

# Best Practice

## Canora Source Water Protection Program

### CONTACT

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### THE PRACTICE

Due to the sandy textured soil surrounding the Town of Canora well heads, there was the potential that ground water had limited protection from possible contamination from any surface applied agriculture products such as fertilizer and pesticides. It was determined that one way to minimize the risk and help protect the ground water was to convert these lands from annual agriculture production to perennial cover. Once these lands are seeded to forage, there will be limited application of pesticides and their soil will not be exposed to wind and water erosion.

### THE PROCESS

The Town of Canora provided the financial resources and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) provided the staff to coordinate the challenging task of converting these extremely sandy soils into perennial cover. DUC has made a commitment to the town to provide an annual report on the health and condition of the forage cover and future management recommendation for their lands. As of 2007, these lands had a successful establishment of the forage and will provide ground water protection and wildlife habitat.

### THE RESULTS

Obvious benefits from this practice are protection of the towns water source. Furthermore, a commitment to protecting and conserving the rich biodiversity found in the landscape near Canora will benefit wildlife and future generations.

In 2003, the Town of Canora had the honour of being judged the best-tasting municipal water in Canada.

### LESSONS LEARNED

The Town of Canora learned that there are alternative methods to protection a community's water source than building new facilities which cost millions of dollars. Not only did this practice protect the town's water source, but this forage conversion has provided additional habitat in the area for waterfowl and wildlife.