

# HURON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1460 S. Van Dyke Bad Axe 989-269-9540 ext.3

JANUARY 2017

www.huron.cd.org

## OPEN HOUSE

***Come join us on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 and hear about the activities of the Huron Conservation District. We have two board of director terms expiring this year. Fred Baranski, Donna Fritz and Lorelei Lutz have filed petitions and their names will be on the ballot. At noon, we will honor the winners of the Land Judging/Agri-science Field Day and our state poster contest winners. Lunch will be served during the Open House hours from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.***

## NEW STAFF MEMBER AT HURON CD



The Huron CD would like to welcome our new MAEAP (Michigan Agriculture Environmental

Assurance Program) Technician, Ryan Kuhl. Ryan has several years of experience in livestock and crop production, and served as the Agriscience Teacher and FFA Advisor at USA Schools. Ryan along with his wife Heather and five children operate a small livestock farm in Sebawaing. If you are interested in becoming MAEAP verified or just want more information about MAEAP give Ryan a call or stop by our office.

## NEW DRILLS FOR SPRING

We have two new 15' 1590 No-till drills for this spring. The two new units are each equipped with a digital weigh system. These drills are available to rent for \$12 per acre with a \$150 minimum. We also have two 30' John Deere air seeders. The 30' drills come with a tractor

and rent for \$17 per acre plus fuel with a \$200 minimum. (Includes delivery and set up) Call (269-9540 ext 3) to get your name on the list for spring. We also offer custom planting of production crops with our 30' drill at the cost of \$19.50 an acre plus fuel. We are available for hire to custom plant your CRP acres at the cost of \$30 per acre. We have three Truax drills for small projects and native grass land planting. They rent for \$6 per acre plus \$65 setup. (\$150 minimum)

## HUNTING ACCESS PROGRAM



The Hunting Access Program (HAP) is a voluntary land leasing program. The DNR leases land from private landowners (Up to \$25 per acre) to provide additional

hunting areas. Private landowners determine if all hunters or youth and apprentice hunters only may hunt on their property. Landowners also determine if hunters may harvest deer only, turkey only, small game only, all legal species, or a combination of any of these options. Currently 14 hunting areas are under contract with Huron County landowners. Many hunters utilized these areas during hunting season in 2016. A statewide listing of enrolled HAP lands can be found at [mi.gov/hap](http://mi.gov/hap). If you are interested in enrolling land into HAP you have an opportunity in 2017. Call us for more details.

## NITRATE TEST LAB

We will offer the service of our nitrate test lab for the 2017 crop year. Pre-sidedress nitrate testing is an excellent and inexpensive way of determining the available nitrogen (N) in your soil just before side-dressing. You should sample fields where corn or sugar beets are planted. During 2016 we processed 1750

samples covering almost 40,000 acres. 93% of the samples had over 50 pounds of credit. Average credit per acre was 114 pounds and if you multiply that number x \$.43/lb of N it equals a savings of \$49.02 per acre. How much can you save? Deliver your sample to our office by 3 p.m., we will have the results for you by 1 p.m. the following day. The cost of a sample is \$7.25.

### ***CHECK OUT OUR 2017 TREE ORDER***

We have added several new options to our spring tree order blank. We now have four varieties of strawberries, 2 varieties of raspberries, 2 varieties of asparagus, and 2 varieties of blueberries along with several new fruit trees and shrubs. Quantities are limited, the earlier you order the better chance of getting what you want. Our order deadline is April 14<sup>th</sup>.

### ***GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROGRAM***

Huron CD has funding available for selected Best Management Practices (BMPs) within the Saginaw Bay Watershed. Funding has been made available by The Nature Conservancy. Project goals include increased groundwater recharge, reduced non-point source pollution of surface water with a performance based funding method. Practices available are no-till and drainage water management. An innovative computer program is used to model the BMP, predict the groundwater recharge increase and calculate your payment. Producers can view the computer analysis results and learn what their payment will be before signing an agreement. For more information call 989-269-9540 extension 3.

### ***CUSTOM MOWING***

Huron CD offers custom mowing to area landowners. We have a new 15ft bat wing mower for the upcoming season. The cost will be \$60 per tractor hour with a \$40 mobilization fee. We still have our 6ft mower for smaller projects or difficult areas to get into. The cost for the 6ft mower remains the same at \$40 mobilization fee and \$40 per tractor hour. Call us to get on the list for our staff to do your mowing project.

### ***JUG RECYCLING DAYS IN 2017***

**June 29 and 30, 2017/Sept 28 and 29, 2017**

Huron CD offers area producers the opportunity to recycle their pesticide jugs. Jugs must be triple rinsed with caps and labels removed. Plastic bags to store your pesticide jugs until the collection are available at the Huron CD office. During our two collections in 2016 we recycled 6600 pounds of material. A Big Thanks to Huron County farmers for keeping this material out of our landfills.

### ***BAD AXE CREEK NUTRIENT REDUCTION PROJECT***

Bad Axe Creek water quality has been negatively impacted by excess nutrients and bacteria. The goal of the project is to implement practices that can quickly show measureable results. Funding is available for a wide range of Best Management Practices, including cover crop, strip-tillage, shallow vertical tillage, pre-sidedress nitrate testing and 10 more practices. To be eligible the cropland must be located with the Bad Axe Creek Watershed. For more information about practices, funding and to sign up contact Greg at 269-9540 ext 3 or stop by the office.