



Farm precisely to protect nature and profits

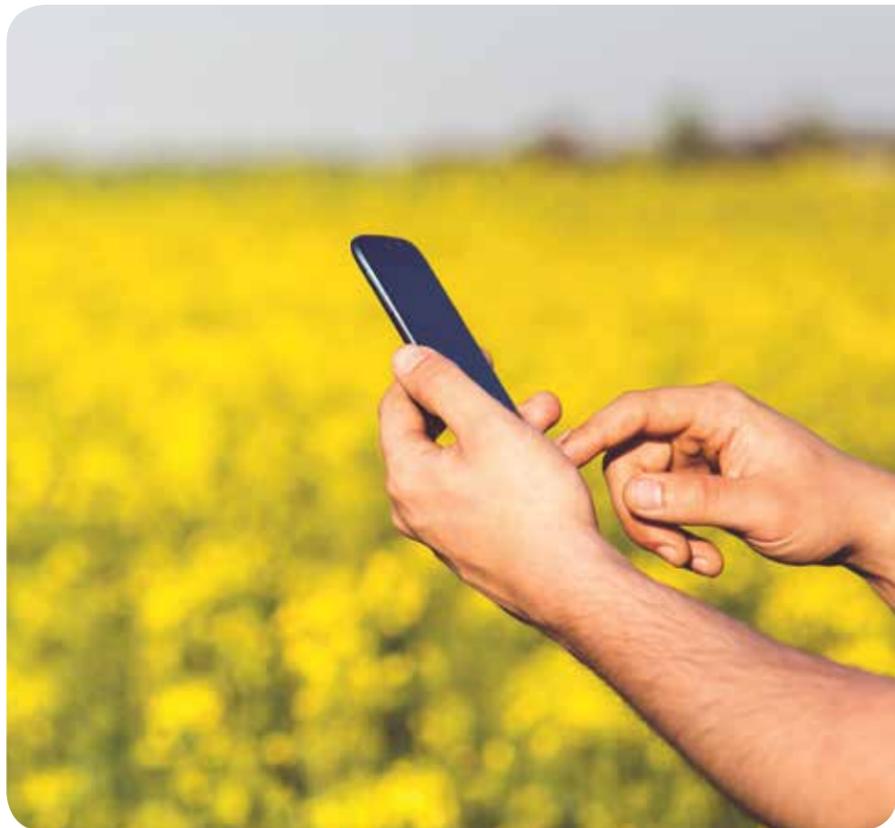
Marketing high yielding commodity crops like corn or soybeans is competitive. Profit margins are slim. So how do you remain an environmental steward while making your farm business more profitable? Consider precision.

Precisely managing your inputs and cutting production costs increases profits

It also protects water and soil quality. And it safeguards air quality and wildlife habitat, all parts of nature that impact your business over time.

Consider hi-tech gadgets. They're everywhere in agriculture. From robotic milking machines, to auto steering tractors and drones, there's lots of ways to collect data about field and crop conditions. They may seem like fancy luxuries, but technology can help you optimize labour, seed, fertilizer and pesticide costs.

Today's combines have GPS receivers and yield monitors. You can map yields across farm fields. The next step is to



create different management zones. Separate high and low-yield areas. Assess soil conditions, fertility and drainage in each area and develop zone-specific plans for better returns.

You may discover low yielding areas need less fertilizer and a smaller seeding population to be most

profitable. Or high yielding areas need higher fertilizer rates and seed populations. Either way, you've maximized fertilizer efficiency and profits.

Intensifying agriculture with commodity crops is competitive, but it's still possible to consider nature AND be profitable.

Connect with the land you love



Ghost Wetlands

Bringing back lost landscapes

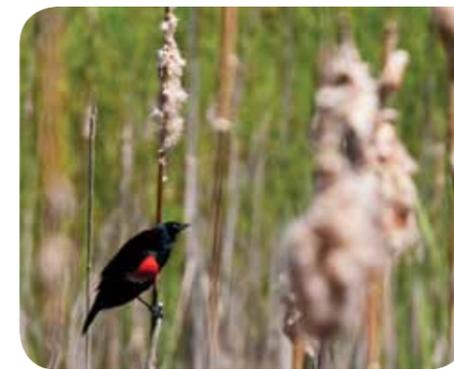
Ghost towns are eerie places. Empty buildings and quiet streets remind us of busier times. The same is true for ghost wetlands. Where there were once sounds of spring peepers at dusk, cattails blowing in the wind and turtles basking on a sunny day, vibrant wetland ecosystems have been lost from the landscape.

Wetlands are an important part of a resilient environment

They're one of the healthiest, most diverse ecosystems in the world. They provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife. They help control flooding. They filter and clean water for drinking.

Unfortunately 48 per cent (or more than 13,000 acres) of wetlands have been degraded or disappeared

from the Credit River Watershed since the 1950s. Much of this has happened from urban development or changing wetlands to agricultural fields.



It is possible, however, to find signs of ghost wetlands around your property.

Look for moist soils with lots of dark organic material. Check for

areas of standing water in spring, and traces of a few wetland plants such as cattails.

Your neighbours across the Credit River Watershed are protecting wetlands and restoring ones that have been lost. There are opportunities to retire wet, difficult-to-farm areas and bring these lost landscapes back to life.

Join us June 2nd at our 'Ghost' Wetlands Workshop at Terra Cotta Community Centre. Learn more about lost wetlands and how you can restore these valuable ecosystems.

connect with us

We'd love to hear from you.

1-800-668-5557

stewardship@cvc.ca

cvc.ca/countrysidestewardship



At Credit Valley Conservation we create **connections** between people and nature, knowledge and action. We **lead** the protection, restoration and enhancement of our local natural environment, and we **inspire** a deep appreciation for the role of nature in keeping us connected, healthy and happy.





