

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Meeting via Remote Technology

Call-in: 1-248-509-0316 and Enter Conference ID: 523 298 962#

JANUARY 20, 2021 TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. 1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
- Introduce New Commissioner
2. **Approval of Agenda (action item)**
3. **Approval of Minutes** from the November 5, 2020, Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Meeting **(action item)**
4. **Next Scheduled Meeting** (information only)
- March 10, 2021
- 9:10 a.m. 5. **Commissioner Comments**
- 9:20 a.m. 6. **Commissioner Issues**
- Election of New Officers **(action item)**
- 9:30 a.m. 7. **Director's Report**
- 9:40 a.m. 8. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
In accordance with the Public Appearance Guidelines in the Commission Policy Manual, individuals wishing to address the Commission must complete a Public Appearance Card and will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. This was accomplished through pre-registration for this meeting pursuant to the Meeting Notice. Those not pre-registering will be allowed up to two minutes to present. Documents shared as part of the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.
- 9:55 a.m. 9. **Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs) – Process and Introduction of Proposed 2021 GAAMPs:** Jim Johnson, Division Director, and Mike Wozniak, Acting Right to Farm Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division, and GAAMP Task Force Chairs **(action item)**
- 10:35 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. 10. **Fresh Water Protection Fund:** Jim Johnson, Division Director, Environmental Stewardship Division (information only)

- 10:55 a.m. 11. **Poverty Task Force Update:** Lori Yelton, Nutrition Consultant, Food and Dairy Division (information only)
- 11:15 a.m. 12. **Budget Update:** Sylvia Renteria, Director, Finance and Budget (information only)
- 11:25 a.m. 13. **Legislative Update:** Nathan Kark, Legislative Liaison (information only)
- 11:35 a.m. 14. **Public Comment**
In accordance with the Public Appearance Guidelines in the Commission Policy Manual, individuals wishing to address the Commission must complete a Public Appearance Card and will be allowed up to three minutes for their presentation. This was accomplished through pre-registration for this meeting pursuant to the Meeting Notice. Those not pre-registering will be allowed up to two minutes to present. Documents shared as part of the meeting will be considered public documents and are subject to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The public comment time provides the public an opportunity to speak; the Commission will not necessarily respond to the public comment.
- 11.45 a.m. 15. **Adjourn (action item)**

MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Held via Remote Technology

MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 5, 2020

PRESENT:

Brian Pridgeon, Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dru Montri, Vice Chair, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Charlie Meintz, Secretary, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Patricia Bergdahl, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Tim Boring, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development
Gary McDowell, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Pridgeon called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 8:30 a.m. on November 5, 2020. He advised today's meeting is being conducted via remote technology to protect the health of Commission members, the state, and the public due to the Coronavirus by limiting the number of people at public gatherings. He announced that all decisions today will be made by roll call vote and shared details on how the public comment period would be conducted.

Chairperson Pridgeon called the roll with the following Commissioners present: Commissioner Bergdahl in Scandia, Michigan; Commissioner Boring in Stockbridge, Michigan; Commissioner Meintz in Stephenson, Michigan; Commissioner Montri in Bath, Michigan; and Commissioner Pridgeon in Montgomery, Michigan. Director McDowell was also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MONTRI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2020. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2020, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2020, MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED ON PAGE FIVE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEINTZ. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

PROPOSED 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Commission discussed the proposed 2021 meeting schedule. It was confirmed proposed dates can be changed by the Commission, as well as special meeting dates added as needed throughout the year.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MONTRI. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

The next scheduled meeting is January 20, 2021, location to be determined.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND TRAVEL

Commissioners shared information relative to agriculture in their respective areas, as well as details around recent industry meetings in which they participated. There was no travel submitted for approval.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

Commissioner Pridgeon reviewed a retirement resolution honoring Beth Swank, a 30-year employee with the State of Michigan.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED THE RESOLUTION HONORING BETH SWANK BE ADOPTED WITH BEST WISHES FOR HER LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT. COMMISSIONER MEINTZ SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

Commissioner Montri reminded Commissioners and farmers of the important services provided by the Agriculture Mediation Program, which continues to work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their website is www.agmediation.org.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director shared details around the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) return to work efforts, implications of the October 12 Michigan Supreme Court decision, and the Governor's Executive Order on Climate Change. He also shared specifics of recent meetings in which he has participated, including the Midwest Ag Directors and Tri-National Accord, as well as noting this afternoon's MDARD Employee Awards Ceremony.

In response to inquiries from Commissioners Montri and Meintz, the Director advised the Climate Change Council effort will be led by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and members should be appointed by year's end. It is anticipated MDARD will be a member to help ensure agriculture is part of the solution. More specifics will be forthcoming early next year.

MSU VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY – COLLABORATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIA, AND INDUSTRIES: Birgit Puschner, Dean, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine; and James Averill, Interim Director, MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Dr. Puschner provided an overview of the programs housed within the College of Veterinary Medicine, which is ranked number three in the U.S., and noted they provide a solid backbone to protect animal and human health. She emphasized two very important services include the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) and the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC).

Dr. Averill provided a history of the MSU VDL, which is a fully accredited premier veterinary diagnostic lab for all species. He delineated the numerous important services available to customers across the U.S. and internationally, demonstrating its importance to Michigan agriculture. VDL's mission is to protect, investigate, educate, and collaborate with all agriculture partners, including MDARD and other state and federal agencies. With that critical level of collaboration and outreach, VDL is able to provide a high level of quality services.

Director McDowell thanked Dr. Averill for his years of outstanding service to MDARD and the citizens of Michigan and advised he looks forward to continuing to work with him in his new role with MSU.

As a livestock partner with VDL, Commissioner Pridgeon thanked Dr. Averill and the VDL staff for their expert assistance, noting they play an important role in his operations.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: Brad Deacon, Director, Legal Affairs and Emergency Management

Mr. Deacon provided an update on the department's role with tribal governments in the State of Michigan, noting he serves as the Tribal Liaison for MDARD. He reviewed concepts and specifics around tribal sovereignty, consultation, and tribal relations, as well as the 2002 Government to Government Accord and Executive Directive 2019-17 which expanded those expectations and requirements. Under the Directive, each state agency must have a policy on Tribal Consultation.

As of October 1, the department has adopted a policy on Tribal Consultation, which requires MDARD to use a process to evaluate serious decisions and policies in which any of the 12 federally recognized tribes may have interest, as well as providing an opportunity for dialog and meaningful input. The 12 separate Michigan tribes are independent governments with shared interests in the stewardship of our state.

In response to questions from Commissioner Montri, Mr. Deacon advised Right to Farm and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Programs have been discussed with the Tribal Environmental Group. He will advise if there is future interest from tribal governments in any of the Commission specific activities.

In response to inquiry from Commissioner Meintz, Mr. Deacon noted there is a process in federal law for when a tribe seeks to have land held in trust for them by the federal government. The process includes a review of local and state impacts including the loss in property tax revenue, and an opportunity for the local and state government to weigh in.

NURSERY INSPECTION FEES: Mike Philip, Division Director, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Mr. Philip advised PPPMD requests the Commission approve a proposed increase in its nursery and related inspection fees by an amount related to inflation, as authorized through P.A. 189 of 1931. Program costs are approximately \$3 million, with licensing and inspection fee revenue totaling about \$1 million. He reviewed specifics of the requested increase, which totals \$5,000 in additional revenue.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED INCREASE TO THE NURSERY INSPECTION FEES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BORING. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TEAM: Regina Strong, Environmental Justice Public Advocate, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Ms. Strong shared specifics of the efforts of the Office of Environmental Justice and the engagement of MDARD in that work. She provided a definition and history of environmental justice in Michigan, which includes creation of the Interagency Environmental Justice Response Team in 2019. As one of the key state agencies involved, MDARD is very active in the team and is an integral partner in advancing environmental justice for the State of Michigan.

Various aspects of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate role were reviewed, including collaboration with public and private agencies and organizations. She explained details around accomplishments of the several Response Team workgroups who have been working toward implementation to move efforts forward over the next few years. Several communications and outreach activities are planned for December and early 2021 and engagement with communities throughout the state to address equitable application of environmental laws and regulations is underway.

In response to inquiry from Commissioner Pridgeon, Ms. Strong advised challenges include reaching environmental justice communities who may not have internet access to provide them with the same level of connectivity, especially while the pandemic continues.

