



# Improving haying and mowing practices for **SPECIES AT RISK ON FARMS**

The timing of haying and mowing during the growing season can have an impact on turtles and grassland birds. The *Working Together to Protect Species at-risk on Farms* project aims to work with agricultural producers to find ways to ensure species at risk can thrive on farms in the region.

Equipment such as tractors, harvesters, balers, rakes, and mowers can injure turtles, birds, and other species that may be using fields while they are cut.



## OBJECTIVES

By working with producers and other groups, we are exploring different ways that the agricultural sector can be supported in protecting grassland birds and other species. These include:

- Exploring a compensation program for fields that will be cut on a rotation to protect nesting habitat
- Creating a landowner stewardship program to recognize farmers who implement Best Management Practices
- Exploring an incentive program that would help offset the costs associated with delaying haying and mowing until mid-July

## How can haying and mowing affect wildlife?

- Mowing fields before July 15 can destroy bird nests and disrupt breeding for birds like the Bobolink.
- Wood Turtles often use bodies of water next to farmlands, and may use fields themselves. Wood turtles can be hit by farm equipment used in farm fields, especially if the field is close to water.



## We want to hear from you!



Do you have an idea or thought about how wildlife could be protected on farms? Do you own a farm and are interested in learning more?

To learn more or to share your thoughts please visit [naturenb.ca/sarparl](http://naturenb.ca/sarparl) | [info@naturenb.ca](mailto:info@naturenb.ca) | 506-459-4209

