Background/Objective:
Traditionally, livestock have been wintered in close proximity to necessities such as food, water and shelter. This approach can result in excessive use of in-yard feeding and confinement areas. By concentrating livestock in these key areas, producers may face challenges with an accumulation of manure and urine, high feeding costs and low production efficiency. Extensive wintering, by contrast, is the feeding, watering and sheltering of animals out of the yard on pastures, hay fields or annual crop land. This alternative practice relies on infrastructure enhancements such as portable or permanent fencing, remote watering systems and portable windbreaks and shelters that can provide options for wintering your animals. This flexibility enables you to fully utilize your land base by adopting an out-of-yard strategy to livestock management.

Producers should closely examine alternatives to existing wintering sites and practices. Will a switch to extensive wintering result in lower environmental risk, not just production and economic improvements? A change in wintering site management should offer tangible benefits without simply transferring a problem like excess nutrients to a new location on the farm.

Steps to establishing and managing sound extensive wintering sites include:
- careful site selection that avoids or minimizes the use of areas susceptible to manure, nutrient and pathogen loss, such as those with very rapid or poor internal drainage, steep slopes or close proximity to surface water
- appropriate locating of feed, shelter and water to facilitate better cattle and manure distribution on nutrient-deficient areas
- rotation of fields to allow recovery of standing crops and draw-down of soil nutrient levels with subsequent crops
- soil testing to monitor nutrient accumulation and trigger rotation to new extensive wintering sites. Allowing manure to accumulate excessively poses an environmental risk and is an inefficient use of nutrients.

By adopting the Extensive Wintering of Livestock BMP, producers could be eligible for financial incentives to infrastructure that improves management of range livestock in the winter. By improving management of wintering sites you can:
- reduce the risk of manure, nutrients and pathogens being released into the environment;
- improve feed use
- reduce the volume of fossil fuels consumed in harvesting, storing and distributing livestock feed;
- more fully utilize your land base
- potentially improve your herd’s health.

Relevant sections of the Manitoba Environmental Farm Plan Workbook:
- Water Source Protection and Management (B1)
- Confined Livestock Areas (B8)
- Management of Pastures and Extensive Fall and Winter Feeding Areas (B15)
- Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Resources (B18)
Practices eligible for funding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Practice</th>
<th>Practice Code</th>
<th>Cost Share</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelterbelt Establishment (see BMP description for eligible items)</td>
<td>0601</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable Shelters and Windbreaks</td>
<td>0602</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative watering systems (i.e. solar, wind or grid power)</td>
<td>0603</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field access improvements: alleyway/access lane upgrades</td>
<td>0604</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing (including perimeter fencing when required) and fence modifications</td>
<td>0605</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eligible costs and in-kind contributions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible costs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction materials (trees, fencing supplies, culverts/pipes, fill, gravel,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geosynthetics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of portable sheltering infrastructure (windbreak panels and frames,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>calving shelters)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of watering systems or components</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction, assembly and installation costs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible in-kind costs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour ($20 per hour)</td>
<td>Use of applicant’s equipment (at set program rates)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual maintenance of shelterbelts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water source development (ex: dugouts, wells, springs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable feed bunks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel corral panels and other livestock handling infrastructure meant for use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as part of confinement facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ineligible costs:  
- Annual maintenance of shelterbelts  
- Water source development (ex: dugouts, wells, springs)  
- Portable feed bunks  
- Steel corral panels and other livestock handling infrastructure meant for use as part of confinement facilities

Notes:  
- Pipelines associated with an alternative watering system (ex: pipe from an existing water source to nearby trough) are eligible.  
- Field access improvements must directly facilitate extensive wintering of livestock to qualify for funding; upgrades to existing in-yard driveways or approaches to fields do not qualify.  
- Funding for perimeter fencing will only be considered where such infrastructure directly enables sustainable extensive wintering.  
- Modification, improvement, or expansion of in-yard confinement facilities is not a part of extensive wintering and so does not qualify.

Your application form:  
Before you submit your application, it is strongly recommended that you discuss your intended project with MAFRI staff. MAFRI staff can answer program questions, determine required project components, explain technical details and help to estimate project costs.
Items to consider with this BMP:
As you fill out your application, you will want to consider how your project will address environmental risk on your farm. Providing a clear and complete application containing all of the following information will expedite the processing of your application.

- What is/will be the distance between the wintering site and the nearest water body? Livestock should be managed to control or eliminate access to areas adjacent to a water body.
  - A water body is a river, stream, lake, wetland, slough, ditch or any flowing or standing body of water that is capable of draining from one property to another. For example, a dugout that is entirely contained on a property that does not drain off the property is not considered to be a water body for these purposes. By contrast, roadside ditches are considered to be water bodies.
- What are the soil and landscape features in the proposed extensive wintering area(s)? Could the land benefit from added fertility and organic matter? Where does water tend to move or collect? A good extensive wintering site should pose low environmental risk with good management and possibly production advantages as well.
- Have you explained your long-term plan for effectively managing an extensive wintering site(s)? Do you have flexibility in rotating wintering areas as nutrients accumulate in the soil?

For more information:
Contact your local MAFRI GO Office or email agrienv@gov.mb.ca.

Reference materials:
The following reference material will provide you with more information on enhancing wintering site management:

- Manitoba Forage Council
  [www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca](http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca) → Resources page → Technical Information tab → Fact Sheets link

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
  Sustainable Management of Nutrients on the Landscape for In-Field Livestock Winter Feeding Systems

- Foragebeef.ca
  Wintering Sites
  [www1.foragebeef.ca/$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/ccf154](http://www1.foragebeef.ca/$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/ccf154)

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
  Cattle Wintering Sites: Managing for Good Stewardship
  [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3517](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3517)

- Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
  Stewardship and Economics of Cattle Wintering Sites