The Zajacs and Johnstons

Neighbours connecting to protect drinking water

Friends and neighbours for more than a decade, Paula and David Johnston and Elaine and John Zajac have taken steps to protect their drinking water.

Living in the Erin countryside, the Zajacs and Johnstons use private wells for drinking water. "Making sure our drinking water is safe is part of the responsibility of being good caretakers of the land. And we take that seriously," said Paula Johnston.

The Zajacs considered upgrading their well when they saw damage to the concrete well casing. Their well is at the back of their property, surrounded by mature trees. Damage to the casing made it easy for rodents to get in. "This obviously put our water at risk of contamination," said John.

The Johnstons were also interested in upgrading their well. "We did this for our own water quality and safety but also for our neighbour's," said Paula. Their drinking water source is shared through the same underground aquifer.

While attending a CVC workshop, the Johnstons learned about the Wellington Rural Water Quality

Program, with funding for projects to protect groundwater. They decided to upgrade their well. Hearing about the funding from the Johnstons, the Zajacs decided to do the same.

The Wellington program gives landowners 80 per cent funding up to \$1,000 for well upgrades

Well upgrades extend the wellhead above ground, properly sealing the well casing and adding vermin-proof caps. This keeps rainwater and snowmelt away from the wellhead and prevents contamination of groundwater.

Paula encourages other landowners to "get engaged in protecting your well water. CVC has all the information you need and guides you through the whole process."

Now that their projects are complete, John reflects, "The decision to upgrade the well gives

us peace of mind. Our water tests are coming back negative of contamination and I know we've done our part."

Protecting healthy groundwater is everyone's responsibility. It's inspiring to see neighbours connecting to take action.

Test your well water three times a year, especially after heavy rains and during the spring thaw. Your local health unit provides free testing.

A **well casing** is the supporting wall or tubing inside the length of a drilled hole, extending from the surface to the water supply below.

An **aquifer** is a layer of rock, sand, or earth that contains water or allows water to pass through it.

A **wellhead** is the physical structure of the well at or near the ground's surface.

from the expert



Jeff Wong, Senior Engineer, Water Operations

CVC's flood forecasting system

Flooding is becoming more and more common. With changing weather, it can happen in any season. Heavy rain, snowmelt, spring ice break-up or failing dams can all cause flooding. In the Credit River Watershed, flooding affects both rural and urbanized areas.

CVC constantly monitors the weather and watershed conditions. We have a network of 57 real-time gauges giving us data 24/7. We also maintain a local flood forecasting and warning system. When flooding is possible, we issue flood status messages to emergency staff at municipalities and to local media. We share the messages on social media and on our website to warn local communities.

We also give advice to municipalities in the watershed during floods. Additionally, we regulate development within the floodplain to minimize risk to life and property.

Flood status messages have four levels:

Watershed Conditions

Normal:	no flooding
Statements:	safety or early notice of possible flooding
Flood Watch:	flooding is possible
Flood Warning:	flooding is expected or is occurring

Keep your eye on flood status levels at cvc.ca

Waterways in the Credit River Watershed



Be prepared for floods. Learn more at getprepared.gc.ca



Protect your drinking water

Funding is available for rural residential and farm landowners to upgrade or decommission wells.

Contact us to find a program near you.

cvc.ca/wellfunding or 1-800-668-5557

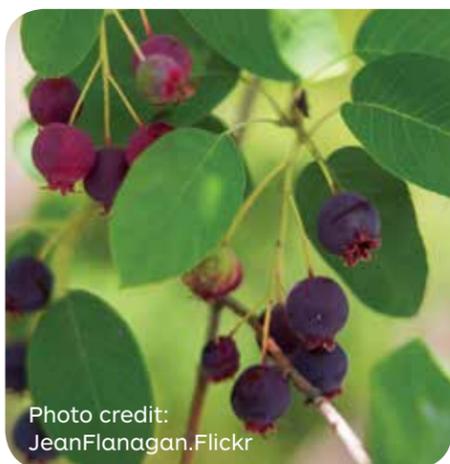
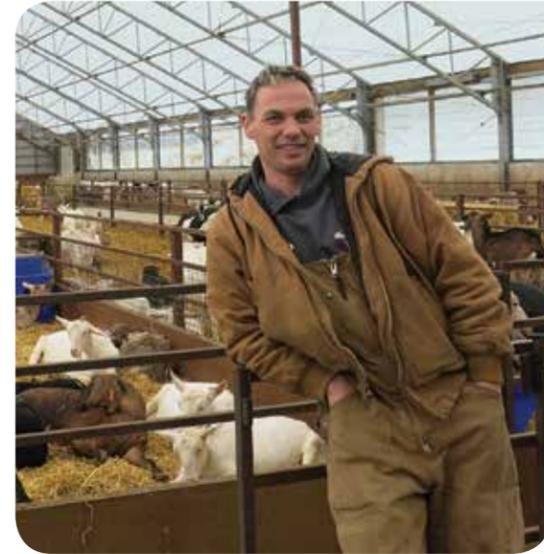


Photo credit: JeanFlanagan.Flickr

Did you know?

Serviceberry is one of CVC's favourite species to plant in our Potted Plants Program. That's because it has a beautiful ornamental form, delicate spring blossoms and dark reddish-purple berries that provide food for wildlife. The versatility of serviceberry makes it a great choice for rural properties. They grow in sun, shade and a variety of soil types.



We help hobby and production farmers:

- Improve profitability
- Save soil
- Protect water
- Enhance wildlife habitat

Learn more about workshops, technical assistance and funding at cvc.ca/agriculture