



Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

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BadgerWay is Back for 2017!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guelph, ON—Ontario’s badgers are once again getting a helping hand from farmers. Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is pleased to announce that BadgerWay is now accepting applications for projects that support on-farm habitat for this species at risk.

“With only about 200 badgers remaining in the province, farmers have a critical role to play in the creation and conservation of habitat for this species at risk,” said Mack Emiry, President of OSCIA. A highly nomadic species, the American badger can travel as much as 14 kilometres per day with a home range of hundreds of square kilometres. “In southwestern Ontario, badgers call our farms home. Enriching our farm habitat through programs like BadgerWay is critical to helping badgers and other species at risk,” Emiry added.

Badgers make use of field edges, old fencerows, buffer strips, windbreaks, and other grassy areas on farms as habitat and travel corridors. The BadgerWay Program offers financial support to farmers in southwestern Ontario who wish to implement three Best Management Practices that create new or connect existing on-farm habitat: tree and shrub planting for windbreaks and buffer strips, establishment of perennial contour cropping or other in-field perennial grass strips, and native grassland restoration.

The BadgerWay Program includes another aspect which is unique to the Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) initiative: Conservation Agreements between funded producers and Environment and Climate Change Canada provide habitat protection for American badger habitat for 5 years. With up to 75% cost-share to support project implementation, producers can access up to \$20,000 per farm business through BadgerWay.

Projects initiated on or after April 1, 2017 may be eligible for funding, and the program will remain open until February 1, 2018. To apply, visit the OSCIA website at www.ontariosoilcrop.org/oscia-programs/sarpal/badgerway.

Funding for the BadgerWay Program is provided through Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL), an Environment and Climate Change Canada initiative that encourages priority conservation actions to support the conservation of species at risk on agricultural land. BadgerWay is delivered by OSCIA.

For more information on the BadgerWay Program, visit the OSCIA website or contact OSCIA directly at 226-706-8668 or SARPAL@ontariosoilcrop.org. Information on Ontario’s badgers can be found at the Ontario Badger Project website at www.ontariobadgers.org.

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