

Working on the front lines in **Alberta**

Alberta is a dynamic, resilient province. Its ability to weather the ebbs and flows of economic changes and its support of urban and rural communities with commercial and residential development make it the strong province that it is. But even as the province continues to grow, wetlands and how they function in the environment are impacted. That's why Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) works closely with farmers, municipalities, landowners and other partners to provide sustainable conservation programs and advice.

Supporters	14,196
Volunteers	1,209
Landowner partners	4,512
Habitat projects	2,400
Habitat acres conserved in FY19	20,785
Habitat acres restored in FY19	12,174
Conservation acres since 1938	2,347,347
Habitat acres influenced since 1938	136,342

DUC is the leader in wetland conservation. Our mission is to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife, people and our environment.



DUC in your community

DUC has staff throughout Alberta.

Let us connect you.

Call **780 489 2002** or **1 866 479 3825**

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Alberta farm family maximizes natural landscape with conservation programs

Brad & Terri Mappin have a vision for their farm and its one they are passing on to their sons

It's a cool winter morning, and Brad and Terri Mappin sit at their kitchen table with DUC conservation specialist Bob Thomson. Cups of freshly brewed tea rest at their elbows.

This isn't how the trio typically meets. Most times they are driving around in a pickup and pointing out opportunities for conservation work. But today, the three break from their usual routine to discuss how the Mappins are enhancing their farm—and the role DUC is playing in that process.

The Mappins run a first generation mixed farm just outside Byemoor, Alta. It's a piece of wild rose country where the rolling hills of the Alberta parkland meets the mixed prairie.



The couple have cropland, hayland and pasture land for their Hereford cattle herd. They've also transitioned to zero-till farming.

On this farm, the Mappins try to maximize what they have and are constantly looking for ways to improve their operation. They believe their farmland is at its best when native grasses and wetlands are intact.

Supporting their conservation ethic, the Mappins have a 10-year wetland restoration lease agreement with DUC. As part of the agreement, the farm family is financially compensated for keeping wetlands and native grasslands on their property. DUC also restored 58.6 acres of wetlands that had been drained, filled or tilled by previous owners and they are thrilled with the results.

"These wetlands aren't just providing habitat. They're helping the farm become more profitable. The restored wetlands also help keep the water where it was supposed to be," says Brad.

The Mappins also work closely with DUC to ensure that they have sustainable pasture land and perennial grass. As part of their hayland and rotational grazing system management plan, the Mappins also took on some forage conversion projects on several quarter sections.

Brad and Terri value the improvements they've seen on their land (and their bottom line) since partnering with DUC and believe that it sets them on a good path for the future.

"Eventually, if our sons decide they want to farm, which they both say they do, they need to have input into how we manage the land," says Brad. "It comes down to respecting the land and the wildlife."

New partnership with Pembina Pipeline keeps prairie landscapes working

A new partnership between Pembina Pipeline Corporation and DUC is working to balance conservation with economic activity. The energy company made a bold \$1 million investment in DUC's Revolving Land Conservation Program (RLCP) which keeps land productive while protecting key natural habitat for wildlife.

RLCP is particularly effective in areas like the Prairies where demand for land is high. Through the program, DUC purchases land with high conservation value and restores its wetlands and grasslands. The land is later sold back to producers with a conservation easement (CE) placed on the title. The CE protects the natural habitat while allowing the subsequent owners to use the land for haying or grazing. Funds from the land sale are reinvested into the program to conserve more acres.

Pembina's support of DUC will help conserve approximately 2,000 acres of important wetland and grassland habitat in key areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and promotes sustainable agricultural practices, acknowledges working landscapes and delivers essential environmental benefits to all who call the region home.



More outreach/education opportunities for youth

Do you want to explore a wetland? Or perhaps you're knee-deep in a wetland stewardship project? All kinds of resources can be found at ducks.ca/education to help teachers, students and community groups learn about wetlands.