



Lower Thames Valley  
**PRECISION PHOSPHORUS  
REDUCTION PROGRAM**

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2025

PROGRAM GUIDE

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# Program Overview

**The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is pleased to offer the 2025 Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program (PPRP) funded in partnership with the Canada Water Agency.**

The PPRP will run through 2028 and aims to provide farmers with the knowledge and tools to reduce the loss of phosphorus to the natural environment while recognizing the vital role it plays to crop quality and yield.

The 2025 program is offering financial incentives in eight Best Management Practice (BMP) categories. The LTVCA aims to distribute funds across the region to expand BMP project impact while reaching the maximum amount of acres and farm businesses.



## **LTVCA**

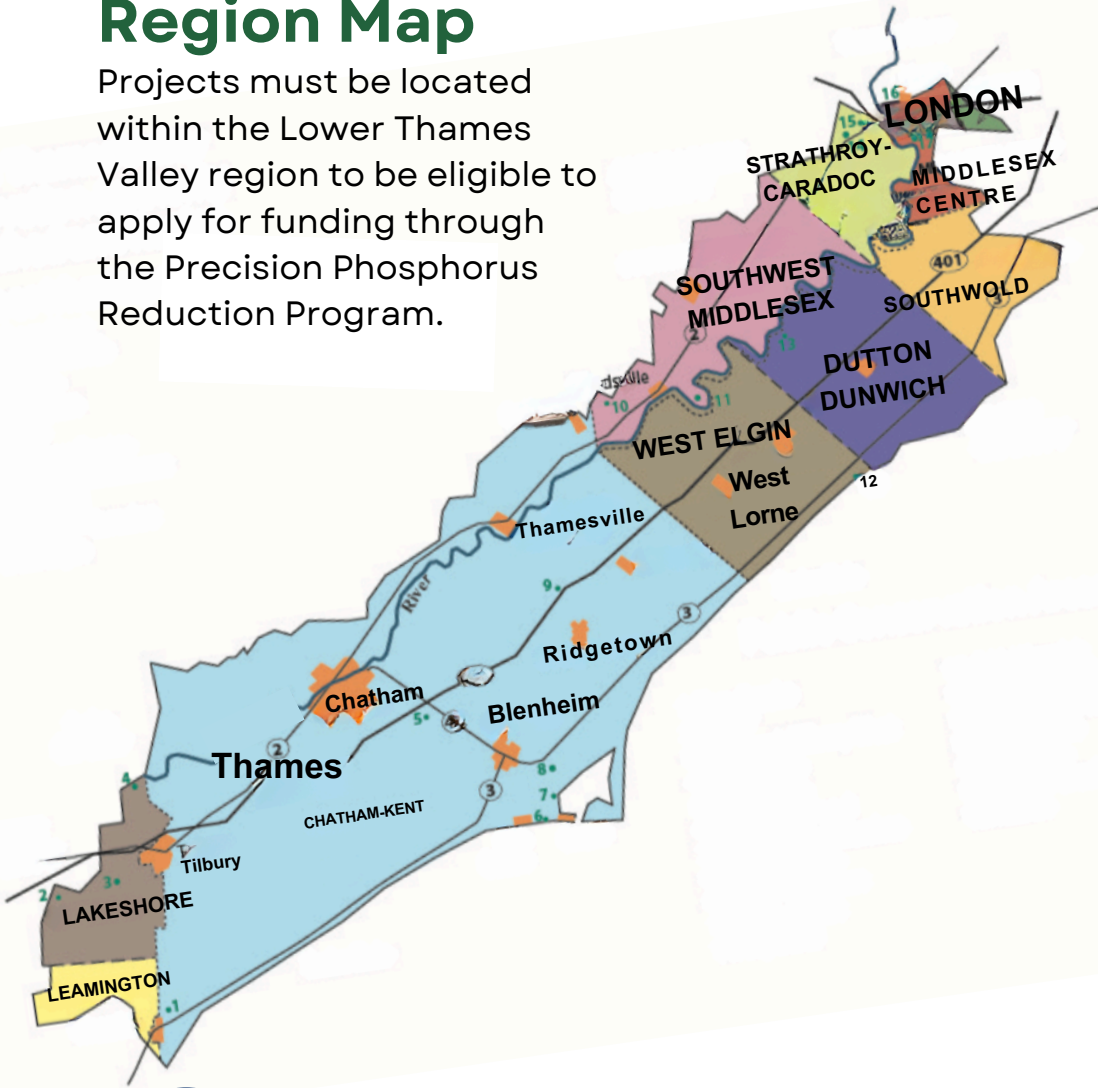
100 Thames Street  
Chatham, Ontario. N7L 2Y8  
519-354-7310  
[www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)



***Please Note*** - All monetary incentives, program details and guidelines as outlined in this document are subject to change without notice to the applicant, as per the authority or funder discretion.

