

PROTECTING ERIE

The efforts of Michigan agriculture to improve water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin

Aug 14, 2014



PARTNERSHIP

The efforts to improve water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin have been a collaboration from the very beginning- both in idea & funding. Federal and state funds, as well as fees paid by agribusiness, have been used to create and maintain programs aimed toward environmentally conscious agriculture.

Partners and Supporters:

- MDARD
- DEQ
- US-EPA
- 4Rs/Precision Ag
- Farm Bill/NRCS
- Conservation and Environmental Community



PREPARATION

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Since 1999, almost 23,000 acres have been enrolled into CREP with an approximate 65-75% reduction in phosphorus delivery and sedimentation realized.

River Raisin GLRI/319

The Lenawee Conservation District has installed 181 tile line control structures, which allow the farms to manage their tile line flows on 5,275 acres of cropland.

GLRI Technical Assistance

With technical assistance, WLEB farmers reduced sediment and nutrients entering Lake Erie tributaries by implementing practices to keep more than 39,000 tons of sediment, 65,000 pounds of phosphorus and 145,000 pounds of nitrogen on the land.



POLICY

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

This program was codified into law in 2011 incentivizing farms to participate in environmentally conscious practices. From FY 2011 to FY 2013, 136 "A-Systs" have been completed- encompassing nearly 25,000 acres in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

Currently 325 "A-Systs" planned and underway with the potential to reduce phosphorus by more than 100,000 lbs.



PLANNING

Going forward, all partners have committed to continuing efforts to improve water quality.

- 9 tech staff dedicated to the region (state, NRCS, GLRI, conservation districts)
- **Resource Conservation Partnership Program**, Michigan is part of a multi-state proposal that has been invited to submit a full proposal to USDA.
- **4Rs/Precision Ag**, Michigan agribusiness continues to grow and expand this important stewardship program.
- MAEAP collaborators continue their work to reach 5,000 verifications by Sept. 2016.