

Aug 12 1977

**Basin Easement Project Progress report No. 16**

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Canadian Wildlife Service  
Edmonton, Alberta**

**November, 1969**

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## Introduction

The Basin Easement program is the application of one method by the Canadian Wildlife Service in its lands program to preserve waterfowl habitat in western Canada. This method is the negotiation of agreements with landowners whereby they, in return for an annual payment, agree to preserve their wetlands as waterfowl production areas. Most agreements follow a standard agreement format (Appendix A, page 1), however, in some cases special agreements are made which include clauses specific to proper integrated land use of the area through development and/or management.

Negotiation of agreements is done largely by mail. Landowners within the current years area would receive a separate offer on each parcel of land which has 2 acres of more suitable wetlands. Along with the offer he would receive a brochure "Dollars from Wetlands" (Appendix A, page 2) which explains the program.

Progress reports on the Basin Easement project (382-44-019) and Water Development Assistance project (382-44-020) are compiled to provide a record of achievement on which to base (a) fund and personnel management decisions for the current fiscal year and (b), projections of requirements and achievements in succeeding years. Progress report No. 16 reports the accomplishment to November 30, 1969 and forecasts the results to March 31, 1970.

## Results

Net accomplishment of activity during the period April 1, 1967 to September 30, 1969.

Agreements valued at \$182,184 per annum have been signed with 1,999 landowners for 40,521 acres of wetlands located on 3,855 parcels

of land in 9 municipalities and counties in Alberta since April 1, 1967. The distribution of agreements through the province is shown in figure 1 and the distribution of parcels under agreement in the counties of Lamont and Beaver are shown in figure 2 and 3 respectively.

Agreements valued at \$20,180 per annum have been signed with 319 landowners for 6,538 acres of wetlands located on 861 parcels of land in 21 municipalities in Saskatchewan since April 1, 1967. The distribution of agreements throughout the province is shown in figure 4 and the distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipalities of Lumsden, Dufferin, Sarnia, Craik, Big Arm and Arm River is shown in figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 respectively.

Agreements valued at \$53,084 per annum have been signed with 607 landowners for 14,984 acres of wetlands located on 1,490 parcels of land in 14 municipalities in Manitoba since April 1, 1967. The distribution of agreements throughout the province is shown in figure 11 and the distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipalities of Roblin, Turtle Mountain, Morton, Winchester and Whitewater is shown in figures 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 respectively.

In total, agreements valued at \$255,448 per annum have been signed with 2,925 landowners on 62,043 acres of wetlands located on 6,206 parcels of land in 44 municipalities in the three Prairie Provinces, as of September 30, 1969.

#### Status of 1969-70 fiscal year activity.

Negotiations from April 1, 1969 to November 30, 1969 have resulted in agreements valued at \$25,031 and renewals have been completed on \$160,751 worth of 1967-69 fiscal year agreements (from Table 1).

It is forecast that continuing negotiations will conclude additional agreements valued at \$9,047 and renewals will be concluded on an additional \$126,429 worth of 1967-69 fiscal year agreements (from Table 1) by March 30, 1970. This level of activity results in a surplus of \$91,540 in easement funds (Table 1) and is forecast to net 70,077 acres of wetlands (Table 2) under agreement by March 30, 1970.

#### Discussion

The surplus of \$91,540 is created by the budget restraints for 1970-71. Maintaining this amount of surplus will allow for \$12,640 worth of new agreements in 1970-71 as \$326,560 of the present total of \$339,200 estimated for easements in 1970-71 is required for renewals (\$5,100 of which is renewal of pilot study easements).

Table 1 Status, Current and Forecast, of Easement Expenditures

	Year	Expenditure to date	Forecast Expenditure	Total forecast to March 31, 1969
Standard Renewals	1967-69	109,590	123,730	233,320
Standard New	1969-70	24,924	6,252	31,176
Subtotal		134,514	129,982	264,496
Special Renewals	1967-69	51,161	2,699	53,860
Special New	1969-70	307	2,797	3,104
Subtotal		51,468	5,496	56,964
Total		185,982	135,478	321,460
Budget Standard	1969-70	175,000	177,000	352,000
Special	1969-70	54,900	6,100	61,000
Total		229,900	183,100	413,000
Balance		+ 43,918	+ 47,622	+ 91,540

**Table 2 Forecast acres under agreement by March 31, 1970**

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Standard Renewal</b>	<b>1967-69</b>	<b>56,335</b>
<b>Standard New</b>	<b>1969-70</b>	<b>9,597</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>65,932</b>
<b>Special Renewals</b>	<b>1967-69</b>	<b>3,816</b>
<b>Special New</b>	<b>1969-70</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>4,145</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>70,077</b>



Figure 1 Net status of negotiations in Alberta from April 1, 1967 to September 30, 1969

LEGEND





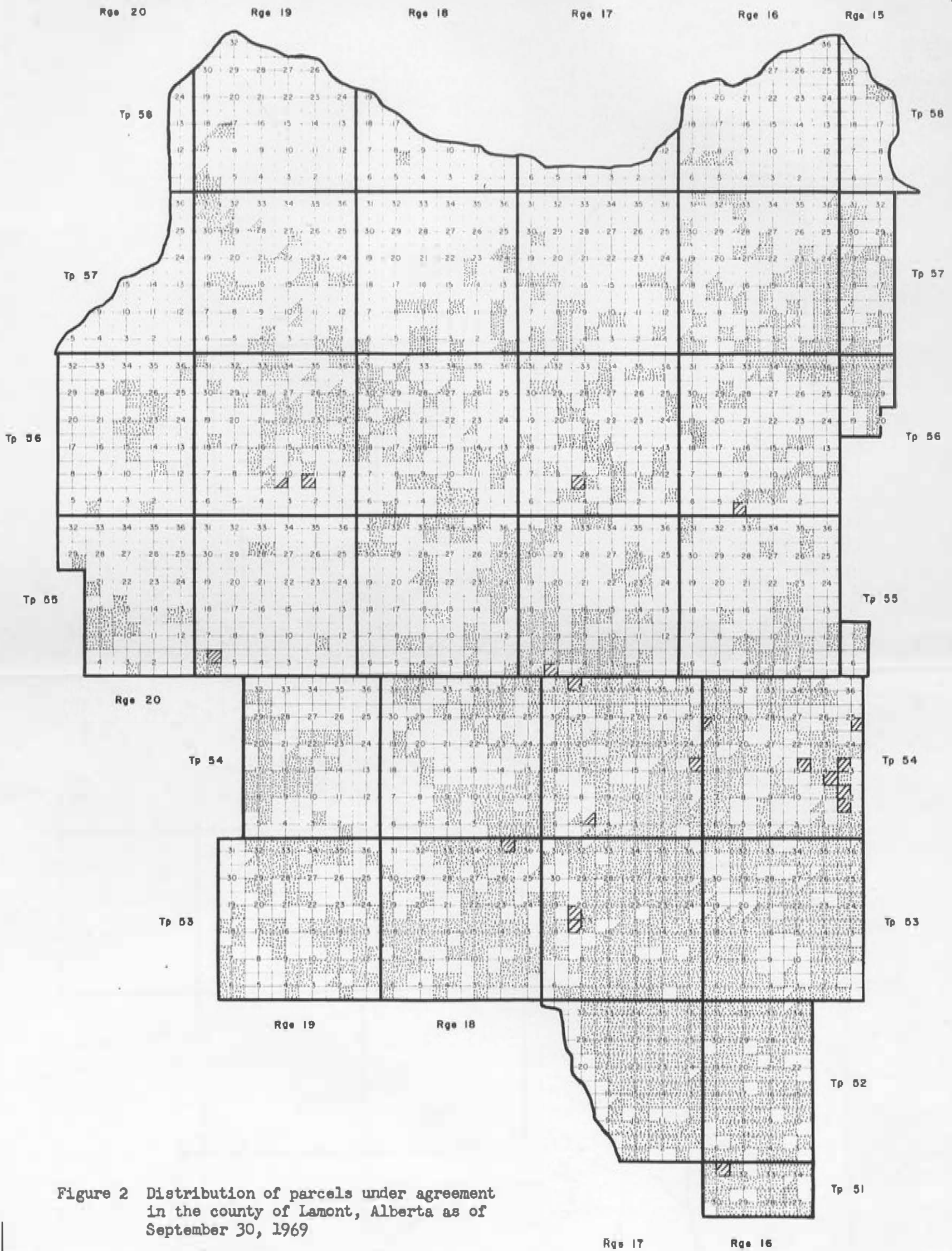


Figure 2 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the county of Lamont, Alberta as of September 30, 1969

