

ALUS DEFIANCE

WHERE
**AGRICULTURE
& NATURE**
MEET

WHAT IS ALUS DEFIANCE?

ALUS Defiance is working directly with farmers in Defiance County, Ohio, to create, manage, and maintain new acres of nature and provide ecosystem services that best suit their farm operations. The county is located in the Maumee River watershed, the largest watershed in the Great Lakes. Once part of the Great Black Swamp, the area is now a productive agricultural region with remnants of wetlands and riparian forests.

ALUS Defiance is the second U.S. community to adopt the ALUS model, a Canadian initiative supporting farmer-led, nature-based projects tailored to local environmental and economic priorities. Guided by a farmer-majority Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC), the program collaborates with the Council of the Great Lakes Region, the City of Defiance, and Defiance County.

Defiance County has a strong conservation history, with widespread adoption of practices like no-till farming, reduced tillage, and wetland restoration. By offering new opportunities to provide additive ecosystem services, ALUS Defiance will contribute to enhanced agricultural productivity and improved water quality.



ARE YOU A FARMER OR RANCHER WITH MARGINAL OR UNECONOMICAL LANDS?

ALUS helps producers establish wetlands, tree planting, native prairie, pollinator habitat and other projects.

Over 1,700 farmers and ranchers have enrolled +52,000 acres of land in the ALUS program.

To find out how you can get involved in the ALUS Defiance program, contact us:

Program Coordinator

Jennifer English

631 Perry Street
Defiance, OH
43512
jenglish@cityofdefiance.com
419.439.5099
ALUS.ca/alus_community/alus-defiance/

“

The ALUS program is truly like no other. Farmers receive acknowledgement for the environmental work that they're doing—work that benefits greater good of all society.

**Duane Movald,
ALUS Participant**



Learn more at ALUS.ca



Sustaining agriculture, wildlife and natural spaces for communities and future generations.

ALUS PROVIDES LANDOWNERS FUNDING FOR PROJECTS, INCLUDING:



Watering systems and management fencing for livestock



Planting shelterbelts or eco-buffers



Naturalizing flooded cropland, expanding buffers and creating grassed waterways



Planting vegetation for pollinator species



Creating, restoring or enhancing wetlands



Erosion control



Installation of bird nests, bat boxes or other habitat structures

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP DELIVERS COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

ALUS provides expertise, resources and initial cost-sharing for the establishment of environmental projects, as well as annual payments for the ecological goods and services generated by the projects.

THE ALUS ADVANTAGE

- ✔ Participation in ALUS is VOLUNTARY, typically based on five- or ten-year contracts.
- ✔ There are NO LAND RESTRICTIONS. ALUS agreements are with farmers and are not registered with land titles.
- ✔ Farmers receive a FEE-FOR-SERVICE based on ecosystem services produced by projects. An arrangement based on mutual benefit of the farmer and society.
- ✔ Landowner privacy is a cornerstone of ALUS. Participant data is PRIVATE and not shared.
- ✔ Projects produce a FULL SUITE OF BENEFITS for ecosystems and communities, not just carbon sequestration. The value of these benefits is recognized with the payment of a fee-for-service.
- ✔ Participation in ALUS is easy and transparent. There are NO ADMINISTRATION FEES and minimal paperwork.
- ✔ ALUS offers ACCESS TO A WIDER MARKETPLACE without burdening or complicating management for the landowner.



The **Partnership Advisory Committee**, or PAC, is critical to the ALUS model. It ensures that the local programs are directed, implemented and managed by the communities themselves.

The PAC is made up of farmers, ranchers, local government, and environmental knowledge holders, with at least half being farmers or ranchers in the community. The composition of the PAC is important to ensure that many perspectives and the local context are at the forefront of developing the priorities of the ALUS program in that community.

The PAC is responsible for deciding which ALUS projects will move forward in a community and the amount of funding allocated to projects. The varied expertise of the PAC members allows them to make the best decisions possible, with respect to the local economy, environment and community.