



# Stronger Together: Supporting Farm Stewardship Through Collaboration

## East Central Farm Stewardship Collaborative

- The ECFSC started in 2008. Its purpose is to facilitate the collaboration of conservation and farm organizations, increasing the number of on-farm projects through stacked funding and increased technical support.
- Early lessons learned:
  - Farm collaborations reflect regional priorities: partner organizations are already familiar with existing problems
  - There is need for strong focus on tangible action: important to make ideas come to life to incentivize new partners
  - It takes time to understand the perspectives of partners: may come from different backgrounds and experiences
  - Get roles and intentions of partners in writing: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or a Terms of Reference
- Past project examples: barnyard clean water diversion, wetland restoration and fencing, natural windbreaks creation

## Eastern Ontario Farm Stewardship Collaborative

- The EOFSC started 2 years ago. It operates in a similar way to the ECFSC but in a different delivery area.
- Past projects include, but aren't limited to, livestock fencing, wetland restoration, riparian/grassland planting, cover crops, alternative watering sources, livestock fencing, alternative watering, nutrient management/precision farming

## Benefits of farm stewardship collaboratives

- Benefits for landowners and farmers: support from experts in the field, site visits and personalized advice, technical assistance (project design, permits, and organizing volunteers), funding often from several members of collaborative
- Benefits for the collaborative: joint promotion/cross promotion advantages, joint fundraising from many sources, technical support, regionally flexible as needed, low overhead but higher impact work

## Keys to success when starting a farm stewardship collaborative

- Be clear about your collaborative goals, consider the regional focus, and consider the priorities of all partners involved
- Assign coordinator(s): people to steward the collaborative and ensure every partner's needs are being met
- Outline everything in a MOU/ Terms of Reference document to set the foundation for the collaborative
- Communication is key: determine who is responsible for what, who has the expertise, and who has the funding

## Additional Resources

- Find out more about the Eastern Ontario Farm Stewardship Collaborative: <https://eofsc.ca>
- Find out more about the East Central Farm Stewardship Collaborative: <https://ecfarmstewardship.org>
- Learn about Agricultural Best Management Practices: <https://ontario.ca/page/agricultural-best-management-practices>
- Want to restore an agricultural buffer or wetland on your property and protect local freshwater health? Contact The Natural Edge to book a free site visit: <https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca>

**Join the free Freshwater Stewardship Community!**  
**[watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship](https://watersheds.ca/freshwater-stewardship)**

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