COUNTY OF BEAVER - WEST OF THE 4th MERIDIAN

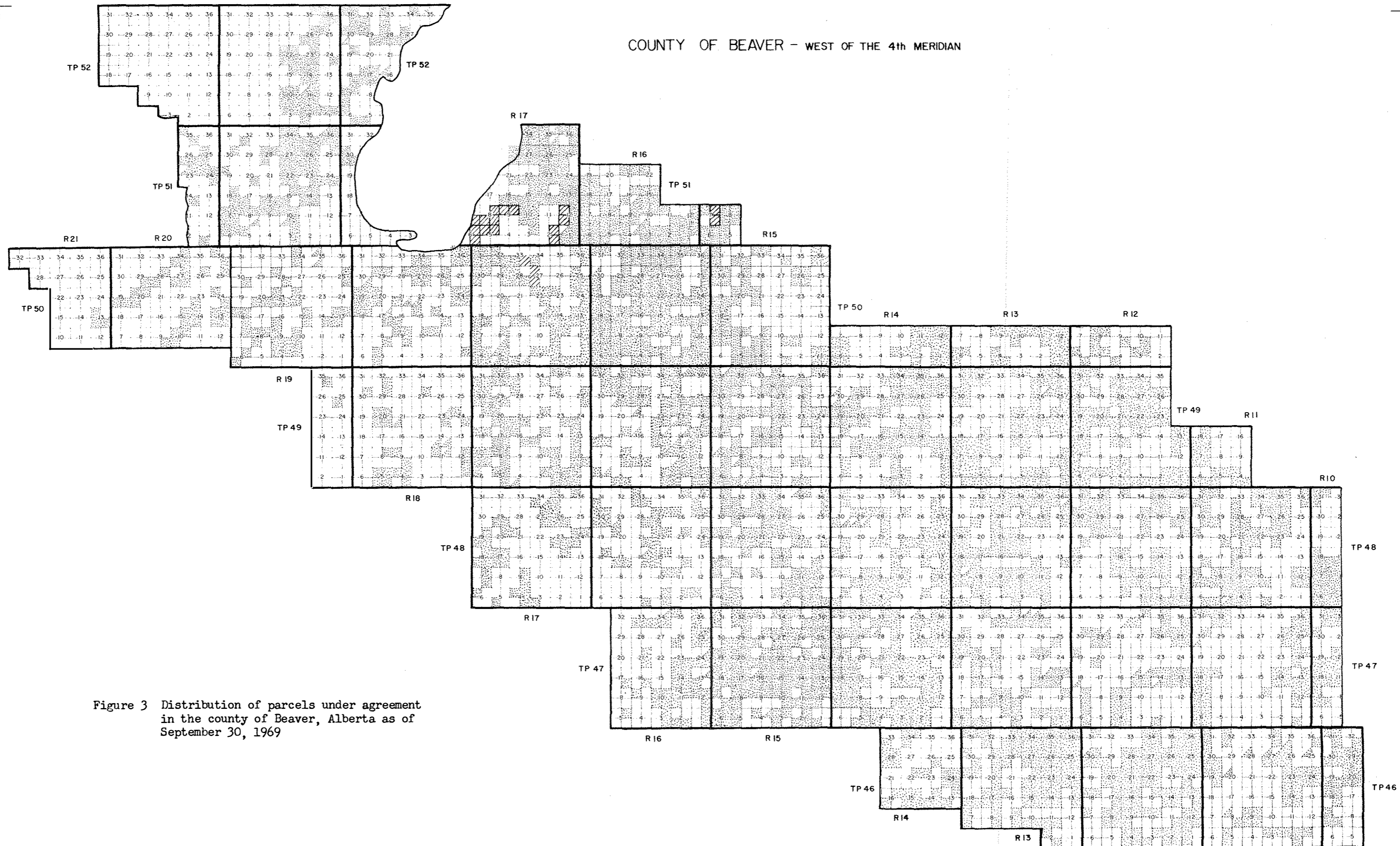


Figure 3 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the county of Beaver, Alberta as of September 30, 1969



Figure 4 Net status of negotiations in Saskatchewan from April 1, 1967 to September 30, 1969

# LEGEND



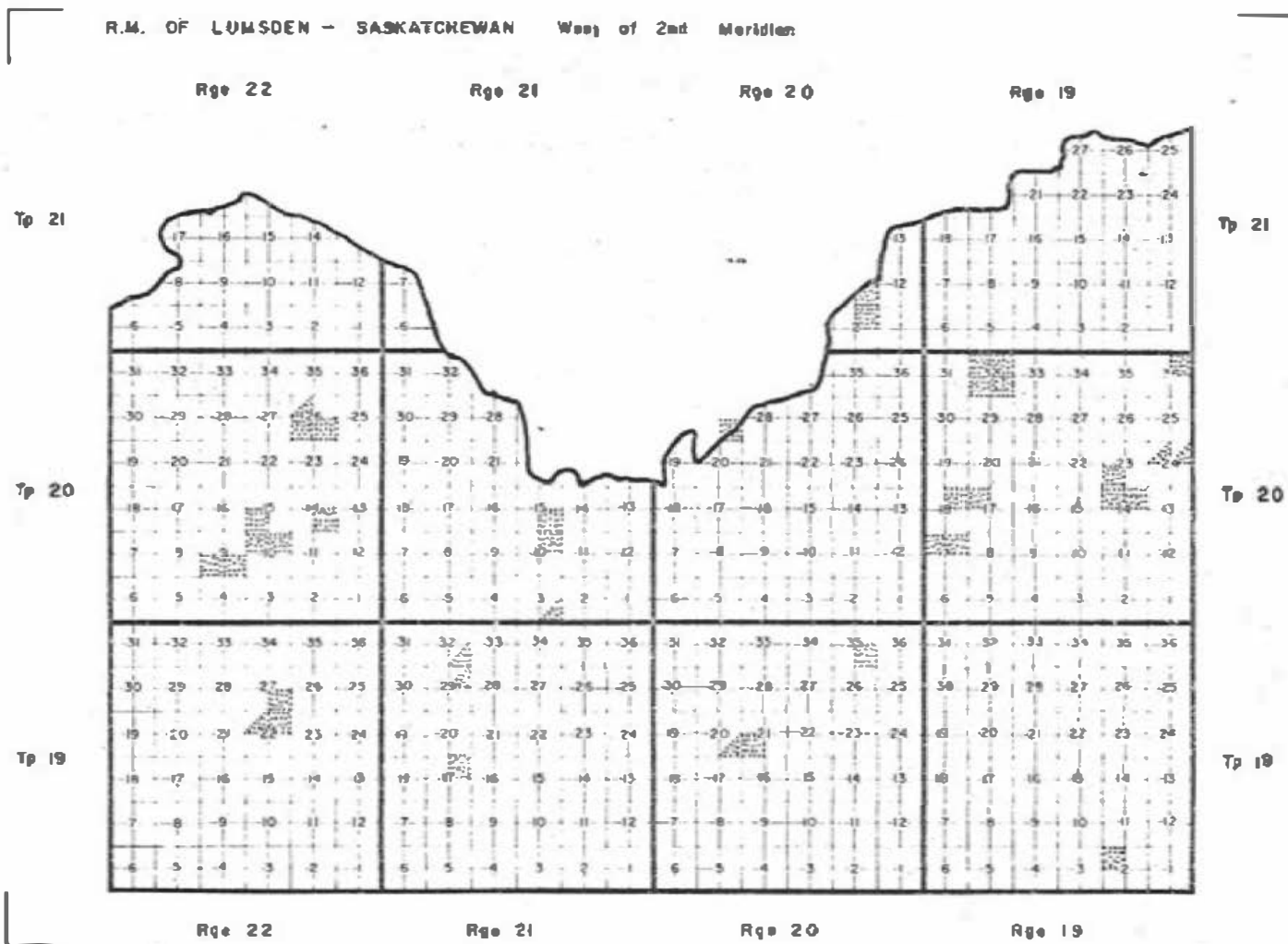


Figure 5 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Lumsden, Saskatchewan as of September 30, 1969

R.M. OF DUFFERIN - SASKATCHEWAN West of 2nd Meridian

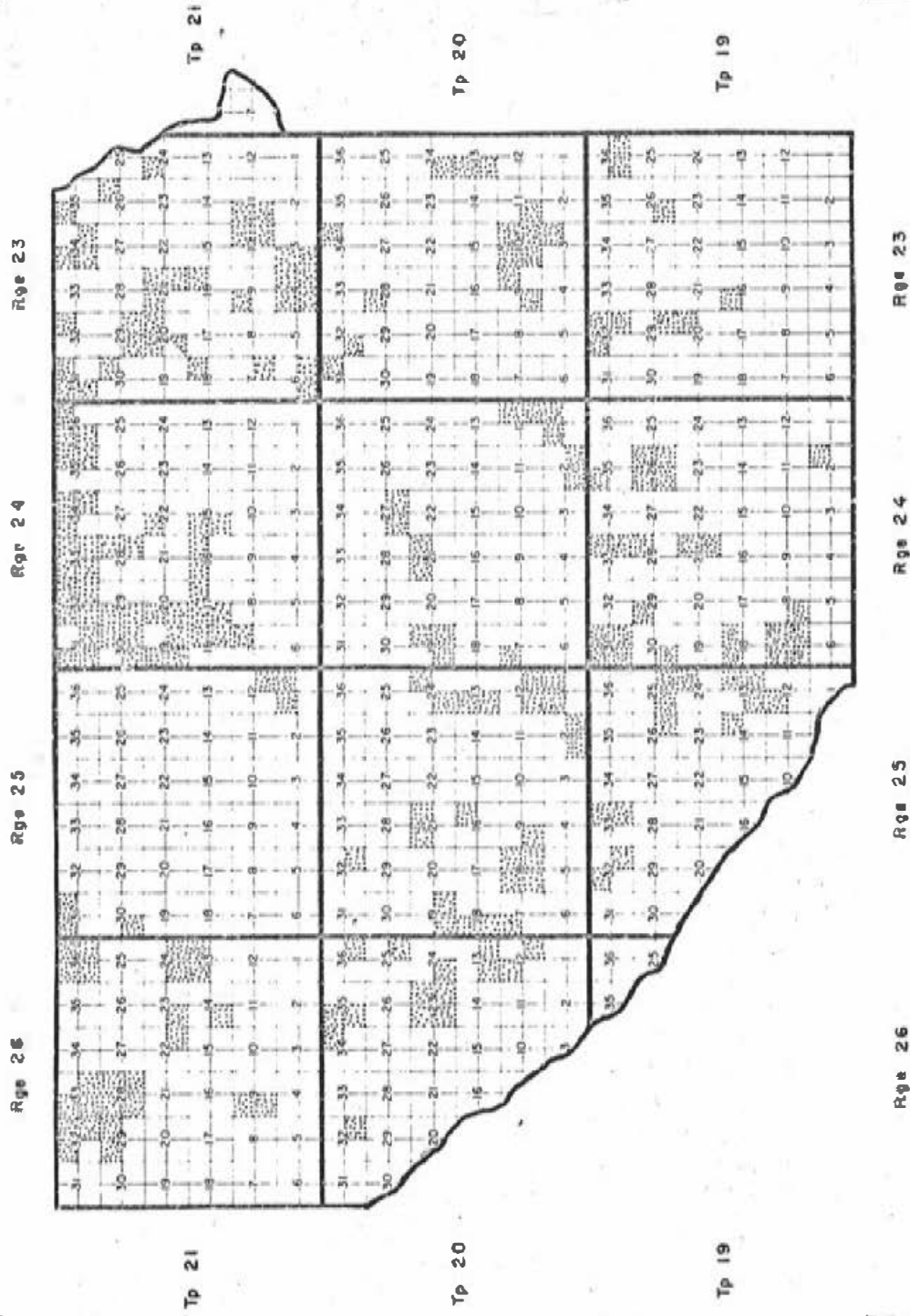


Figure 6 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Dufferin, Saskatchewan as of September 30, 1969

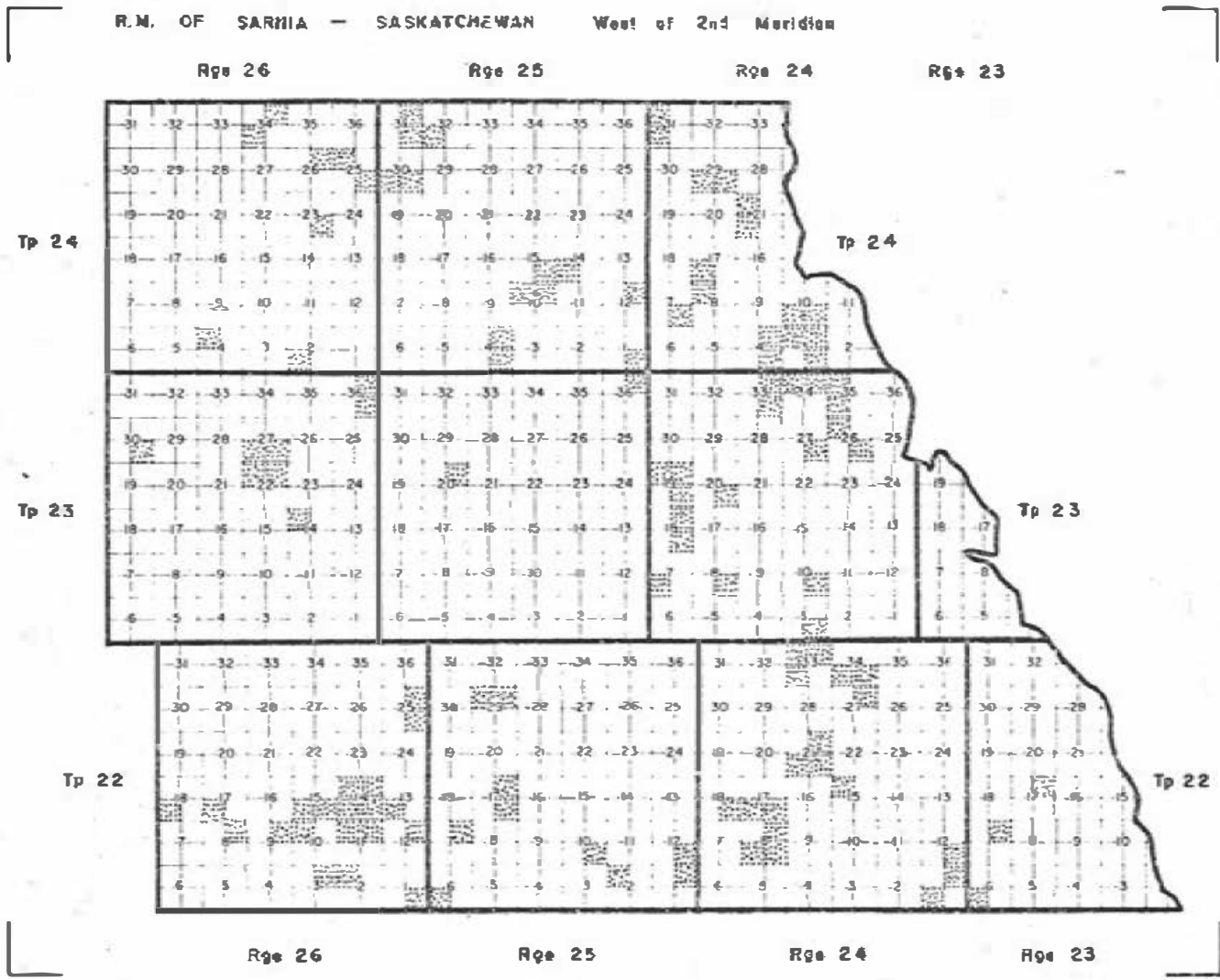


Figure 7 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Sarnia, Saskatchewan as of September 30, 1969

