

# Beneficial Management Practices

## Conservation Easements/Agreements

- 1 Conservation Easements/Agreements
- 2 Conservation Tillage
- 3 Farm Safety
- 4 Fertilizer Storage
- 5 Forages in Rotation
- 6 Fuel Storage
- 7 GPS
- 8 Tall-Grass Prairie Restoration
- 9 Riparian Area Management
- 10 Wetland Restoration
- 11 Winter Wheat



*Kelburn Farm is a Sustainable Land Use Centre that promotes a variety of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to show how profitable business ventures like commercial agriculture can be complementary with maintaining healthy habitats for wildlife and people.*

### Description

Conservation Easements (Conservation Agreements in Manitoba) are legal agreements registered on the land title that perpetually protects the habitat found on the property. Conservation Easements/Agreements can be adapted to accommodate the interests of the conservation agency and landowner. In most instances, Conservation Easements/Agreements prohibit breaking native uplands and draining wetlands while allowing grazing and haying. Some land uses take precedent over Conservation Easements/Agreements, such as resource extraction. In instances where a Conservation Easement/Agreement is registered on property found to have natural resources below it, landowners are able to participate in resource extraction.

### Benefits

Conservation Easements/Agreements provide landowners with a tool to protect natural features on their property for future generations. In areas with increased infrastructure and development, landowners have used Conservation Easements/Agreements to protect agriculture as a land use on these landscapes. Conservation Easements/Agreements are used by conservation agencies as a tool to protect native habitat, including wetlands, while providing landowners with a financial reward. Conservation Easements/Agreements can be purchased from landowners by conservation agencies or donated to conservation agencies.

### Issues

Up to 70 per cent of wetlands and native uplands have been drained or degraded in settled areas of Canada. This loss of wetland and native upland habitat negatively impacts the environment as well as waterfowl and wildlife areas. Conservation Easements/Agreements help protect these important areas in perpetuity. Conservation Easements/Agreements are legally registered on the land title ensuring future purchasers are aware of the interest on the property.

### Proper Management

Landowners who own property with a Conservation Easement/Agreement registered on the property may utilize the property in any way that is deemed acceptable within the terms of the agreement. In most instances, this allows grazing and/or haying. Most Conservation Easements/Agreements prohibit breaking native uplands to rejuvenate them, making proper management of grazing lands critical. Ducks Unlimited Canada can assist ranchers in developing grazing plans for lands with Conservation Easements/Agreements registered on them.



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Conserving Canada's Wetlands

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