



Spring 2016

Lower Souris Watershed Committee Inc.

An Update from your Watershed Committee

(306) 452-3292



“balancing the economic, environmental, and social values to sustain and improve the watershed for future generations”

Lower Souris Watershed Committee Inc.

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Grain Bags or Silage Plastic Cluttering up your Yard?

The Lower Souris Watershed Committee is pleased to announce that we have a Grain Bag Roller for our watershed residents to use on their farms **FREE OF CHARGE!**



Recycle with ease

Simply contact us to schedule a date to use the roller on your farm. Roll your plastic bags. Leave rolled bags on the trailer and they can then be returned with the roller once you’ve finished with it.

The roller is located at the R.M. of Walpole shop and available 7 days a week. Plastics can be dropped off at Wawota by appointment.

Recycling cleans up ag plastics from your farm, reduces plastics ending up in our landfills or getting burned, prevents fines resulting from the burning of ag plastics, & improves transportation efficiency.

Contact Tyler at 306.452.3292 to book the grain bag roller and for more information on our net wrap recycling pilot project and twine recycling.

INSIDE:

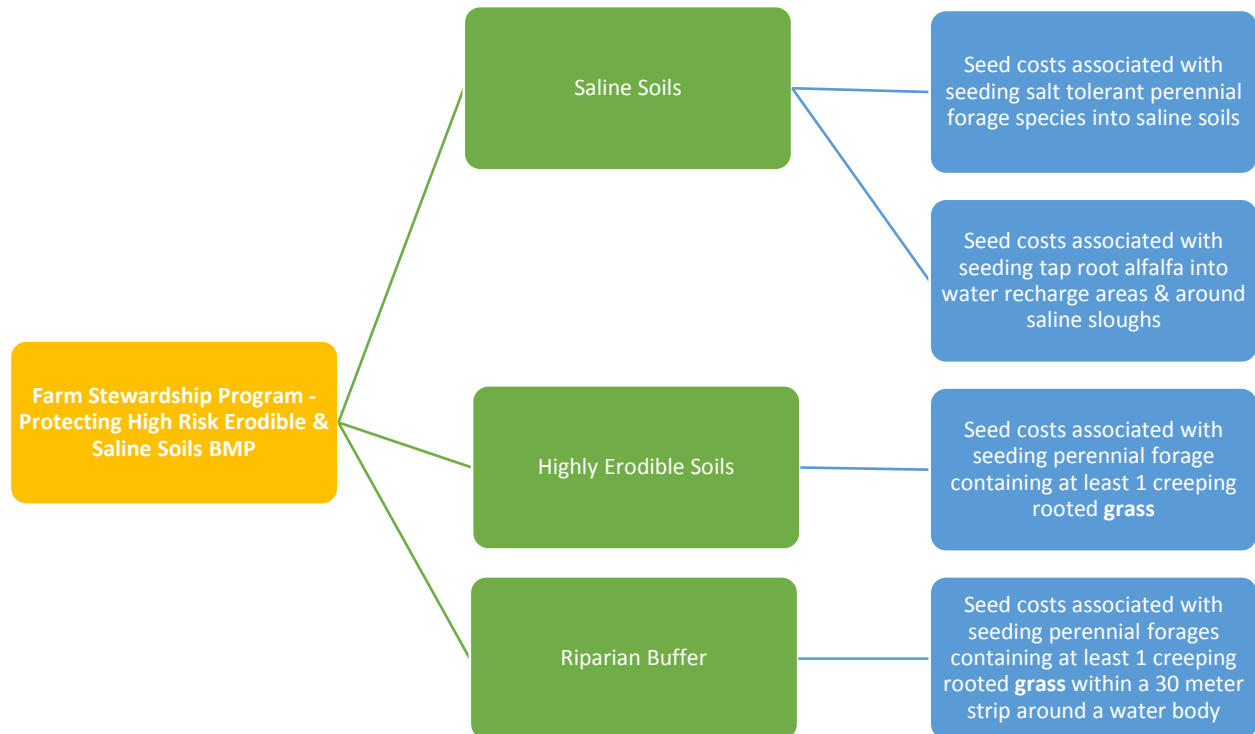
- ~ Forage Programs
- ~ Lower Souris Watershed Producer Information Workshop
- ~ How Can the Lower Souris Watershed Help You?



Seeding Grass?

Are you planning on seeding land down for pasture or for hay? Do you have areas prone to soil erosion, or have salinity issues? The Lower Souris Watershed Committee assists in delivering programs that help producers with the costs of seed and establishment to put this land into perennial forage.

The *Protecting High Risk Erodible & Saline Soils BMP* is available through Growing Forward 2's Farm Stewardship Program. 50% cost share may be available towards seed and establishment costs. This is a rebate BMP and claims must be submitted within 18 months of the seed invoice date (so you may still be able to apply if you planted forage seed last year).