R.M. OF CRAIK - SASKATCHEWAN West of 2nd Meridian

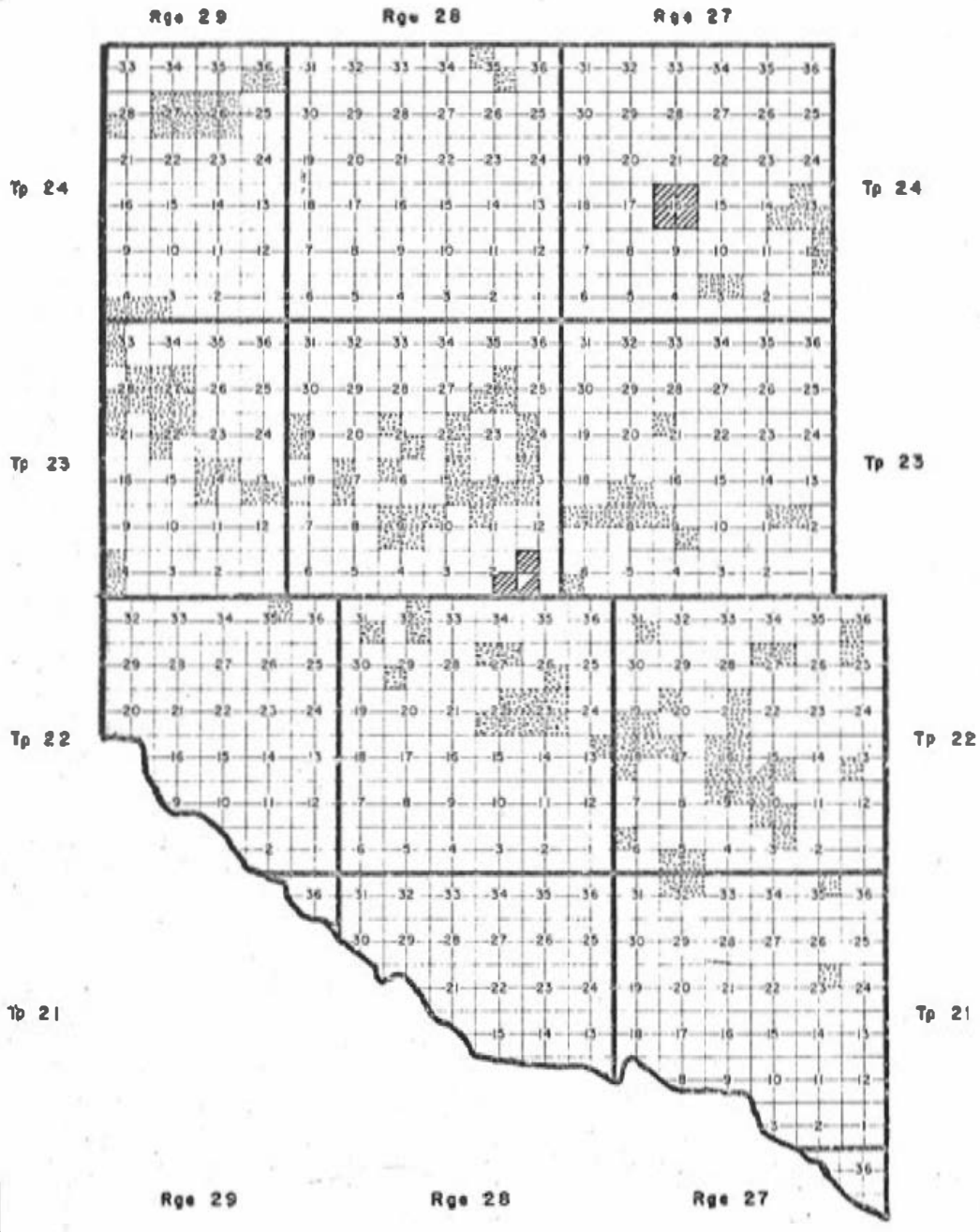


Figure 8 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Craik, Saskatchewan as of September 30, 1969



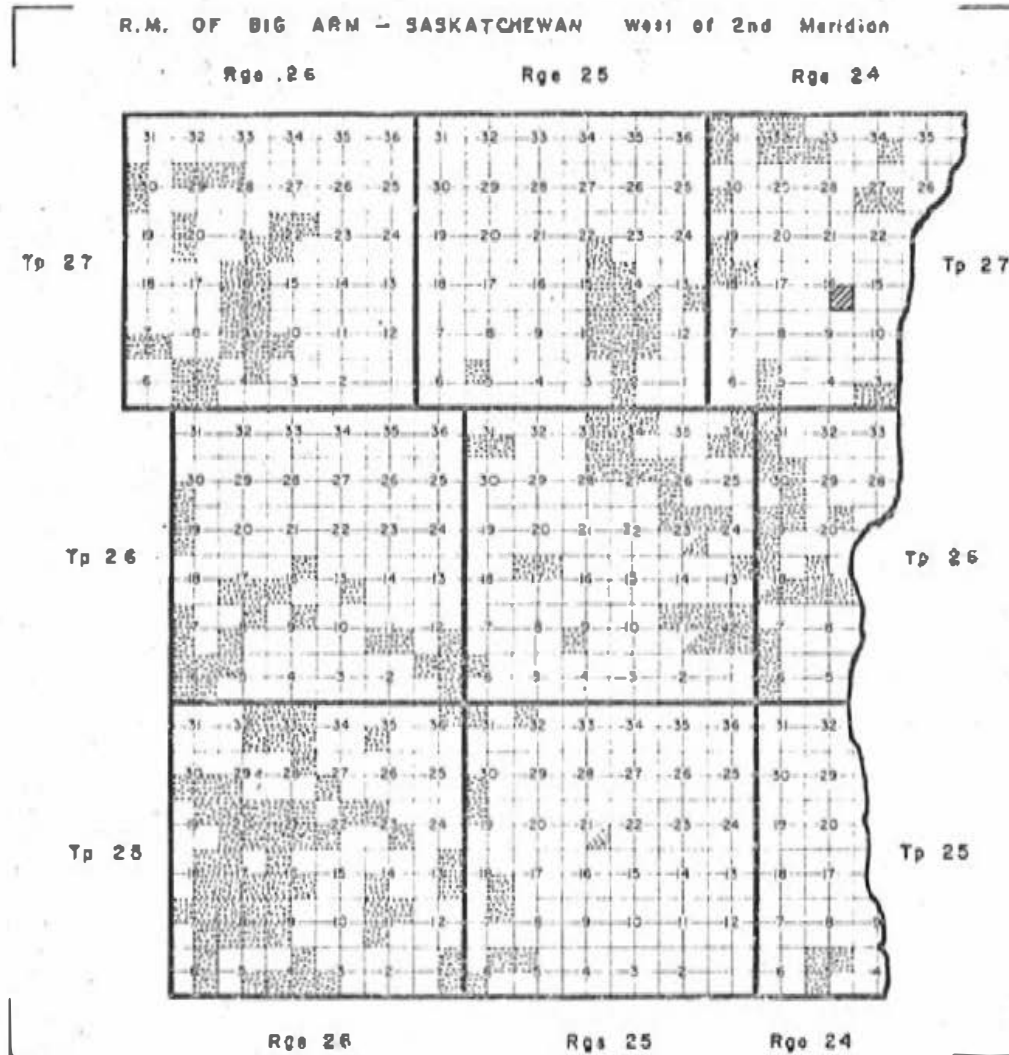


Figure 9 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Big Arm, Saskatchewan as of September 30, 1969

R.M. OF ARM RIVER - SASKATCHEWAN West of 2nd Meridian

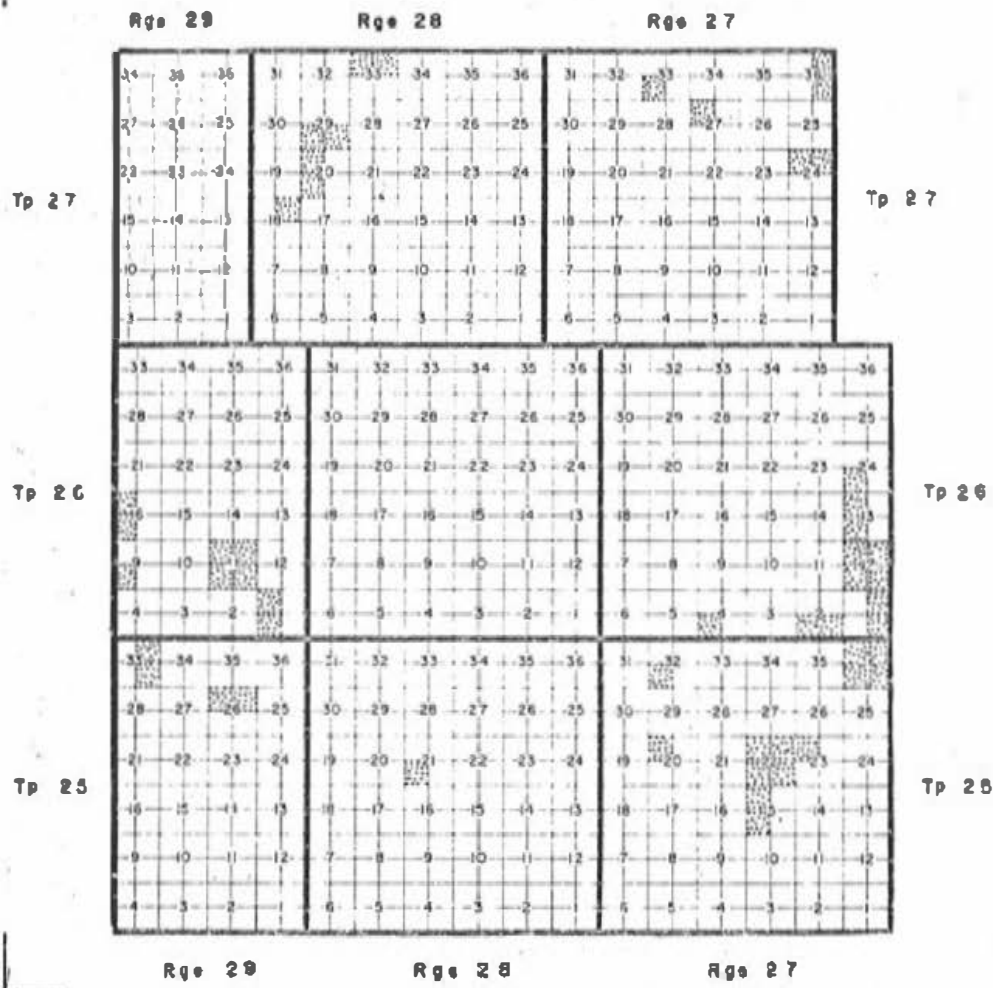


Figure 10 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Arm River, Saskatchewan as of September 30, 1969

