



Watershed Soil Health Study

Every five years, the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) releases a *Watershed Report Card* to help monitor the changes in the health of the watershed. To date, indicators that have been examined in the *Report Card* include surface water quality, wetland cover, and forest conditions.

Building on the community-developed *Conservation Strategy* that was completed in 2011 and released in 2012, Ausable Bayfield Conservation would like to include a summary of soil health conditions through the *Watershed Report Card*. To do this, a number of soil samples will be taken this autumn for fields over various soil types. Fields will be sampled for several soil health indicators such as soil organic matter, aggregate stability, and water infiltration. Landowners who volunteer to take part will receive the results for their properties to add to their own records.

Interested landowners who have farmland within the Ausable Bayfield watershed area (within approximately 35 kilometres of Grand Bend) are asked to contact the ABCA to provide information on the field location, previous crop grown, and soil type. Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff will be choosing a number of locations for sampling based on these criteria. Soil sampling will be undertaken this fall, at the chosen locations, at no cost to the landowners.

For more information about the project, or if you are interest in volunteering your property for sampling, please contact Abbie Gutteridge at 519-235-2610, toll free at 1-866-286-2610, or by email at agutteridge@abca.on.ca.