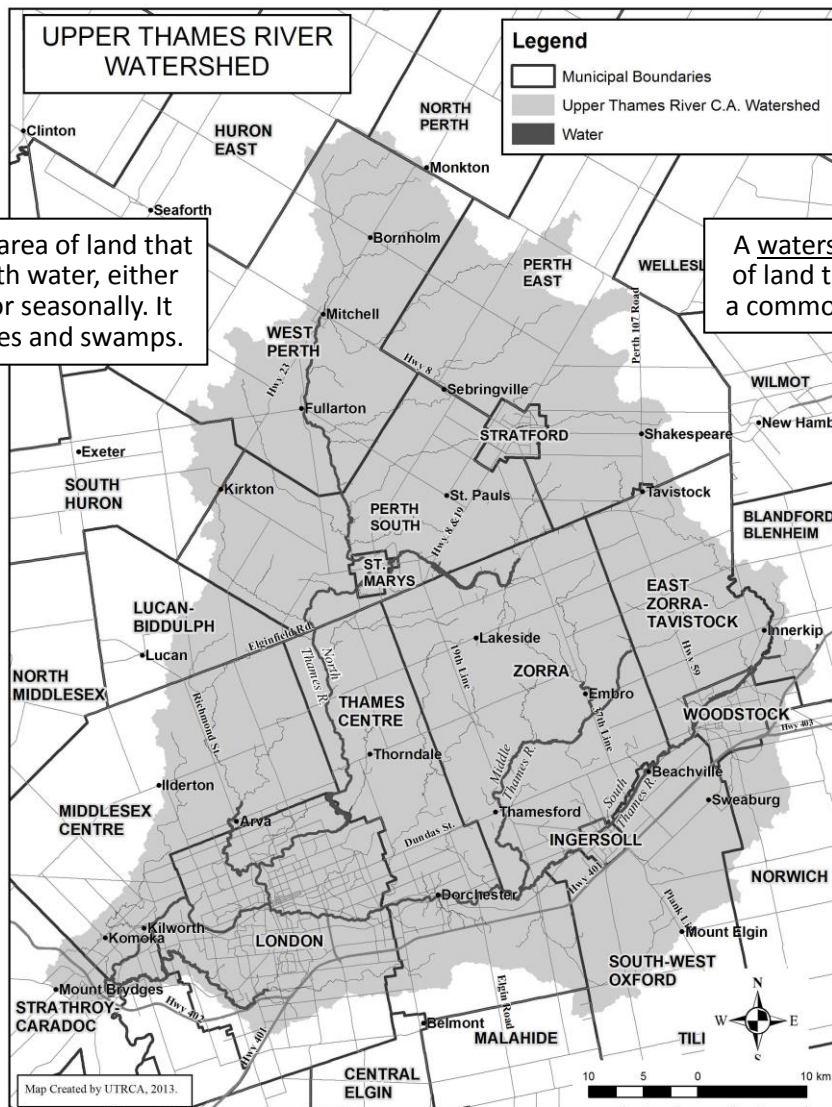


Survey of Farmer Views on Wetland Enhancement and Restoration in & near the Upper Thames River Watershed



A wetland is an area of land that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally. It includes marshes and swamps.

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common river system.

When you have completed this survey, please place it in the postage-paid envelope provided in your survey package and drop it off in the mail. Thank you!

Section 1: Your Land

1. Which county do you live in? *Please check **one** box only.*
- Huron County Middlesex County
 Oxford County Perth County
 Elgin County Other (Please specify): _____
2. What is the total area of land that you own inside and outside the Upper Thames River watershed (if needed, consult the map on the back of the cover letter)?
Please indicate the number of acres in the spaces provided.
- Inside: _____ Acres
 Outside: _____ Acres
3. When did you first obtain land in the region? *Please check **one** box only.*
- Before 1970 1981-1990 2001-2006 Not Applicable
 1970-1980 1991-2000 2007-2013
4. What is the primary use of the land you own? *Please check **one** box only.*
- Agriculture Residence
 Forestry Other: _____
5. If you generated income from your land over the past 5 years, is it from any of the following? *Please check **all** boxes that apply.*
- Farming Leasing land for recreation Not applicable
 Forestry Leasing land for farming or forestry Other: _____
 Leasing land for hunting Development/sale of your land _____
6. What will likely happen to your land after you retire? *Please check **one** box only.*
- Sell Give to land trust Have not started planning for retirement
 Give to family Don't know Other: _____

7. People own land for many different reasons. How important are each of the following reasons to you? *For each reason, please check the box that corresponds with your answer.*

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Of little importance	Unimportant	Don't know
To make a living (farm, forest, or other income)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To complement my income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As an investment for future gain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As a location for my permanent residence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For recreation (hunting, fishing, walking, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To maintain a family legacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For the sake of our future generations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To preserve ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Which of the following features do you have on your land?