# MANITOBA

$\frac{243.7}{13}$  Acres under agreement  
 Parcels under agreement

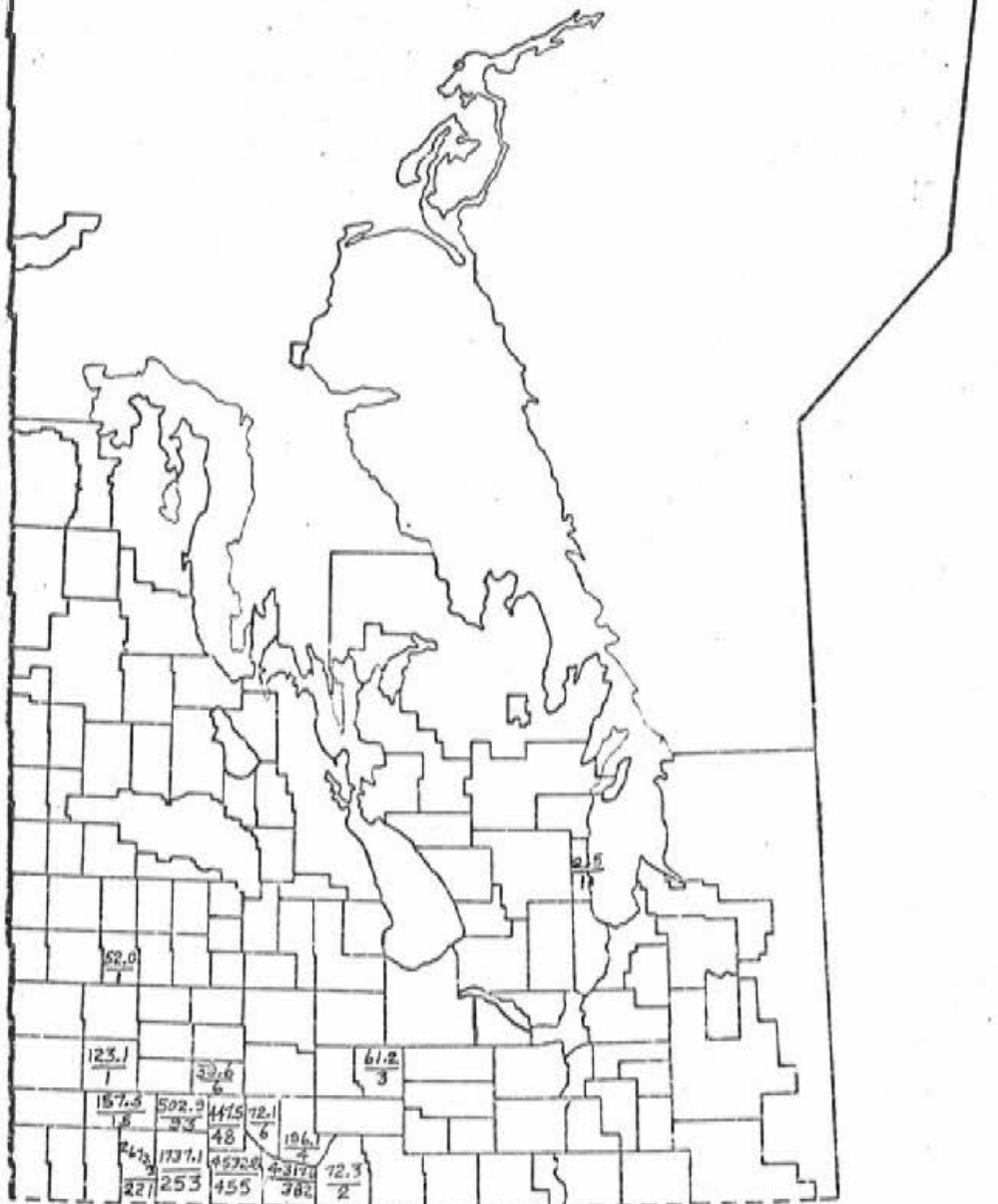
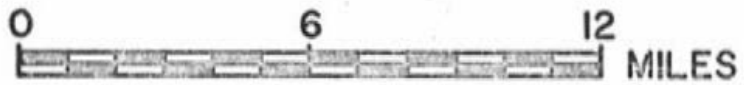


Figure 11 Net status of negotiations in Manitoba from April 1, 1967 to September 30, 1969

# LEGEND



R.M. OF ROBLIN - MANITOBA

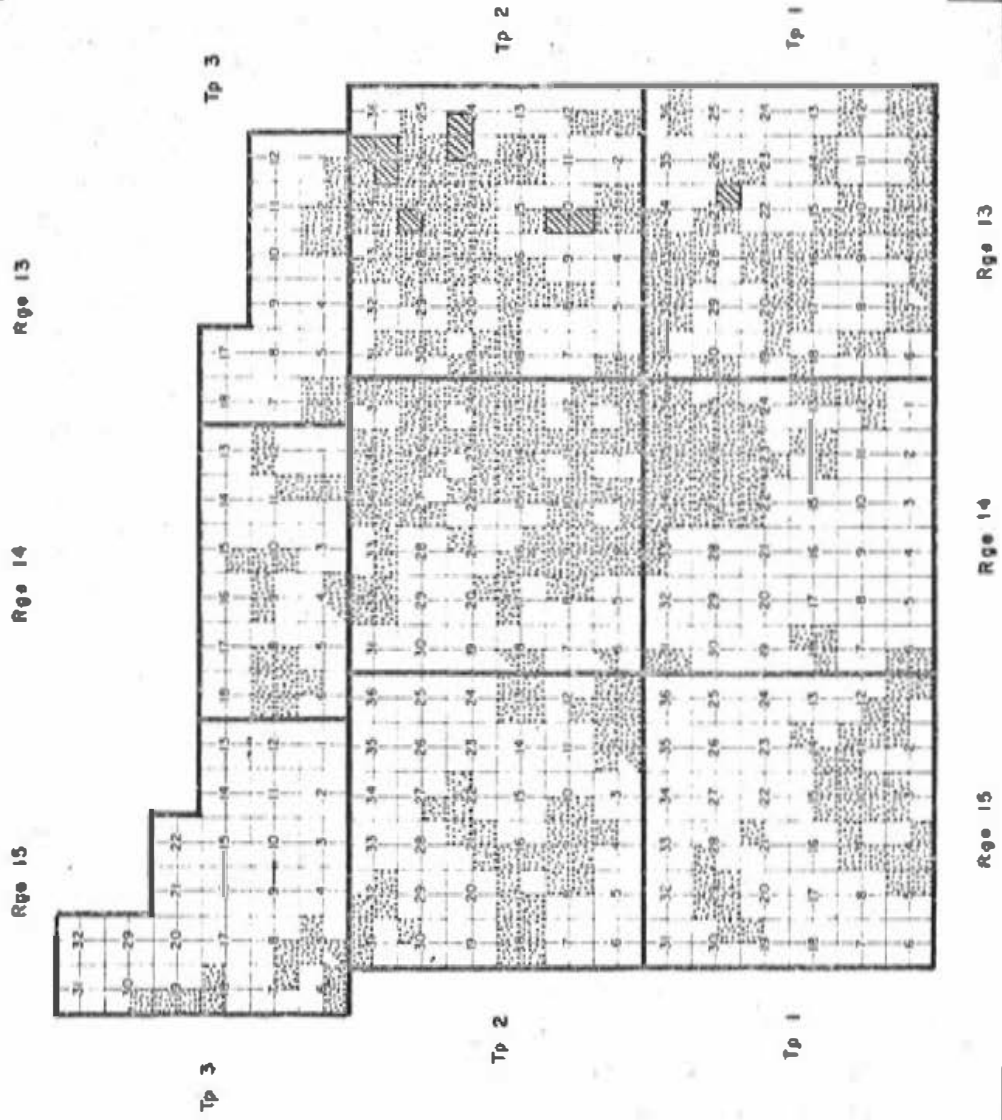


Figure 12 Distributions of parcels under agreement in the Municipality of Roblin, Manitoba as of September 30, 1969

