

The View...

From Huron County Farmers, Drainage and Conservation Experts

April 2024

Boost program helps producers plant cover crops

Grant program offers up to \$45 per acre

For the 2024/2025 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.



Need help deciding what to plant? Contact your certified crop advisor, local seed dealer, Huron Soil & Crop Improvement Association, or try the Cover Crop Decision Tool by visiting <https://covercroptool.midwestcovercrops.org/covercroptool/>

Please contact 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.



Cover Crop Trial Continues

In partnership with Ausable Bayfield Conservation, Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association is looking for producers in Huron County who planted a cereal rye cover crop after corn last fall, or oats after soybeans. If you are interested in participating in one of

these trials, please contact Hope Brock at hbrock@abca.ca or 519-235-2610.

Participating producers will be required to share their records regarding planting, as well as planting and harvesting of this year's crop. Fields involved in the trial may

also be visited by an agronomist.

For more information about the trial, please contact Alan Willits, Huron Soil and Crop, at huronsoilandcrop@gmail.com



Happenings at Huronview Demonstration Farm

New equipment installed to help monitor tile flow; County Council update

A magmeter, an instrument that measures flow, was recently installed in Tile A at the Huronview Demonstration Farm. This will provide continuous flow data and help verify calculated flow measurements are accurate.

Tile drainage is recognized as a best management practice (BMP) when it comes to reducing land erosion. At the same time, tile drainage also generates more water in downstream channels like drains, creeks and rivers. At Huronview, researchers and partners are looking at ways to minimize the impacts of this increased flow (i.e., erosion and flooding) by implementing things like controlled drainage. Controlled drainage utilizes underground control gates that regulate the outflow from the tile and the water levels in the soil. Controlled drainage makes more moisture available to crops during times of low



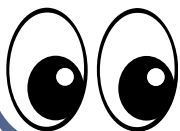
Magmeter installed in Tile A at Huronview (left); Rick Kootstra, Wim Feddes and Mari Veliz at Huron County Council (right).

precipitation, encourages more water to infiltrate deeper into the ground, allows the soil to serve as a reservoir during heavy rainfall events and reduces the amount of nutrients transported through the tile. Controlled drainage is just one of the best management practices being utilized at Huronview.

In other news, members of Huron Soil and Crop and Ausable Bayfield Conservation recently provided an annual update on the activities at Huronview to Huron County

Council. Huron Soil and Crop rent the farm from Huron County for \$1/year to demonstrate sustainable farming practices. Come learn about these practices and the monitoring that takes place on the farm during a walk and talk on Sunday, May 26 at 10am. Rick Kootstra, Huron Soil and Crop, and Mari Veliz, Ausable Bayfield Conservation, will lead the tour and highlight the innovative practices and research taking place. Can't make the hike? **Visit huronview.net to learn more.**

Huron County Soil & Crop together with Ausable Bayfield Conservation are actively seeking a farm landowner to share in demonstrating the benefits of no-till, strip till and cover crops to soil health. Competitive rent or share-crop arrangements available.



For more information, please contact Wim Feddes at huronsoilandcrop@gmail.com

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