

The Alternative Land Use Services programming at the SRRCD aims to redirect use of less favourable land use from agricultural production to instead establish, restore and enhance wetlands, floodplains and other water-retention areas, “Farm the best, Leave the rest.” Our programming aims to improve water quality by reducing nutrient runoff and soil erosion, providing carbon sequestration and providing wildlife and pollinator habitat.

## Class 1-3 Agricultural Land:

Classes 1 to 3 lands are considered to be capable of sustained annual production of cultivated crops.

This program is intended for the establishment of grassed buffers in natural flood plains along rivers, streams, creeks and drains on Class 1-3 cropland. The re-establishment of wetland buffers and floodplains or the creation of areas of water retention also qualifies. Often these areas are difficult to manage due to problems with flooding delaying farming activities and having small isolated areas that are not friendly for large farm equipment. Nutrient runoff is of high priority in these areas; grass buffers/water retention help keep nutrient loss down.

## You Receive:

- Maximum of a \$100/ acre annual land payment. Payment value determined by land guidelines along with project ecological and environmental benefits per acre.
- Payment base over a 5 or 10 year contract.
- \$100 /acre establishment cost to cover labour, equipment & seed.
- Reduce costs for seed, fertilizer, etc.
- Reduce nitrogen loss
- Income from grazing or baling

## Benefits:

- Captures nutrient run-off
- Erosion Reduction
- Carbon Capture
- Wildlife and pollinator habitat.



*Flood Plain on Marsh River*

## What you will need to do:

- Landowners will remove vegetation (flash grazing or baling) from the project areas after mid-July as weather permits to reduce nutrient runoff
- Submit a self-report with pictures to receive full payments,
- Without a self-report or fulfilling your duties will result in a half payment or no payment.

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## Class 4 Agricultural Land

Class 4 lands have limited capacity for cropland but are capable of producing quality forage crops and grazing.

This program is intended for the re-establishment of wetland buffers and floodplains or the creation of areas for water retention on Class 4 agricultural land that is being used for forage, cropland or rangeland. The establishment of grassed buffers in natural flood plains along rivers, streams, creeks and drains also qualifies. Land in this class is often difficult to manage from year to year not knowing how water levels will affect your ability to produce quality forage or crops.

### You Receive:

- Annual \$30/ acre land payment over a 5 or 10 year contract
- 50% of establishment costs such as fencing
- \$100/ acre establishment cost to cover labour, equipment & seed.
- Reduce costs for seed, fertilizer, etc.
- Reduce nitrogen loss
- Income from baling or grazing

### Benefits:

- Improved capacity for water retention
- Uptake of nutrient
- carbon sequestration,
- Wildlife and pollinator Habitat
- Protect downstream infrastructure.



*Overland Flooding on Forage Land*

### What You Need to Do:

- Landowners are required to remove vegetation (flash grazing or baling) from the protected areas after mid-July as weather permits to reduce nutrient runoff.
- Submit a self-report with pictures to receive full payments,
- Without a self-report or fulfilling your duties will result in a half payment or no payment.

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## Class 5+ Agriculture Land

Class 5+ lands have limitations in the ability to produce forage crops or quality rangeland.

This program is intended for the reestablishment of wetland buffers and floodplains or the creation of areas of water retention on Class 5+ land that is being used for forage or rangeland. Land in this area are on the edges of wetlands where fluctuations in water levels from year to year make grazing cattle and harvesting forage hard to accomplish.

### You Receive:

- Annual \$15/ acre land payment over a 5 year or 10 year contract.
- 100% of establishment costs such as fencing.
- Healthier livestock
- Water storage for cattle
- Income from baling or grazing

### Benefits:

- Increased capacity for water retention
- Uptake of nutrients
- Carbon capture
- Wildlife and pollinator Habitat
- Protect downstream infrastructure.



*Water Retention on Grazing Land*

### What You Need to Do:

- Landowners are required to remove vegetation from the protected areas after mid-July as weather permits to reduce nutrient uptake
- Submit a self-report with pictures to receive full payments,
- Without a self-report or fulfilling your duties will result in a half payment or a no payment.