R.M. OF TURTLE MOUNTAIN - MANITOBA

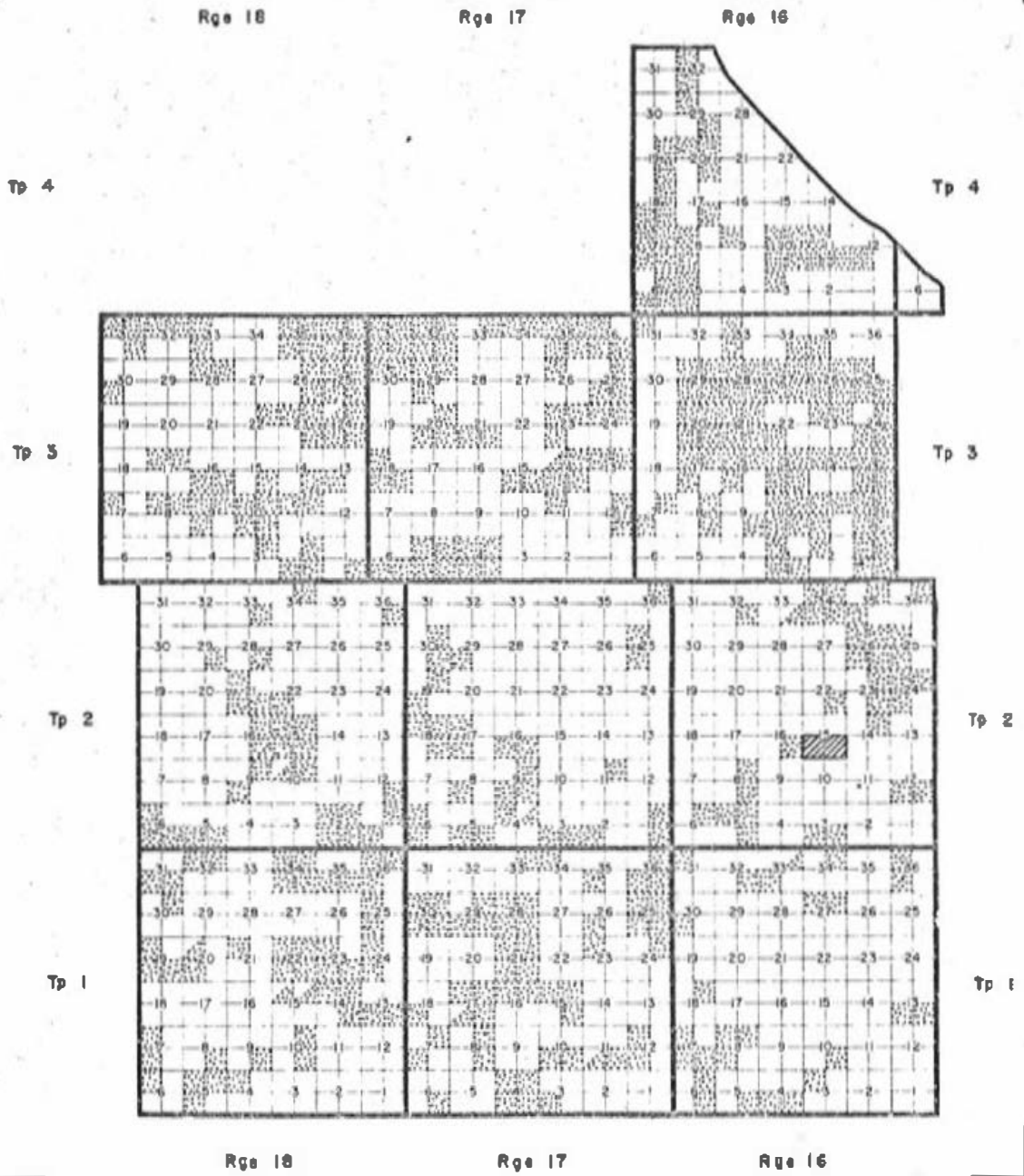


Figure 13 Distributions of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Turtle Mountain, Manitoba as of September 30, 1969

R.M. OF MORTON - MANITOBA

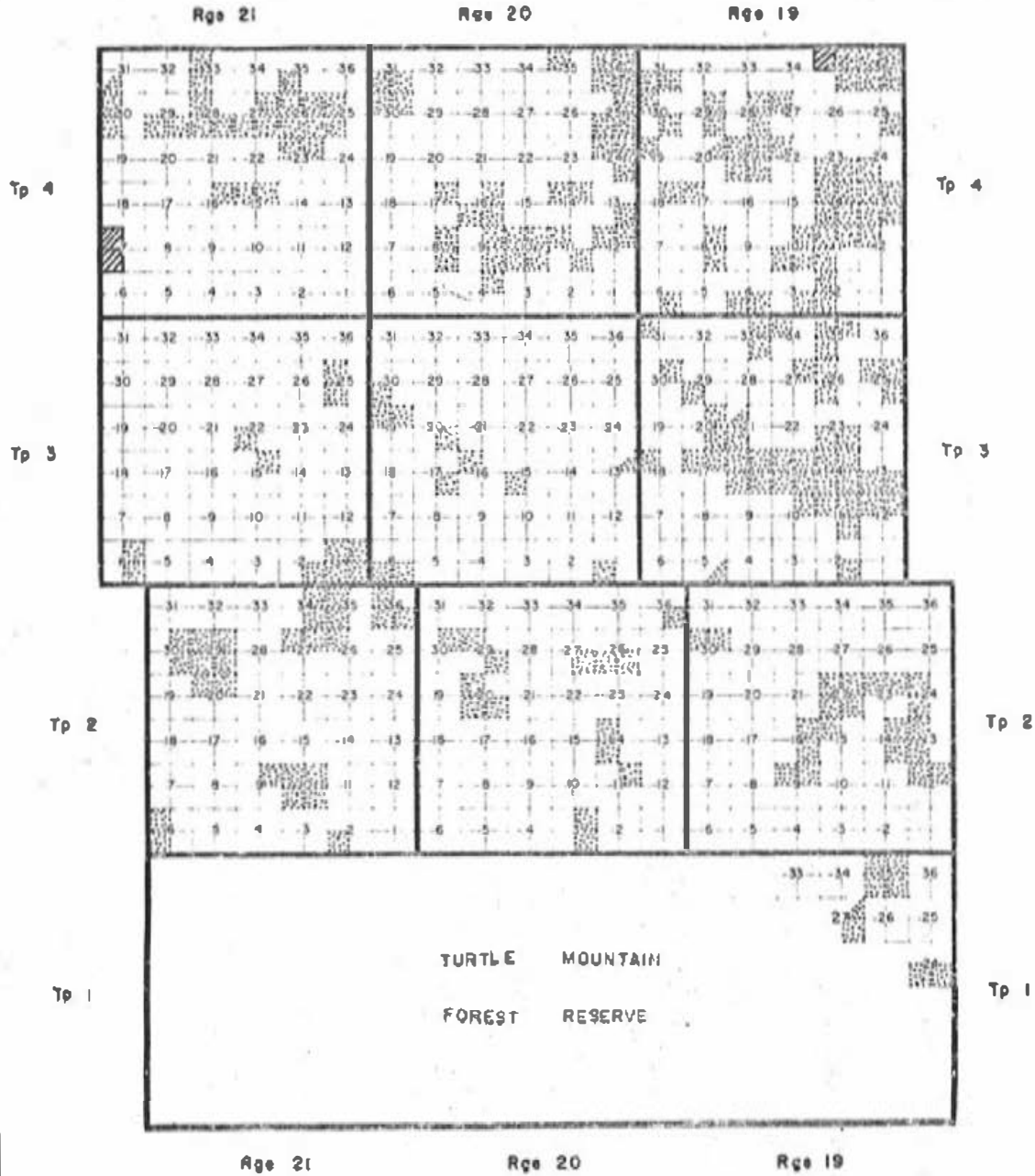


Figure 14. Distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Morton, Manitoba as of September 30, 1969

