search/index.htm?role=Farmer-Rancher-Producer>

Growing Forward 2 On-Farm Water Management

Overall: Designed to help producers achieve greater water security and more effective and efficient management of their on-farm water. Includes wells, dugouts, dams, water tanks, buried pipelines, livestock waterers, etc.

Payment: Cost share of projects, 30 to 50% with various maximums.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More info:

http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/Programs/index.htm?contentId=ONFARM_WTRMGT_PRG&useSecondary=true&active=yes

Lake Winnipeg Basin Stewardship Fund

Overall: The Fund provides financial and technical support to implement high-impact solution-oriented projects aimed at reducing nutrient loads, and improving the ecological sustainability of Lake Winnipeg and watershed.

Payment: 1/3 to 2/3 of project costs, including salaries, operating, equipment, other services.

Where: Lake Winnipeg watershed.

More info: <https://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=D7134110-1>

Land Stewardship Centre Watershed Stewardship Grant

Overall: Provides funding to support collaborative, community-based stewardship efforts consistent with the principles, goals and outcomes of Alberta's Water for Life strategy.

Payment: Grants are generally issued once per year to eligible groups on a per-project basis.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More info: <http://www.landstewardship.org/apply-grant> Email: grant@landstewardship.org Phone: 1-877-727-5276 extension 222.

Municipal Environmental Units

Overall: Counties and Municipal Districts providing services to their landowners for the care of wetlands.

Payment: Ranges from simple technical advice to cash payments from various sources. Can come from many different areas and programs including industrial environmental accounts.

Where: Various counties with active environmental divisions including Clearwater and Mountain View.

More info: http://www.aaaf.ab.ca/uploads/pdf/2015_AAAF_Directory_as_of_October_1_2015.pdf

National Wetland Conservation Fund

Overall: Restore degraded or lost wetlands, assess wetland functions and ecological goods and services, encourage wetland stewardship.

Payment: Typical funding ranges from \$50,000 to \$250,000, with a maximum amount available of \$500,000 per year per project. A minimum of 1:1 matching contributions (from non-federal sources) is required.

Where: Throughout Alberta.

More Info: https://www.ec.gc.ca/financement-funding/default.asp?lang=En&n=923047A0-1#_09 Email: ec.fncmh-nwcf.ec@canada.ca

Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program

Overall: Money available to non-government organizations, stewardship groups, municipalities.

Payment: \$18.5 million available in total over three years.

Where: High priority areas for flood mitigation or drought prevention.

More info: <http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/watershed-resiliency-and-restoration-program/watershed-resiliency-and-restoration-program-faqs.aspx>