Get Involved!

- **Best Management Practices (BMP's) are practical ways to ensure that environmental risks to the environment are minimized without sacrificing the economic productivity of farm operations.**
- **Best Management Practices are a powerful tool but they cannot be expected to solve all water quality problems.**
- **We are all responsible for using water wisely and ensuring that it is maintained for future generations.**
- **You can make a difference in protecting the environment, and we would like to help get you started.**

You May Qualify For Funding

Grants are available to landowners who live in qualifying areas of our watershed to implement projects which will help improve local water quality. Grant rates and ceilings may vary between watersheds, and may be combined with other provincial and federal BMP grant programs.

Eligible Items*	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling
Livestock Restriction, Alternate Watering Systems & Crossings	Up to 75%	Up to $10,000
Manure Storages / Nutrient Management	Up to 75%	Up to $12,000
Milkhouse Washwater Treatment and Disposal	Up to 75%	Up to $5,000
Conservation Farm Practices including erosion control structures, sediment control basins, bank stabilization, grassed waterways, buffer strips, spillways, rock chutes, etc.	Up to 75%	Up to $5,000

** Technical advice and assistance is available to all watershed residents.*

Program funding may be available for other projects which demonstrate an improvement to water quality. Check with the Conservation Authority for current funding information.

Program Guidelines

To qualify for current funding the following criteria must be met:

- Projects must be within the eligible area.
- Projects must demonstrate an improvement to local surface and/or groundwater quality.
- The landowner must demonstrate good land stewardship practices.
- The landowner must contribute financially to the project in some capacity.
- The landowner must complete a water quality improvement application and sign a project agreement form*.

How To Apply For Grants

- Obtain specific program information from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to determine if your project qualifies.
- Complete a Water Quality Improvement Application.
- A site visit from Authority staff will be necessary to determine eligibility.
- Projects that will result in the best benefits to water quality will be prioritized for funding.
- All proposals are subject to review by an established project committee.

** To acquire your water quality improvement application and project agreement form, please contact our local office at the address and / or number below.*

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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NIAGARA RIVER Remedial Action Plan

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Printed on post consumer paper.

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Best Management Practices

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM





"The ultimate test of a person's conscience is the willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."
— G. Nelson

DID YOU KNOW?

The average beef or dairy cow requires between 65-135 litres/day of clean water to promote healthy weight gain and growth.

Livestock prefer to drink clean water. When given creek water that may be polluted by manure, algae or other sediments, animals will drink less. This results in decreased weight and health. If cattle reduce their water intake by one litre because of poor water quality, daily feed intake can drop by a quarter of a kilogram. In turn, this results in an economic loss to the farmer, whether it is caused by reduced weight gain, increased disease, sickness, or a reduction in milk production. Clean water supports human health, plants, and animals.

Fencing livestock from watercourses is one of the most cost-effective ways of improving local water quality.

Stream bank fencing is a simple, cost-effective way for farmers to improve water quality in the streams flowing through their farms. Fencing stream banks and limiting livestock access with crossings promotes the establishment of a healthy vegetative cover. Vegetative buffers help reduce soil erosion, control runoff, and absorb nutrients that could otherwise create water pollution. Water is a shared resource; fencing can help improve water quality for you and your downstream neighbours.

It can take over 1,000 years to form one centimetre of soil.

The top 12 cm of soil is the most productive. Sheet erosion can cause an annual soil loss of 50 tonnes/hectare/year. Soil provides all but three of the essential nutrients for plant growth. Healthy soil supports plant growth, protects air and water quality and improves human and animal health.

Over 93% of the land base in the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's jurisdiction is privately owned.

If every landowner strives to improve just one aspect of their own land management practices, all of these little changes will add up to big benefits and assist in improving local water quality.

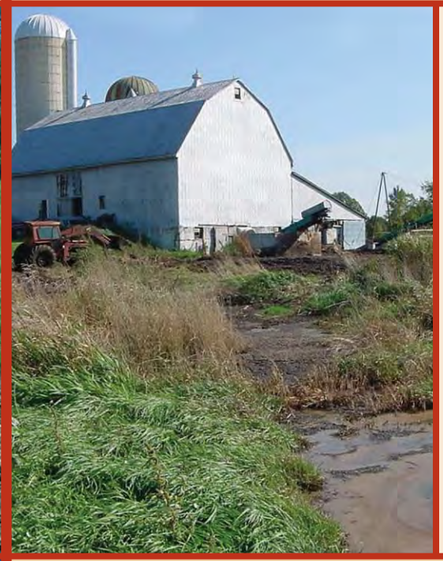
NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY'S RESTORATION PROGRAM

Eligible Projects for Grants

Livestock Restriction

When livestock graze in stream areas, their hooves exert several times greater pressure on the soil than the per square inch weight of a bulldozer. They trample vegetation and expose soil, increasing erosion. Vegetation along the stream bank is important. It protects the soil and helps to slow runoff from surrounding fields / feedlots and filters nutrients and chemicals. A stable streambank erodes at a slower natural rate, saving the farmer from loss of land and crop loss from erosion. Keeping livestock out of our creeks and streams will help improve water quality, contribute to habitat diversity and control erosion.

Nutrient Management



Manure spread on agricultural land provides valuable plant nutrients as it is an excellent fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. It adds organic matter to the soil which may improve soil structure, moisture capacity, aeration and water infiltration. If manure is stored or used incorrectly, or if more is applied than the plants and land can absorb, nutrient levels build up in the soil and can contaminate groundwater or surface water. There are many different techniques that can be used around your farm to properly contain and manage manure and other nutrients such as lawn fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, compost, septic sewage and soil runoff.

Conservation Farm / Land Practices

It takes one acre of land to continuously supply the necessary food to sustain one person for a lifetime. Soil is the basis of the agriculture industry. Loss or degradation of this resource results in decreased productivity and increased costs. There are many different techniques that can be used around your farm to help control erosion and prevent sediment from entering waterways. Practices such as residue management, grassed waterways, cover crops and shelterbelts prevent erosion and reduce the movement of nutrients and pesticides. Farm practices that prevent erosion will help to protect surface water quality.