

LANIGAN/MANITOU WATERSHED NEWS

Highlighting the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

October 2006 Issue

THE LANIGAN/MANITOU AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP FARM PLAN IS UNDERWAY IN YOUR AREA!

The Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan is a program that can help you make changes to your farm which will benefit you and the environment. The Group Farm Plan addresses agricultural activities that can impact water quality.

By participating in the Group Farm Plan in your area, you have access to technical support from local advisor, Nancy Gray, and you may be eligible for financial assistance through the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship

Program. Funding is available to those interested in working as a group in implementing beneficial management practices on their farms.

The Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan is addressing two beneficial management practices – wintering site management and riparian area management. As winter approaches, let's take a closer look at what wintering site management is all about.

WINTERING SITE MANAGEMENT TIPS

There are many advantages to wintering and watering your cattle beyond the traditional confined yard site. Watering in winter means reducing or eliminating direct access of cattle to dugouts and watercourses. This will reduce the risks of nutrients and pathogens that may enter ground and surface water.

Benefits of Wintering Site Management

- Clean and abundant water in all weather.
- Widespread manure distribution ends manure spreading costs and spreads nutrients on pastures or hay fields.
- Reduced costs through decreased manure handling, fencing and housing facilities.

For Wintering Sites to be Successful:

- Provide a properly sited, easily accessible and reliable water source.
- Winter waterers require smaller drink openings to reduce heat loss. This requires cows with patience.

- Location of the livestock waterer is important for successful operation. Wind and snow protection reduces energy costs, prevents freeze-up and makes it easier for animals to use.
- Locate far enough away from the riparian area so that the animals are not having direct impact, but make sure you use a waterer that has the capabilities to move farther away from the water site.
- Water should drain naturally away from the waterer or be graded for drainage. Many waterers have cement pads and/or gravel to assist drainage and prevent a mudhole from forming.
- Consider fenceline locations so that more than one area can utilize the waterer.

Types of Winter Watering Systems

A stationary system can be utilized in other times of the grazing season. There are also electric, solar or wind or any combination of these systems.

Access Ramps	Improves access and preserves slopes on water site but makes only minor improvements to water quality.
Nose Pumps	Lower cost than some systems, but requires animals to become accustomed to them. Need one pump for every 25 to 30 animals.
Gravity Flow Reservoirs	More costly and requires some excavation to build. Not suited to all sites, as water must flow downhill from water source to trough.
Solar Pumping Systems	Works in remote locations. Relatively more costly and requires storage batteries or water storage.
Windmills	Works in remote locations and requires little maintenance. High variability in winds means that water storage is necessary.

NANCY GRAY – LANIGAN/MANITOU GROUP FARM PLAN ADVISOR

Producers interested in learning more about wintering site management, riparian area management or any aspect of the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan, are welcome to call Nancy Gray. Nancy can meet with you personally to discuss wintering site and riparian area management practices and the amount of funding you may be qualified to receive.

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. Riparian area management projects are cost-shared at 50 per cent to a maximum of \$20,000 until March 31, 2008.

For More Information:

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Area covered by the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan

RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT

In addition to wintering site management practices, riparian area management practices are also covered under the Lanigan/Manitou Agri-Environmental Group Farm Plan. These practices will protect and enhance riparian areas on your farm or ranch. Riparian areas are the lands adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. 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, as well as alternative watering systems for improved grazing management.
- Improving stream crossings.

WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING FREE WORKSHOPS IN YOUR AREA!

Topics include: grazing techniques such as corn and swath grazing and a tour of a winter watering site.

October 25, 2006

WINTERING SITE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
Termuende Research Farm near Lanigan at 1 p.m.

October 27, 2006

WINTERING SITE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
Simpson Community Center at 1 p.m.



Western Beef
Development Centre
Division of
PAMI

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