



CFGGA launches Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool in Ontario

For Immediate Release

FREDERICTON, N.B. (March 21, 2025) – The Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFGGA) launched its Ontario [Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool \(HBAT\)](#) today. The two-hour webinar provided background on the HBAT project and tool, a demonstration of the tool, how to read the output report(s) and the potential for use across Ontario.

Designed as an extension and awareness tool, the HBAT is a province-specific online tool meant to help land managers gain an understanding of important habitats and biodiversity on their land and the stewardship opportunities they could implement to sustain them. It is based on the potential for species to occur in an area and avoids releasing sensitive information about actual native species observations.

The tool provides agricultural producers with the knowledge of what native species have the potential to occur on their land based on the known or expected distribution of species, the geographic location of the farm or ranch and on the habitat types and features that are found on it. With that knowledge, conservation opportunities for native species can be suggested to producers who can then decide on what, if anything, is compatible and desirable within their operational constraints and objectives.

“Tailored to the specific context of each property, the HBAT enables a targeted approach to stewardship that can help maintain and restore ecosystem services and wildlife habitat while contributing to sustainable agriculture,” said Meagan Morey an ecologist at Blazing Star Environmental and the Ontario HBAT lead. “The tool supports land managers by connecting them to funding opportunities and information on native species and sustainable practices, offering insights into how stewardship can impact their land, operation and local biodiversity.”

The Ontario HBAT launch is the latest in a series of HBAT launches the CFGGA is conducting across the country. Tools are also available for Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. Additional tools will soon be launched in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Québec as the CFGGA wraps up the sixth, and final, year of the \$1.2-million project, which began in 2020 with financial support from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) as part of the Canada Nature Fund.





Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères



More info

For more information about the HBAT project: <https://www.canadianfga.ca/.../habitat-biodiversity.../>

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About Canadian Forage and Grassland Association

Incorporated in 2010, the CFGA provides a national voice for all Canadians who produce hay and forage products and for those whose production is dependent upon forage/grassland production.

