

Wetland Restoration Lease Program

Wetlands are more than sloughs

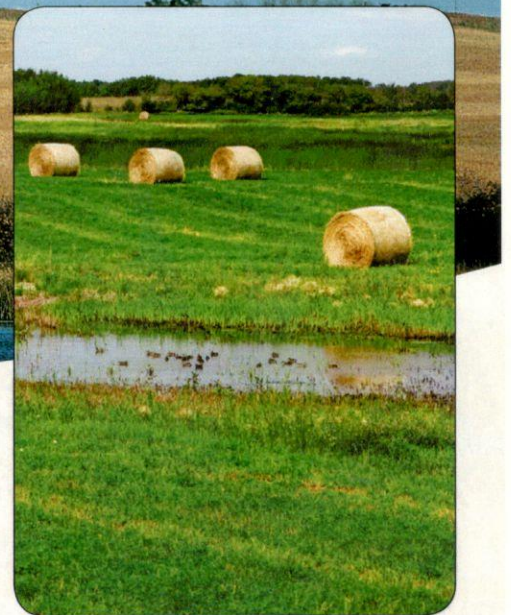
Sloughs, marshes, ponds, field water. Wetlands are areas that hold water either temporarily or permanently. Some wetlands hold water year-round while others hold water for one or two months.

What is wetland restoration

Wetland restoration re-establishes small ponds and sloughs using methods like plugging ditches with earthen plugs or dams. DUC focuses on complexes of small sloughs that are typically 1/2 to 2 acres in size on a broader landscape.

DUC's Wetland Restoration Lease program

DUC compensates landowners based on current fair market value for restored wetland areas under a 10-year lease. As part of DUC's program, restored wetland areas stay under the management of the landowner. These areas may be hayed or grazed but they cannot be drained, altered or tilled during the term of the agreement. DUC's lease pays landowners significant compensation for this restriction.



The wetland restoration lease program is a significant financial opportunity that landowners should consider for their land & for their future.

Financial benefits

The program lease provides an upfront payment followed by a stream of 10 annual payments. Payments are based on current land values in the area and on the surveyed area of restored wetlands. DUC completes all the wetland restoration construction at no cost to you.

Landowners and cattle producers who have drained wetlands on grazing lands are often a very good fit for this program.

Farmers should consider this program as a partial source of financing for new land.

Starting the process

The first step is for DUC to complete a aerial photography assessment using current and historic photography to determine the presence and/or absence of wetlands and the presence of linear ditch works. If the initial assessment is positive, DUC undertakes field inspections to verify the presence and areas of drained wetlands which serves as the basis for lease agreement negotiations.

DUC will consider lands that have been drained or partially drained for the program.

Environmental benefits

Restored wetlands provide the following environmental benefits and services:

- greater biodiversity (waterfowl, wildlife, vegetation, etc.)
- carbon storage
- watershed flood & drought protection
- improved water quality through phosphorous and nitrogen sequestration)



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Conserving Canada's Wetlands

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For more information, contact:
Ducks Unlimited Canada
1 866 479 3825