



Rural Water Quality Program: Producer Profile

Wyndham Farm

Municipality
Mono

Farm Type
Hay & Livestock

Acres
40

Years in Farming
33

I lived in Toronto and purchased Wyndham Farm in 1990. It has always been used for grazing and has never been tilled, and the cattle do really well, as it provides really good feed quality.

In the past, I would buy the cattle in the spring and sell them in the fall. Now I rent the property to a farmer who grazes about 20 beef cows. He has a rotational grazing system of 6 to 7 paddocks on 35 acres. The cattle are grazed between May and October and their water source is outside the barn.

I enjoy the flexibility and having the opportunity to work with local farmers who are wonderfully knowledgeable and who care a lot about the land. Owning land and being responsible for it has always been a dream of mine, so it was wonderful to have been able to move to the countryside and look after the farm and the livestock.

The RWQP has been an extremely positive experience. I would not have been able to figure this out on my own – having experienced, knowledgeable people guiding me has been good. It is amazing to have that kind of support from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. I would not have had the insight or the finances to undertake the projects I did, without the support from the Dufferin Rural Water Quality Program.

~ Gillian Northgrave, Wyndham Farm

Rural Water Quality Program Experience



Tree Planting

I worked with Credit Valley Conservation to plant over 675 trees and herbaceous plants. Dogwoods, willows, maples, and pines now thrive alongside fruit and berry shrubs like blackberry and flowering perennials like black eyed Susan, bergamot and butterfly weed.

We can see a lot more biodiversity around the pond area. Since the cattle were restricted access and the trees were planted, a lot of wildlife was attracted including ducks which I had not seen for a while, frogs, red squirrels, foxes and others.



Exclusion Fencing

I installed 123m of fencing to restrict cattle from sensitive areas on the farm, including a pond. The total area of land restored/protected is equal to 0.7 acres. This was all done with the help of the Dufferin Rural Water Quality Program.

Manure no longer ends in the water, keeping it clean and safe. The area around the pond is not being trampled and eroded anymore, which allows for vegetation to be established and less sediment to end in the pond. The water quality in the pond has improved.

It is also easier to manage the rotational grazing fence now that the permanent fence to exclude them from the sensitive areas is in place. Water-softened hooves are also easily damaged and more susceptible to pathogens that can cause foot rot. Since the cattle no longer have access to the pond, the herd is healthier and pathogens from tainted water and foot rot are not a concern.

