



Clean Water Program Project Guidelines **BUFFER STRIPS**

GRANT RATE: 50% to a maximum of \$5,000

PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE: \$150/acre/yr, max 10 acres, max 3 yrs

ELIGIBLE ITEMS AND PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- A minimum of a 3m (10ft) buffer strip from top of stream bank is required for grant consideration. Wider widths are encouraged. Requests for fragile land retirement will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Farms subject to the Nutrient Management Act buffer requirement will only be eligible for tree planting within the buffer or for buffers exceeding the 3m minimum width.
- A project plan is required specifying species, planting density, location, site preparation and maintenance. SNC forestry staff can assist in developing the plan. Additional subsidies may be available for tree seedling purchase.
- Establishment of vegetation such as grasses, trees and shrubs should follow the recommendations of forestry and/or technical staff to ensure soil stabilization is maximized. Appropriate native species are encouraged, but not mandatory. Care should be taken to select plantings that will not encourage beaver activity.
- Proper site preparation is required for tree planting.
- Landowner is responsible for the care and maintenance of the buffer strip.
- Livestock access must be excluded from the buffer strip area. Vehicle traffic should be minimized.
- Fertilizers, pesticides and other chemical use should be limited in the buffer area.
- **Applicants are responsible for obtaining all required permits and/or approvals prior to initiating construction.**
- Annual performance incentive requires verification from a Program Representative that buffer has been maintained prior to payment.

ELIGIBLE COSTS:

- Material costs (including vegetation)
- Equipment rental
- Contract labour
- Professional consultation fees
- Permits
- Tree protection systems

INELIGIBLE COSTS:

- Labour or machinery use of applicant, family dependents or applicant's business
- Commercial stock, fruit trees or Christmas tree species which are commercially marketable in less than 5 years
- Taxes

APPROVAL PROCESS:

Contact South Nation Conservation (SNC) to complete an application. The Clean Water Committee will review the projects and will give priority to those with the most water quality benefit. Landowners may apply for only one project, per project type, per year. Limited funds are available.

Approved applicants will have approximately 12 months from the approval date to complete their projects. Approved projects will be pre-paid by the landowner. Funding will be provided when the project is completed, inspected to the satisfaction of SNC, and when copies of all invoices with acceptable proof of payment, permits, and any other required paperwork are provided. Invoices must provide detailed breakdown of labour hours, quantities of materials purchased and associated costs.

Refer to Clean Water Program Applicant's Guide for more information on the Application Process.

March 2019