R.M. OF WINCHESTER - MANITOBA

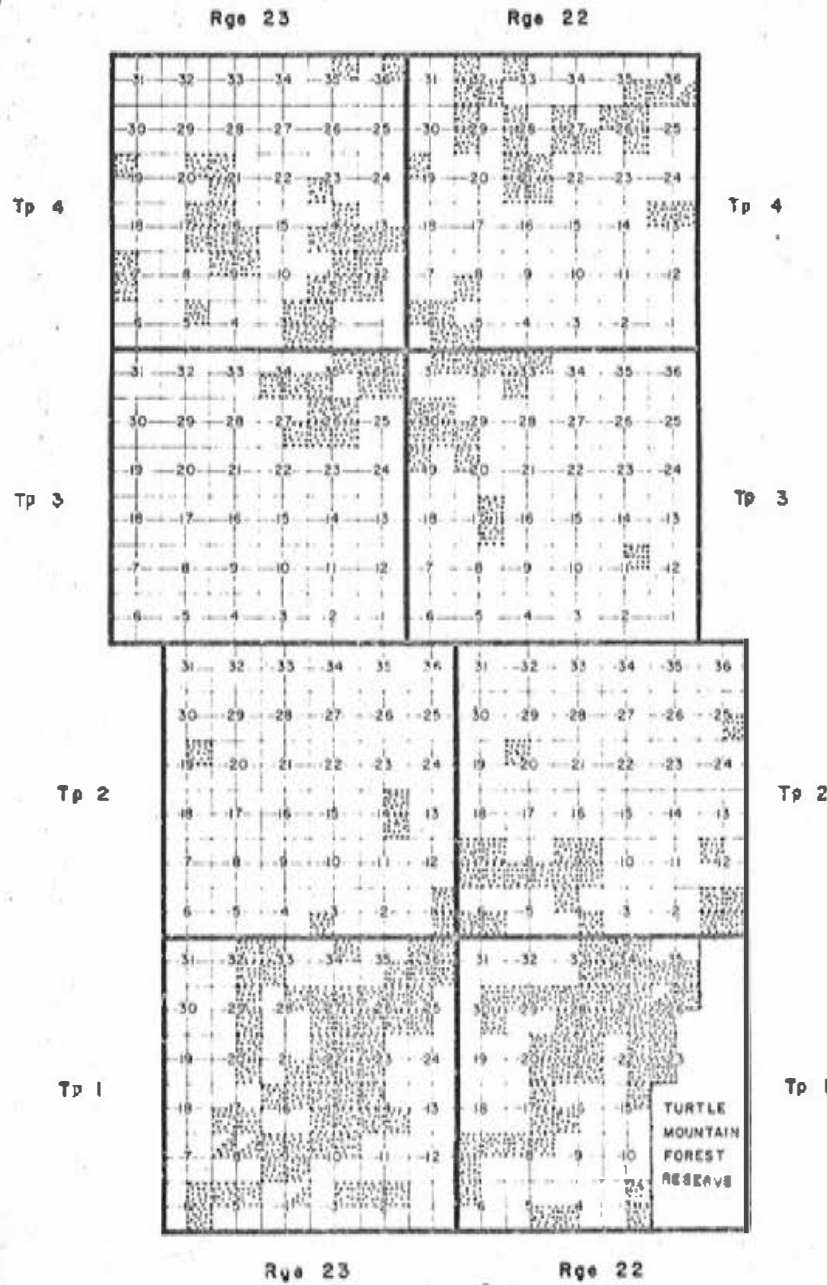


Figure 15 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Winchester, Manitoba as of September 30, 1969



R.M. OF WHITEWATER - MANITOBA

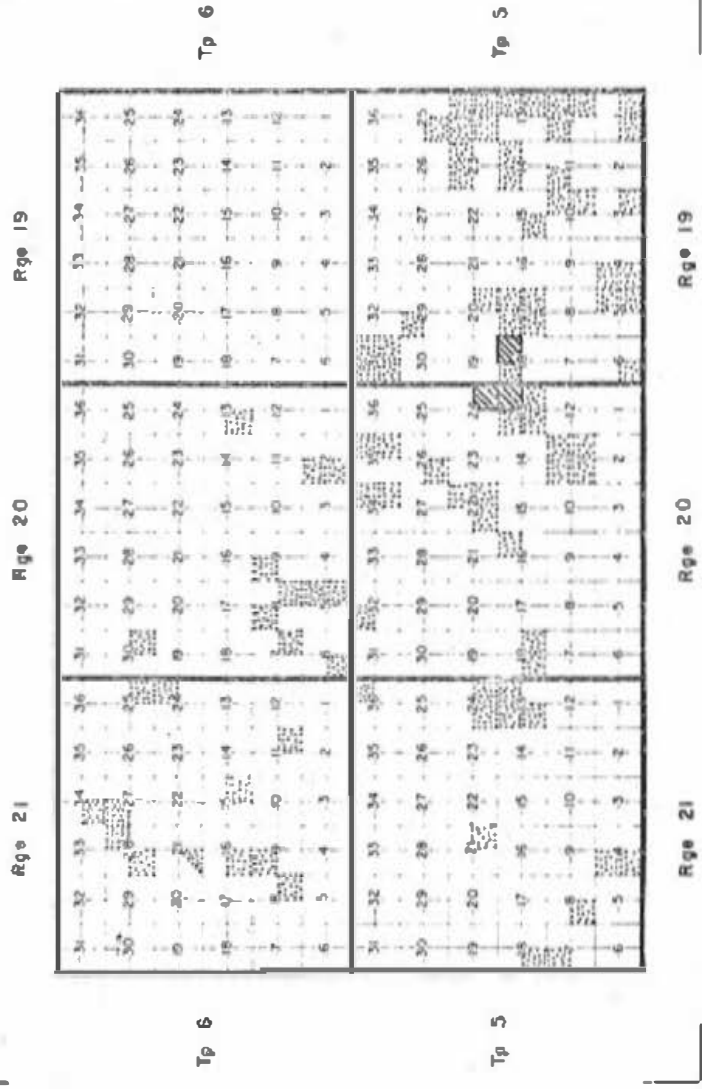


Figure 16 Distribution of parcels under agreement in the municipality of Whitewater, Manitoba as of September 30, 1969

APPENDIX A

WATERFOWL HABITAT PRESERVATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN in right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, hereinafter called "Her Majesty"

AND

possessor(s) of an interest in  
quarter of Section        in Township        and Range        West  
of the        Meridian, in the Province of  
hereinafter called "the Grantor(s)"

THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH THAT in consideration of the covenants and agreements herein contained, the parties hereto covenant and agree:

1. The Grantor(s) grant to Her Majesty the right and privilege of using and preserving as a waterfowl habitat the wetland or pothole area(s) shown outlined in black on the aerial photograph attached, together with the right to have Her servants enter upon the above described lands for the purpose of access to and inspection of said habitat.
2. The Grantor(s) will not during the term hereof:
  - (a) drain or permit to be drained, or
  - (b) fill in or permit to be filled in, or
  - (c) burn or permit to be burned the marsh vegetation on, the potholes or wetlands comprising the said habitat.
3. In consideration of the covenants agreed to by the Grantor(s) in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, Her Majesty agrees to pay to the Grantor(s) an amount of \$        in equal, annual payments of \$        , subject as hereinafter provided.
4. As a condition precedent to the payment of any annual instalment by Her Majesty, the Grantor(s) will execute a certificate that he/they has/have not during the preceding twelve-month period committed or permitted to be committed any breach of covenants contained in paragraph 2 hereof.
5. Either party may terminate this agreement by giving sixty days' written notice to the other.

# Dollars from wetlands

A program to preserve North America's most important waterfowl production areas and provide wetlands owners with revenue from the resource

## *Why pay to preserve wetlands?*

Wetlands add variety to the landscape, provide water for stock, and provide opportunity for outdoor sport. However, drainage of wetlands in Western Canada has caused a decline in the amount of suitable waterfowl habitat. If present waterfowl populations are to be maintained for the benefit of all Canadians, we must preserve some wetlands.

