

Wetland Restoration & Establishment *Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)*

Wetland restoration and the construction of new wetlands offer farmers a sustainable approach to enhance ecosystem services, improve water quality, and provide habitat for wildlife. Wetlands are critical for farm resilience, biodiversity, and on-farm water access.

To qualify for RALP wetland funding, the applicant will need to be enrolled in the Alberta Environment and Protected Areas Wetland Replacement Program.

HOW TO RESTORE OR ESTABLISH WETLANDS

- Restore a wetland which had been previously drained, by installing a ditch plug, for example.
- Identify an ideal site for a new wetland, a flood prone area, for example.
- In either case, consider planting soil stabilizing plants such as willows and perennial grasses. You may also consider pollinator species.

Note: Legislation like the Water Act may apply to your project. Make sure to speak to a wetland specialist prior to planning your project.

Management Benefits

Water Quality Improvement

- Wetlands act as natural filters, trapping sediments and nutrients, improving water quality in nearby water bodies.
- Help reduce the risk of nutrient runoff and contamination of groundwater.

Flood Mitigation

- Wetlands function as natural sponges, absorbing and slowing down floodwaters.
- Provide flood mitigation benefits by reducing peak flows during heavy rainfall events.

Biodiversity Enhancement

- Wetlands support a diverse range of plant and animal species, contributing to overall biodiversity.
- Provide critical habitat for migratory birds, amphibians, and other wildlife.

Groundwater Recharge

- Wetlands contribute to groundwater recharge by allowing water to infiltrate into the soil.
- Help maintain water table levels and support local aquifers, leading to drought resilience.

Erosion Control

- Wetland vegetation stabilizes soil, preventing erosion and protecting against the loss of valuable topsoil.
- Contribute to overall soil conservation efforts on the farm.

Key Considerations

Site Selection

- Identify suitable locations for wetland restoration or construction based on topography, soil conditions, and proximity to water sources.

Vegetation Selection

- Choose native wetland plant species adapted to the local climate and soil conditions.
- Incorporate a mix of emergent and submerged vegetation for enhanced biodiversity.

Hydrological Considerations

- Assess the hydrology of the area to ensure proper water flow and seasonal variations in wetland water levels.
- Consider working with a hydrologist to optimize wetland design.

Buffer Zones

- Establish buffer zones around wetlands to protect them from runoff and potential contamination.
- Plant native vegetation in buffer zones to enhance habitat and water filtration.

Permitting and Compliance

- Check local regulations and obtain necessary permits before initiating wetland restoration or construction.
- Comply with environmental laws to ensure the project aligns with conservation goals.

Start a Project Today

1-866-310-RALP
info@RALP.ca



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