

The View...

From Huron County Farmers, Drainage and Conservation Experts

JULY 2020

A New View on Cover Crops in 60" Corn

Things may look a little different on farms around the Clinton area this month as crops begin to grow. Several producers have been changing their row width and incorporating twin rows. Additional air flow, light, yields and the use of cover crops have spurred this change on the landscape.

Local farmers who attended the annual cover crop forum in Clinton last January wanted to learn more about using cover crops with corn. To help farmers with this, the effect of various cropping practices are being investigated within a 60 inch corn scenario on a farm just south of Clinton on Highway 4. The various trials include:

- 30" versus 60" rows
- Different corn populations
- Effect of different cover crop mixes tailored either to corn crop or subsequent



The view between the 60" row corn at a demonstration project south of Clinton on Highway 4. Wider rows allow for a better establishment of the cover crops in between.

bean crop

- Effect of cover crop seeding rate

Twin rows of 60 inch corn were planted, with the cover crop mix (ryegrass, clover, radish and brassica) drilled in at the V4 stage.

To help determine the success of the project, the following will be monitored:

- 2020 corn yield
- 2020 cover crop

biomass production

- Fall 2020 soil health indicators
- 2021 bean yield
- 2021 soil health indicators

For more information, please visit <https://abca.ca/forestry/cover-crops/> or contact Ross Wilson, Water and Soils Resource Coordinator at 519-235-2610 or rwilson@abca.ca

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 July 31 and August 31.

Contact Hope Brock (hbrock@abca.ca) or Nathan Schoelier (nschoelier@abca.ca) at Ausable Bayfield Conservation,



Crimson clover cover crop mix.

519-235-2610 for more information, or visit <https://www.abca.ca/community/mainbayfield/>

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.

Huronview Happenings

Lots has been happening at the Huronview Demonstration farm this spring. Beans have been planted, and depending on the weather in the fall, either wheat or a cover crop will go in next.

Water quality monitoring has continued and the Huronview Demonstration Farm website (Huronview.net) is now live. You will find excellent videos describing the tile drainage design and the monitoring that is taking place. Don't forget to check out the real-time climate information, which includes temperature, precipitation and soil moisture levels.

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.

