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Grass Buffer Demonstration Site: Stoodley Farm, South Castor Municipal Drain

John Stoodley and his family have been farming along the South Castor Municipal Drain in Vernon for over two generations; primarily producing dairy, hay, soybean and corn.

John's land is his most valuable asset, and past flooding and erosion has proven challenging.

Thanks to a variety of funding sources including the City of Ottawa's Rural Clean Water Program and ALUS Ontario East, South Nation Conservation partnered to plant a grass buffer along the Municipal Drain through his property by squaring fields and sowing a multi-species grass mix.

This helped stabilize the stream bank and reduce erosion to conserve valuable soil for his crops while protecting local water quality and providing habitat for fish and wildlife. The grass can also be harvested as hay to be sold or used on farm.

In total, 22 acres of grass buffer was created along 400 metres of the municipal drain, which will conserve 63 cubic metres of soil annually.

"I think it's a good thing. I'd rather keep this riverbank from eroding and keep it fixed up so we don't end up back where we were before."

- John Stoodley, Property Owner



Visit www.nation.on.ca/stoodley-farm-grass-buffer-project to watch footage taken onsite, including testimonials from John Stoodley.



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Why Plant a Grass Buffer?

Benefits to Farming:

1. Reduces flooding
2. Conserves soil and helps keep nutrients on the field
3. Produces hay that can be harvested and used as feed
4. Maintains pollination of crops
5. Helps to improve local water quality

Environmental Benefits of Grass Buffers:

1. Filters runoff from adjacent land uses
2. Traps sediments
3. Reduces erosion and soil loss
4. Provides habitat for pollinators



Funding Available:

- Cost-share funding available up to 90% of project costs up to a maximum of \$7,500 for Streambank Stabilization and Watercourse Buffers.
- Land Retirement Incentives are available, up to \$150 per acre every year for 10 years.

Visit www.nation.on.ca/grants for more information on funding available for property owners through the Rural Clean Water Program