

Fragile Land Retirement

This sloped area of the field has been retired from agricultural production and planted with trees.

Fragile agricultural lands are tilled or pastured lands prone to water, tillage or wind erosion. Examples are:

- Steeply sloped croplands
- Lands prone to standing water
- Flood plains
- Areas of groundwater recharge

Effects of farming marginal farm land

Agricultural production on fragile lands has limited potential for profit, degrades soil structure, and can negatively impact soil health, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

Restoring unproductive or unprofitable areas benefits the farm and natural systems. That's a WIN-WIN!

Some areas of your farm may not be making money for you. They might even cost you money.

Are there areas of your farm that are not suitable for farming with modern equipment?

Conservation authority staff are available to work with you.



Fragile lands may include lands that are not productive or they may be odd-shaped lands or lands that are not practical for modern farm machinery.

Tree planting can be used to straighten field areas, retiring marginal edges and making farming more efficient.



Tree planting can be used to retire sloped lands that may be subject to erosion.



Retiring fragile cropland may be cost-effective if crop yield is less than the cost of farming that area.



Permanent vegetation reduces soil erosion by stabilizing the site. Keeping soil and nutrients on the land and out of local waterways improves water quality.



Examples of marginal lands include areas of fields susceptible to standing water that are difficult to farm and are subject to soil compaction.

Planning retirement of marginal farm land

Call us about fragile land retirement on your property

If you're considering taking your fragile land out of production, or in any other stewardship project, contact your local conservation authority for technical assistance and options on retiring the land.

Huron Clean Water Project staff are available to work with you to help you retire fragile land.

To learn more about retiring fragile land, contact Ausable Bayfield or Maitland Valley stewardship staff. Please find contact information below.



Call us at **519-235-2610** or **519-335-3557** or visit our websites to find out more:
huroncounty.ca/plandev/county-wide-projects/water-protection • abca.ca • mvca.on.ca