



Lower Thames Valley
**PRECISION PHOSPHORUS
REDUCTION PROGRAM**



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 offers 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

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Chatham, Ontario. N7L 2Y8
519-354-7310
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.

The Lower Thames Valley boundary stretches across land in ten municipalities.

- Chatham-Kent
- Dutton Dunwich
- Lakeshore
- Leamington
- London
- Middlesex Centre
- Southwest Middlesex
- Southwold
- Strathroy-Caradoc
- West Elgin



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

Check Your Location

Are you located in the Lower Thames Valley? Visit the link or scan below to see if your location applies.



bit.ly/FindACA



Scan Me!



How to Apply?

- To obtain an application form please visit **www.ltvca.ca** and download a PDF copy or email: 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



Questions? Let's Talk!

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BMP Categories

Financial incentives are currently available in eight categories to offset the cost of implementing the best management practices listed in the table below.

\$/Acre Project Incentives	
Project	Single BMP Per Field
Cover Crops	\$10/acre: harvested or grazed \$30/acre: not harvested Maximum grant: up to \$15,000.
Crop Planning & Soil Testing	Sold Out - No longer accepting applications.
Alternative Phosphorus Application Methods	Sold Out - No longer accepting applications.
Reduced Tillage	Sold Out - No longer accepting applications.
Cost-Share Projects	
Erosion Control Structures	Sold Out - No longer accepting applications.
Buffer Strip	Sold Out - No longer accepting applications.
Windbreaks	Sold Out - No longer accepting applications.
Innovative Projects & Practices	Sold Out - No longer accepting applications.

Program Update - September 2025

As of September 22, 2025 most program categories are sold out and no longer accepting applications for the 2025 year.

Applications are currently still available for cover crops. Applicants are encouraged to review all category details on page 9 of this guidebook before applying. This category will remain open until all funds are fully allocated for the year.

Applications are available online through our website at www.ltvca.ca or by emailing agriculture@ltvca.ca. Please watch out for additional funding opportunities available in Spring 2026.

Additional Category Information

Please note, there is no guarantee of maximum financial incentive. Category rates may vary depending on number of categories applied to per farm business.

- **Single BMP Rate:** Applicants applying for a single BMP category may be eligible for this rate. Maximum grant of \$15,000 per farm business.
- **Stacked Rate:** Applicants applying for incentives in multiple categories on the same acres may be eligible for the stacked rate of \$20 per category, up to \$80 per acre.

BMP 1: Cover Crops

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.

Financial Incentives:

\$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.
- Harvested cereal crops are not eligible.

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

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.

Financial Incentives:

\$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 per business.

Eligibility:

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

- Completion of the LTVCA crop planning template.
 - See example on Page 27.
 - Soil sampling program:
 - Minimum one sample per 2.5 acres using a site specific (grid) or smart zone approach.
- OR**
- Soil Optix based sampling.



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

Eligibility:

- 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 from 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 from 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. Please submit as soon as possible.
- 2 PDF map of soil test showing field boundaries and locations of samples.
- 3 Copy of 3-year crop plan signed by a qualified professional.

BMP 3: Alternative Phosphorus Application Methods

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

As of June 23, 2025 financial incentives for banding of dry phosphorus have been fully allocated.

The following practices are still eligible for funding:

- Variable Rate Application of Phosphorus.
- 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:

- 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 Strip-Till**
 - Copy of fertilizer receipt with analysis.
 - Picture of applicator unit.
- 4 Manure Injection**
 - Copy of laboratory analysis.

BMP 4: Reduced Tillage

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

Category Update:

As of June 25, 2025 funding for no-till at planting has been fully allocated. All applications received prior to the above noted date have been considered for financial incentives. **NEW** practices listed below.

Accepting Applications:

Updated category: Applications available as of July 25, 2025 – Util lands have been fully allocated.

NEW Financial Incentives:

\$20/ acre : Fall Strip-Till/Vertical-Till of Corn Stalks

Up to \$15,000

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:

- Fall strip-till or vertical-till of corn stalks.

Audit Process

1

Fields will be subject to a site visit by LTVCA staff prior to March 15, 2026.

BMP 5: Erosion Control Structures

The purpose of these structures is 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 standard 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 the 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

BMP 6: Buffer Strip

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 strip 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.

SOLD OUT

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** Project site subject to pre-construction consultation and post-construction confirmation of completion by LTVCA staff.
- 2** Receipts for materials, consulting, design and construction are required by December 01, 2025.

BMP 7: Windbreaks

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 land owner 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.

SOLD OUT

Ineligible Costs:

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

Audit Process:

- 1 Project site 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

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:

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

Ineligible Costs:

- Equipment
- Maintenance costs
- In-kind land value

SOLD OUT

Application Overview

LTVCA staff will review all project proposals and approve funding on a case-by-case basis. Applicants to receive contact from LTVCA 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 PPRP funding, projects must be completed, with invoices 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:
 - o is a resident of Ontario
 - o is a registered owner of property in the target area used for agricultural purposes
 - o is a tenant farmer using rented land for agriculture.
- 6 The following costs are generally eligible for grant assistance:
 - o purchased materials and supplies
 - o professional fees
 - o 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.
 - o Projects must meet all legal requirements including but not limited to local municipal bylaws and Provincial Acts.
 - o 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).

Disclaimer - Payment Schedule Notice:

In accordance with the funding schedule established by our government funders, payment disbursements will not begin until Spring 2026. While applications may be submitted and pre-approved in advance, no funds will be released prior to the above noted timeframe.

All required audit requirements and documents must be reviewed before any payment can be issued. Field verifications and submission of all required documents is a prerequisite for disbursement.

We appreciate your understanding and encourage all applicants to plan accordingly.

Questions? Let's Talk!

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Annual Crop Planning - Example Template

Farm Business: Alm Farms
 Field Name: Home Farm

Main Crop: soybean
 Acreage: 48

Year: 2025
 Date: March 03 2025

Grower to complete this section				Complete this section with your agronomist										Andrew Mickle		
	Seeding Crop / Cover Crop	Harvest / Termination	Tillage Type(s)	Herbicide / Fungicide	Fertilizer Product(s)	%N	%P	%K	%Ca	%Mg	%Zn	%S	%Mn	%B	Avg. Rate	Application Method
Jan/Feb																
Mar/Apr																
May	Soybean		disc cultivator	Vattera	Potash			60							100 lbs	Broadcast
					MAP	11	52						75 lbs	variable rate		
					Calcitic Lime					31				1.5 t	variable rate	
Jun																
Jul				Viature												
Aug																
Sep		Soybean	disc cultivator	Roundup	MESZ	12	40				1	10			50 lbs	variable rate
					Potash			60						75 lbs	variable rate	
					Planting Mix	10	15	8		4	2	12		150 lbs	2X2 band	
Oct	Winter Wheat															
Nov																
Dec																



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