

BUFFALO POUND-QU'APPELLE RIVER WATERSHED NEWS

Highlighting the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

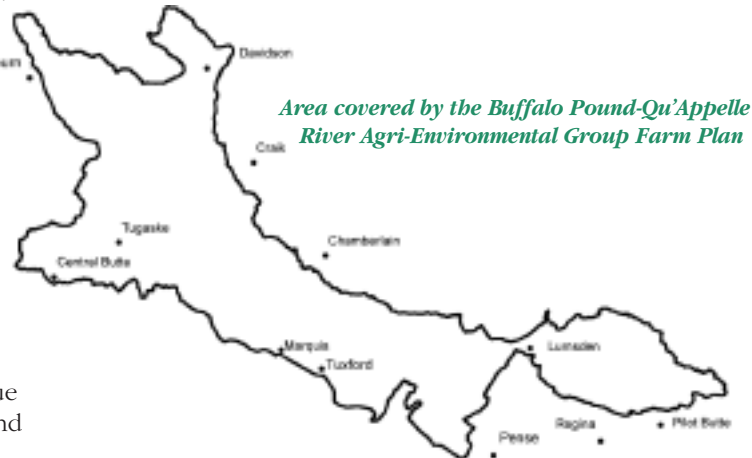
July 2006 Issue

Introducing the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

Producers throughout the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River area now have an opportunity to work together as a group to address agricultural activities that can impact water quality.

The Group Farm Plan can help you make changes that benefit both the management of your farm and the environment, particularly water resources. With the Group Farm Plan, you can have hands-on, one-on-one advice and assistance from a local advisor, who will help you make a management plan for your farm or ranch, explain how you can access funding through the Group Farm Plan, and provide expertise from start to finish on your projects.

The Group Farm Plan will focus on a priority issue in the watershed relating to agriculture, and implement two Beneficial Management Practices which address it. The issue identified by local producers is the protection of ground and surface water. This issue is to be addressed with two agricultural Beneficial Management Practices: wintering site management and riparian area management.



Beneficial Management Practices covered by the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

1. Wintering Site Management

These practices may assist producers in reducing the risks of nutrients and pathogens that may enter ground and surface water from wintering cattle within confined feeding areas. Since each livestock operation functions differently depending on herd size, land base, and accessibility to water, shelter and feed, the Group Farm Plan advisor will help you choose from one or a combination of wintering feeding techniques such as swath grazing, bale grazing or stock piled forages.

Wintering site management practices include:

- Establishing shelterbelts
- Building portable shelters and windbreaks
- Installing alternative winter watering systems
- Improving field access and upgrading alleyways/access lanes
- Modifying existing fences

Under the Group Farm Plan, wintering site management projects are cost-shared at 50 per cent to a maximum of \$15,000 until March 31, 2008.

2. Riparian Area Management

These practices provide producers with assistance to implement practices that will protect and enhance riparian areas on their farm or ranch. Riparian areas are the lands

adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands, where the vegetation and soils are strongly influenced by the presence of water. Under good management, riparian areas are productive, reliable producers of forage, can provide shelter for wildlife and breeding areas for fish, and will enhance water quality and quantity.

Riparian area management practices include:

- Installing alternative watering systems to manage livestock within the riparian area
- Establishing riparian buffers: planting of non-invasive forages, shrubs, and trees
- Fencing to manage grazing and improve riparian conditions/function
- Grazing management in surrounding uplands – including cross fencing for rotational, seasonal, rest, swath and extended grazing systems, alternative watering systems for improved grazing management
- Improving stream crossings

Under the Group Farm Plan, riparian areas management projects are cost-shared at 50 per cent to a maximum of \$20,000 until March 31, 2008.



Introducing Brett Gaube



Brett Gaube is the advisor for the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan and will be working on the project until 2008.

Brett was born and raised on a cattle farm south of Lumsden. Brett has a

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Dickinson State University in North Dakota. He has worked previously as a summer student with Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration in Manitoba and Regina.

"I look forward to working with producers to improve their operations and lower the risks to the health of the watershed."

For More Information:

Brett Gaube

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The Group Farm Plan and Individual Environmental Farm Plans

Both plans are part of the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program. They are different methods of accessing funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices.

Each producer involved in the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program can access a maximum of \$30,000 until March 31, 2008 through either the Group Farm Plan and/or the individual Environmental Farm Plan.

If you have an Environmental Farm Plan for your operation, the Group Farm Plan is complementary to it, and you may still take advantage of educational opportunities and technical assistance available in the Group Farm Plan. However, producers who have not completed an Environmental Farm Plan can also join the Group Farm Plan.

Please call Brett Gaube for information on the Group Farm Plan and/or the Environmental Farm Plan at 306-529-1793.

The Group Farm Plan Steering Committee

A six-person steering committee oversees the delivery of the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan. Several steering committee members are also part of the Qu'Appelle River Watershed Advisory Committee involved with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority in developing a source water protection plan for the Upper Qu'Appelle River Watershed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mid-July 2006

WELL DECOMMISSIONING DEMONSTRATIONS

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority will demonstrate how to properly seal abandoned wells.

Watch for details on dates and locations.

Call Brett Gaube at 306-529-1793 for more details.

July 27, 2006

SHALLOW PIPELINE DEMONSTRATION

Buffalo Pound Lake area

Call Brett Gaube at 306-529-1793 for more details.

Craig Hellings	Producer; Co-chair, Qu'Appelle River Watershed Advisory Committee
David Paul	Producer; Councillor, R.M. of Dufferin No. 190
Ben Boots	Manager, Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant
Jim Hipkin	Producer, Reeve of the R.M. of Lumsden No. 189
Jim Brandt	EH&S Specialist, Mosaic Potash Belle Plaine
Don McDonald	Producer; Reeve, R.M. of Dufferin No. 190; Administrator for the Buffalo Pound-Qu'Appelle River Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

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Mosaic Potash Belle Plaine

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