Redboine WATERSHED DISTRICT

GROW Growing Outcomes in Watersheds

What is the GROW Program?

Identified under the Water Pillar in Manitoba's Climate and Green Plan, GRowing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) is a way of encouraging the delivery of ecological goods and services (EG&S). GROW promotes conservation of natural areas or changes to land uses that provide EG&S by helping farmers develop projects that maintain or improve local watershed health and work for their operations.

GROW is a made-in-Manitoba program on working lands that focuses on **"farming the best, conserving the rest."** With a focus on watershed health, management and resiliency, GROW will help reduce flooding and drought vulnerability and improve water quality and nutrient management in Manitoba. The GROW framework will be delivered by watershed districts in partnership with landowners, non-government organizations, and all levels of government.

Principles

- → Watershed-Based
- → Locally Driven
- → Producer-Focused
- → Measurable
- → Sustainable
- → Balances Incremental with existing EG&S
- → Collaborative

Co-Benefits

- → Improved on-farm water management
- → Enhanced sustainable agricultural Production
- → Improved biodiversity and habitat
- → Carbon sequestration and storage

Priority Outcomes

- → Improved watershed resilience to the impacts of a changing climate (e.g., extreme weather events, drought, flooding)
- → Improved water quality (e.g., improved nutrient management)

How can the GROW Program benefit me?

There are two types of landowner incentives:

1. **Establishment costs** (infrastructure): The cost of establishing projects that provide enhanced or new EG&S. These costs can include labour, equipment and material costs.

2. **Annual payments** (may not be eligible for all projects): Annual incentive payments for acres enrolled in Local GROW Programs will be available for producers.

Apply Today

Call the Coordinator

(204) 526-4223

Go to our website

www.Redboine.com

Email the Coordinator

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Wetland Conservation, Enhancement, or Restoration

A wetland is a permanently or temporarily water-saturated area characterized by distinct plant and soil types. Wetlands in Agro-Manitoba have been lost and degraded at an alarming rate because of human activities such as drainage. The benefits derived from wetlands are extensive: wetlands help to prevent flooding, filter and purify water, recharge groundwater, maintain baseflow to waterways (especially important during dry periods), reduce erosion and provide extensive habitat to support biodiversity. The purpose of the wetland Activity is to conserve, enhance and/or restore wetlands to provide ecological goods and services.

Upland Area Conservation, Enhancement, or Restoration

Natural upland areas, such as treed areas and grasslands, may require rejuvenation in order to function optimally. Some of these areas may also be vulnerable to conversion to other land uses, such as annual cropping or development. These natural areas are valued as they delay and reduce runoff from rain events and spring runoff, thereby reducing flooding and erosion, and stabilizing soils. They can also increase groundwater recharge and provide wildlife and pollinator habitat, thus enhancing biodiversity. Many areas of native grassland serve as important habitat for species at risk. Enhancement of grassland areas may require changes in grazing management practices and other activities, such as controlled burns.

Riparian Area Management

Riparian areas are the vegetated (trees, shrubs and herbs) zones adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. A riparian area is considered a transition zone or interface between a waterbody or wetland and the surrounding drier upland. Riparian areas need to be healthy to function at a high level. Healthy riparian areas can produce an abundance of forage and provide shelter for livestock and maintain habitat for wildlife and fish. A producer can enhance economic and environmental productivity by improving both the condition and function of a riparian area.

Buffer Establishment – Shelterbelts, Multi-Species Buffer Strips

Buffers are natural or engineered transitions between landscape features managed for different outcomes – for example: shelterbelts between annual cropland and other features to reduce wind-based soil erosion and perennial cover buffers between field edges and riparian areas to protect riparian vegetation from chemical or mechanical disturbance.

Planting shelterbelts in yards, fields, around livestock facilities, and near dugouts offers many benefits from minimizing the impacts of wind, creating habitat and providing shelter to farmyards and livestock. Shelterbelts planted near annually cropped fields also reduce wind erosion, while providing yield benefits to adjacent crops. The objective of this activity is to help producers establish shelterbelts and support their maintenance.

Water Retention

Water retention projects increase adaptive capacity for climate change, landscape and ecosystem resiliency, including reducing peak flows and enhancing water supply opportunities for agricultural use. Projects including small dams, temporary backfloods, or on-farm water retention basins can reduce flooding downstream, improve water quality, and provide local habitat benefits.