



 **CANADIAN
AGRICULTURAL
PARTNERSHIP**
Innovate. Grow. Prosper.

ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES

PROGRAM GUIDELINES



Agriculture and
Fisheries

Canada 

ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES PROGRAM

Program Policy: *Supporting clean growth in the Sector and progress towards environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation which will increase overall environmental sustainability.*

CAP Outcome: Increase environmental sustainability.

CAP Priority Area: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Alternative Land Use Services Program is designed to increase environmental sustainability by providing financial incentive to agricultural landowners to establish or maintain Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) on agricultural land and/or for the removal of targeted environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production. The focus of the ALUS Program will be to prevent soil erosion and siltation of watercourses and wetlands, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat in targeted areas beyond those covered by PEI's regulations on agricultural practices.

Note: Program delivery of the ALUS programming is a joint effort of two provincial government departments: the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Department of Communities, Land, and Environment.

Note: Guidance for ALUS program activities is sought from an external advisory group comprised of members from industry, conservation and watershed groups, and the University of Prince Edward Island.

Note: Eligible applicants will sign an agreement to receive financial compensation annually to remove land from agricultural production or to establish and maintain beneficial management practices (BMPs) to prevent soil erosion and/or promote water quality and wildlife habitat.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous Organizations who are owners of agricultural land; and
- Owners of agricultural land.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Retirement of sensitive land
 - Expanding buffer zones;
 - Establishing non-regulated grassed headlands; and
 - Retiring high-sloped land.
- Land under conservation structures;
- Maintain livestock fencing adjacent to watercourses and wetlands; and
- Delayed hay cutting of long-term forage fields.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Expansion of buffer areas (beyond the regulated 15 metres) which have been in annual crop production at some time since 2010.

- Headland areas in a field under row-crop rotation in which the rows drain toward the headland, and where the headland is located at distances greater than 200m from a watercourse or wetland.
- Retirement of high-sloped land which has been in active annual row-crop production at some time since 2010.
- Retirement of land which is currently in active annual crop production in order to establish soil conservation structures¹:
 - Diversion terraces;
 - Farmable berms; and
 - Grassed waterways.
- Natural hollows left as permanent grass (minimum 30 feet wide).
- Fencing of a livestock pasture in active pasture rotation in which the fence is a minimum of five metres from the edge of an adjacent watercourse or wetland².
- Delayed cutting and harvesting of grass in forage fields until after July 15th of each year³.

Note¹: Soil conservation structures must meet minimum standards as determined by Soil Conservation Specialists with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and be in locations within the field deemed effective in preventing soil erosion.

Note²: In order to be eligible for the livestock fencing incentive, the field must have the necessary alternate watering infrastructure and livestock stream crossings.

Note³: In order to be eligible for the delayed hay cutting incentive, the field must be in long-term forage and not in an annual crop rotation.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Regulated buffer zones; and
- Regulated grassed headlands.

CAP INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Business Risk Management-type activities (e.g. activities which are covered by AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriInsurance, AgriRecovery and AgriRisk);
- Purchase and/or implementation of items which are considered normal or on-going farm operating expenses, except as otherwise specified;
- Purchase of common items that can be used for multiple purposes (e.g. digital cameras, GPS, smartphones, etc.), except as otherwise specified;
- Activities which do not provide a direct benefit to the Sector;
- Activities related to aquaponics food production, and to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing;
- Tax credits or rebates; and
- Development and/or enforcement of regulations.

FUNDING

Expanding Buffer Zones	\$185/hectare/year
Establishing non-regulated grassed headlands	\$185/hectare/year
Retiring high-sloped land	\$150/hectare/year
Land under conservation structures	\$250/hectare/year
Maintaining livestock fencing adjacent to watercourses and wetlands	\$0.30/metre/year
Delayed hay cutting of long-term forage fields	\$62/hectare/year

Note: Areas eligible for payment may be prioritized by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

PUBLIC TRUST

Projects approved for funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership which have demonstrable links to increasing public trust may be eligible for additional project funding.

EVALUATION AND CONTROL

A complete evaluation of this program is planned to ensure that the objectives and results are achieved and to assess the relevance of its renewal. Program metrics are collected and reported on an on-going basis.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

CAP programs are available to all Canadians who are eligible to participate in those programs. Wherever possible, the needs of under-represented groups, including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, were considered during program development.

HOW TO APPLY

Completed applications may be submitted to the attention of the ALUS Program Officer via regular mail or email.

E-Mail Applications:

Applications may be submitted via email at ALUS@gov.pe.ca
Please include the program name in the subject line.

Regular Mail Applications:

Applications may be submitted via regular mail at:
PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
11 Kent Street
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8
(902) 368-4880 (telephone)
(902) 368-4857 (facsimile)

DEFINITIONS

Annual Crop

Any cereals, oilseeds or row crop grown at least once in a five-year period.

Expanded Buffer Zones

Areas of land, adjacent to the legislated 15 meter buffer zone, that are retired to give added protection to the watercourse or wetland.

High-Sloped Land

Agricultural land which is identified by its red color in the Prince Edward Island Sloped Land Inventory (PEISLI) GIS layer.

Non-regulated grass headlands

Non-regulated grassed headlands are those that are established at distances greater than 200 meters from watercourses or bufferable wetlands. Regulated grassed headlands do not qualify for payment.

PEISLI

PEI Sloped Land Inventory layer found on Provincial GIS database, representing a contiguous area greater than 1 hectare and where slope is 9% or greater.

Row Crop

Any crop that is spaced to allow cultivation between the rows.

Watercourses (wetlands)

A watercourse is any stream, creek, pond, river, bay or coastal water body whether it contains water or not. A wetland is an area of water-tolerant vegetation including marshes, swamps, bogs and meadows.