

6. CURRENT INCENTIVE PROGRAMS OPERATING IN ONTARIO - DETAILS

6.1 Types of Programs

Since individual farms in Ontario often contain both actively farmed and natural environments (as for woodlots e.g.), for the purposes of this report I have grouped programs under two general types:

- Agri-environmental programs whose on-farm projects are directed towards farming practices and management of productive farmland;
- Those where on-farm projects are directed toward conservation or management of forest, natural or semi-natural areas on private land.

6.2 Access to Information

Several sources detailing government programs are available. One comprehensive list of federal programs operating in Ontario is available, for a fee, from InfoCan (Ontario) *Government Programs List*. It is available in CD format and probably other formats as well.

Most federal and provincial governments and ministry or department web sites contain listings of programs, eligibility and available funding. The main federal government website is <http://www.canada.gc.ca/>. The Ontario main government website is <http://www.gov.on.ca/MBS/English/index.htm/>. Governments also provide information brochures on current programs.

6.3 Current Ontario Strategies

6.3.1 Publicly Funded, Voluntary and Limited

Ontario's programs have traditionally been voluntary and cost-sharing. They generally pay a certain percentage of eligible costs as a grant, generally with an upper limit, from a finite fund budgeted by government. Some programs require matching funds to be obtained from collaborators.

Programs are also, quite necessarily, limited in duration. This reflects the timeframe of the political mandates of the governments which originate them.

Most of the past and current programs in Ontario are voluntary and publicly funded. They originate from all three levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal. Some programs are local or regional in scope, often targeting specific watersheds or other areas. Specific farms are seldom targeted by a program although the delivery agents may sometimes seek out specific persons to encourage them to participate in voluntary programs.

Since the time of the Canada-Ontario Agriculture Green Plan, air quality, biodiversity and habitat issues have been added to the original soil and water areas of concern. These are in keeping with wider national and international trends. These new areas of interest are stated in the current AESI programs and also in Healthy Futures for Ontario Agriculture programs.

Of all the potential agri-environmental concerns listed in section 4: Actual and Potential Agri-Environmental Benefits, promoting organic forms of agriculture is noticeably absent in Ontario. This author has noted a remarkable resistance by individual farmers and some farm groups to the encouragement of this form of sustainable farming.

This is despite clear market and consumer signals indicating increasing demand for organic products, which in many cases is being satisfied by American imports.

Ontario's farmland and the landscapes they comprise are part of a collective heritage which also has certain meaning for wider society and for posterity. Encouraging these intangible landscape amenity values does not currently form part of Ontario's strategies. Nor does the government of Ontario appear to view agri-environmental programs in terms of broader social and physical planning or rural regional economic development. This is despite the integration of a distinct "rural" mandate into the ministry of OMAFRA. At the time of writing, this rural mandate has just been detached again and shifted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

6.4 Current Agri-Environmental Programs

6.4.1 Federal Programs

2001 Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF)

- part of Great Lakes Basin 2020 Action Plan (Environment Canada)
- initiatives to restore streams into the Great Lakes in 16 Canadian Areas of Concern (AOC)
- five-year timeframe

6.4.2 Federal/Provincial Programs

2001 Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative (AESI)

- administered in Ontario by the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC)
- funded by federal National Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP)
- for environmental improvements on farms, watersheds and food-processing;

includes: Agriculture in Harmony with Nature

- funded by AAFC's Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Fund (CARD)
- delivered by Ontario's Agricultural Adaptation Council and Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition

2001 CanAdapt Program

- administered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC)
- funded by Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) program of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
- Includes CanAdapt Small Projects Initiative
- for small-scale agricultural projects in marketing and human resource development

Best Management Practices: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management

- through AAFC and OMAFRA

2001 Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

- contributions from AESI
- delivered by Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- self-assessment and action plan

2000 EcoAction

- an Environment Canada program
- in Ontario: funding that helps groups to implement projects that protect or enhance the environment.

6.4.3 Ontario Programs

2001 Ontario Stewardship

- an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources program to link stakeholders to promote stewardship on private land

2000 Municipal Outlet Drainage Program

- grants to landowners for a portion of costs of municipal drains

2001 Healthy Futures for Ontario Agriculture

- for environmental initiatives in rural water quality (also food safety, new markets)

6.5 Nature Conservation Programs

Because of the extensive network of public and private collaboration and partnerships for conservation programs and projects, it is difficult to compile a comprehensive and current list. The tables below contain a partial listing only.

Some of the major public/private agencies working toward conservation are Ducks Unlimited Canada, Carolinian Canada, LandOwner Resource Centre, and Ontario Stewardship. They tend to be regional in their mandate and each offers conservation programs of various sorts.

- Ducks Unlimited Canada (Ontario)
566 Welham Road
Barrie, Ontario L4N 8Z7
Phone: (705) 721-4444
Fax: (705) 721-4999
Website <http://www.ducks.ca/habitat/pcare.html>

Ducks Unlimited offers financial incentives and technical assistance

through their program Ontario Land CARE to help farmers increase agricultural productivity, conserve their soil and water resources and improve the environment for wildlife and for people.

