

Best Management Practices for Agricultural Cropping within 200 metres of a watercourse

- Utilize strategies to minimize runoff. This is critical to maintaining the health of the soil and preventing sedimentation in waterways. When soil conservation measures include erosion control structures, seek the advice of a Soil & Water Conservation Engineer
- Control runoff more effectively by maintaining soil conservation structures, natural grassed waterways, and filter strips in good working order.
- In fields that border on the 15-metre buffer zone, with significant overland flow, improve the protection provided by the buffer by increasing the width
- Permanently establishing grassed headlands to provide the best protection for end-of-row runoff in regulated crop fields.
- Consider removing from row crop production, areas identified as high risk despite significant investment in soil conservation structures or other BMP's.
- Take measures to minimize protective fungicide contact with exposed soil to reduce the risk of contamination to near-by watercourses.
- Utilize tillage systems that increase the percentage of crop residues left on the surface to protect the soil from the erosive effects of extreme rainfall events, improve soil moisture retention and soil health.
- Reduce runoff velocities and improve water infiltration by increasing surface roughness on row formed crops.
- Whenever possible, soil should have cover over the winter months.
- Utilize technologies to improve the timing and efficiency of pesticide applications aimed at reducing the number of pesticide sprays per season.
- Improve the structure and nature of existing hedgerows to increase biodiversity and protect soil from wind erosion.