

ALUS

Canada



A Weston Family Initiative

Trailblazers

ALUS Canada's *Trailblazers* series showcases farmers and ranchers who are doing an outstanding job producing cleaner air, cleaner water, increased biodiversity and other valuable ecosystem services for their communities through their ALUS projects.

The full series is available on [ALUS.ca](https://al.us.ca) | [Resources](#) | [Other Relevant Reports](#).

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ALUS Canada's *Trailblazers* series was created with support from the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Group Program of the Canadian Agricultural Partnership in Alberta, a partnership between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Alberta's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Trailblazers

ALUS Mountain View County participants Lisa Kennedy and Joey Halter

Alberta trailblazers Lisa Kennedy and Joey Halter participate in the ALUS Mountain View County program, a partnership between Mountain View County and ALUS Canada, A Weston Family Initiative.

ALUS participants Lisa Kennedy and Joey Halter run a mixed farm near Olds, Alberta. They custom-graze cow-calf pairs and keep horses, sheep and laying hens on their 80 acres.



ALUS Mountain View County participants Lisa Kennedy and Joey Halter have devoted more than 28 acres to nine ALUS projects, including wetlands, riparian pastures, shelterbelts and ecobuffers. (Photo: Noel West)

“We like being part of ALUS because the program facilitates the type of environmentally mindful agriculture that we believe in,” says Lisa. “Our Program Coordinator provides good information and feedback, and the program provides funding to help us manage our ALUS projects.”

Lisa and Joey signed up as ALUS Mountain

View County participants in 2018 and, by 2020, had enrolled more than 28 acres into the program for nine ALUS projects, including wetlands, riparian pastures, ecobuffers and shelterbelts. They have also installed a dozen birdhouses, as well as a bee house and bat house.

“All our ALUS projects are helping the environment by improving water quality and biodiversity on our land,” says Joey. “We like seeing increased wildlife around the wetland.”

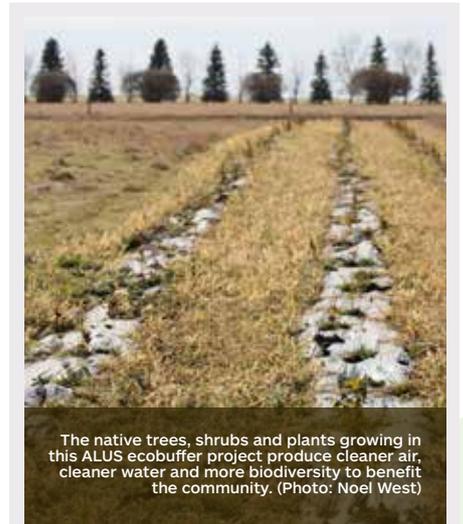
Their latest ALUS project involves a series of ecobuffers, covering approximately 1.6 acres in total. As shown in the photo, they are planted in three long rows along the edge of the cattle pasture, designed to help protect water

“ALUS facilitates the type of environmentally mindful agriculture that we believe in.”

quality in a tributary of the Lonepine Creek.

Their ecobuffers feature 2,100 seedlings of native species tolerant to saline conditions, including red osier dogwood, raspberry, elderberry, chokecherry, saskatoon, balsam poplar, trembling aspen and white spruce.

This ALUS project was created in collaboration with the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES), and the establishment costs were shared with the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program.



The native trees, shrubs and plants growing in this ALUS ecobuffer project produce cleaner air, cleaner water and more biodiversity to benefit the community. (Photo: Noel West)

When it is mature, the ecobuffer will provide food and habitat for wildlife, including pollinators. “It may even provide food for us,” they remarked, “as long as the birds don’t get all the berries first!”

ALUS is proud to count Lisa Kennedy and Joey Halter among its Trail Blazers in Alberta.

Become an ALUS Trailblazer!

ALUS recognizes the important role farmers and ranchers play as stewards of the land and helps them provide solutions to some of the most pressing conservation challenges of our time, including biodiversity loss, flooding, and water quality in lakes and rivers.

For more information on the ALUS program in Alberta, visit ALUS.ca and contact ALUS Canada's Western Hub Manager.

