



# Dufferin

## Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines



December 2017



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# 1. Program Background

The Dufferin Rural Water Quality Program (RWQP) is an initiative of Dufferin County and partners to improve the water quality in Dufferin County. The county wide program provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural landowners to enable them to voluntarily implement best management practices that improve and protect water quality. The program builds on the Upper Grand Rural Water Quality Program which was established in 2008 with input from the local agricultural community. The benefits of improved water quality include a safe secure water supply, a healthy aquatic ecosystem, increased recreational opportunities, sustainable agricultural operations and a vibrant economy.

# 2. Structure of Financial Incentives

The Dufferin RWQP funds a wide variety of Best Management Practices. Financial incentives will be offered as a grant to share the implementation costs of a project. Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan (or Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide) is required prior to grant/incentive payment. For specific project details, please refer to the individual BMP guidelines. Rural Water Quality Program grants may be combined (stacked) with funding from other sources. Where landowners receive funds through another program, the grant rates will be adjusted to ensure that landowners do not receive more than 100% towards the cost of their projects. Applicants must inform RWQP staff if receiving cost share funding from other sources.

Best Management Practice	Cost Share	Maximum Cost Share	Performance Incentive	Notes
Clean Water Diversion	50%	\$3,000	-	Per farm.
Exclusion Fencing	75-100%	\$5,000	-	Per farm.
Cover Crops	n/a	n/a	\$40/acre up to 40 acres	Once per applicant.
Erosion Control Structures	50%	\$5,000	-	Per farm.
Nutrient Management Planning	75-100%	\$2,000	-	Per farm
Machinery Crossing Improvements	50%	\$3,000	-	Per farm.
Tree Planting	75%	\$5,000		Per farm.
Living Snow Fence* *Available to eligible properties through the Dufferin County Living Snow Fence Program	100%	\$5,000	\$450/acre years 1-3 and \$200/acre years 4-10	Per farm.
Wetland Creation	50%	\$5,000		Per farm.
Well Decommission	100%	\$1,000	-	Per well.
Innovative Technologies	Innovative technologies/projects that do not conform to RWQP guidelines are considered by the Steering Committee on a project by project basis.			

## 3. Eligibility and Application Details

### 3.1 Eligibility

1. A grant to implement all or some of the farm related best management practices in the Rural Water Quality Program may be paid to an individual applicant who:
  - is a resident of Ontario and
  - is a registered owner of property in the target area used for agricultural purposes or whose property is under the influence of agriculture and
  - completes an Environmental Farm Plan (or Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide for non-farm applicants)
  - under this program, a person is deemed to be the owner of land if the person leases the land for farming from the registered owner
2. The project must be located in Dufferin County and protect and/or improve surface or ground water quality in Dufferin County.
3. The following costs are generally eligible for grant assistance:
  - required permits
  - purchased materials and supplies
  - professional fees
  - fees for design, construction and supervision.

**The labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business are not eligible.**
4. Performance incentives are paid after staff confirms that the project is managed according to program guidelines.
5. All approvals and permits are the responsibility of the applicant (including that of neighbors if applicable). It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the project meets all legal requirements including:
  - municipal bylaws
  - provincial and regional highway setbacks
  - Drainage Act
  - Federal and Provincial Acts
  - Canada Farm Building Code
  - Ontario Building Code
  - Planning and regulations of local conservation authority
6. The Steering Committee will review the eligible BMPs and guidelines and may alter these at their discretion. Innovative technologies and projects that do not conform to the guidelines will be considered by the Steering Committee on a project by project basis. Applicants should contact program staff to determine the application requirements.