- Carolinian Canada
659 Exeter Road
London, Ontario N6E 1L3
Phone: (519) 873-4631
Fax: (519) 873-4645
Website: <http://www.carolinian.org/Cc3.htm>
e-mail: info@carolinian.org

Carolinian Canada is linked with the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) to encourage private land stewardship in southern Ontario. Its website gives links to a large number of organizations involved in establishing land trusts and nature conservancy initiatives.

- LandOwner Resource Centre
Box 599
Dickinson Street
Manotick, Ontario
K4M 1A5
Phone: (613) 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304
Program website:
http://www.lronline.com/lrc/programs/green_acres.html

This is a one-window regional agency which has many partnerships with other agencies and organizations in eastern Ontario. The Centre offers grants and technical programs to landowners for many agri-environmental and conservation projects.

- Ontario Stewardship
Website: <http://www.ontariostewardship.org/program.htm>

This is a regional program of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. It is based in southern Ontario and “seeks to link landowners with funding, information and

expertise to ensure that good management practices flourish on private land.” It operates through 40 Community Stewardship Councils composed of volunteer groups of representative landowners and land interest groups which set regional environmental priorities and develop and fund local projects.

6.6 Selected Current Ontario Local/Regional Programs

American Chestnut Project

- led by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) and Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA)

Rural Water Quality Program:

Water: Ours to Protect (Waterloo Region)

- funded by the regional municipality with support from a number of other partners

Clean Water Program

- led by South Nation Conservation, funded by Parmalat, and local municipalities

Rural Clean Water Program, Ottawa,

- administered by Conservation Authorities of Ottawa (Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Land Owner Resource Centre, South Nation Conservation Authority) in partnership with the City of Ottawa
- cost-share grants available www.city.ottawa.on.ca

South Nation Conservation Clean Water Program 2001

- cost-share funding

Middlesex, Perth, Oxford Counties, Cities of London, Stratford and Town of St. Mary's Clean Water Project

- technical and financial assistance in the Thames watershed
- grants from three levels of government

6.7 Related Conservation/Environmental Programs

Programs relating to conservation and/or heritage conservation, for rural landholders. Funding sources are variable:

Baseline Water Well Testing Program

- managed by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) for the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC)
- test kits available to all private well owners in Ontario

Carolinian Canada “The Big Picture”

- includes list of landowner incentive programs

Ducks Unlimited Canada Rural Wetlands in Ontario: a Guide for Landowners

- with information on funding/information from Ducks Unlimited and other agencies

Essex Region Conservation Authority Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

- funding from Environment Canada

Ontario Land CARE

- delivered by Ducks Unlimited Canada

Wetland Habitat Fund

- funded by Wildlife Habitat Canada, Province of Ontario, North American Waterfowl Management Plan Partners
- through OFA, OMAFRA, MNR, Conservation Authorities

6.8 Tax Benefit Programs

These programs relate to environmental management/stewardship, conservation or donation of private land.

The Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) 2000

- property tax exemption for eligible lands
- supports the long-term private stewardship of Ontario's provincially significant conservation lands through tax relief to eligible land

Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

- a voluntary Ontario tax reduction incentive
- property tax incentives

- delivered through the Ontario Forestry Association and the Ontario Woodlot Association
- conservation easements for tax relief

Tax Benefits

- from restricting land uses or donating lands as conservation easements

The Ecological Gifts Program

- a program of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada (see their Handbook, 2001 for recipient agencies)

6.9 Other Programs

Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Initiative

www.AtoA.org

Bog-to-Bog: Landowners working toward a Landscape for Tomorrow...

- Ottawa area

Enviro-Loan

- deferred payment available from the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC)
- first introduced in Quebec in 2000

Essex Region Conservation Authority Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

- tree planting, especially along stream buffer zones

Ontario Wetland Habitat Fund

Ontario Land CARE

- delivered through Ducks Unlimited Canada

Domtar Woodlot Management Program

- an industry program free to woodlot owners

6.10 Other Information

LandOwner Resource Centre (OMAFRA) 888-571-4636
5524 Dickinson Street, P.O. Box 599
Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A5
613-692-2390
info@lrconline.com

-also: LandOwner Resource Centre Product Line

The Land Mosaic; a Publication for Ontario's Private Landowners

- some affiliates: The Nature Conservancy of Canada
 Ontario Forestry Association
 Ontario Nature Trust Alliance
 Ontario Stewardship Councils
 Wetland Habitat Fund
 Co-op and Poultry Productions/AgriEst Express
 Le Réseau canadien de forêts modèles: partenaires en
 aménagement forestier durable

OFA Factsheets

Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre <http://www.orwc.uoguelph.ca>

Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association <http://www.oowa.org>

Ottawa Country at Heart, pamphlet

Rural Clean Water Program (Ottawa)
http://www.city.ottawa.on.ca/city_services/waterwaste/27_2_6_2_en.shtml

Safeguarding Fish Habitat in Canada's Inland Provinces (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

- also Working Around Water fact sheet (describes three jurisdictions: federal, provincial, local conservation authority)

S&W Report (Ontario Woodlot Association Newsletter, 1999)