



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
www.michigan.gov/deq

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm  
Director Steven E. Chester

*"Helping urban residents to grow their own food, or buy locally fresh fruits and vegetables, is good for the environment because it reduces transportation, processing and packaging impacts."*

- Carolyn Meekins, Executive Director, Flint Urban Community Youth Outreach

*The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks. "It makes us more aware of what we're doing. We keep better records now and the records are valuable. They make you stop and think about the action before you act. It's a good way just to make sure that we keep on track with the procedures and processes we do during our annual growing season."*

- Mike Yancho Sr., Genesee County Trim Pines Farm, Inc. Cropping and Farmstead System Verified

## Agricultural Pollution Prevention

### 2007 P2 Annual Report Addendum

The Agricultural Pollution Prevention (P2) Partnership is a coordinated effort among producers, agricultural service providers, and public agencies and organizations that promote P2, green technologies, energy efficiency and renewables. Several initiatives within the partnership continue to be successful.



Flint Urban Community Youth Outreach Project

The AgriEnergy Efficiency On-Farm Audit Program developed a comprehensive agri-energy audit program targeting dairy operations. A number of farm audits were completed and discovered energy savings.

The second Harvesting AgriEnergy (AgE) Conference had 27 agencies and organizations participating. Over 340 attendees discussed energy efficiency, renewable energies, funding opportunities and AgP2. Eighty-three percent of those completing evaluations plan to take some P2 action at their facilities as a result of the conference. Over two dozen related vendors offered conference attendees the on-site opportunity to visually inspect alternative energy technologies, resources, and research and development posters.

The MSU Extension Partnership created Urban Agriculture Community Gardens, teaching low income, inner-city families how to grow and preserve their own organic food, while turning vacant city lots into productive uses.

The Farm-to-Table Initiative Program is an AgriEnvironmental Literacy Program reaching over 2,500 citizens per year. This program teaches citizens where food comes from, how humans impact our environment, and encourage participants to buy local.

Urban Community Youth Outreach Greenhouse Initiative helps inner-city youth build character, leadership and job skills through agriculture and natural resources education, experiential learning and career development, while also extending the vegetable growing season, and in the future utilize flex fuel furnaces in the greenhouses. A workshop promoted Urban Agriculture Business Opportunities with the theme "Reinventing Food Production in Cities."

Fifty participants were introduced to sustainable growing techniques and hands-on learning of composting, vermiculture, and year-round hoop house for organic gardening.

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## Agricultural Pollution Prevention

Through the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative, Agriculture/Pollution Prevention Task Group developed projects such as: the Arenac Tire Recycling Day; Low Cost Erosion Control Demonstration Methods; Just a Drop of Water and Earth curriculums in Genesee County schools; Birch Run Area Schools Biodiesel Demonstration project; Reduced Tillage in Sugar Beet Rotation and Slurry Seeding Demonstration to establish cover crops; Expanding Genesee County's "Adopt A Lot" to innovative demonstrations that include phytoremediation, vegetable and rain gardens, tree nursery and turf alternatives. This partnership enhances the areas' quality of life by creating regional networks of on-the-ground projects demonstrating sustainability, by linking economic, environmental and community goals.

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks. MAEAP's accomplishments include:

- 151 Farmstead verifications
- 89 Cropping systems verified
- 177 Livestock systems verified
- 5,500 farmers and other interested persons attended Phase 1 meetings since MAEAP's inception

MAEAP's Environmental Impact:

- Proper Application – Field by field, almost 214,000 acres were verified for appropriate manure application and conservation practices.
- Less Erosion – Soil loss through sedimentation has been reduced by almost 567,000 tons.
- Fuel Use Reduced – Manure nutrients appropriately used in place of commercial fertilizer resulted in the reduction of 7,558,745 gallons of diesel fuel required for fertilizer production.
- Safely Stored – 1,344,550 pounds and 226,226 gallons of fertilizer; 55,032 pounds and 8,143 gallons of pesticides; and 107,410 gallons of fuel were verified as being safely stored.

MAEAP's Agriculture's Conference on the Environment Managing Today for Tomorrow – the third of its kind – drew a record crowd of nearly 500 attendees. Eighteen different breakout sessions included topics of renewable energy, air quality and conservation programs, as well as environmental laws and regulations, effective management practices and smart marketing.

MAEAP Partners:

Cherry Marketing Institute	Michigan Food & Farming Systems
Dairy Farmers of America	Michigan Grazing Land Conservation Initiative
Greenstone Farm Credit Services	Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program
Michigan Agri-Business Association	Michigan Hay and Grazing Council
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries	Michigan Milk Producers Association
Michigan Aquaculture Association	Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association
Michigan Association of Conservation Districts	Michigan Pork Producers Association
Michigan Bean Commission	Michigan Sheep Breeders Association
Michigan Blueberry Growers Association	Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee
Michigan Carrot Commission	Michigan State University
Michigan Cattlemen's Association	MSU Institute of Water Research
Michigan Corn Marketing Program	Michigan Township Association
Michigan Custom Manure Application	Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Michigan Department of Agriculture	MSU-Extension
Michigan Farm Bureau	Potato Growers of Michigan
Michigan Farm Radio Network	USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Michigan Farmers Union	and farmers