# Region Map

Projects must be located within the Lower Thames Valley region to be eligible to apply for funding through the Precision Phosphorus Reduction Program.



**Please Note:** Map for display purposes only. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify their property boundaries to guarantee program eligibility.



# Our Location

The project must be located within the Lower Thames Valley region.

**Visit the link or scan below to see if your location applies.**



**CONSERVATIONONTARIO.CA**



**Scan Me!**



# How to Apply?

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- To obtain an application form please email: [agriculture@ltvca.ca](mailto:agriculture@ltvca.ca).
- Complete the application form and attach all requested documents.
- Submit application(s) within the required timeframe(s):
  - by mail or in person to LTVCA:
    - 100 Thames Street  
Chatham, ON, N7L 2Y8
  - online to:
    - [agriculture@ltvca.ca](mailto:agriculture@ltvca.ca)



## Questions? Let's Talk!

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# BMP Categories

**Funding incentives are currently available in eight best management practice categories.**

The following costs are generally eligible for grant assistance, although no assumption of approval should be made until a letter of approval is received.

- purchased materials and supplies;
- professional fees;
- fees for design and construction.

## 2025 Funding Incentives

Eligible Project	Grant Rate - Single BMP Per Field	Stacked Grant Rate	Maximum
Cover Crops	\$10/acre: harvested or grazed. \$30/acre: not harvested.	\$20	Up to \$15,000
Crop Planning & Soil Testing	\$25/acre	\$20	Up to \$15,000
Alt. P Application Methods	\$30/acre	\$20	Up to \$15,000
Reduced Tillage	\$30/acre: no-till/strip-till. \$15/acre: other minimum till system.	\$20	Up to \$15,000
Erosion Control Structures	Up to 80% of \$15,000.		
Buffer Strip	Up to 90% of \$8,000.		
Windbreaks	Up to 90% of \$8,000		
Innovative Practices & Projects	See project page for full category details.		

# BMP 1: Cover Crops

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An incentive for growers to maintain ground cover on farmland during the non-growing season to reduce soil erosion potential and the loss of phosphorus into waterways.

## Applications Accepted:

- March 01, 2025 – Until funds are fully allocated.

## Incentive Rates:

**\$10/acre: Harvested/Grazed**

**Up to \$15,000**

**\$30/acre: Not Harvested**

***Please Note:** May be combined with BMP 2, BMP 3, BMP 4 at a rate of \$20/acre/BMP – Up to \$80/acre – \$15,000/ farm business.*

## Eligibility Requirements:

- Cover crop must provide adequate cover to the field for the non-growing season.
- Minimum 60% residue the following spring is required.

## Eligible Projects

- Cover crops interseeded/overseeded into annual crop, or seeded following the harvest of annual crop.
- Single or multispecies cover crops with the exceptions of winter wheat, alfalfa or triticale as a single species or planting of invasive species.
- Fall burndown of cover crops is discouraged but acceptable if adequate residue criteria are met in spring.

## Audit Process:

- 1 Fields will be subject to a site visit by LTVCA staff prior to March 15, 2026, to ensure 60% residue cover and confirm species.
- 2 Fields may be subject to photography or videography from land based and/or aerial platforms.
- 3 At the time of site visit a soil test may be taken by LTVCA staff to catalogue regional soil health parameters.

# BMP 2: Crop Planning & Soil Testing

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The goal of this practice is to apply a 4R approach with the right rate, source, timing and placement of soil fertility to better manage crop input applications.

## Accepting Applications:

- March 01, 2025 – Until funds have been fully allocated.

## Incentive Rates:

**\$25/acre**

**Up to \$15,000**

***Please Note:** May be combined with BMP 1, BMP 3, BMP 4 at a rate of \$20/acre/ BMP – Up to \$80/acre - \$15,000/ farm business.*

## Eligibility

*Applicants must provide a 3-Year Crop Nutrient Plan requiring the following details:*

- Soil sampling program:
  - Minimum one sample per 2.5 acres using a site specific (grid) or smart zone approach.
- OR**
- Soil Optix based sampling.