In response to questions from Commissioner Montri, Ms. Strong advised calls are received on a variety of issues, with few being from an agriculture perspective. She explained their collaborative process, which has the goal of reaching resolution before rising to the complaint level.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

There was no public comment relative to agenda items.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

Chairperson Pridgeon recessed the meeting at 9:48 a.m. for a brief break. He reconvened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPS) – PROCESS AND INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED 2021 GAAMPS: Jim Johnson, Division Director, and Mike Wozniak, Acting Right to Farm Manager, Environmental Stewardship Division

Mr. Johnson noted the Right to Farm (RTF) Act gives the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development responsibility for the Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPS) which RTF staff use to determine compliance with the conditions necessary under the RTF Act. The Act dictates the GAAMPS be reviewed annually by the Commission and revised as necessary. Today, the proposed 2021 GAAMPS are introduced for the Commission's review between now and the January meeting, with anticipated decision regarding the 2021 GAAMPS at that time.

Mr. Wozniak reviewed specifics of the GAAMPs process, including how changes are made, operation of the Task Force Committees, and the review process timeline. He detailed changes being proposed for the 2021 Manure Management and Utilization, Care of Farm Animals, and Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities GAAMPs. Only minor reference and grammatical changes are proposed for the Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control, Nutrient Utilization, Cranberry Production, Irrigation Water Use, and Farm Market GAAMPs.

In response to inquiry from Commissioner Meintz, extensive discussion ensued relative to nuisance complaints, evaluation during inspections, and how the department resolves specific complaints. Mr. Johnson advised RTF staff responds to every complaint. Commissioner Meintz advised he feels farm relations with the public have improved substantially this year because of the shortage of food this spring due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Pridgeon cited two needs that farmers have in partnership with the department, the first is around the sound science and practices in the GAAMPs, and the second is having a partner in MDARD to help mitigate neighbor relations, which the RTF staff does very well.

Commissioner Montri acknowledged the Public Comment form that has been created and available on MDARD's website and thanked the RTF staff for that work. It is a very helpful tool for interested parties.

Commissioner Montri suggested there might be a role for the Michigan Ag Mediation Program in some of the ongoing neighbor relations disputes. It may be another resource that could be provided to farming communities.

Commissioner Montri suggested changing the GAAMPs timeline in the future with introduction of new GAAMPs in January and approval in March to provide for more inclusion of newly appointed Commission members. The introduction conversation is an important part of the process and would be valuable to those new members.

In response to question from Commissioner Montri, Mr. Wozniak advised definition of Task Force chair and committee member responsibilities is currently being developed.

Commissioner Montri asked that each of the GAAMP Chairs confirm their committee membership prior to the January 2021 Commission meeting.

In response to question from Commissioner Pridgeon relative to the Site Selection GAAMP, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wozniak discussed rationale behind including the manure storage structure setback in an expansion or retrofit process, noting that topic has consumed considerable committee effort. The Site Selection GAAMP Chair will be available to explain further during the January Commission meeting. In relation to science behind the Odor Mitigation Tool, Commissioner Pridgeon requested the GAAMP Chair provide discussion points that would help create a balance for farmers in Michigan prior to approval of the 2021 GAAMP in January.

Commissioner Boring advised the GAAMPs need to continue demonstrating scientific basis and incorporate improved science to better assist in making determinations.

Commissioner Pridgeon confirmed, noting that is currently needed relative to application of manure and in the role of vegetation barriers in moving the odor plume.

Commissioner Pridgeon thanked the Task Force Committees for their ongoing efforts in continuing to improve the GAAMPs. Mr. Johnson advised Task Force Chairs will be invited to the January Commission meeting to answer any specific questions the Commissioners may have.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND REQUEST: Peter Anastor, Division Director, Agriculture Development Division

Mr. Anastor advised three Food and Agriculture Investment Fund projects are being presented for Commission consideration today. The first project is the Muskegon Area First FARM Project, a new food processing incubator/accelerator and business development center. He introduced James Edmonson, President and CEO, and Marty Gerencer, West Michigan Food Processors Association, who reviewed background and details of the project, which will create great efficiencies and a more robust supply chain for Michigan agriculture.

Mr. Anastor advised the total investment of the project is over \$2.1M. MDARD staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture investment Fund performance-based grant of \$63,500 for the Muskegon Area First FARM Project.

Commissioner Montri advised because of her connection with MSU and its involvement with the project, she will abstain from voting today.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE-BASED GRANT OF \$63,500 FOR THE MUSKEGON AREA FIRST FARM PROJECT AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE, WITH COMMISSIONER MONTRI ABSTAINING.

Mr. Anastor advised the second project today is Star of the West Milling Company, who is expanding their operations through construction of a new flaking facility. He introduced Mike Fassezke, President of the Flour Milling Division, and Lisa Woodke, Sustainability Director. Mr. Fassezke provided a history of Star of the West Milling Company and details of the project for the new product line. The total project investment is \$6.3M.

Mr. Anastor advised MDARD staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture investment Fund performance-based grant of \$80,000 for Star of the West Milling Company. Discussion ensued regarding expected project outcomes, which will create a positive, sustainable impact.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MONTRI MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE-BASED GRANT OF \$80,000 FOR THE STAR OF THE WEST MILLING COMPANY PROJECT AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEINTZ. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

Mr. Anastor noted the final project today is Hudsonville Creamery and Ice Cream Company for a major manufacturing expansion and construction of a new cold storage distribution facility and fourth production line. He introduced Jillian Carl, Controller, and Kevin Phillips, CFO, who reviewed the background and details around their current project. Hudsonville Creamery will invest \$83.3M in this project, which will create 45 new jobs at the company. Discussion ensued following questions by the Commission.

Mr. Anastor advised MDARD staff recommend the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approve a Food and Agriculture investment Fund performance-based grant of \$150,000 for Hudsonville Creamery and Ice Cream Company.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL MOVED TO APPROVE A FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FUND PERFORMANCE-BASED GRANT OF \$150,000 FOR THE HUDSONVILLE CREAMERY AND ICE CREAM COMPANY PROJECT AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MEINTZ. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

Commissioner Montri advised it would be helpful as a quick reference in the future to identify collective investment in companies with multiple grant requests. Commissioner Meintz added the program demonstrates the success and growth of the agriculture industry which continues through the support of MDARD.

FOOD AND AG HOUSING TASK FORCE: Jamie Zmitko-Somers, Acting Deputy Director

Ms. Zmitko-Somers provided an update on activities of the Agriculture Housing Task Force, noting the Task Force was implemented by the Director in 2019 to address the lack of agricultural housing across the state that exacerbated labor shortages. The department has been pleased by the engagement of growers, community leaders, economic development teams, and other state agencies to ensure input was considered across a broad spectrum. One key result was the need to consider a two-pronged approach, one focusing around lack of housing for migrant, seasonal, and H2A seasonal workers, and the other to ensure identification of affordable housing and better transportation options in regions where food processing is located.

She reviewed recommendation highlights in the draft report developed, which is currently being refined by the Task Force. The final report will include impediments and action plans for implementation moving forward. The report will be shared with the Governor's Office and hopefully released by the end of the year.

In response to inquiry by Commission Montri, Ms. Zmitko-Somers advised one of the key recommendations is for dedicated funding for a number of programs that exist but have not been funded for some time.

BUDGET UPDATE: Maria Tyszkiewicz, Director, Financial and Office Services

Ms. Tyszkiewicz reviewed details of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 enacted budget for MDARD that includes a gross amount of \$121.3M, with \$63.6M General Fund, which represents an approximate 13 percent increase from FY 2020 General Fund. She reviewed specifics of the major initiatives, as well as reductions for FY 2021.

Discussion ensued regarding the various reductions, in particular around the Pesticide Applicator Program. In response to inquiry from Commissioner Meintz, the Director advised because of COVID-19, transition to online testing as much as possible was required, which may still present an impediment for some. The department is making every effort possible to accommodate the small group that requires in-person testing capability.

Commissioner Montri advised, because the line item for the Food and Agriculture Investment Program is reduced, it would be helpful to have more clarity regarding how we distribute grant funds. This should include criteria, recruitment of companies, managing biases, and ultimately developing recommendations to the Commission.

FY 2022 budget development is underway, with the Revenue Estimating Conference scheduled in January, which will inform how much money is available for the FY 2022 budget.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Nathan Kark, Director of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs

Mr. Kark advised we are headed into the Lame Duck season and all legislation not having been acted upon during this two-year cycle will expire. He referred to the MDARD Legislative Update provided to the Commissioners and reviewed the status around bills of interest to the department.

He noted Senate Bill 852, which provided the final component needed to obtain federal approval of our State Hemp Plan, was signed into law. The plan has since been approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and additional considerations will be forthcoming.

Senate Bill 1133, which would add a Propane Check-Off, is posted for committee, concerns have been expressed, and work with stakeholders continues.

Currently in process are changes to the Michigan Food Law. In addition, the department has implemented a new priority review process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment relative to non-agenda items.

DIRECTOR CLOSING COMMENTS

The Director thanked Commissioner Pridgeon for his service on the Commission these last four years, especially this year as Chairperson. He has done an outstanding job, always having the agriculture community as his first priority, and his passion for the industry is insurmountable.

Commissioner Montri echoed the Director's comments and added she has appreciated the opportunity to work with Commissioner Pridgeon. His ability to summarize conversations leads to very productive meetings and that is a tremendous skill set to bring to the Commission. Although we do not know what the opportunity for his reappointment may be, she expressed her recognition of this leadership and thanked him again.

Commissioner Pridgeon advised it has been a pleasure to serve on this Commission and wished MDARD and the Commission all the best in the future.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MEINTZ MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER BERGDAHL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Attachments:

- A) *Agenda*
- B) *Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes September 16, 2020*
- C) *Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule*
- D) *Retirement Resolution Honoring Beth Swank*
- E) *Director's Update*
- F) *Collaborations Between Government, Academia, and Industries Presentation*
- G) *State Tribal Relations and Consultation Presentation*
- H) *MDARD Administrative Procedure 36 – Tribal Consultation*
- I) *Request for Approval to Increase Nursery and Related Inspection Fees*
- J) *Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate Presentation*
- K) *2021 GAAMP Process Review Presentation*
- L) *Draft 2021 GAAMPs, Public Input Meeting Summary, and Public Comments*
- M) *Food and Agriculture Investment Fund Requests*
- N) *Budget Summary Report*
- O) *MDARD Legislative Update: 10/14/2020*

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

January 20, 2021 - Ag Commission Meeting

Cheryl Kobernik – Welcome New Commissioner

Before we get started with today's meeting, let's give a warm welcome to our newest member, Cheryl Kobernik. Cheryl is from Frankfort and is co-owner and operator of North Star Organics. She also serves as a clinical consultant for the Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Wayne State University and a Master of Social Work from Grand Valley State University. Cheryl will be a great addition to the Commission!

Key Staffing Update

Deputy Director – we're currently in the interview process
Director of Finance & Budget – **Sylvia Renteria** (eff. 1/11/21)
Director of Agriculture Development Division – **Jamie Zmitko-Somers** (eff. 1/24/21)
Environmental Manager for the Right to Farm Program – **Mike Wozniak** (eff. 12/27/20)
Hemp Program Specialist – **Molly Mott-Oosting** (eff. 12/27/20)

Peter Anastor Departing MDARD

I'd be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to Peter Anastor whose last day with MDARD will be January 22. Peter has taken a new position with the Department of Transportation as Director of Rail. Prior to his time at MDARD, he worked a lot with logistics and supply chain activities and this position will allow him to continue some of that work with infrastructure and economic development. I know Peter will continue to do amazing work.

Return to Work Update

In late November, Governor Whitmer notified state employees that we'll be working remotely until at least March 1, 2021. MDARD continues to work with employees whose families may be experiencing limitations with kids going back to school and daycare to identify an agreeable/flexible work plan.

Ag Housing Task Force Report

The Ag Housing Task Force prepared its final report which includes action plans to address ample housing for our food and agriculture workers; particularly the processing industry. The next step is creating subgroups to work on implementation of the action plans. Many thanks to Jamie Zmitko-Somers for all her efforts on this initiative.

Midwest Ag Directors

Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, I have been meeting bi-weekly (and now monthly) with my ag counterparts in the seven midwestern states (MI, WI, IN, IL, MN, OH, KY). In late December, all seven states participated in a video message encouraging adherence to public health guidelines to help protect the nation's essential agricultural workforce and keep food supply chains flowing.

These collaborative discussions have included timely topics such as production capacity, labor shortage, and migrant worker outbreaks. We're now turning our focus toward vaccine rollout for migrant/seasonal workers, meat processing,

broadband, farmland preservation, and hemp.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Plan

Next week, MDARD will be rolling out the department's DEI Strategic Plan to all employees. The DEI Taskforce will provide opportunities to learn more about this effort including a refreshed intranet site for staff to get updates and important information; a ThinkTank hub (monthly 1 hour sessions) to innovate and discuss important issues related to DEI; and onboarding material for new employees as they arrive into the department to engage with DEI activity and materials.

1/25: Director's Message to all staff introducing the DEI Strategic Plan

1/26: Launch Party: Celebrating the launch and encouraging staff to engage

1/27: Speaker: Alfredo Hernandez from DEI Foundations

1/28: Best Practice Session: Building DEI into Work

1/29: Resources available to all staff via email/SharePoint

2020 Accomplishments

I'm incredibly proud of the accomplishments MDARD staff has achieved despite the challenges of this pandemic. Below are a few of the key highlights:

- Food-Related COVID Complaints
- EEE Emergency Rules
- *Ralstonia* Detection & Response
- Hand Sanitizer Sampling & Testing
- AID Virtual Ride-Along Training
- IMTs at Field Hospitals in Novi & Detroit
- Migrant Housing COVID Mitigation
- Food Bank Assistance
- On-Farm Conservation Practices
- MWC Cheese & Whey Plant in St. Johns
- INTELS (Inspection, Tracking, Enforcement & Licensing System)
- LPS Online (Licensing Portal System)

2021 Priorities

As we look to 2021, the department will be placing special emphasis on the following four key areas:

1. Pandemic Recovery
2. Climate Change
3. Housing and Workforce Initiatives
4. Rural Development Opportunities

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING REPORT

GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Public Input Meeting Held on October 1, 2020

Pursuant to the Michigan Right to Farm Act, (Act 93 of 1981, MCL 286.471 *et seq.*), the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development may define Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) developed with assistance by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and with written recommendations from Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Extension Service, and AgBioResearch, as well as the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency; the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other professional and industry organizations. In addition to public comment at Commission meetings, the Commission asked the Department to hold a public meeting to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed changes to the GAAMPs. This meeting occurred on October 1, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the public input meeting was conducted virtually through Microsoft Teams to protect the health of the public and staff.

Present from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Michael Wozniak, Olivia Turrubiates, Meredith Smith, Jay Korson, and Brad Deacon as hearings officer. Commissioner Dru Montri also attended.

Information about this meeting was released to the public and media on September 8, 2020. Media organizations as well as food, farm, environmental, conservation, legislative, and other organizations and individuals were notified. Copies of proposed changes to the GAAMPs were also posted on the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development website.

All GAAMPs are developed and reviewed by multi-agency Task Force Committees which are chaired by Michigan State University faculty. GAAMPs are then presented to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development for consideration and adoption under the authority of the Michigan Right to Farm Act. Since their initial adoption, each set of GAAMPs has undergone annual review by the respective Task Force committees, which include scientists and others with expertise, education, and knowledge in the field. The Chair of each Task Force gathers comments from committee members and interested stakeholders and then makes recommendations for revisions of the GAAMPs to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Commission ultimately has the authority to approve, amend, or reject those recommendations.

This meeting was held to receive public comment on the 2021 proposed drafts of the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for:

- Manure Management and Utilization
- Care of Farm Animals
- Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities
- Farm Markets

The GAAMPs regarding the Nutrient Utilization, Cranberry Production, Irrigation Water Use, and Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control have no proposed changes for 2021. However, comments were welcome on any provisions of any of the GAAMPs.

The deadline to receive written comments was 5 p.m., October 7, 2020.

The following members of the public attended the public input meeting:

- Melanie Rossman

Ms. Rossman shared her frustration with manure application in her area. She requested that the GAAMPs require injection and immediate incorporation of liquid manure.

The public input meeting began at 9:02 a.m., and concluded at 9:41 a.m.

Bradley N. Deacon

Bradley N. Deacon
Hearings Officer
October 20, 2020

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs)
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

Date:

Name:

Address, City, State, Zip:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Set of GAAMPs being addressed (Please use a separate form to comment on other GAAMPs)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure Management and Utilization	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Water Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control
<input type="checkbox"/> Care of Farm Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry Production
<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Utilization	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm Markets

Describe specific changes that should be made to the indicated GAAMPs:

Require immediate incorporation/injection of all liquid manure applied to fields, irregardless of whether it is being applied to wheat stubble, other crop residue or by a no-till farmer. The current GAAMPs for manure application on wheat stubble especially provide absolutely NO relief or resolution to neighboring properties from the repulsive stench and horrendous amount of flies created by spreading decomposing, rotten manure, especially in the hot, humid summer months by an inconsiderate farmer.

We have the right to fresh air and to comfortably enjoy our home and property but cannot do so because of one neighborhood farmer, who has literally turned our lives upside down since August 10th with his poor manure spreading practices, spreading on the most excessively hot, humid days, weekends included! Then after a complaint was filed with the Michigan Right To Farm office for the stench and excessive flies, he proceeded to come back every couple days and spread more manure in retaliation, just to drag it out longer. We rely on open windows for ventilation of a 125+ year old farmhouse as do other neighbors who do not have central air either. Because of the stench, we are forced to swelter in our homes and can't go outside either because of the flies and horrendous odor.

Today, this same farmer started going to another neighborhood farm not owned by them and hauling liquid manure from that farm to a field adjacent to our home, spreading on corn stubble where they just chopped silage last week. He has hundreds of acres of corn stubble he could spread manure on but he chooses to spread as close to us as possible, knowing full well of the impact it has on our lives and wellbeing. We literally were able to start sleeping in our upstairs bedrooms just last week for the first time since August 10th as the stench south of us finally subsided enough that we could open the windows again! Now it is directly east of us and we are forced to shut the windows and swelter again to avoid the stench for who knows how long?

One person should not have the power and means to disrupt an entire neighborhood's lifestyle for weeks on end like this. There is no give/take with this farmer because of the way the current GAAMPs are written and his claim to be a no-till farmer. How this farmer can be considered environmentally friendly and supposedly verified as such is beyond us. There is nothing friendly or neighborly about his farming practices. He could do many things differently to eliminate the obnoxious odors and flies problem but refuses.

Send comments with any supporting attachments to MDA-Right-To-Farm@michigan.gov

Ferry Farms started spreading manure across the road in middle of field on 8/10/20 or 8/11/20.

Tuesday 8/11/20:

High Temperature: 84

Text sent to Scott Ferry requesting incorporation advising we don't have central air and smell comes in house at night.

Wednesday 8/12/20:

High Temperature: 85

Spreading continues. Greenheaded flies begin congregating in yard trying to get into house/garage. Started swatting flies in the house. Smell getting worse. Unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to excessive heat buildup from closed windows.

Thursday 8/13/20:

High Temperature: 87

Still spreading at 4:30-5:00 p.m. in hot afternoon sun when Melanie arrived home from work. Getting closer to front of field and our house/yard. Swatted big greenheaded flies in house all evening. Stench is constant & obnoxious outside. Unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to excessive heat buildup from closed windows.

Friday 8/14/20:

High Temperature: 91

Still spreading at 4:30-5:00 p.m. in hot afternoon sun when Melanie arrived home from work. Now spreading directly across road from house/yard. More flies than ever inside and outside house. Stench is unbearable outside in yard for Senior Photo shoot. Photographer struggled entire session. Stench penetrating closed windows and doors of house. Unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to excessive heat buildup with windows closed. Text sent to Scott Ferry inquiring what his plan is and advising he's not being neighborly or considerate spreading it right under our noses, knowing how much it aggravates Melanie's asthma & breathing.

Saturday 8/15/20:

High Temperature: 87

Received call in a.m. from Scott Ferry advising his family has spread manure across the road there for years and he had no intentions of incorporating it but we could do so with our equipment at our expense. Said he was done spreading by the road & would be spreading in far back of field. Yet, more manure was spread in the afternoon directly across from house and as close to road and our house as possible. Stench is unbearable inside the house and going outside is out of the question. Had to cancel landscaping project planned for Saturday morning. Swatted flies all day and evening. Text sent late in day to Scott advising his family (father) never planted wheat across the road, only corn. Therefore when his family hauled shit there in years past, it was NOT in hot humid July and August when people are outside and windows are open. Told him he had other shit-covered fields chiseled, he could do same with this one, especially knowing the effect his actions or lack thereof have on others. Received text response back apologizing for our frustrations and wanting to know what else he could do to help us understand his farming practices. Our response was "Nope they suck, we don't need to know anything more." Unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to excessive heat buildup with windows closed and penetrating smell throughout house. Gathering of 7 ladies at the lake on back side of our farm north of manure site were subjected to what they thought was a sewer backup until told differently.

Sunday 8/16/20:

High Temperature: 84

Wind direction changed so we could be outside during the day but as soon as the wind speed died & sun went down, the stench is unbearable again. No spreading occurred. Flies are ridiculous. Unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to excessive heat and smell.

Monday 8/17/20:

High Temperature: 84

Stench still unbearable. No spreading occurred. Flies are ridiculous. Unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to excessive heat and smell.

Tuesday 8/18/20:

High Temperature: 84

Came home from work to see more manure spread in front of field, again directly across from house and adjacent to drainage ditch that goes into creek that goes to Quaker Lake. Crazy amount of flies. Daughter's friend came to lake to kayak with daughter in evening. On the lake, tells daughter our farm stinks. Daughter explained the problem to her, that it's not our farm. Unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to closed windows and smell.

Wednesday 8/19/20

High Temperature: 79

Someone from Ferry Farms (probably Scott Ferry himself) entered manure field in the morning with utility loader tractor and proceeded to scrape and pull manure back away from the roadside ditch but not the drainage ditch. Horrible stench remains with crazy amount of flies. Unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to closed windows and smell. No spreading occurred to our knowledge.

Thursday 8/20/20:

High Temperature: 84

Spread manure again this morning directly across road from house. Stench remains horrific. Flies all over the place. Still unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to closed windows and smell.

Friday 8/21/20:

High Temperature: 87

No field activity directly across road from house. Stench remains horrific in the evenings. Flies are still trying to get in the house and garage. House is sweltering during the day without ventilation. Still unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to heat buildup from closed windows and smell getting increasingly worse in the evenings when the wind dies down.

Saturday 8/22/20:

High Temperature: 89

No field activity today. Stench remains horrific in the evenings. Flies are still trying to get in the house and garage. House is unbearably hot today. No ventilation again. Still unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to heat buildup from closed windows and smell gets increasingly worse in the evenings when the wind dies down.

Sunday 8/23/20:

High Temperature: 88

No field activity again today. Stench is horrific, especially in the evening. Flies are still out of control. House is terribly hot again today. Not able to open windows due to smell. Still unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to heat buildup from closed windows. Horrific smell picked up again in the evening when the wind died down.

Monday 8/24/20:

High Temperature: 91

No field activity again today. Stench is still ridiculously bad. Flies everywhere. Opened windows for a couple hours in afternoon but had to shut as smell came rolling in early evening. Still unable to sleep in the upstairs bedrooms due to heat buildup from closed windows. Smell remains unacceptable in the evenings when the breeze quits blowing.

Tuesday 8/25/20:

High Temperature: 83

Received phone call from Jay Korson of MDARD-RTF advising nothing wrong with what Ferry is doing according to GAAMPS because it is a field of wheat stubble! Unbelievable that he has that much right to disrupt our lives for 2 full weeks now. Korson found nothing amiss because Ferry had come down and raked all the manure back from the roadside before he arrived. Stench is still there. Still have to shut windows at dusk as smell rolls into house. Flies are ridiculous. All we do is swat and spray all evening long.

Wednesday 8/26/20

High Temperature: 92

Smell remains atrocious and flies in house/garage are filling strips faster than we can change them. Still unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to heat buildup from closed windows. House is terribly hot with no ventilation.

Thursday 8/27/20:

High Temperature: 94

Another ridiculously hot day in a sweltering, stinky environment full of flies. Still unable to sleep in upstairs bedrooms due to heat buildup. Stench has not subsided at all. Flies flies & more flies (nasty big greenheaded ones) are everywhere, inside house & garage.



7373 West Saginaw Highway, Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8460
Phone (517) 323-7000

October 1, 2020

Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development
Environmental Stewardship Division
PO Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

To whom it may concern,

The following are comments of the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) regarding the annual review of the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) as developed under the authority of the Michigan Right to Farm Act (MRTFA), 1981 PA 93 as amended. We believe Michigan's Right to Farm Act is the model for our country. The Act has allowed all sectors of agriculture to move forward utilizing GAAMPs on a voluntary basis while enhancing the environment.

Michigan Farm Bureau appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes as indicated below, on behalf of our more than 41,000 farmer members.

This year we only have comments on the Site Selection and Manure Management GAAMPs:

Site Selection

- We strongly oppose language on page 12 requiring 250-foot setbacks for manure storage changes and installations from neighboring non-farm residences regardless of the distance from the storage structure to the farm's property line. While farmers have control over where and how close to a property line they install or change manure storage structures, they have no control over where a neighbor may choose to build a non-farm residence. While there is an exemption from this standard for established setback distances by previous manure storage or facility components, the setback language itself is still inappropriate. Under this non-farm residence setback standard, farmers may purchase property with the careful consideration of property line setbacks for future manure storage installations or changes, only to have those plans interrupted by a non-farm residence being built near the property line before the farm's storage installation begins. Property line setbacks for new and expanding farms and installations or changes to manure storage structures, as proposed on page 13, already take into account the need to minimize offsite odor nuisances. This is made clear by the tables describing increasing property line setback distances for farm and manure storage structures based on the increasing number of animal units, on pages 7-10 and 13. An additional setback standard for non-farm residences is therefore unnecessary and likely to put farms out of compliance with the GAAMP standard due to events out of their control. We therefore recommend **striking** the following from the 2021 GAAMP: ~~"All manure storage structure changes and installations at existing livestock facilities must be at least 250 feet from non-farm residences or no closer than the established setback distance."~~

- We recommend amending the language on page 13 requiring conformance with the Manure Management and Utilization GAAMP for manure storage structure changes and installations. GAAMPs may refer to other GAAMPs for more information, but it is inappropriate for the standard under one GAAMP to require conformance with another. We recommend this language be amended to be consistent with other GAAMPs' references for more information, such as the language found in the Manure Management and Utilization GAAMP on pages 7 and 8, so the Siting language reads: "For additional guidance on Manure storage structure changes or installations, refer to must-be-in conformance with the Manure Management and Utilization GAAMPs; Construction Design and Management for Manure Storage and Treatment Facilities section."

Manure Management

- We recommend amending language on page 9 referring to farmstead and field manure stockpiling. While farmers have control over where and how close to a property line they install or change structures to support farmstead stockpiling such as concrete or asphalt pads recommended in this standard, they have no control over where a neighbor may choose to build a non-farm residence. Under this non-farm residence setback standard, farmers may purchase property or plan to install stockpiling structures with the careful consideration of property line setbacks, only to have those plans interrupted by a non-farm residence being built near the property line before the farm's stockpiling structure begins. We therefore recommend amending this statement to read: "Unless a tarp, fleece blanket, or straw cover is maintained, manure stockpiles need to be kept at least 50 feet away from property lines or 150 feet away from non-farm homes." Similarly, on page 9, we recommend amending the language in the field stockpiling standard to refer to property line setback instead of non-farm residence setbacks, to read: "Proximity to surface water, field drainage, predominate wind direction, field slope and applicable conservation practices should be factored into infield manure stacking locations. Manure stockpiles need to be kept at least 150 feet from non-farm homes. Manure stockpiles also need to be kept at least 150 feet from surface waters or areas subject to flooding unless conservation practices are used to protect against runoff and erosion losses to surface waters."

We support the proposed changes for the rest of the GAAMPs. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please call us with any questions.

Regards,



Matthew D. Kapp
Government Relations Specialist



Laura Campbell
Manager, Agricultural Ecology Department

MDARD-rtf

From: James DeYoung <james@cjdfarmconsulting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 11:35 AM
To: MDARD-rtf
Subject: Site Selection GAAMPs Comments

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

I am a farm consultant and my firm has been developing siting applications for over 15 years. We have clients all across the state, and we serve farms of all sizes. I serve on the Manure Management GAAMPs task force, and I served on a sub-committee to study the setback distances required for new and expanding manure storages as they are handled in the Manure Management GAAMPs.

While I agree with the intent of these GAAMPs for Site Selection, I believe that unless something changes, they are not going to be utilized in the future. It is my opinion that the site selection process for expanding farms is becoming too restrictive. As counties and townships allow residential encroachment into land zoned for agricultural use, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find good locations that meet all of the criteria for the siting GAAMPs and other regulations that affect farms. However, that task is simple compared to trying to find a location for a new farm. In order to build a new farm, the setbacks from property lines require someone to own an entire section of land to allow enough space for the rest of the buildings, storages, and ancillary farm structures.

My company typically develops several siting applications each year, but we are rarely taking them to completion because it is becoming impossible to meet all of the requirements for existing farms who want to expand. In particular we have been struggling with the number of houses that have been allowed to encroach on the farm. This causes problems for the farm when they want to replace an aspect of their farm to benefit the farm's efficiency, environmental stewardship, or some other factor. However since there are so many houses allowed to be constructed in rural areas, the farms can no longer comply with the Siting GAAMPs because there are too many houses within the odor plume or within the half-mile or quarter mile distance as specified in the siting application.

We understand that there are options for the farm to get a signed variance for houses in the odor plume, or to request reductions in setbacks, but we have been finding home owners more reluctant to sign anything lately. The neighbors may not have a problem with the farm's current size or odors, but they are not willing to give up their rights as a property owner for something a farm may do in the future. This also impacts the future value of their house and property and they are not willing to take that hit. They have no idea if the changes to the farm will impact their home or not.

We also know that there are new technologies available for odor control. We encourage their installation when appropriate. Air scrubbers for swine barns, floating manure storage covers, digesters, and biofilters have all been proven to be effective, but they add significant cost to the project and require a significant investment in maintenance and upkeep. While farms may be willing to utilize these technologies for new construction, they don't always fit an expanding farm's needs because it is difficult to fit the round pegs into the existing square holes. That limits a farm's ability to expand while still being a good neighbor. These technologies may make sense, and a farm would like to implement them, but it becomes impossible when there are many smaller barns (as on existing/expanding farms) that are part of the farm's legacy.

Our consulting firm has had 10-15 farms in the past two years that have put off expansion plans or plans to modify their existing facilities due to these concerns. A good example is one of our dairy clients that has been preparing over the last

3-4 years to become a CAFO by upgrading all of their manure storages to meet the current standards, eliminating contaminated runoff areas, replacing old barns, and developing an efficient and well planned out farm. But the proximity of the residential development that has been allowed to occur around them will result in immediate non-compliance with the Site Selection GAAMPs, even though they have been operating as a dairy in this same spot for over 40 years. The farm can't afford to purchase all of the land around them (it may not even be for sale if they could raise the funds). The town has just been allowed to grow up around them and they would have over 40 houses within a half mile and at least 13 in the odor plume. The majority of those houses have built into the odor plume in the past 10 years. Even though the farm is doing a much better job with their manure, facilities, and environmental footprint, they will be found to not be in compliance and that will possibly open them up for a lawsuit from someone who moved into the neighborhood and doesn't like the smell.

Something that was supposed to occur by following the GAAMPs is that farmers were supposed to be given protection under the Right to Farm Act. However they do not feel like they are being protected, instead they feel like they are doing all the work, but then get told that they don't comply due to some technicality, or when someone new moves into the neighborhood. To my knowledge, this hasn't resulted in any legal action but it does put all of the effort and cost on the farm's when it is entirely legal for their neighbors to encroach closer to their farm which in effect boxes them in. The farms have no ability to expand due to the actions of others. It doesn't seem right that they are giving up their rights in order to comply with the GAAMPs while others are not held to the same standards.

I believe we are going to see fewer and fewer applications for site selection approval. In fact, I believe if we were to look at the history of this program, we are already seeing a significant drop in applications for siting. I believe that the Site Selection GAAMPs have become too restrictive for farmers to be able to use them. At least they are restrictive enough that the farms are doing the math to see that it doesn't make financial sense to go through with the application. This is especially true when the process shows the farm that there is no way that their current farm would comply and therefore an expansion would not comply either due to no fault of their own, but due to the actions of their property neighbors and their local government.

--



James DeYoung / 616-780-1712
James@CJDFarmConsulting.com

James DeYoung / 616-780-1712
CJDFarmConsulting@gmail.com

CJD Farm Consulting, Inc.
616-608-5022

4328 3 MILE RD NW, SUITE 300
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49534
<http://CJDFarmConsulting.com>

MDARD-rtf

From: Berschback, Dana <berschbackd@washingtontwpmi.org>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 12:26 PM
To: MDARD-rtf
Subject: Pest Management

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Good afternoon,

I just read through some of the proposed changes and I was wondering if I could offer a suggestion for an item that has come up locally in Washington Township.

I completely support all of our local farmers and agricultural tourism businesses and know how everyone has had to evolve not only because of COVID but in general over the past several years.

We are fortunate to have so many operating orchards in our community and just like in any developing community some of them now have subdivisions surrounding what once was open land.

We have (I am sure many communities also share the same issue) a lot of deer and I know what havoc they can place on farmers crops and land and I know and support the efforts needed to secure the area and manage the deer from gaining access.

