

Michigan Department of Agriculture Groundwater Monitoring Program 2010 Immunoassay Screenings

Staff and budget reductions at the MDA Laboratory have forced the groundwater monitoring program to change the way we will hold well water screenings in 2010. MDA will not be able to hold a statewide sample collection centered around Ag Expo this year. The MDA Lab does not have the staff to handle 2,000 – 3,000 water samples over two or three weeks while carrying out ongoing work in other areas critical to MDA's responsibilities.

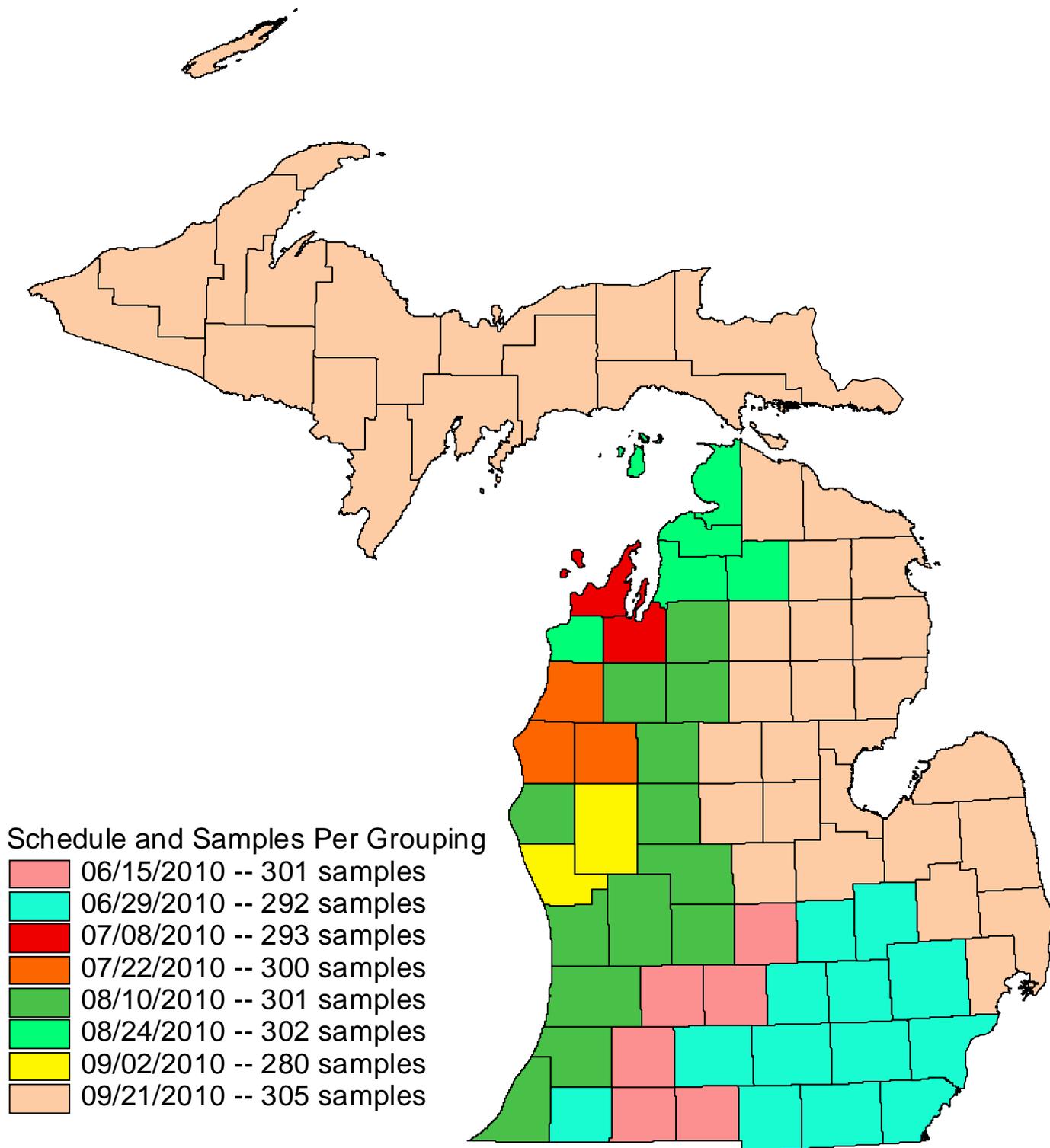
MDA Lab management has informed us that they can handle no more than 300 water screening samples every two weeks while keeping up with their other work. To meet this challenge we will hold a series of regional water screening sample collections around the state. *Any samples in excess of the group limits (300 samples) will not be analyzed by the MDA Lab.*

Please review the map on page 2, which shows the schedule and groupings. Counties have been grouped based on the response to previous water screening events, within the constraints of the 300 sample maximum. It should be pointed out that the eight regional screening events allow for 2,400 samples to be screened, which would be one of the highest totals for water screening samples handled by the MDA. The actual limits may not equal exactly 300 samples due to rounding. Programs will need to transport samples to the MDA Lab in East Lansing. Individual programs or participating organizations should coordinate with other organizations in their grouping area to keep the total number of samples at or below 300 samples.

MDA has screened water samples for the pesticide atrazine for a number of years. In order to increase the benefit of the sample screening, we have decided to screen samples for 2,4-D in 2010. This herbicide is used widely in the state by agricultural, commercial, and residential users, and the screening may give us more insight into its prevalence in Michigan groundwater supplies. We will continue to screen samples for nitrate and nitrite.

As in the past, we estimate that it will take at least eight (8) weeks to get results to participants. Please call or e-mail Bob Pigg at 517-373-6893 or at piggr@michigan.gov with any questions.

Final Schedule and Grouping of MWSP Programs and Counties for 2010 Water Screenings



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 Michigan Department of Agriculture
 Environmental Stewardship Division