

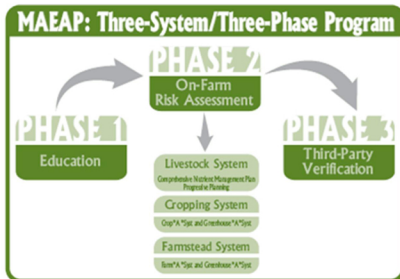
Impacts of the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

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Promoting Stewardship, Protecting the Environment

The MAEAP Mission

To develop and implement a proactive environmental assurance program that targets all size Michigan farms and all commodities, ensuring that farmers are engaging in cost effective pollution prevention practices and working to comply with state and federal environmental regulations.



To date, over 10,000 Michigan farms have started the verification process.



MAEAP Addresses:

- Chemical Storage and Use
- Fuel storage
- Well safety
- Sensitive areas
- Water Resources
- Soil Erosion
- All related RTF GAAMP's & Environmental laws

Right to Farm, Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices



Risk Assessment Tools & Emergency Planning



Tools Include:

- Farm*A*Syst
- Livestock*A*Syst
- Crop*A*Syst (Field/Vegetables)
- Crop*A*Syst (Nursery/Christmas Trees)
- Fruit*A*Syst
- Greenhouse*A*Syst

Environmental Gains

- Currently over 10,000 farms participating with over 1,500 verifications.
- Sediment Reduction: >322,000 Tons/Year
- Verified Nutrient Management Plans in place on over 500,000 acres of Farmland.
- Phosphorus Reduction to Surface Water: >550,000 lbs/year
- Nitrogen Reduction to Surface Water: >1,282,000 lbs/year



Governor Rick Snyder signed two bills related to MAEAP

Public Acts 1 & 2, 2011

- MAEAP codified in Law
 - Standards, Advisory Council, Ag Commission Role, Regional Assurance Teams, MOU with MDEQ, etc.
- Incentives in Law
 - Accidental Discharge—No fines & penalties (Producer is responsible for notification/resource damage)
 - Total Maximum Daily Load - Farms verified in all applicable systems considered as meeting all required practices
 - Verified farms following standards & receiving defined rainfall with discharge considered nonpoint source discharge. Corrective action to avoid future discharge



Why do farmers participate?

Environmental Concern	Peace of Mind/Right Thing to Do
Legislated Incentives	Access to Cost-Share and Incentive Payments
Liability or Insurance \$\$ Reduction	Right to Farm Protection
Follow State and Federal Laws	GAP Audit Assistance
Marketing Opportunities	Improved Management
Restricted Use Pesticide Credits	Ahead of the Curve
Being a Good Neighbor	To Learn & Improve



"Without being good stewards of the environment, our farms can't succeed. I think every farmer's goal is to take care of their land, livestock and the environment in a way that ensures good production and a safe lifestyle for our families. MAEAP recognizes this and provides a framework for agricultural businesses to be more proactive in protecting our resources." - Jay Williams
MAEAP Verified
Hillsdale County Farm Bureau President

MAEAP Stewardship Practices

- Almost 400,000 acres receiving pesticides have approved pest management plans.
- Almost 10,000 acres of filter strips have been installed.
- Almost 1,900 gullies have been stabilized, improving water quality.
- Annually, over \$1.2 million is spent for practice implementation by farmers working toward MAEAP verification.



Acknowledgements:
Jan Wilford, MDARD MAEAP Program Manager. (Personal Communications)
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MAEAP General Presentation FY2013 (PowerPoint Slides).
Retrieved from <http://macd.org/maeap/marketingandoutreach.html>
MAEAP Promoting Stewardship, Protecting the Environment (Brochure).
MAEAP—Get the Facts. (2012) (Handout)

PARTNERS APLENTY AND MORE!