*Please check **all** boxes that apply.*

- Crop Pasture Meadows
 Orchard Forests Other: _____

9a. Do you have wetlands on your land?

- Yes ➔ *If yes, please continue with question 9b*
 No ➔ *If no, please skip to question 10*

9b. Did you create, or have you enhanced, any of these wetlands? *Check **all** boxes that apply.*

- Created them Enhanced them No

9c. If you created or enhanced any wetlands on your land, please explain what you did and how it was funded. *If you answered 'No' to question 9b please skip to question 10.*

Section 2: Your Land Management

- 10.** How many acres of your land are currently left untilled or dedicated to other land cover types, and how have these areas changed since 2006?

Please indicate your answers using the spaces provided below. For any specific land cover type that does not apply to your situation, please leave the associated space blank.

<u>Land cover type</u>	<u># of acres now</u>	<u>Change since 2006</u>	
		<u>Increase (acres)</u>	<u>Decrease (acres)</u>
Land left untilled	_____	_____	_____
Fence line	_____	_____	_____
Wind break	_____	_____	_____
Trees	_____	_____	_____
Shrub land meadow	_____	_____	_____
Ditch	_____	_____	_____
Wet area / Wetland	_____	_____	_____
Other conservation measure:			
_____	_____	_____	_____

- 11.** Have you ever received financial incentives or cost-share payments from any of the following programs for implementing conservation measures on your land?

*Please check **all** boxes that apply.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Program offered by the local Conservation Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Ducks Unlimited Wetland Retention or Restoration Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Farm Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have not received financial assistance from any program | _____ |

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your landowner rights?

For each statement, please check the box that corresponds with your answer.

<u>As a landowner, I have the right to...</u>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
...restrict others' access to my land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...transfer ownership of my land to others without restriction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...do whatever I want with my land without regard for others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...do anything with my land as long as my actions do not infringe upon neighbours' rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...do anything with my land as long as my actions do not conflict with the interests and values of the local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your landowner responsibilities?

For each statement, please check the box that corresponds with your answer.

<u>As a landowner, I have the responsibility to...</u>	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
... be a good steward of my land and to maintain it in a good condition for future generations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... leave the land in a better condition than when I acquired it	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
... take into account the values and interests of society at large when making decisions about my land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 3: Wetland Management

Information: Wetland Benefits

Wetlands in your area provide a number of benefits to the community, including:

- ***Water quality:*** Wetlands help purify water.
- ***Flood, drought, and erosion control:*** Wetlands help control flooding and erosion, as well as reduce the impacts of drought.
- ***Wildlife habitat:*** Wetlands provide habitat for native and/or endangered plant and wildlife species (both on land and in water).
- ***Carbon storage:*** Wetlands store carbon helping to slow climate change.
- ***Recreation and education:*** Wetlands provide recreational and educational opportunities.

14. How important are the following wetland benefits in your area to you?

Please check **one** box per item.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	No opinion
Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flood, drought, and erosion control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation and education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. How would you describe the current state of wetlands in your area?

Please check **one** box per item.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Marginal	Don't know
Quantity (amount) of wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality (health) of wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessibility to view wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Information: Decline in Wetland Area

- The area of wetlands in and around the Upper Thames River watershed has declined significantly over the past century, largely due to human activities such as expansion of urban areas, agriculture, and industrial developments.
- While the rate of wetland loss has recently slowed, the area and/or quality of wetlands in your region still declines each year, resulting in further loss of wetland benefits.
- Landowners can help reverse the declining trend by enhancing existing wetlands and restoring previously drained ones on the land they manage.

16. In your opinion, what would motivate landowners in your region to participate in wetland enhancement and restoration activities on their land?

