

Riparian Area Management

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)

Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)

Riparian areas are crucial ecosystems that surround water bodies, such as rivers, streams, and wetlands. Proper management of these zones is vital for maintaining water quality, preventing soil erosion, and preserving biodiversity.

Riparian management fencing is a valuable tool for ranchers to balance productivity with environmental resilience. By implementing **riparian area management practices**, landowners contribute to the long-term health of water ecosystems, improve the quality of their pastures and soils, and improve animal health.

Riparian Area Management Benefits

Water Quality

- Improves water quality for both livestock and human consumption.
- Reduces water fouling.
- Reduces topsoil loss and nutrient runoff.
- Improves aquatic habitats.

Soil Conservation

- Restricts cattle access to riparian soils, minimizing erosion and maintaining soil structure.
- Improved soil conditions can help reduce instances of hoof rot.
- Preserves the stability of riverbanks and reduces slumping.

Wildlife Benefits

- Protects riparian vegetation, providing habitat for various plant and animal species, including native species and species at risk.

Pasture Management

- Assists with rotational grazing and controlled pasture access.
- Prevents overgrazing and promotes pasture growth.

Key Considerations for Riparian Area Management Fencing

1. Placement

- Ensure the buffer area is wide enough to capture the entire riparian zones. A wider buffer can provide pasture that can be grazed during drier seasons or reserved as a salvation pasture for times of drought.
- Consider fencing straight across oxbows and undulations to reduce fencing and maximize riparian habitat.

2. Materials

- Both electric and permanent fencing offer practical solutions.

3. Livestock Watering Systems

- A wide array of systems available to suit management needs. Choose one that best suits your operation. Consider factors, such as portability, seasonality, number of head to water, etc.

Project Examples

- Fence riparian areas to control access by livestock.
- Plant native trees and shrubs.
- Plant non-invasive species of grass or legumes.
- Install an off-site watering system.
- Install a watercourse crossing.

Note: You may wish to consult an accredited technical advisor (e.g. Professional Agrologist, P.Ag or Certified Crop Advisor, CCA) to develop or support your management plans.

Start A Project Today

1-866-310-RALP
info@RALP.ca