## 3.2 Limitations to Grant Eligibility

1. Grants are limited to eligible farmers and rural landowners with properties in Dufferin County that have the potential to significantly improve water quality.
2. An application for funding may be made retroactively. Retroactive applications are limited to projects that have been completed after the program start date of December 15, 2017 and no more than 12 months prior to the date of application to the RWQP.
3. Grants are limited to projects that will improve and/or protect water quality. New operations, new buildings, additions to homes, or building expansions to increase herd capacity are not eligible. A grant may be paid on a pro-rated basis using a simple arithmetic formula in cases where an eligible structure is sized and constructed for an expanded operation. *Example: A farmer currently has a herd of 50 dairy cows and requires a manure storage to improve water quality. In order to facilitate future expansion the storage is sized and constructed for 75 cows. The eligible grant portion is based on 50/75 or 67% of the final cost of the project.*
4. Any applicant who proceeds with a project before it has been approved by the RWQP Review Committee has no assurance that financial assistance will be provided.
5. An applicant must specify the program year in which the project will be completed. If the project cannot be completed within the specified year, the grant will not be paid. However, the applicant may request an extension from the RWQP Review Committee.
6. Funds will be allocated on a priority basis. Those projects with the higher potential for improving water quality will be considered first.
7. Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.
8. The Steering Committee in consultation with Dufferin County will set funding allocations annually and may decide to set allocations for priority areas and/or project categories. Funds may be limited based on this decision.

NOTE: Although the Conservation Authorities (Grand River, Nottawasaga Valley, Credit Valley, Saugeen and Toronto Region), Dufferin County, the Environmental Farm Plan Program and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs may provide information regarding the practices and structures described in the Rural Water Quality Program application form, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the practices and structures undertaken are suitable to the applicant's operation, and technically and structurally adequate. Neither the members of the Review Committee, Dufferin County, CA staff, OMAFRA, OSCIA, or the Environmental Farm Plan Program are liable for any loss arising from the use of any advice or information provided as part of or under this program.

### 3.3 How To Apply

1. Complete an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). The EFP is delivered locally by Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association in partnership with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Visit [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org) or call 1-800-265-9751 for more information. Submit your EFP for confidential review to the EFP workshop Leader. The plan remains confidential and will not be shared with Rural Water Quality Program staff. Completion of an EFP is required prior to grant/incentive payment.
2. Contact the Rural Water Quality Program at your local Conservation Authority to verify that your proposed project meets the guidelines and to arrange a site visit. Staff is available to assist you with planning your project and applying to the program.

Grand River Conservation Authority	(519) 621-2761	ruralwater@grandriver.ca
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority	(705) 424-1479	sstephens@nvca.on.ca
Credit Valley Conservation	1-800-668-5557 x430	mark.eastman@cvc.ca
Toronto Region Conservation	(416) 661-6600 x5349	nabrams@trca.on.ca
Saugeen Conservation	(519) 367-3040 x235	j.harbinson@svca.on.ca
3. Submit the application to staff who will present it to the Rural Water Quality Program Review Committee. The Review Committee consists of farmers and agency staff who will evaluate the project on its potential to protect and improve water quality. The Review Committee meets on a quarterly basis (or as required) to review proposals.
4. Once the project proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Rural Water Quality Program Review Committee, you will be notified to proceed with the project.
5. To be reimbursed for your approved project expenses, notify staff once the project is completed, paid for, and you have copies of all necessary receipts. A site inspection is required to confirm that the project is complete. At that time you can submit original invoices and proof of payment (invoice signed "paid in full" by contractor, a copy of the cancelled cheques or a bank statement) for all eligible project expenses to program staff.
6. Within 4 weeks of a site inspection that determines that the work is complete and satisfactory, your cost-share or incentive payment will be sent to you.

## 4. Livestock Waste Management BMPs

### 4.1 Clean Water Diversion

#### **Purpose:**

To reduce the amount of contaminated runoff from manure storages and exercise yards by diverting clean rain and snow melt water away from sources of contamination to a satisfactory outlet.

#### **Cost Share Details:**

**Approved projects funded at 50% up to a maximum of \$3,000 per farm.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is required prior to grant payment. RWQP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

#### **Eligible Projects:**

- Eavestroughs that direct water away from exercise yards and manure storage areas.
- Clean water diversion structures such as berms and ditches that direct clean water away from an exercise yard or manure storage.
- Roofs on exercise yards.
- Any other permanent technique to keep rain and snow from becoming contaminated by manure, or adding to the volume of contaminated runoff.

#### **Project Details:**

- Downspouts located where livestock can access them must be made of schedule 40 PVC (or stronger materials) and be well secured to prevent dislodging.
- Applications for Clean Water Diversion that include eaves trough directed into a tile must also include debris traps to ensure that tiles do not become plugged.
- All clean water diversion projects must discharge clean water away from any source of contamination, and not pose other hazards such as soil erosion.
- Berms, tile outlets and ditches must be properly protected.