For each incentive, please check the box that corresponds with your answer.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Public recognition (e.g., signage on property, stewardship banquets and awards, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concern over loss of wetlands in this region	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More information on how the decline in wetland area affects them personally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to technical assistance and information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If neighbours undertook this type of practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A one-time payment to offset initial cost of enhancement or restoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A small annual payment to acknowledge their environmental service provision to society and to help cover loss of revenue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 4: Incentives for Enhancing & Restoring Wetlands

Suppose that in an effort to enhance and restore wetlands within and adjacent to the Upper Thames River watershed, the government offered a voluntary program that provided incentives (e.g., payments, public recognition) to landowners to set aside some of their lands. This land could be (i) converted to meadow or trees to help retain nearby wetlands; or (ii) converted directly into wetlands if appropriate.

PROGRAM CONDITIONS:

Participating landowners would:

- Sign a 5-year contract to enroll some of their land and receive annual payments (to help compensate for lost income & acknowledge provision of an environmental service to society).
- Have the opportunity to renew the contract, or transfer/terminate it if the land is sold.
- Enroll land that is in addition to existing commitments under government or non-government programs and legal requirements.
- Have a say in what type of land conversion activities are implemented (i.e. whether to convert land to meadow, trees, or wetlands). All capital/material costs would be paid for by the government (on top of any financial incentive to you).

We would now like to ask you to evaluate several program options.

On each of the next few pages, you'll be presented with a set of 2 voluntary programs considered by the government. We ask you to choose between PROGRAM A, PROGRAM B, or NO PROGRAM.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS:

Each program is described by the following range of PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS:

Type of land to be converted	➔ land can be <u>Productive</u> or <u>Marginal</u> (i.e., less fertile) farmland
Conversion activity	➔ land can be converted to <u>Meadow</u> , <u>Trees</u> , or <u>Wetland</u>
Number of acres	➔ area converted can be <u>1</u> , <u>3</u> , or <u>5</u> acres
Public recognition	➔ can be <u>Yes</u> or <u>No</u> , depending on whether or not signage on property, stewardship banquets , & awards are provided.
Annual payments to you	➔ can be <u>\$50</u> to <u>\$550</u> per acre per year (to help compensate you for any lost income and to acknowledge your provision of an environmental service to society).

Please consider the options carefully - as if you were entering into a real contract with the government - since the program would have a limited budget and could only fund a limited number of projects.

SET 1:

17a. If the following program options were the only ones available to you, which one would you choose?

Please check the box that corresponds with your answer.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS	PROGRAM A	PROGRAM B	NO PROGRAM
Type of land to be converted	Marginal	Marginal	---
Conversion activity	Wetland	Meadow	---
Number of acres	5 acres	3 acres	---
Public recognition	Yes	No	---
Annual payments to you	\$450/acre	\$450/acre	\$0/acre
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose only one →

17b. On a scale 1 to 10, how certain are you about the program choice you made above?

*Please circle the number that best represents your answer if **1 equals not at all certain** and **10 equals very certain**.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Not at all certain				Somewhat certain				Very certain		

SET 2:

18a. If the following program options were the only ones available to you, which one would you choose?

Please check the box that corresponds with your answer.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS		PROGRAM A	PROGRAM B	NO PROGRAM
Type of land to be converted	→	Productive	Marginal	---
Conversion activity	→	Trees	Trees	---
Number of acres	→	3 acres	5 acres	---
Public recognition	→	Yes	No	---
Annual payments to you	→	\$250/acre	\$150/acre	\$0/acre
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose only one →

18b. On a scale 1 to 10, how certain are you about the program choice you made above?

*Please circle the number that best represents your answer if **1 equals not at all certain** and **10 equals very certain**.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all certain			Somewhat certain				Very certain		

SET 3:

19a. If the following program options were the only ones available to you, which one would you choose?

Please check the box that corresponds with your answer.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS	PROGRAM A	PROGRAM B	NO PROGRAM
Type of land to be converted	Productive	Marginal	---
Conversion activity	Meadow	Wetland	---
Number of acres	1 acre	1 acre	---
Public recognition	Yes	No	---
Annual payments to you	\$150/acre	\$550/acre	\$0/acre
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose only one →

19b. On a scale 1 to 10, how certain are you about the program choice you made above?

*Please circle the number that best represents your answer if **1 equals not at all certain** and **10 equals very certain**.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all certain			Somewhat certain				Very certain		

SET 4:

20a. If the following program options were the only ones available to you, which one would you choose?