*Continued on next page.*

*4R practices can benefit production through nutrient use efficiencies while limiting excess application and wasteful use of resources.*



## Eligibility *Continued*

- Georeferenced field boundary and sample locations.
- 4R inputs to be applied:
  - Variable rate application of phosphorus (if warranted).
  - Surface application of phosphorus is prohibited where Bray P1 is greater than 50ppm.
  - Surface application of P is prohibited December 15 to April 01.
- Manure applications must be injected or immediately incorporated (24hr) unless placed on growing cover crop.
- Tillage practices to reduce nutrient loss.
  - Conventional Tillage is prohibited annually December 15 to April 01.

## Audit Process

*Grower must submit prior to Dec. 01, 2025:*

- 1 PDF copy of soil test/manure results from accredited laboratory taken in 2025 with crop fertility recommendations. Submit ASAP.
- 2 PDF map and Shapefile (*shp,shx,dbf*) of soil test showing field boundaries and locations of samples.
- 3 Copy of 3-year cropping plan signed by a qualified professional.
- 4 Nutrient applications must follow Ontario Regulation 267/03 setbacks.

# BMP 3: Alternative Phosphorus Application Methods

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This strategy helps limit the risk of phosphorus loss to waterways by using proper rates and placement of fertilizer where it can be utilized efficiently by the growing crop.

## Accepting Applications:

- March 01, 2025 – Until funds have been fully allocated.

## Financial Incentives:

**\$30/ acre**

**Up to \$15,000**

- Variable Rate Application of Phosphorus.
- Banding of dry Phosphorus at planting.
- Subsurface application of Phosphorus through strip-till unit.
- Manure injection.

***Please Note: May be combined with BMP 1, BMP 2, BMP 4 at a rate of \$20/acre/BMP – Up to \$80/acre - \$15,000/ farm business.***

## Eligibility:

- VRA must be accompanied by a soil sampling program no older than 3 years with:
    - At least 1 sample per 2.5 acres using site specific (grid) or smart zone approach.
- OR**
- Soil Optix based sampling.

## **Eligibility:**     *CONTINUED*

- Banding of Dry Phosphorus at planting.
  - Minimum 20 lbs/acre of P2O5.
- Subsurface Application through strip-till unit.
  - Minimum 20 lbs/acre of P2O5.
- Manure Injection
  - Minimum 20 lbs/acre of P2O5.

## **Audit Process**

- 1**     Date and average rate of phosphorus application as P2O5 lbs/acre submitted by **December 01, 2025.**
- 2**     **Variable Rate Application**
  - PDF copy of VRA map accompanied by recent soil test report from accredited laboratory with fertility recommendations.
  - PDF map booklet of soil test results showing field boundaries and locations of soil samples.
- 3**     **Banding / Strip-Till**
  - Copy of fertilizer receipt with analysis.
  - Picture of applicator unit in field on day of application.
- 4**     **Manure Injection**
  - Copy of laboratory analysis.
  - Picture of applicator unit in field on day of application.

# BMP 4: Reduced Tillage

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Reduced tillage manages soil and surface residues to minimize the danger of erosion and nutrient runoff into watercourses.

## Accepting Applications:

- March 01, 2025 – *Until funds have been fully allocated.*

## Financial Incentives:

**\$30/ac: No-Till / Strip-Till**

**Up to \$15,000**

**\$15/ac: Other Minimal Tillage Systems**

***Please Note:** May be combined with BMP 1, BMP 2, BMP 3 at a rate of \$20/acre/BMP – Up to \$80/acre – \$15,000/ farm business.*

## Eligibility:

- No-Till or Strip-Till planting of corn or soybeans.
- Other tillage systems, if 30% residue cover is achieved.

## Audit Process:

1

Fields will be subject to a site visit by LTVCA staff post planting date to confirm 30% residue cover.

# BMP 5: Erosion Control Structures

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The purpose of these structures are to reduce phosphorus runoff and soil erosion potential through professional design and construction.

## Accepting Applications:

- March 01, 2025 – Until funds have been fully allocated. .

## Financial Incentives:

**80% up to \$15,000**

## Eligibility:

- Projects must be constructed to the standards in the *OMAFRA Pub. 832 Agricultural Erosion Control Structures*.
- Projects must be designed and constructed by a qualified erosion control contractor.
- Any work done on municipal drains requires prior approval from the municipality.

## Eligible Costs:

- Professional consulting, design, and construction.
- Material costs.

## Ineligible Costs:

- New tile drainage not part of the project
- Labour and machinery use of applicant, family dependents or applicant's business
- Project that is a legal or legislative requirement

## Eligible Projects:

- Grassed Waterways
- Drop Structures
- Rock Chutes
- Streambank Stabilization
- Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCoB)

## Audit Process:

- 1 Site will be subject to pre-construction consultation and post-construction confirmation of completion by LTVCA staff.
- 2 Receipts for materials, consulting, design, and construction will be required by December 01, 2025.