#### **Eligible Costs:**

- Materials and labour (other than applicant's) associated with an approved project.
- Permits and engineering fees.

#### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Paving of exercise yards.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.



## 4.2 Exclusion Fencing

### **Purpose:**

To improve surface water quality by controlling livestock access to watercourses and wetlands.

### **Cost Share Details:**

**Approved projects installed by contractor funded at 75% up to a maximum of \$5,000 per farm.**

**Approved projects (materials) installed by applicant funded at 100% up to a maximum of \$5,000 per farm.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is required prior to grant payment. RWQP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

### **Eligible projects:**

- Fencing along watercourses or wetlands
- Livestock crossings
- Alternate watering devices

### **Project Details:**

#### **Fencing**

- Temporary fencing will be considered eligible but will require a signed agreement requiring the applicant to install the fence prior to livestock being introduced to the pasture every year and to maintain the fence while livestock are present in the pasture.
- Replacement fence may be considered, if the new fence is sited to provide significant environmental gain such as a wider buffer on a stream or wetland.
- Maximum cost share will not exceed \$4.00/ft (0.3 m) installed or \$3.00/ft for materials.
- Fencing must be at least 10 feet (3.4 m) from the top of the bank of any watercourse. Wider widths are encouraged.
- Only fencing along a ditch, pond, wetland or watercourse within an existing pasture will be considered for funding.
- If fencing along a municipal drain, applicant (or RWQP staff on behalf of applicant) must consult with the local drainage superintendent.

#### **Crossings**

- For bed-level crossings, gates must be installed at each streambank to allow livestock to be restricted out of the crossing. Gates shall be opened only for the purposes of moving livestock to the other side for pasture rotation purposes. Watering facilities must be available on both sides of the stream
- To be eligible for cost-share on a livestock crossing, fencing along the watercourse must either be undertaken concurrently, or livestock must already be restricted from the watercourse.
- If project is on a municipal drain, applicant (or RWQP staff on behalf of applicant) must consult with the local drainage superintendent.

### **Alternate Water Devices**

- Watering devices are eligible for funding only where livestock are restricted from the watercourse.

**NOTE:** Projects in and along waterways and ditches may require approval by municipalities, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and your local Conservation Authority prior to implementation. In addition, any work done on municipal drains also requires prior approval from the municipality. Staff will provide assistance to landowners in acquiring the proper permits but it is the landowner's responsibility to ensure that all necessary approvals are received.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Permits and engineering fees.
- Material & Labour (other than owner's or owner's dependent family).
- Permanent and temporary fencing.
- Livestock crossings as outlined above.
- Alternative water devices such as nose pumps, spring boxes, wind and solar powered pumping units. Other systems may be considered.

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Primary hydro lines.
- Drilling new water wells.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.

## 4.3 Nutrient Management Plans

### Purpose:

To encourage the most effective use of available nutrient resources, optimize yields, and protect groundwater and surface water.

### Cost Share Details:

**Approved projects funded at 75-100% up to a maximum of \$2,000 per applicant.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is required prior to grant payment. RWQP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

### Eligible Projects:

- A 3 year Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) created using OMAFRA's NMAN software program.

**Note: The nutrient management strategy (NMS) that is required to obtain a building permit is not a NMP. A NMS documents the type and # of livestock, volume of manure produced, available land base and manure storage requirements. A NMP contains information documenting where, when and at what rate manure/nutrients will be applied to the available land base.**

### Project Details:

- A printout or electronic summary from the NMAN Program containing the following information must be submitted to GRCA staff for review:
  - for each farm property, a Farm Unit Summary
  - manure/nutrient source summary, manure/nutrient information (type, analysis, etc.)
  - If applicable, MSTOR manure storage sizing calculations & storage information (yearly amount, number of days of storage, amount remaining)
  - manure/nutrient application graph (tracks total (all types), amount remaining)
  - manure/nutrient application summary (for each field, the rate, source, amount, method, setback)
  - field summary (field id, soil information, area, crop type, # of nutrient applications)
- To receive funding, the nutrient management plan must adequately supply the required crop nutrients without over applying and producing 'red flags' in the NMAN program.