Please check the box that corresponds with your answer.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS		PROGRAM A	PROGRAM B	NO PROGRAM
Type of land to be converted	→	Marginal	Productive	---
Conversion activity	→	Trees	Meadow	---
Number of acres	→	1 acre	3 acres	---
Public recognition	→	No	Yes	---
Annual payments to you	→	\$350/acre	\$50/acre	\$0/acre
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose only one →

20b. On a scale 1 to 10, how certain are you about the program choice you made above?

*Please circle the number that best represents your answer if **1 equals not at all certain** and **10 equals very certain**.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all certain			Somewhat certain				Very certain		

SET 5:

21a. If the following program options were the only ones available to you, which one would you choose?

Please check the box that corresponds with your answer.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS	PROGRAM A	PROGRAM B	NO PROGRAM
Type of land to be converted	Marginal	Marginal	---
Conversion activity	Meadow	Trees	---
Number of acres	5 acres	5 acres	---
Public recognition	No	Yes	---
Annual payments to you	\$50/acre	\$350/acre	\$0/acre
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose only one →

21b. On a scale 1 to 10, how certain are you about the program choice you made above?

*Please circle the number that best represents your answer if **1 equals not at all certain** and **10 equals very certain**.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all certain				Somewhat certain			Very certain		

SET 6:

22a. If the following program options were the only ones available to you, which one would you choose?

Please check the box that corresponds with your answer.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS	PROGRAM A	PROGRAM B	NO PROGRAM
Type of land to be converted	Productive	Productive	---
Conversion activity	Wetland	Wetland	---
Number of acres	3 acres	1 acre	---
Public recognition	No	Yes	---
Annual payments to you	\$550/acre	\$250/acre	\$0/acre
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please choose only one →

22b. On a scale 1 to 10, how certain are you about the program choice you made above?

*Please circle the number that best represents your answer if **1 equals not at all certain** and **10 equals very certain**.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all certain			Somewhat certain				Very certain		

23. If you chose "NO PROGRAM" for any of the previous sets, please check the box that best explains why you chose this option. *Please check one box only.*

"The annual payments were too low"

"I believe these projects would lower my property value"

"The amount of land involved was too large"

"The amount of land involved was too small"

"I do not think retaining or restoring wetlands is an important issue"

"The 5-year contract length was too restrictive"

"I don't trust the government"

Other: _____

24. If you chose either "PROGRAM A" or "PROGRAM B" for any of the previous sets, please check the box that best explains why you chose this option.

Please check one box only.

"The annual payments were the main reason for my choices"

"We should restore wetlands regardless of the payment levels"

"The public recognition of my conservation effort was the main reason for my choices"

"It's equally important to provide payments and recognition to landowners who restore wetlands in my area"

Other: _____

25. If you chose either "PROGRAM A" or "PROGRAM B" for any of the previous sets, please check the box that indicates your preferred renewable contract length.

Please check one box only.

1 year

10 years

20 years

5 years

15 years

More than 20 years

Section 5: Your Personal Characteristics

26. What is your gender?

- Female Male

27. In what year were you born? _____

28. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

*Please check **one** box only.*

- Elementary school Post-secondary (diploma or bachelor's degree)
 High school Graduate or professional degree (e.g. law, MD, masters, or PhD)

29. Which of the following best describes your present employment status?

*Please check **one** box only.*

- Working full time Retired Student
 Working part time Unemployed

30. Are you a member of any of the following types or organizations or associations?

*Please check **all** boxes that apply.*

- Environmental/conservation Farmer
 Hunting/fishing Woodlot
 ATV/snowmobile Other: _____

31. What is your best estimate of your total household income (before taxes) over the past 12 months? *Please check **one** box only.*

- Less than \$10,000 \$30,000 to \$49,999 \$75,000 to \$99,999
 \$10,000 to \$29,999 \$50,000 to \$74,999 More than \$100,000

32. What percentage of your household income is from on-farm sources (i.e. crop / livestock)?

- 0 % 1 to 24 % 25 to 49 % 50 to 74 % 75 to 99 % 100 %

33. What is your postal code and rural route number (example: RR 1)?

Postal Code: _____ Route Number: _____

34. How would you describe your household's debt load? *Please check **one** box only.*

- Debt free Low Moderate High

End of Survey. Thank You!

Please place the completed survey in the postage-paid envelope and drop it off in the mail.

To be entered into the draw for one of three \$100 Visa gift cards, please fill out the ballot at the bottom of the cover letter, detach, and return it with your completed survey.