**Please Note:** Find an approved erosion control contractor in Ontario by visiting the link below.

 [www.bit.ly/erosioncontractors](http://www.bit.ly/erosioncontractors)



# BMP 6: Buffer Strip

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Buffers can safeguard watercourses from runoff by establishing permanent strips of vegetation in riparian zones, serving as a natural filter to stabilize streambanks.

## Accepting Applications:

- March 01, 2025 – November 01, 2025.
  - *(or until funds have been fully allocated)*

## Financial Incentives:

**Up to 90% of \$8,000**

## Eligibility:

- Buffer strips must be at least 5m wide and adjacent to a watercourse/waterbody.
- Project must be at least 150m long.

## Eligible Projects:

- Establishment of permanent vegetated buffer strip adjacent to a watercourse or a waterbody.

## Eligible Costs

- Consulting and construction costs.
- Planting costs including labour.
- Costs for native seed, shrubs, and trees.

## Ineligible Costs

- Large stock trees.

## Audit Process

1

Site will be subject to pre-construction consultation and post-construction confirmation of completion by LTVCA staff.

2

Receipts for materials, consulting, design, and construction will be required by December 01, 2025.

# BMP 7: Windbreaks

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Planting windbreaks can prevent the effects of harsh winds to reduce soil erosion, crop damage and improve water quality.

## **Accepting Applications:**

- March 01, 2025 – Until funds have been fully allocated.

## **Financial Incentives:**

**Up to 90% of \$8,000**

## **Eligibility:**

- The landowner must review the LTVCA Windbreak Agreement Form and agree to all terms and conditions to proceed with this project.

## **Eligible Projects:**

- Contracted labour and planting costs.
- Tree protection systems (guards, etc.).
- Purchase of native trees and shrubs.
- Professional services and consulting fees.

## **Ineligible Costs:**

- Large tree stock.
- Landscaping for aesthetic or privacy purposes.
- Labour and machinery use of applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business.
- Permits and fees.
- Invoices not issued in the applications name or farm business.

## **Audit Process:**

- 1 Site will be subject to pre-construction consultation and post-construction confirmation of completion by LTVCA staff.
- 2 Receipts for materials, consulting, design, and construction will be required by December 01, 2025.

# BMP 8: Innovative Practices & Projects

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**This category is to support the agricultural industry with developing new concepts that may have the potential to reduce the loss of nutrients from the field.**

Farmers must submit a brief proposal that describes the project, project cost, and how the project will improve soil health and water quality within the Lower Thames Valley region.

## **Eligible Projects:**

- Farmer developed solutions / projects.
- Infrastructure and development costs.

## **Ineligible Costs:**

- Equipment.
- Maintenance costs.
- In-kind land value.






# Application Overview

**LTVCA staff will review all project proposals and approve funding on a case-by-case basis. Applicants to be contacted upon approval.**

Until a letter of confirmation is received, there is no guarantee of project approval or maximum financial incentive.

***Please Note:** Preference to be provided to new adopters and proposals exhibiting environmental merit.*

## Important Reminders

-  LTVCA staff will review your application and determine approval status.
-  Pre-Approved projects will receive a letter of confirmation stating your project can move forward.
-  Projects will be verified with an onsite inspection ensuring requirements are met.
-  A final approval letter will be issued after site audit and submission of required documentation.
-  If a project can not be completed within the 2025/2026 year, there is no guarantee funding will be available in the following year.



# Additional Criteria

- 1 To be eligible for project funding, projects must be completed and invoices must be dated between April 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026.
- 2 Funding can be stacked with other programs up to 100% of eligible costs, as long as the other programs allow for stacking. Applicants must inform LTVCA of other funding sources.
- 3 The maximum amount of funding a farm business can receive over the course of the program is \$15,000.
- 4 Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.
- 5 A financial incentive to implement a best management practice may be paid to an applicant who:
  - is a resident of Ontario;
  - is a registered owner of property in the target area used for agricultural purposes or whose property is under the influence of agriculture.
  - Per acre incentive payments may be paid to the tenant farmer.
- 6 The following costs are generally eligible for grant assistance:
  - purchased materials and supplies;
  - professional fees;
  - fees for design and construction.

- 7** Applicants are permitted to apply to multiple categories on a single field, subject to limits of eligibility described below.

  - Projects must meet all legal requirements including but not limited to local municipal bylaws and Provincial Acts.
  - All approvals and permits are the responsibility of the applicant.
- 8** Participating farmers must be willing to provide information on their general crop production systems (crop rotation, tillage, fertility, yield estimates).

# Questions? Let's Talk!

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