### Eligible Costs:

- Soil, plant tissue and manure nutrient sampling and analysis. (Cost shared at 75%)
- Professional fees for preparation of a nutrient management plan (Cost shared at 75%)
- Registration fees for nutrient management training sessions (Cost shared at 100%). Software is available at [www.nutrientmanagement.ca](http://www.nutrientmanagement.ca)

### Ineligible Costs:

- Crop scouting fees.
- Fees associated with the completion of a NMP required by the Nutrient Management Act.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.

# 5. Soil Conservation Practices and Structures

## 5.1 Erosion Control Structures

### **Purpose:**

To control soil erosion problems on farmland and watercourses which impact surface water quality.

### **Cost Share Details:**

**Approved projects funded at 50% up to a maximum of \$5,000 per farm.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is required prior to grant payment. RWQP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Grass waterways.
- Water and sediment control basins (WaSCoBs).
- Contour terraces.
- Streambank stabilization including ditchbank seeding, spillway drop structures, culvert protection, and bioengineering techniques.
- Drop inlet structures to reduce the velocity and erosive force of water.

### **Project Details:**

- The chance of obtaining funding for erosion control projects will be enhanced if conservation tillage practices are used on adjacent fields.
- Design by professional engineers may be advisable on complex and/or large projects. The private sector is expected to fill these requirements.
- Projects must be constructed to the standards specified in the OMAFRA Soil Erosion Manual.
- Applicant must obtain approval from appropriate agencies prior to construction. In addition, any work done on municipal drains also requires prior approval from the municipality.
- All collected water must be taken to a sufficient and legal outlet.
- The Review Committee may require an applicant to install an emergency shutoff valve if there is concern for conveyance of a spilled containment.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Professional design fees for completed projects
- Labour, supervision and material.
- Permits and fees.

### **Ineligible costs:**

- Systematic tile and subsurface drainage that is not an integral part of an erosion control structure.
- Catch-basins without adequate sediment control.
- Labour and machinery use of applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.

## 5.3 Cover Crops

### Purpose:

- To promote the establishment and over-wintering of cover crops (living or dead), which help provide soil protection, reduce erosion and sediment transport to watercourses.
- To protect groundwater by promoting biological nitrogen fixation.

### Performance Incentive Details:

**Approved fields paid an incentive of \$40/acre up to a maximum of 40 acres per applicant.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is requirement prior to incentive payment. RWQP incentives may be combined with other funding sources. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

### Details:

- Priority will be given to areas directly adjacent to watercourses or with tile drainage.
- Applicant should register all potential fields and provide a crop rotation plan.
- Crops may be tilled no sooner than the spring of the year following planting (may be chemically killed the previous fall). Cover crops must be destroyed before June 1.
- Only cover crops used exclusively for cover such as; rye, oats, clover or multi mixes are eligible for grants. This excludes crops that are harvested or grazed such as winter cereals, winter canola, and forages.
- An applicant may apply for the cover crop incentive on the same field in different years where the applicant plants a different cover crop species or species mix in the second application year.
- The cover crop will be verified by program staff before spring tillage to ensure that the cover crop provided at least 50% ground cover overwinter.

### Performance Incentive Payment Details:

- Incentive payments are limited to a maximum of \$1,600 per applicant for life of program.
- Producers will be paid the incentive after program staff has confirmed that the field(s) were managed according to program guidelines. Producers do NOT have to produce proof of payment for cover crop seed and/or planting costs.

## 5.4 Machinery Crossing Improvements

### Purpose:

- To control or reduce the impact of existing farm machinery crossings on surface water quality.

### Cost Share Details:

#### Approved projects funded at 50% up to a maximum of \$3,000 per farm.

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is required prior to grant payment. RWQP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

### Eligible Projects:

- Replacement or removal of machinery crossings with an existing water quality impact.
- Associated streambank stabilization including ditchbank seeding, culvert protection, and bioengineering techniques.

### Project Details:

- Bed-level, mid-level, culvert and bridge crossings may be considered. All bridge crossing designs must be engineered. The private sector is expected to fill these requirements.
- Applicant must obtain permit approval from appropriate agencies prior to construction. In-stream works will require a Conservation Authority permit. Any work done on a municipal drain requires prior approval from the municipality. Additional approvals may be required.

