

Six of the many Species At Risk that can benefit from the efforts of farmers...

Red-headed Woodpecker

The Red-headed Woodpecker uses its long and mighty bill to dig into wood and find insects all summer long, while in the winter its diet primarily consists of nuts.



Wood Turtle

The Wood Turtle, found primarily in three separate regions across Ontario, prefers clean rivers, streams or creeks, many of which run through farm properties.



Eastern Hog-nosed Snake

The Eastern Hog-nosed Snake uses its upturned nose to dig deep burrows. When threatened, this non-venomous snake often takes on cobra-like behavior.



Dense Blazing Star

The Dense Blazing Star is a stunning perennial found only in southwestern Ontario that can grow as tall as two metres high.



Hines Emerald Dragonfly

The Hines Emerald Dragonfly is a medium sized dragonfly with bright green eyes and two bold yellow stripes. They prefer wetlands with grassy vegetation.



Redside Dace

The Redside Dace owes its name to the red stripe along the sides of its body. This minnow can leap up to 10 cm out of the water to eat insects.



Over 80,000 trees planted as shelterbelts and windbreaks to protect soil and provide important habitat corridors

Planted 13,000 new trees among shorelines to protect streams, cool water and filter pollutants

Installed 100 km of rotational grazing fencing for over 16,000 pastured livestock, improving animal health, forage quality and grassland habitat

Installed 125 hibernating dens and nesting boxes to support native species

Installed 150 new watering systems to protect aquatic habitat and keep thirsty livestock away from rivers and streams

Created 62,000 m² of vegetated streamside habitat

Helped protect aquatic habitat and water quality of 200 streams by addressing eroding streambanks

Restored 450,000 m² of native grasslands using 42 species of native prairie grasses and wildflowers

Eradicated 13 types of invasive species on 45 farms to improve native habitat.

Built 300 km of fencing along rivers and streams to protect water quality, preventing 53,000 grazing livestock from entering streams and posing risks

Helped protect aquatic habitat and water quality of 200 streams by addressing eroding streambanks

Flip to learn how Ontario farmers provide habitat for wildlife in peril through the Species At Risk Farm Incentive Program (SARFIP)

To restore natural forests on farm landscapes, farmers planted over 70,000 trees

Upgraded and built 100 new crossings to prevent stream bed damage

Over 100,000 m² of wetlands restored to protect water quality and provide on-farm habitat

Building Habitat for the Wood Turtle

Almost 1,000 projects have been supported through the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program since 2009. One of the many projects completed through the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program aims to build habitat for the Wood Turtle, an endangered species dependent on woodlands found in some regions of Ontario. When Herb Oakes purchased a woodlot property and learned that it was located in an area with a significant population of the at-risk turtles, he set out to plan a project to refurbish the woodlot and create an environment to sustain and attract the species. Through the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program he planted over 500 native trees, including Cedar, Red Maple, Birch, Tamarack, Hickory, Silver Maple, Oak and Service Berry. Although it will take years for the forest to mature, Oakes knows that more tree cover will be beneficial not only for the Wood Turtle, but for other wildlife as well.



Photo by Richard Bonnett

Did you know that there are over 200 species listed as at risk in Ontario? Wildlife species play an essential role in our landscapes and environments. There are many ways farmers can contribute to building and sustaining habitat so that nature and agriculture can co-exist for years to come.

For more information about Species at Risk in Ontario and Canada visit mnr.gov.on.ca or ec.gc.ca.

For more information on the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program visit ontariosoilcrop.org.

Canada



Ontario

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