## *Which wetlands are required?*

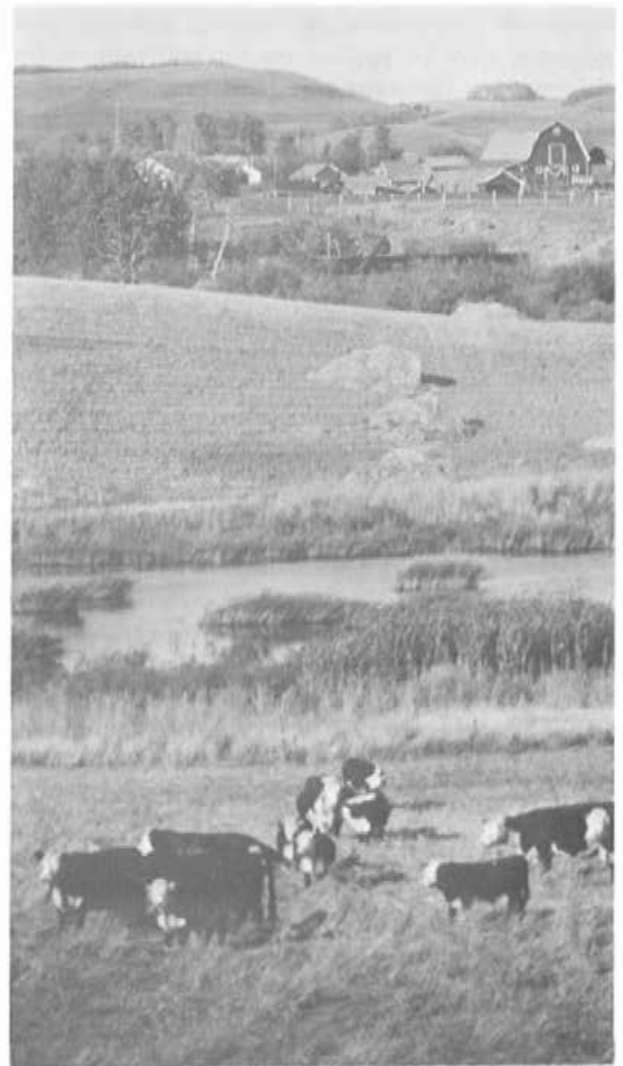
Sloughs, ponds, potholes or other similar areas, one-tenth of an acre or larger, which you own that aid production of waterfowl are eligible. These ponds must be either permanent or within one-half mile of a permanent pond. Temporary ponds are desirable for breeding ducks before broods hatch. Wetlands which have been ditched but retain water after drainage ceases are eligible for payment provided other requirements are met. Wetlands not eligible for payment are flowing creeks, streams, rivers, dug-outs outside a natural basin, Crown-owned waters, and heavier impoundments.

## *Who can participate in the program?*

Any individual or group which owns land in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, or British Columbia may participate in the program.

## *How does the program operate?*

Your wetlands are appraised from aerial photographs and, if required, by field inspection. Landowners who have wetlands suitable for the production of waterfowl are eligible to receive an offer, provided the offer is at least \$10 per year. The yearly payment is based on the acreage of eligible wetland owned and the estimated value of the land for agriculture. For example, in a quarter section worth \$100 per acre with 20 acres of wetlands, the agreement would provide annual payments of \$6 per acre of wetland, or \$120 per year for 10 years. Similarly, in a quarter



section worth \$25 per acre and with 20 acres of wetland, the agreement would provide annual payments of \$1.50 per acre of wetland, or \$30 per year for 10 years. Payments will be made after you have signed an agreement not to drain or fill in specified ponds, nor burn the marsh vegetation within those ponds. Payments will be made in advance each year for 10 years or as long as the agreement is in effect.

## *May I receive payments for wetlands on land which I rent from others?*

No. As a lessee or renter, you are not eligible to receive wetlands payments from the Department. If you are the registered landowner, or the beneficial landowner under an agreement for sale, you are eligible to receive wetlands payments. Estates are also eligible to receive wetlands payments.

*How are my farming operations affected by the agreement?*

Farm practices on the surrounding land are not affected. However, if you burn the vegetation on the surrounding land the ponds under agreement must be protected by a fireguard. Any normal farm practice, such as cultivation, haying, grazing, and spraying, may be applied on the wetlands under agreement as the water recedes naturally.

*Will this agreement affect my title or my right to sell or otherwise convey my property?*

No. The agreement is not registered against your land title. You are able to sell or otherwise convey your land at any time. If you do, you must notify the Department of this action, as the agreement becomes void as of the date of sale or conveyance.

*If I sign an agreement may I cancel it at a later date?*

Yes. Either party may cancel the agreement by submitting 60 days written notice to the other. If you terminate an agreement before the next payment is due, you would be required to pay back a portion of the annual payment made in advance. The Department would advise you of the amount you must pay back.

*What must I do if I wish to apply farm practices contrary to the terms of the agreement?*

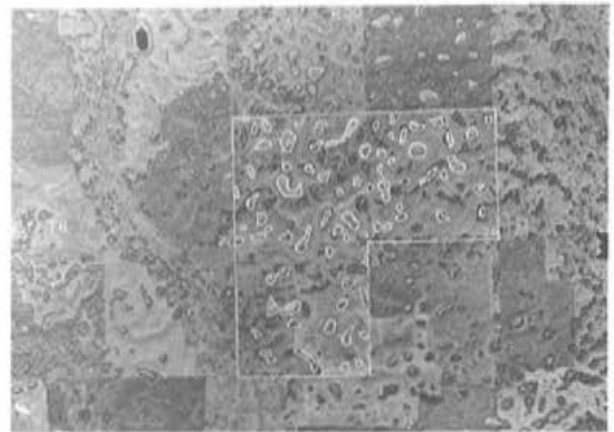
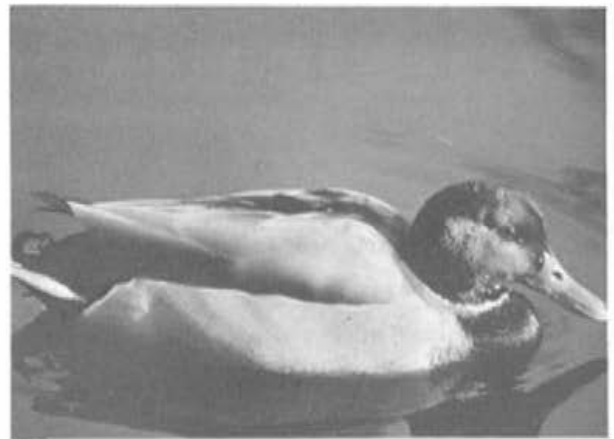
You must cancel the agreement. Failure will require return of all money received after the violation.

*Can I or others still hunt on my land and can I protect my crop?*

The agreement does not prevent you or anyone else from hunting on your land; however, the hunter does not obtain any additional rights because of the agreement. Hunters are still required to obey regulations on entrance to private land as specified by laws. The agreement does not prevent you from protecting your crop from ducks, geese, etc., by any legal method. Automatic acetylene exploders and crop insurance are recommended for reducing crop losses.

*Will field inspections by personnel from the Department endanger any of my crops?*

No. Field inspections are normally conducted from aircraft. You, the landowner, will be notified if an inspection on the ground is required. It will be conducted with utmost care by responsible Canadian Wildlife Service personnel.



Canadian Wildlife Service  
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern  
Development  
10015 — 103 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta

## Revision to "Dollars from Wetlands"

Which wetlands are required?

Sloughs, ponds, potholes, or other similar areas, that you own which are permanent or hold water for most of the summer in a normal year and either have a mixture of immorgerent vegetation and open water or open water with quantities of submergent vegetation. Wetlands which have been ditched but retain permanent water after drainage ceases are eligible for payment. Wetlands not eligible for payment are flowing creeks, streams, rivers, dugouts outside a natural basin, Crown-owned waters, beaver impoundments and shallow grass marshes.

How does the program operate?

Your wetlands are appraised from aerial photographs and, if required, by field inspection. Landowners who have wetlands suitable for the production of waterfowl are eligible to receive an offer on each parcel of land on which there are at least two acres of wetlands. The yearly payment is based on the acreage of eligible wetland owned and the estimated value of the land for agriculture. For example, in a quarter section worth \$100 per acre with 20 acres of wetlands, the agreement would provide annual payments of \$6 per acre of wetland, or \$120 per year for 10 years. Similarly, in a quarter section worth \$25 per acre and with 20 acres of wetland, the agreement would provide annual payments of \$1.50 per acre of wetland, or \$30 per year for 10 years. Payments will be made after you signed an agreement "not to drain or permit to be drained, or fill in or permit to be filled in, or burn or permit to be burned the marsh vegetation on" the eligible ponds. Payments will be made each year for 10 years or as long as the agreement is in effect.