### Eligible Costs:

- Professional design fees for completed projects.
- Labour, supervision and material.
- Permits and fees.

### Ineligible costs:

- Labour and machinery use of applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.

## 6. Fragile Land Retirement

### 6.1 Tree Planting

#### **Purpose:**

To improve water quality by retiring fragile agricultural land, reducing wind erosion, protecting recharge areas, and creating vegetative buffers along watercourses.

#### **Cost Share Details:**

**Approved projects funded at 75% up to a maximum of \$5,000 per farm.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is required prior to grant payment. RWQP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

#### **Eligible Projects:**

- Planting of appropriate tree/shrub species on retired fragile agricultural land such as floodplains, steeply sloped and erosion prone land adjacent to watercourses.
- Planting buffer strips along watercourses and wetlands.
- Tree windbreak establishment to prevent wind erosion.
- Retirement and planting of sensitive groundwater areas.

#### **General Comments:**

- A plan is required specifying species, planting density, location, site preparation and maintenance. To promote approval, the plan should be developed in conjunction with Conservation Authority forestry staff or a private consultant.
- Trees must be planted in a manner that will not result in snow drift accumulation on the road. As a general rule, trees should be located 30m back from the edge of the road.
- Proper site preparation is required for tree planting.
- The participant is responsible for the care and maintenance of tree plantings.
- Livestock must be excluded from the planting site.
- Appropriate native species are encouraged, but not mandatory. Invasive species are not eligible.
- When combining funds with Forests Ontario 50 Million Tree Program, the applicant is required to pay a minimum of \$0.15 per tree.
- Applicants are required to sign and abide by their local CA tree planting agreement. Where trees are not planted under a CA agreement, the applicant agrees that the trees will be maintained to the best of their ability for a minimum of 15 years.

**Project Details:****Fragile land retirement**

- Fragile lands are subject to either erosion or flooding.
- Fragile lands are also areas that serve as recharge areas, adjacent to wetlands or prone to standing water.

**Buffer strips:**

- May be established along watercourses adjacent to either pasture or cropped land.
- Minimum buffer width is 10 feet. Wider widths are encouraged.
- To be eligible, appropriate tree or shrub species must be planted in the buffer strip.
- Livestock must be fenced out of retired land.
- Tree planting along municipal drains will require municipal approval.

**Field Windbreaks:**

- The purpose of the funds is to protect and improve surface water quality, and windbreak eligibility will be decided on these strengths.
- Windbreaks should have 30-50% porosity during periods of highest risk for erosion.

**Eligible Costs:**

- Trees, shrubs and planting costs (maximum \$30 per tree).
- Tree protection systems and maintenance agreement costs obtained through the Conservation Authority or planting contractor.
- Site preparation and establishment of cover crops on tilled land (in conjunction with tree planting).
- Costs associated with replacing trees and shrubs will be considered by the Review Committee if forestry staff feels a project was unsuccessful due to factors beyond the control of the landowner (i.e. stock, weather, etc).

**Ineligible Costs:**

- Commercial stock, fruit trees or Christmas tree species which are commercially marketable in less than 15 years are not eligible.
- Farmstead landscaping
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate



## 6.2 Living Snow Fence

**Purpose:** To assist eligible landowners in Dufferin county with the cost of tree planting to establish Living Snow Fences in priority areas.

### **Cost Share Details:**

**Project funding is available through Dufferin County Living Snow Fence Program and is available to priority sites identified by Dufferin County Roads Department.**

**Approved projects funded at 100% up to a maximum of \$5,000 per farm.**

**Approved project performance incentive acres paid a total incentive of \$2,750/acre as follows: \$450/acre in each of years 1-3 and \$200/acre for years 4-10 (paid in year 4).**