A few months ago, we had a local orchard install a fence to manage this issue and obviously there is always more to the story (the neighboring subdivision was trespassing onto the orchard and even in some cases dumping items on their land) but it created a number of upset residents wanting to know why the Twp could not regulate the height and type of fencing. I searched online to try and find a section I could reference because I knew it was out of our jurisdiction based on the intent for the fencing, and I only could find suggestions for the height to keep the deer out and what was commonly used. I was unable to locate an actual standard (if there is one that I missed please let me know) and I wondered if there was anything you could assist with that would or could possibly set a standard or even a review process with you that sends a notification to the local jurisdiction so we are aware of what is going on since we end up getting the calls once something starts.

Again just some suggestions as well as looking for guidance on this topic.

Any information would be greatly appreciated and thank you in advance for your time.

Dana Rose Berschback

Planning & Zoning Administrator
Charter Township of Washington
57900 Van Dyke
Washington Township, MI 48094
office: 586-677-4222 cell: 586-703-0304

MDARD-rtf

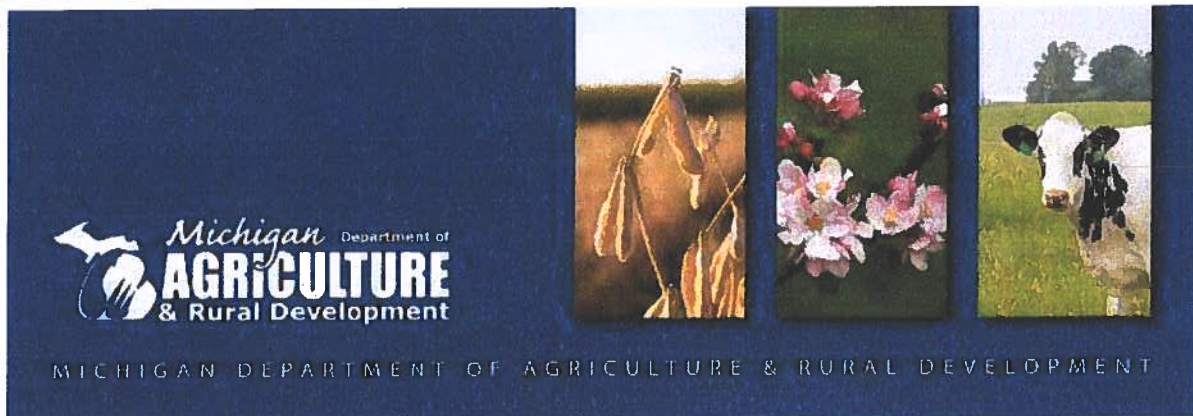
From: Nia M Becker <nmbecker@mtu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 3:19 PM
To: MDARD-rtf
Subject: Re: Agriculture Commission and MI Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development Seeking Public Input on Agricultural Management Practices

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Foresters and Loggers typically leave at least 100ft buffer between logging and bodies of water. Farms need to be doing the same thing, including leaving buffers around drains. Our surface water is important, and naturally vegetated buffers will reduce nutrient runoff and soil erosion.

What if a farm had to be MAEAP verified before receiving a tax exemption?

On Tue, Sep 8, 2020 at 1:02 PM Michigan Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development <MDARD@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov> wrote:



For immediate release: September 8, 2020

Program contact: [Michael Wozniak](mailto:Michael.Wozniak@mdard.michigan.gov), 517-285-1752
Media contact: [Jessy Sielski](mailto:Jessy.Sielski@mdard.michigan.gov), 517-331-1151

Agriculture Commission and MI Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development Seeking Public Input on Agricultural Management Practices

Deadline to provide comment is October 7, 2020

LANSING, Mich. – Today, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced the annual review period for the proposed drafts of the 2021 Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). Comments will be accepted via email, mail and a virtual public meeting that is scheduled for October 1, 2020.

The GAAMPs are reviewed each year by committees comprised of various experts and revised or updated, as necessary. All proposed GAAMPs changes are reviewed and approved by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Public comment will be taken on proposed changes to the following GAAMPs: Manure Management and Utilization; Care of Farm Animals; Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities; and Farm Markets. The GAAMPs regarding Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control; Nutrient Utilization; Cranberry Production; and Irrigation Water Use have no proposed changes for 2021.

MDARD will forward all comments received by the due date to the respective GAAMPs Task Force Committee Chairpersons for consideration prior to final review and presentation to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development at the November 5, 2020 meeting.

The proposed draft GAAMPs will be available for public review and comment until 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 7, 2020**, at www.Michigan.gov/RighttoFarm. Comments are accepted by:

- **Email** to MDARD-RTF@Michigan.gov
- **Mail** to MDARD's Environmental Stewardship Division, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909 and postmarked no later than October 7, 2020.
- **Call** into the public input meeting on October 1, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or call 248-509-0316 and enter Conference ID: 599 584 55#

For a copy of any of these GAAMPs including the proposed revisions, please visit www.Michigan.gov/RighttoFarm, or contact the MDARD's Environmental Stewardship Division at 517-284-5619, or toll free at 877-632-1783.

###



STAY CONNECTED:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
[Update Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)

To ensure delivery of our emails to your inbox, please add MDARD@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov to your address book. If you were forwarded this email and would like to join our email list, [subscribe here](#). Please do not reply to this email as this address is not monitored for responses. Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](#).

This email was sent to nmbecker@mtu.edu using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Michigan Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development · P.O. Box 30017 · Lansing, MI 48909 · 1-800-292-3939

--
Nia Becker
Forestry Class of 2016
Michigan Technological University
(517) 599-5913

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs)
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

Date:

Name:

Address, City, State, Zip:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Set of GAAMPs being addressed (Please use a separate form to comment on other GAAMPs)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure Management and Utilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Water Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care of Farm Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Utilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Markets |

Describe specific changes that should be made to the indicated GAAMPs:

Till in the manure after spreading. It is such a horrible smell & if it gets tilled into the ground it wouldn't be as potent!

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs)
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

Date:

Name:

Address, City, State, Zip:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Set of GAAMPs being addressed (Please use a separate form to comment on other GAAMPs)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure Management and Utilization	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Water Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control
<input type="checkbox"/> Care of Farm Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry Production
<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Utilization	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm Markets

Describe specific changes that should be made to the indicated GAAMPs:

Dictate that the application of liquid manure to fields be better managed to mitigate smell and flies, regardless of whether it is applied to wheat stubble, harvested fields or by farmers practicing no-till agriculture. The current GAAMPs for application on wheat stubble can be particularly onerous in the summer to neighboring residences and steps need to be taken to address this.

I have a vacation trailer on a farm at 1296 Litchfield Road, outside of Litchfield. My cousin and his wife own the farm and complained vehemently this summer about the spreading of liquid manure on a wheat stubble field directly across from their house and farm. They say a local farmer spread manure on that field on excessively hot and humid days in August and that the stench and flies from this action were intolerable. The family farm house is over 100 years old and is not air conditioned and they were forced to keep the windows closed on the hottest of days due to the smell and flies. My trailer is approximately three-quarters of a mile northwest of the house, and I was present several times that month when the applications were several days old. I can attest that even at that distance and several days post application, the smell was still strong and pungent.

I am not a farmer and don't have a ready solution for this. However, there has to be some kind of accommodation that can be dictated by the MDA that will mitigate this situation. Maybe restrictions on when and where this manure can be applied can be tightened. My cousins' suggestion of injection or some form of incorporation, even on no-till land, seems reasonable. It does not seem fair nor in the spirit of community farming that one farmer can so negatively impact others with out some kind or recourse or resolution of difference.

Send comments with any supporting attachments to MDA-Right-To-Farm@michigan.gov

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs)
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

Date: 10-6-2020

Name: Stephanie Church

Address, City, State, Zip: 10526 W. Litchfield Rd. Litchfield, MI 49751

Email Address: churchststephanie117@gmail.com

Phone Number:

Set of GAAMPs being addressed (Please use a separate form to comment on other GAAMPs)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure Management and Utilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Water Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care of Farm Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Utilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Markets |

Describe specific changes that should be made to the indicated GAAMPs:

Till the manure so there is less smell!

Send comments with any supporting attachments to MDA-Right-To-Farm@michigan.gov

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs)
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Date: 10.6.2020

Name: Alissa Ferry

Address, City, State, Zip: 9411 Litchfield Rd. Litchfield, MI 49252

Email Address: ferryfarmsllc@gmail.com

Phone Number: 517.252.0016

Set of GAAMPs being addressed (Please use a separate form to comment on other GAAMPs)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure Management and Utilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Water Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care of Farm Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Utilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Markets |

Describe specific changes that should be made to the indicated GAAMPs:

None!

