

The View...

From Huron County Farmers, Drainage and Conservation Experts

July 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.



Save the Date!

Cover Crop Bus Tour

Huron County Soil and Crop Improvement Association (HSCIA) will be hosting a cover crop bus tour on **Friday, August 11th**. Participants will visit several farms using cover crops, including some of those involved in the rye after corn trial. Stops will also include the Huronview Demonstration Farm in Clinton and the Goderich Elevators (P&H).

Watch **@HuronSoilCrop** on Twitter and **Huronview.net** for further information and registration details.



Happenings at Huronview Demonstration Farm

On June 21, the Ontario Soil Network hosted a tour at Huronview Demonstration Farm. Local producer and Huron Soil and Crop member, Rick Kootstra and Mari Veliz of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) discussed the linkages between soil health and water quality while highlighting the best management practices (BMPs) and innovative drainage used on the farm.

Through the ONFARM (On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring) program, ABCA summarized water monitoring data in relation to environmental efficacy of BMPs at both the watershed and field scales.

Key Findings:

- Land management and structural BMPs improve water quality by reducing runoff and preventing excess nutrients and sediment from entering waterways.
- Tile drainage at Huronview reduced surface water erosion; however, new questions emerged about groundwater contributions.

Huron Soil & Crop - Rye Trial Update

The rye after corn cover crop trial continues with Agri-Solve Inc. visiting all the fields in June to complete the soybean plant stand counts.

Initial Observations:

- Not a lot of rye biomass through winter and early spring, but some good stands at planting.
- Corn residue, dry spring conditions, and late frosts may impact soybeans.
- Weed control yet to be determined.



Rick Kootstra and Mari Veliz speak to bus tour participants about at Huronview Demonstration Farm.

Next Steps:

- Continue monitoring
- Groundwater study
- Continue collaboration and peer-to-peer learning

For the complete report, please visit **Huronview.net**



Next Steps:

- Data to be analyzed after soybean harvest.
- Findings to be presented to trial participants and shared at Cover Crop Workshop (January 2024).
- Support producers in planting cover crops and dialogue among trial participants.
- It will take time to collect sufficient data to make valuable conclusions.

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