**Maximum of 10 acres are eligible for performance incentive.**

### **Project Details:**

- A planting plan for the living snow fence will be developed in consultation with Conservation Authority staff taking into account, soil type, desired porosity, distance to road and prevailing wind direction.
- Locations must be approved by Dufferin County Roads Department.
- Each row of trees will be calculated at a width of 4m for the performance incentive.
- Appropriate native species are encouraged, but not mandatory. Invasive species are not eligible.
- Participating landowners will be required to sign a 15 year agreement with the Conservation Authority Delivery Agency.
- If required, dead trees may be replaced at the cost of the municipality.
- Suggested that posts should be installed on either side of the planting to mark the living snow fence. Posts to be placed 1m wider than the trees/shrubs to prevent over spray and cultivation.
- Trees must be planted in a manner that will not result in snow drift accumulation on the road. As a general rule, they should be located on north or west side and 30-50m back from edge of the road.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Trees and planting costs
- Tree protection systems and maintenance agreement costs obtained through the Conservation Authority or planting contractor.
- Site preparation and establishment of cover crops on tilled land (in conjunction with tree planting).
- Costs associated with replacing trees will be considered if forestry staff feels a project was unsuccessful due to factors beyond the control of the landowner (i.e. stock, weather, etc).

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.

## 6.3 Wetland Creation

### **Purpose:**

- To control sediment, nutrients and elevated flows from agricultural runoff by retiring fragile agricultural land through the enhancement or creation of wetland features to improve surface and groundwater quality.

### **Cost Share Details:**

**Approved projects funded at 50% up to a maximum of \$5,000 per farm.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is required prior to grant payment. RWQP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Wetland creation projects, which includes: berms with culverts, control structures, overflow spillways located between field runoff and down slope natural habitat (watercourse, wooded ravine, etc.) or dugouts excavated between field runoff and down slope natural habitat.

### **Project Details:**

- Impoundment size should be sufficient to catch and store a one in two year storm.
- Design by professional engineers is advisable on large projects (>20 acres).
- All projects must have an outlet (control structure, culvert) and overflow spillway.
- Projects must obtain approval from appropriate agencies prior to construction. In addition, any work done on municipal drains also requires prior approval from the municipality.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Design and construction costs associated with an approved wetland project.
- Equipment rental.
- Permits and fees.

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Irrigation ponds.
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate

# 7. Farmstead Best Management Practices

## 7.1 Well Decommission

### **Purpose:**

To prevent groundwater contamination from improperly abandoned or unused water wells by encouraging the proper sealing of wells that are no longer used.

### **Cost Share Details:**

**Approved projects funded at 100% up to a maximum of \$1,000 per well.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is required prior to grant payment. RWQP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Proper sealing of unused wells (dug, bored or drilled) by a licensed well contractor.

### **Project Details:**

- Must comply with Ontario Ministry of the Environment procedures for sealing or abandoning unused water well according to Ontario Regulation 903.
- A drilled well inside a dug well is considered one project and therefore qualifies for one grant only.
- The contractor is required to complete a Ministry of the Environment Well record to document the steps taken to plug the well. A copy of the well record must be submitted upon completion to the program representative.
- If you have an existing well record for the well that you are proposing to decommission, please include a copy with the application form. If you do not have a well record, please contact the Water Well Help Desk at 1-888-396-WELL (9355) or [helpdesk@waterwellontario.ca](mailto:helpdesk@waterwellontario.ca) or use the website map tool at [www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/map-well-records](http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/map-well-records)
- A directory of Licensed Well Contractors in Ontario can be found here: [www.ontario.ca/page/find-licenced-well-contractors](http://www.ontario.ca/page/find-licenced-well-contractors)

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Licensed contractor fees.
- Any labour or materials associated with proper well decommission procedures.

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.

## 8. Innovative Projects

### **Purpose:**

To encourage the adoption of innovative technology on the farm scale that improves and protects surface water or groundwater quality.

### **Cost Share Details:**

**Innovative technologies/projects that do not conform to RWQP guidelines are considered by the Steering Committee on a project by project basis. Grant rate and maximum will be determined by the Steering Committee.**

Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is required prior to grant payment. RWQP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform RWQP staff of additional cost share funding.

### **Project Details:**

- Projects will be reviewed on their own merits. The applicant must submit a plan outlining the proposed project.
- Projects must be able to demonstrate the potential for water quality improvement.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek funding from other sources.
- All permits required by the appropriate agencies must be obtained (municipal, provincial or federal, Conservation Authority, etc.).

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's) associated with an approved project
- Permit and design fees associated with an approved project

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Primary research
- Purchase of farm equipment or equipment modifications
- GPS systems and components, yield monitors
- Funding will not be provided to incomplete projects
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.
- Primary hydro
- HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate