Water Retention
A win–win option for both farm owners and neighbours

Every dollar invested in water retention projects provides $3* in co-benefits to livestock farm operations in addition to preventing damage to local infrastructure from floods.**

Multiple benefits in wet and dry years:
- Reduced costs for hauling water for livestock
- Improved machinery and livestock crossing through berm
- Extended grazing period
- Improved downstream water quality
- Reduced farm stress

Funding available to cover the costs:
The Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District’s Water Retention program can provide:
- Funding to cover 80%–100% of upfront costs
- Financial and technical support over 10 years to help maintain the water retention project
- Annual land payments at a rate between $15 and $30 per acre

Contact
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*All dollar amounts are in CAD.
**Based on the analysis of eight water retention projects in the Seine, Rat, and Roseau watersheds conducted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 2022. For more technical information, please refer to Puzyreva et al. (2022), The Value of Water Retention Beneficial Management Practices to Farmers and Landowners in The Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District. Available through http://iisd.org/.

"My initial concern was about having the pastures flooded for a period of time. But when I understood the design, it became clear that it would actually be a win–win.

David Wiens, dairy producer from the Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District