

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Environmental Stewardship Division
RIGHT TO FARM GAAMPS REVIEW – FY15



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Legal Authority: Michigan Right to Farm Act, Public Act 93 of 1981, as amended

Description of the Program:

- The Michigan Right to Farm Act provides broad definitions of a farm, farm operation, and farm products for purposes of on-farm production practices in Michigan. This law authorizes the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to identify and adopt Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). The law requires the Commission to review each set of GAAMPs annually.
- The GAAMPs are developed by a technical advisory task force review committee of stakeholders and agency representatives. Eight specific sets of GAAMPs cover:
 - Manure Management and Utilization,
 - Pesticide Utilization/Pest Control,
 - Nutrient Utilization, Care of Farm Animals,
 - Cranberry Production,
 - Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities,
 - Irrigation Water Use, and
 - Farm Markets
- Task force review committee meetings are conducted at the discretion of the committee chairperson. Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff provides program specific examples of the 'real world' on-farm application of GAAMPs.
- MDARD administers the editing of the GAAMPs, maintains draft GAAMPs on the department's website, presents draft GAAMPs to the Commission, and publishes each set of adopted GAAMPs annually.

Why it Matters:

- The GAAMPs promote environmental stewardship on all Michigan farms, social compatibility, and an economically prosperous agricultural industry.

Key Stakeholders

- Michigan farmers & commodity organizations
- State and locally elected officials
- Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Michigan State University Extension
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Michigan conservation districts

Key Deliverables

- Annual review and update of GAAMPs
- Public input on the GAAMPs received and provided to the review committees
- Provide draft GAAMPs to the Commission or review/approval annually

FY15 Accomplishments:

- Each GAAMPs review committee chairperson contacted to initiate annual review process.
- MDARD staff participation in each GAAMPs committee meeting.
- Public input meetings conducted to receive feedback and input on all draft GAAMPs.
- Program information provided to the Commission.
- Education/Outreach meetings conducted to publicize changes in the GAAMPs.

Measuring Success:

The number of task force meetings on each GAAMP provides an indicator of magnitude of use in the field, as well as updates needed. Manure Management and Livestock Siting typically see more changes than Pesticide Use and Pest Control, which is closely regulated, whereas, few complaints are received about cranberry production or irrigation.

| Annual Review Committee Meetings | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Manure Management and Utilization | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Pesticide Use and Pest Control | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nutrient Utilization | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Care of Farm Animals | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Cranberry Production | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Livestock Siting | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| Irrigation Water Use | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Farm Markets | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Dashboards and Scorecards:

- The Right to Farm Program did not have an item on the departmental scorecard for FY15. Staff is working with MDARD's Director of Strategy and Business Performance to design measures toward this end.

FY16 Program Goals:

- Provide realistic on-farm information to review committees for consideration in the annual review process and for proposed updates, edits, or changes to existing GAAMPs.
- Relay comments and feedback about GAAMPs received from the general public to review committees.
- Maintain effective working relationships with review committees and stakeholders.
- Provide information on MDARD's administration of the GAAMPs to the Commission.