

Poster Abstracts

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Review, Enhance and Expand the Application of the 'Ontario Rural Landowners Stewardship Guide'

At the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, there is a tremendous amount of research into environmental sustainability and rural issues. A product from this department has been the preparation of an Ontario 'Rural Landowners Stewardship Guide' to promote environmental awareness, co-operation and action. The Guide is a self-assessment toolkit booklet that contains 14 different sections on things that can be done to protect the land, water, air and biota. The 'Landowners Stewardship Guide' (designed after the successful Environmental Farm Plan) has been used by various environmental agencies in Ontario – mostly Stewardship Councils and Conservation Authorities -to further collaborative efforts in rural land ecosystem health.

With funding from the OMAFRA Knowledge Translation Transfer program, the research project is to further the establishment of the Guide as a 'best practice' for Rural Ontario. In furthering the use of the Guide, an attempt will be made to initiate a 'community of practice' amongst users. The anticipated outcomes of the project will include: an updated manual, best practice research in methodology, and a 'new and improved' product of promoting environmental stewardship to rural non-farm landowners.