

# The View...

From Huron County Farmers, Drainage and Conservation Experts

APRIL 2023

## Plant Cover Crops and Improve Soil Health

Grant program offers up to \$45 per acre for Clinton-area Producers

For the 2023/2024 cropping year, Clinton-area producers will once again be eligible for an enhanced cost-share program offering \$30/acre up to 100 acres. This enhanced program can be combined with Huron Clean Water Project funding for a total of \$45/acre. Funding is limited and some restrictions apply. First-time adopters are encouraged to apply. Cover crops can reduce erosion, and compaction,



while improving soil structure and adding organic matter. Please contact Hope Brock (hbrock@abca.ca) or Brooklyn Rau (brau@abca.ca) at Ausable Bayfield

Conservation (ABCA), 519-235-2610 for more information about the program, or scan this QR code with your mobile device.



### Main Bayfield Watershed Report Card 2023

A watershed is an area of land that drains rain and snow into creeks, streams and rivers. The watershed in which you live provides your link to the natural world. Watersheds connect our actions and accumulate to degrade or improve conditions.



FOREST  
CONDITIONS

GRADE  
C



SURFACE  
WATER  
QUALITY

GRADE  
B

#### Thumbs Up!

To improve surface water quality, the Huron County Demonstration Farm at Huronview (shown above) is one of several sites in Ontario where agricultural producers are coming together with other groups to demonstrate practices that produce bountiful crops while improving soil health and protecting the environment. At Huronview farm, Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Huron County industry, and other partners are demonstrating and experimenting with innovative types of drainage, to see the effects on crop yield, soil health, and water quality. Report cards give residents information to protect and enhance their watershed.

## NEW Watershed Report Card

Check out the new *Watershed Report Card* released last month. The Main Bayfield subwatershed (Bayfield River area from Clinton down to Bayfield) received a 'C' for Forest Conditions, which are based on the amount of forest cover, forest interior and streamside cover. A 'B' was received for Surface Water Quality, which is based on concentrations of total phosphorus and E. coli, as well as benthic invertebrates. Find out more about important conservation actions for this watershed at [abca.ca/watershedreportcard/](http://abca.ca/watershedreportcard/)

# Happenings at Huronview Demonstration Farm

In early February, five monitoring wells were drilled at the Huronview Demonstration Farm as part of a research project involving Huron Soil and Crop, Ausable Bayfield Conservation and the University of Guelph. These wells (top photo at right) will be used to investigate the influences of groundwater and its contributions to the volume of water leaving the fields. This research will also provide a better understanding of the subsurface drainage systems and their effectiveness.



At the same time the wells were drilled, a snow melt event also occurred at Huronview. Equipment is in place to monitor both surface and subsurface water for quality and quantity. The photo at right shows a v-notch weir, which helps to measure flow and an ISCO



automatic water sampler which collects sequential water samples over time. Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff collect these samples which are then sent to a lab for analysis. At the field scale, surface runoff associated with

these melt events has been reduced since the fields were tiled. To learn more about the best management practices being utilized, please visit [huronview.net](http://huronview.net)

## Rye after Corn Trial - Upcoming Rye Surveys and Tour

Over the coming weeks, Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff will be working with Mervyn Erb, Agri-Solve Inc. to complete the initial rye cover crop surveys for the participating producers. Visual

inspections will note uniformity, distribution and plant population. Also, mark your calendars for a pop-up tour hosted by Huron Soil and Crop on **April 17th at 2pm** at the

**Huronview**

**Demonstration**

**Farm** to

evaluate the rye cover crop.

**Watch @HuronSoilCrop on Twitter for details.**



Connect with us...



@LandWaterNews



@AusableBayfield



facebook.com/WaterSoilLivingThings/



Ausable Bayfield



Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation

