

The View...

From Huron County Farmers, Drainage and Conservation Experts

APRIL 2020

Thinking Drainage...

In continuing with the new format of this newsletter, we bring you the view from two drainage contractors. A brief Q & A provides some perspectives from Gerald Neeb of Roth Drainage Limited and Wayne Cook of Parker & Parker Ltd.

Q: How important is drainage to agriculture?

A (Wayne): As a drainage contractor in Huron County, about 90% of my clients are farmers, which I think speaks for itself.

A (Gerald): When it comes to agriculture, drainage is definitely an important activity.

Q: What do you think we



need to best address soil health and water quality?

A (Wayne): I think we need things like berms and fencerows...things that interrupt the flow of water across fields.

A (Gerald): I think foremost we need a better understanding of

the impacts to water quality when we implement drainage on the landscape.

Q: What can your industry do to help implement agricultural best management practices?

Continued on back

Tiling machines (above and at right) digging trenches and installing tile in agricultural fields.



New Cover Crop Boost Program

Grant program offers up to \$40 per acre for Main Bayfield Farmers

If you have been wanting to try cover crops, don't let this great opportunity pass you by. Main Bayfield watershed landowners are now eligible for an enhanced cost-share program offering \$30/acre up to 100 acres. This enhanced program can be coupled with Huron Clean Water Project funding for a total of \$40/acre. Funding is limited and some restrictions apply. Application intake deadlines will be June 30, July 31 and August 31.

Contact Hope Brock (hbrock@abca.ca) or Nathan Schoelier (nschoelier@abca.ca)



Crimson clover cover crop mix.

at Ausable Bayfield Conservation, 519-235-2610 for more information.

Need help deciding what to plant? Contact your local cover

crop seed supplier (www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/resource/covercrp.htm), talk to your neighbour, or crop advisor.

Thinking Drainage...continued from front

A (Gerald): As an industry, we want to learn how best to approach drainage and water quality tradeoffs. Once we understand this, we can approach drainage in a more balanced way that can hopefully benefit both the farmer and the environment.

A (Wayne): We also need to ensure all tile outlets are marked and in some cases, these tile outlets need to be better protected.

Thanks Wayne and Gerald for your views on drainage. Keep watch for the July issue for some new perspectives.

FREE Soil Testing

Soil test results can help you:

- Increase yields
- Reduce inputs
- Improve soil health



Contact Hope (hbrock@abca.ca) at Ausable Bayfield Conservation (519-235-2610) to arrange your soil testing today. Funding is limited.