It is imperative to our environment that farmers retain exemptions to immediate 100% incorporation for no-till practices and wheat stubble application.

No-till practices allow farmers to minimize soil disturbance, therefore minimizing soil erosion and capturing important nutrients to help with growing future crops.

Send comments with any supporting attachments to MDA-Right-To-Farm@michigan.gov

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs)
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

Date:

Name:

Address, City, State, Zip:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Set of GAAMPs being addressed (Please use a separate form to comment on other GAAMPs)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure Management and Utilization	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Water Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control
<input type="checkbox"/> Care of Farm Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry Production
<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Utilization	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm Markets

Describe specific changes that should be made to the indicated GAAMPs:

Farmers need to be more respectful and aware of the neighbors and surrounding towns and not spread ~~manure~~ manure so often. Liquid manure needs to be incorporated into the soil upon impact. The ammonia fumes are not at the recommended levels for nearby homes. Animals and humans can get very sick from the ammonia levels. The area farmers should be better community members and take into consideration the impact of their actions if they want the community to support them.

Send comments with any supporting attachments to MDA-Right-To-Farm@michigan.gov

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMPs)
PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

Date: 10-5-2020

Name: Michael & Anita Khapp

Address, City, State, Zip: 10444 W Litchfield Rd
Litchfield MI 49252

Email Address: needakhapp@live.com

Phone Number: 517-542-2160

Set of GAAMPs being addressed (Please use a separate form to comment on other GAAMPs)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manure Management and Utilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Water Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site Selection and Odor Control for
New and Expanding Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care of Farm Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Utilization | <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Markets |

Describe specific changes that should be made to the indicated GAAMPs:

It does get pretty stinky around here in the spring, summer and fall.

Send comments with any supporting attachments to MDA-Right-To-Farm@michigan.gov



Michigan League of Conservation Voters: 2021 GAAMPs Public Comment

The need for responsible agricultural practices that allow farms to operate in harmony with adjacent communities is becoming increasingly clear. As residential suburbs and exurbs continue to encroach on farmlands at an escalating rate, conflicts between local residents and farmers based on nuisance complaints will increase. Staff tasked with managing and mitigating these nuisance complaints must be armed with an agreed upon set of guidelines to avoid an array of interpretations. In order for both farmers and communities to be confident that the agricultural practices outlined in the GAAMPs are environmentally responsible, the language used within the GAAMPs must be clear and give unambiguous guidance to farmers. We believe farmers want what is best for their neighbors and the environment, and they deserve clear best management practices to follow to avoid any nuisance lawsuits.

Currently, the language in the GAAMPs does not clearly state what is required from farmers to receive legal protection. Although we understand that the GAAMPs language was initially designed to add flexibility for farmers, words like “should” and “recommends” imply that farmers are able to ignore the outlined practices and still receive legal protection from the Right to Farm Act. As a result, there can be confusion among farmers and community stakeholders as to what practices are actually required by the GAAMPs for compliance. This confusion could lead to poor management practices, false security for farmers, and heightened conflict.

Although MDARD staff already interpret the current language in the GAAMPs as if the language was strengthened, greater clarity in the GAAMPs themselves would provide enhanced guidance to farmers and would decrease misinformation in local communities concerned about farm operations. Furthermore, if farmers better understand what is required of them to be in compliance with the GAAMPs, the number of verified nuisance complaints could decrease as farmers and communities have better guidance as to what practices are environmentally responsible, saving state resources that would otherwise be spent on conflict resolution.

Michigan LCV believes that farmers and local communities want local agricultural practices to be successful and environmentally responsible. To foster a space of cooperation and to increase confidence in farming practices as residential communities continue to grow, we believe MDARD must clarify the language in the GAAMPs to ensure that communities and farmers know what agricultural practices are acceptable in Michigan. Clear language that gives direct guidance to farmers will not only make compliance with the GAAMPs easier for farmers to achieve, but it will also ensure that they have air-tight evidence if their compliance status is challenged in court.

MDARD-rtf

From: Scott & Alissa Ferry <ferryfarmsllc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 4:20 PM
To: MDARD-rtf
Subject: Public comment

CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to abuse@michigan.gov

Set of GAAMPs being addressed: **ALL**

We urge MDARD to notify all complainants of the law which allows MDARD to levy a penalty for unverified complaints. We strongly urge MDARD to recoup the costs of investigating unverified complaints, as provided for in the Right to Farm Act. We do not support anonymous Right to Farm complaints.

Sincerely,

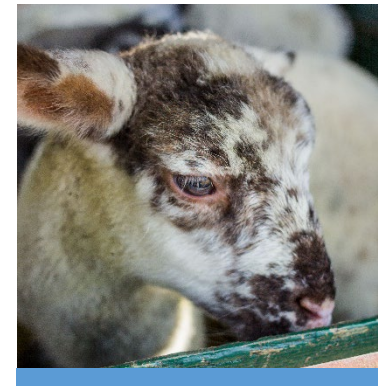
--



Ferry Farms, LLC
Scott & Alissa Ferry
Cell: 517-214-3298
Fax: 517-542-4000
Web: www.ferry-farms.com



Poverty Task Force



Lori Yelton, MS, RDN
Nutrition-Food Management Consultant

Executive Order 2019-19

- Created the Michigan Poverty Task Force on December 18, 2019
- 14 state departments were tasked with developing an anti-poverty agenda for Michigan
- Strategies were determined to be either short-, medium- and long term
- Goal is to focus on expanding and creating anti-poverty programs and policies



January 2020

- Poverty Task Force staff met with department directors to gain insight on strategies, policies and initiatives already fighting poverty
- Directors appointed staff to help with the development of a path to opportunities

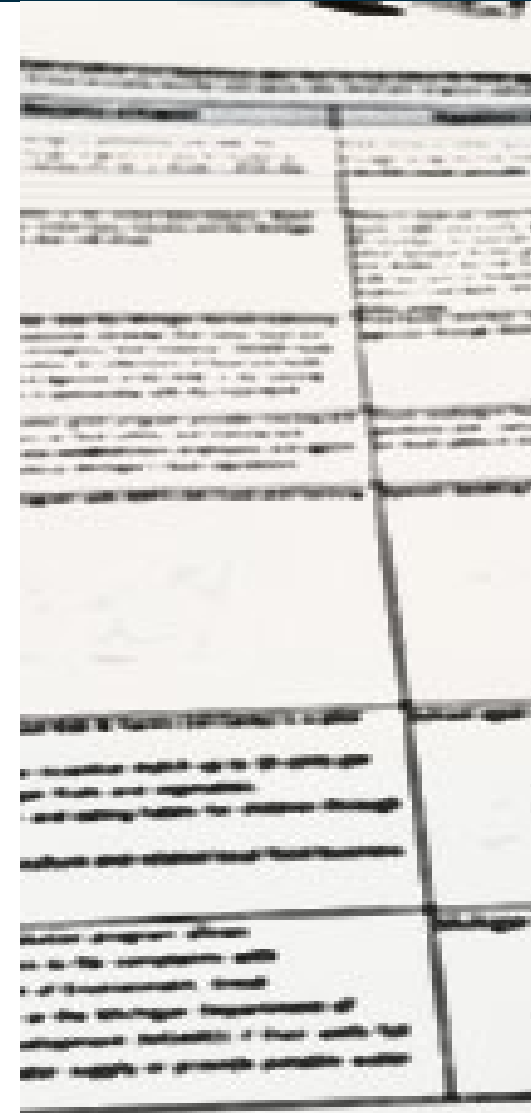


ALICE Population

- ALICE population:
 - Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed
 - United way expressed this as “ *ALICE is the person who works hard to make a living, but still can’t seem to make ends meet.*”
 - *ALICE has an income above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but struggles to afford basic household necessities.”*

