

The View...

From Huron County Farmers, Drainage and Conservation Experts

October 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 are once again 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 Brooklyn (hbrock@abca.ca) or Brooklyn Rau (brau@abca.ca) at Bayfield Conservation (ABCA), 519-235-2610 for more information about the program, or scan the QR code above. Apply today!

World Soil Day - December 5, 2023



Thanks to all producers who steward soil by limiting tillage, planting a variety of crops, avoiding compaction, using cover crops and adding organic amendments.

3 Reasons why soils are important



1
There are more **living organisms** in a **tablespoon of soil** than there are **people on Earth**.

2
It takes over **1 000 years** to make **1 cm of soil**.

3
It is estimated that **95%** of **our food** is directly or indirectly produced in **our soils**.



Various cover cropping techniques highlighted during tour

It was a beautiful day on August 11, 2023 for the Cover Crop Bus Tour. The Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association (HSCIA) hosted the cover crop bus tour along with Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley conservation authorities.

Twenty-seven agricultural producers and local agency staff toured three different farms where cover crops are being utilized in different ways.

Geoff Alderdice, who farms near Kippen, explained how he has been using cover crops on his farm. His cover crops are typically planted after wheat. Although his early years of cover crop use began with Clover, he now prefers to use a multi-species mix.

Nathan Cann hosted the second stop near Exeter. This is part of a rye-after-corn trial organized by Huron Soil and Crop. Twelve producers are involved in this trial, which saw rye planted after corn was harvested last fall. Mervyn Erb, who has been assisting with the trial, explained some of the observations thus far, such as weed control, but further results are anticipated after this year's soybean harvest.

The last stop was Joel Brodie's farm, near Brucefield, where he outlined the economics



Bus tour attendees learn about best management practices at Huronview Demonstration Farm, including cover crops

of grazing cover crops. This involved an extensive fencing project for his sheep and cattle. "Today was a great day to see what producers are doing to incorporate cover crops into their rotations, and to have the discussions about what is and isn't working, and how we can get more cover crops on the ground," said Wim Feddes, President of Huron Soil and Crop.

In addition to the three stops, participants enjoyed a tour of the grain elevators (Parrish & Heimbecker, Limited) in Goderich, and a tour of the Huronview Demonstration Farm near Clinton.

The bus tour organizers would like to thank all the producers for hosting and sharing their experiences, and to Aden Lawlor, of P & H Ltd., for providing an informative tour.

Happenings at Huronview Demonstration Farm

Huron Soil and Crop Improvement Association is once again planning to plant rye after the corn is harvested at the Huronview Demonstration Farm. Rye will be broadcast at approximately 32 lbs per acre.



Producers involved in the rye after corn trial will be harvesting their soybeans this fall for the final stage of the trial. Results are anticipated to be shared at the annual cover crop workshop in January.

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