

Farmer Experiences with Perennia's On-Farm Climate Action Fund: Recipients Heather and Remo Luten

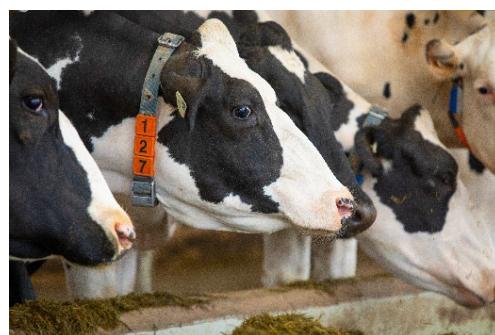


The On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), an innovative federal program provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada under the Agricultural Climate Solutions initiative, is designed to help farmers embrace sustainable practices and aims to support producers in knowledge transfer and purchasing of select inputs, materials and equipment for three Beneficial Management Practices: Nitrogen Management, Cover Cropping and Rotational Grazing.

As a recipient organization of OFCAF, Perennia delivers funds and support through its own OFCAF program directly to Nova Scotian farmers.

Perennia's OFCAF Technical Lead, Georgia Lewis, spent a morning with dairy farmers Heather and Remo Luten to discuss how the program has supported changes to their operations, specifically for nitrogen management practices, to be more efficient on-farm.

As Heather and Remo operate a dairy farm of about 75 Holsteins, 110 acres of grass and clover and 60 acres of corn silage, they were looking to maximize the value of the nitrogen in their manure and reduce potential nitrogen pollution. It made perfect sense for Heather and Remo to apply for OFCAF support through Perennia.



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“We thought the Perennia OFCAF program was easy to understand and if we needed help someone was always willing to answer questions and offer guidance. Overall, we would say it was a good experience being part of the program,” Heather and Remo shared with Georgia.

OFCAF was able to support their investment to become better stewards to the environment through improved nitrogen management practices: “With OFCAF support from Perennia, we were able to invest in a manure spreader with trailing shoes which applies a manure slurry beside the base of the plants,” said Heather and Remo.



While they had some troubles in the beginning, solved by the use of a macerator that could handle thicker manure, they quickly noticed the benefits, both to their operation and the environment: “We have seen clover thrive, less grass was burned in the summer application and we used less synthetic fertilizer.”

“Perennia’s OFCAF continues to assist farmers across Nova Scotia to implement new practices on farm that improve soil health and reduce environmental impacts, such as greenhouse gas emissions.”

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Thank you, Heather and Remo, for sharing your experience as recipients of Perennia's OFCAF with us as a part of our Farmer Experiences collection!



[Subscribe](#) to Perennia's OFCAF News email list to be the first to know about potential program applications reopening and visit our [website](#) to learn more about the On-Farm Climate Action Fund and farmer experiences with the program.