Important:

- Save seed tags
- Keep invoices for seed, chemical, & custom work handy
- Proof of payment is required for invoices over \$1000

Potential species restrictions:

Including these species in your forage blend may affect funding:

- *Smooth Bromegrass
- *Crested Wheatgrass
- *Reed Canarygrass
- *Kentucky Bluegrass
- *Canada Bluegrass
- *Green Wheatgrass

***Note:** Timothy is a restricted species in other forage programs, but not the Farm Stewardship Program

Contact Karmen today at 306.452.7953 for more information on the various forage programs available and how to apply.

*** Eligibility requirements must be met for the Farm Stewardship Program*

Lower Souris Watershed Producer Information Day Update

The Lower Souris Watershed Committee held a producer information day in Wawota on Thursday February 4. Over 40 producers joined us to for a well-rounded informative workshop to learn about a variety of opportunities available to them in our watershed.

Tyler Fewings, the new watershed co-ordinator in the Lower Souris, welcomed everybody and was the emcee for the day.

The morning started out with a discussion around wetland restoration. Etienne Shupena-Soulodre (Water Security Agency) sparked some discussion on the value of wetland restoration on our farm and pasture land. Nolan Johnson (Ducks Unlimited Canada) explained and displayed pictures to illustrate the design and construction of ditch plugs. Then Ryan Canart outlined how wetland restoration projects have benefitted his operation in terms of increased vegetation and organism diversity, water storage, being a good neighbor, and the incentive payment.



Bryan Osborne (Water Security Agency) then spoke about the changes to drainage regulations in Saskatchewan and the more streamlined application and complaint processes being developed.

Teresa Walker (Lower Souris Watershed) explained the Lower Souris Grain Bag Roller program that is now available to our watershed residents FREE OF CHARGE! Travis Quirk (Simply Ag) discussed the detriment to our environment and health from the burning of ag plastics such as grain bags, twine and net wrap and outlined Simply Ag's recycling programs across the province.

Jodi Griffin (SCIC) then gave a detailed presentation on the Forage Insurance Program which is designed to provide funds to purchase feed if there is a shortfall and the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPPI), a one-stop risk management tool where WLPPI will pay the difference to the producer if the market drops below the coverage purchased.

Karmen Kyle (Lower Souris Watershed) concluded the afternoon by discussing the funding opportunities that are available to producers such as the Farm Stewardship Program, Farm & Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, Forage Programs, and Wetland Restoration Programs.

The Lower Souris Watershed Committee would like to thank the presenters for relaying valuable information to everyone, the Wawota United Church "Raising the Rafters" Fundraising Committee for providing a delicious lunch and snacks, and to everyone who attended the workshop. Your support of our events and programs is appreciated.

SPONSORS

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RM of Maryfield # 91
RM of Walpole # 92
RM of Wawken #93
RM of Moosomin # 121
RM of Martin #122
RM of Silverwood # 123
RM of Kingsley #124
RM of Chester #125
Town of Redvers
Town of Moosomin
Town of Wapella
Town of Wawota



COMING EVENTS

2016 Saskatchewan Association of Watershed Conference

April 20-22, 2016
Yorkton, SK
www.saskwatersheds.ca

International Rangeland Congress

July 16-22, 2016
Saskatoon, SK
2016canada.rangelandcongress.org

How Can the Lower Souris Watershed Committee Help You?

The Lower Souris Watershed Committee has been actively delivering programs to agricultural producers in southeast Saskatchewan since 2004. Here are a few ways we can help you:

- 1) **Are you developing water sources (well, dugout, pipeline) on your farm?** – we can help you develop your project, prepare application and claim forms and other permit applications as needed, and obtain further technical resources
- 2) **Do you have abandoned water wells which pose concerns about safety and groundwater contamination?** – we can help find a contractor and materials to decommission the well properly, and prepare application and claim forms to access 90% cost-share funding. This is available to landowners, acreage owners and municipalities.
- 3) **Seeding grass?** – we can help you apply to the appropriate funding programs available that assist with forage seed and establishment costs, obtain imagery needed, and help with forage species selection
- 4) **Are you considering other projects on your farm – corral relocation, erosion control, repairing a creek crossing, manure management, variable rate fertilizer application, and many more?** – we can assist with the application process, answering questions about the program you may have, and finding the appropriate technical specialist to help you out if needed
- 5) **Are you interested in wetland restoration?** – \$2000/wetland acre may be available to restore wetlands on your property. We can answer any questions you may have and help you participate in this program.
- 6) **Wondering about pasture management?** – we can help you obtain imagery, develop grazing management plans and do pasture health assessments, as well as assist with project applications such as fencing, water development, off site watering and more if applicable
- 7) **Want to clean up agricultural plastics at your farm?** – we will schedule the use of the Lower Souris Grain Bag Roller, provide storage bags for twine and net wrap, and co-operate with Simply Ag to deliver recycling programs in our watershed to make it more convenient for you
- 8) **Are you submitting an application for a drainage project on your farm or have questions about the new drainage regulations?** – we can help you find the right technical specialists, answer questions, and assist with the application process
- 9) **Education Opportunities?** – we work with schools, youth groups such as 4-H, and other interested groups to organize workshops to discuss programs, water, riparian area management, plant identification, grazing management, and more

Contact Karmen at 452.7953 or Tyler at 452.3292 with any questions or if you are interested in any of the programs that we deliver.