

Farmer Experiences with Perennia's On-Farm Climate Action Fund: Recipient Quentin Davison



The On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF), an innovative federal program funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada under the Agricultural Climate Solutions initiative. OFCAF 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 and Newfoundland and Labrador farmers.

Quentin Davison, a recipient of the OFCAF program, met with Georgia Lewis, Perennia's OFCAF Technical Lead, to discuss how his family farm's rotational grazing practices have changed for the better with support from the OFCAF program.



On their family farm of dykeland, upland and woodlot, Quentin and his family care for a 50 cow-calf pair operation, along with growing forage, winter wheat and soybeans, with an apple orchard managed by his brother.

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“Before the OFCAF program, we used rotational grazing practices but were continually overgrazing, which was having a negative impact on the health of our pasture.”

Quentin wanted to extend his grazing season and create a system that would lead to healthier soil for his family's pasture. Healthier soil led to better grass for the herd, and better grass for his herd led to a better return to Quentin's family.

Through OFCAF, Quentin received funding to purchase new fencing materials to fence out a new 20-acre pasture area and make improvements to his existing fencing system. A new fence energizer was also purchased to power the additional load of the new pasture acreage.

“By adding some new gates in an existing fence line and adding an alley along the edge of one pasture paddock, we were able to improve cattle flow throughout our rotational grazing system.”



In addition to new fencing material to expand his rotational grazing operation, Quentin also searched for a solution to his poor water quality on the farm. Through a centrally located pool in one section of his paddock, Quentin's herd watered directly from the pool.

In using the new fencing to provide a barrier around the pond, and his purchase of a solar powered pump to fill new, black, 300 gallon livestock tanks outside of the fenced-in pond, utilization of this central water pool and the water quality increased significantly: “The tubs were equipped with a level switch float, so as the cows drank, the pump would automatically engage and shut off when the tubs were full.”

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With the efficiency changes made to Quentin's operation, this has been one of his smoothest grazing seasons yet: "Because of the additional acres, our paddocks have had more time for rest and regrowth. It is easy to see the difference in grass growth compared to other years. The cattle have also had better water quality for the duration of the grazing season."



"I think OFCAF is a great program and is something all producers should consider. There are many opportunities within it for farmers to make positive changes. It has made a difference for us in our rotational grazing system, and I see many possibilities in all three funding categories."

Thank you, Quentin Davison, for sharing your experience as a recipient of the OFCAF program with us as a part of our Farmer Experiences collection!

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