

WATER ON THE FARM

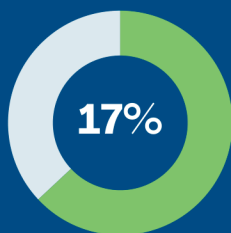
TALBOT RIVER HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

The Talbot River Healthy Environment Initiative supports farmers in the **Upper Talbot River subwatershed (UTRS)** to improve water quality throughout the region and downstream in Lake Simcoe. By partnering with local farmers, Kawartha Conservation is implementing **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** that protect and enhance **riparian areas** — the transitional areas between water surfaces and uplands.



WHY RIPARIAN AREAS?

Riparian areas are invaluable for farms, they store water, reduce flood frequency and impacts, filter sediment, improve water quality, reduce erosion, and provide habitat for insect-eating birds.



of total phosphorus samples in the UTRS exceed Provincial Water Quality Objectives



WATER QUALITY CONCERNS IN THE UTRS

NUTRIENT LOADING: excess nutrients, like total phosphorus (TP) and nitrate (NO_3^-), from farm practices can end up in our waterways

SEDIMENTATION: wind and water erosion can lead to soil particles contaminating our waterways and murky water

NUISANCE PLANTS AND ALGAE: excess nutrients fuel the growth of aquatic plants and potentially toxic algal blooms



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are proven, practical approaches to conserving soil, water and other natural resources in rural areas. Eligible BMPs in this program include:



BUFFER STRIPS

Permanently vegetated buffers along streams, rivers, ponds, wetlands and lakes stabilize soils, slow the flow of stormwater runoff, and act as a water filter. Buffer strips should be a minimum of 3 metres in width from the top of the bank, and be planted or seeded with site-appropriate native trees, shrubs, grasses and/or wildflowers.



EXCLUSION FENCING

Excluding livestock from riparian areas by fencing lessens sediment disturbance and manure deposition in waterways. Install permanent livestock exclusion fencing in combination with controlled access to water, vegetated buffer strip establishment, alternate watering systems, and/or seasonal grazing schedule for effective management.

OTHER
ELIGIBLE
BMPs

- Alternate watering systems
- Windbreaks and wind strips
- Manure management
- Controlled tile drainage
- Erosion control structures
- Tree and shrub planting



To learn more visit:
KawarthaConservation.com/Farms

QUESTIONS ?



**KAWARTHA
CONSERVATION**

Discover • Protect • Restore

Contact us!
Phone: 705-328-2271
Email: GenInfo@KawarthaConservation.com
Web: KawarthaConservation.com