

## Main Bayfield Cover Crop Boost Program Project Requirements

**Performance Incentive: \$40/acre for planting a cover crop, \$50/acre for new applicants planting a cover crop, \$50/acre for applicants who plant a cover crop and refer a new applicant to the program.**

**Maximum Payment: \$5,000 (maximum 100 acres per applicant)**

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### **Purpose:**

1. This program will encourage growers to try cover crops and techniques and help demonstrate their use around the Main Bayfield watershed.
2. To promote the establishment and over-wintering of cover crops (living or dead), which help provide soil protection and reduce soil erosion to watercourses.
3. To protect groundwater by promoting biological nitrogen capture.

### **Details:**

1. Restricted to landowners planting cover crops in the Main Bayfield watershed.
2. Cover crop can be one or more species (must be three or more species in order to obtain Huron Clean Water Project funding).
3. Applicants must register their eligible fields with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) staff, providing location and management plan for the cover crop.
4. Crops may be tilled no sooner than the spring of the year following planting (may be chemically killed the previous autumn).
5. Applicants must notify staff well before spring tillage so the final crop residue measurement can be made.
6. A final residue measurement of at least 50% is required prior to planting the next crop in the following spring.
7. Cover crops are not to be used for forage or grazing. The project is not eligible for funding if the field is grazed or harvested.
8. Applications for less than 25 acres (approximately 10 ha) will be subject to the discretion of the Review Committee.

9. Applicants who are referred to the program must inform ABCA staff of the name and contact information for their referral. This will ensure the referral applicant also receives the increased grant rate of \$50/ac.

**Performance Incentive:**

1. Applicants will be paid the incentive after ABCA staff has confirmed the field(s) were managed according to the guidelines.
2. Applicants do not have to produce proof of payment for cover crop seed.
3. Applicants who grow their own seed are eligible to participate in the program.