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.

MAEAP Three-System/Three-Phase Program

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 RFF-GAAP’s & Environmental laws

Risk Assessment Tools & Emergency Planning
Tools Include:
- Farm*A*Syst
- Livestock*A*Syst
- Crop*A*Syst (Fruits/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

GOAL of 5,000 Verified Farms by 2015

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 $5 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

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

MAEAP Stewardship Practices
- Almost 450,000 acres receiving pesticides have approved pest management plans.
- Almost 10,000 acres of terraces strips have been installed.
- Almost 1,900 gullies have been stabilized, improving water quality.
- Annually, over $11.2 million is spent for practice implementation by farmers working toward MAEAP verification.

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MAEAP—APLENTY AND MORE!