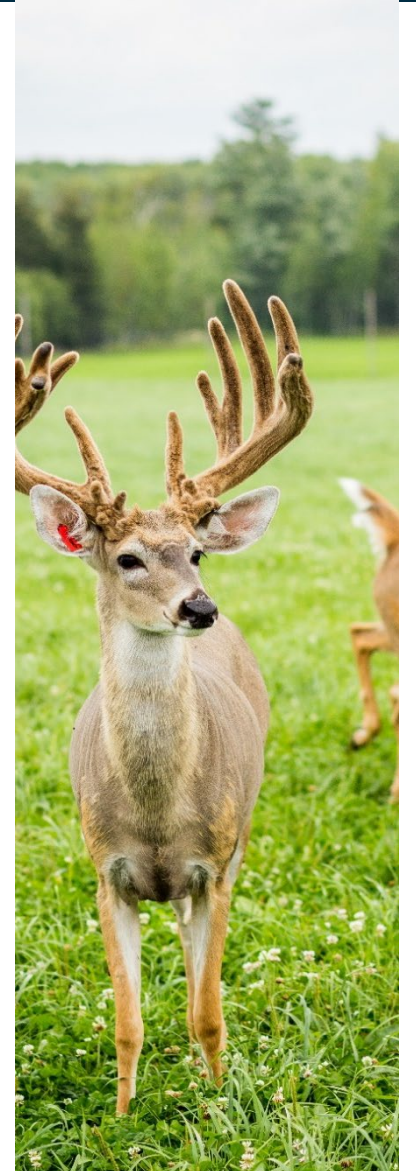
MDARD Programs

- MDARD programs were examined through interviews and email with staff
- Programs offerings included:
 - Grants
 - Food Assistance
 - Training-Education
 - Work Safety
 - Mediation



Advisory Council members were put into work groups

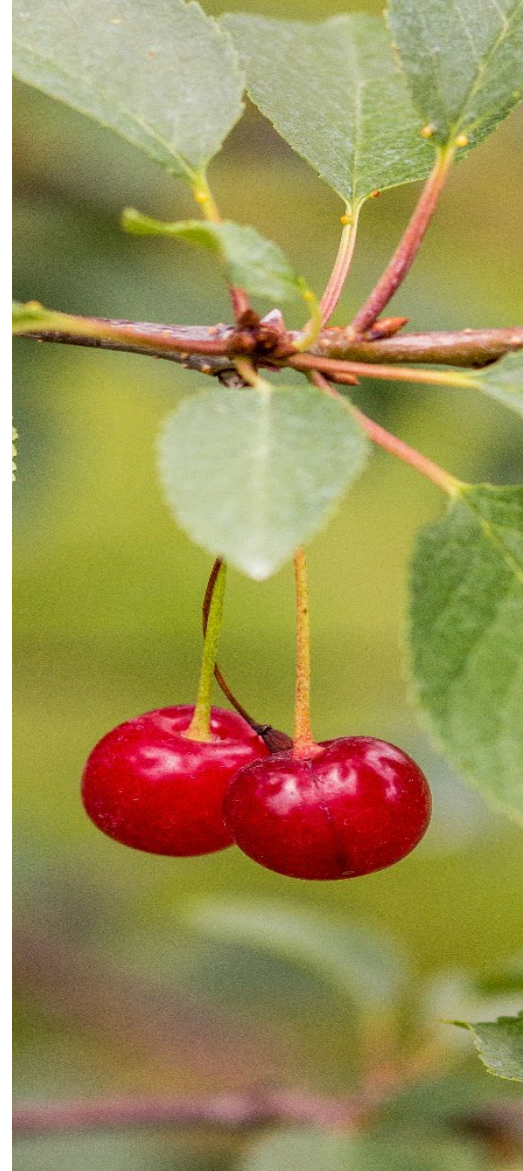
- Strong Beginnings (e.g., childcare, strategies to address trauma, etc.)
- Safe and Secure (e.g., housing security, food security, etc.)
- Removing Barriers to Economic Mobility (e.g., reintegrating returning citizens, subsidized employment programs)
- Providing Opportunity (e.g., Sixty by 30, Reconnect)



Workgroups were then organized into smaller groups

Smaller Issue groups were developed for policy recommendations in five categories:

- **Benefits**
- **Criminal Justice**
- **Economic**
- **Education**
- **Health, Housing and Safety**



Policy - Program Recommendations

The Issue Groups met through the summer of 2020 and produced 32 policy-program recommendations

These recommendations comprise the first anti-poverty agenda for Michigan with goal to go to the Governor on January 13, 2021

They would then be released to the public soon after.



Questions?





Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Budget Update



Sylvia Renteria
Director of Finance and Budget

Director of Finance and Budget

- Began on January 11th
- Background in governmental accounting, budget development, financial oversight
- Nine years experience at Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
- Team focused on budget, finance, procurement, federal funding, facilities



FY22 Budget Development

- Budget development is in process
- January revenue estimating conference occurred on the 15th
- Executive recommendation to be released in February
- Details will be shared in March meeting



Going Forward

- Commit to:
 - Open communication
 - Financial and budgetary support
 - Collaboration and partnership



Questions?

Sylvia Renteria

RenteriaS@michigan.gov

517-599-3605



@MIDeptofAgriculture



@MichDeptofAg



Michigan Department
of Agriculture & Rural
Development



@MichiganAgriculture



Michigan Department
of Agriculture & Rural
Development

MDARD Summary of 2019-2020 Michigan Legislature (Prepared 1/12/20201)

Type	Bill #	Subject	Date of Last Action	Last Action	Primary Sponsor	Position (if applicable)
Senate Bill	174	Animals; other; animal industry act; modify. Amends title & secs. 1, 3, 7, 9, 11b, 12, 14, 19, 20, 22, 31, 39, 40, 43 & 44 of 1988 PA 466 (MCL 287.701 et seq.); adds secs. 3a, 3b, 12a, 12b, 14a, 17b, 17c, 17d, 40a, 40b & 43a & repeals secs. 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 13a, 15, 16, 17a, 23, 24, 24a, 26a, 27, 28, 29, 29a, 30, 30a, 30b, 30c, 30d, 32, 33, 35, 41 & 46 of 1988 PA 466 (MCL 287.704 et seq.).	12/3/19	PA 132 '19	Kevin Daley	Support
Senate Bill	179	Animals; other; definition of livestock in agricultural commodities marketing act; modify citations. Amends sec. 2 of 1965 PA 232 (MCL 290.652). TIE BAR WITH: SB 0174'19	12/3/19	PA 133 '19	Roger Victory	Support
Senate Bill	180	Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for violations of animal industry act; modify citations. Amends sec. 12m, ch. XVII of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 777.12m). TIE BAR WITH: SB 0174'19	12/3/19	PA 134 '19	Dan Lauwers	Support
Senate Bill	181	Animals; other; definition of livestock and reference to animal industry act in Michigan penal code; modify citations. Amends secs. 50 & 50b of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.50 & 750.50b). TIE BAR WITH: SB 0174'19	12/3/19	PA 135 '19	Dan Lauwers	Support
Senate Bill	182	Animals; other; definition of livestock and reference to animal industry act in wildlife depredations act; modify citations. Amends secs. 2 & 3 of 2012 PA 487 (MCL 285.362 & 285.363). TIE BAR WITH: SB 0174'19	12/3/19	PA 136 '19	Ed McBroom	Support
Senate Bill	183	Animals; other; definition of livestock in wolf-dog cross act; modify citations. Amends sec. 2 of 2000 PA 246 (MCL 287.1002). TIE BAR WITH: SB 0174'19	12/3/19	PA 137 '19	Ed McBroom	Support
Senate Bill	361	Animals; other; definition of livestock in the Michigan fireworks safety act; modify citation. Amends sec. 12 of 2011 PA 256 (MCL 28.462).	11/21/19	PA 138 '19	Jim Ananich	Support
Senate Bill	450	Agriculture; animals; amount charged for livestock dealer license fee; extend sunset. Amends sec. 3 of 1937 PA 284 (MCL 287.123).	10/2/19	PA 86 '19	Curtis Hertel	Support
House Bill	4035	Animals; dogs; local government regulating a dog based on breed or perceived breed; prohibit. Creates new act.	12/2/20	Reported from the Committee on Local Government	Jim Ellison	Support
House Bill	4496	Animals; research facilities; certain research facilities to offer certain laboratory animals for adoption before euthanization; require. Creates new act.	11/5/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Kevin Hertel	
Senate Bill	175	Animals; other; reference to animal industry act in act governing ferrets; modify citations. Amends sec. 1 of 1994 PA 358 (MCL 287.891).	3/7/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Kevin Daley	Support

Senate Bill	176	Animals; other; reference to animal industry act in act governing the licensing of livestock dealers; modify citations. Amends secs. 4 & 7 of 1937 PA 284 (MCL 287.124 & 287.127).	3/7/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Kevin Daley	Support
Senate Bill	177	Animals; other; reference to animal industry act in Michigan aquaculture act; modify citations. Amends secs. 6 & 8 of 1996 PA 199 (MCL 286.876 & 286.878).	3/7/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Jim Ananich	Support
Senate Bill	178	Animals; other; reference to animal industry act in general property tax act; modify citations. Amends secs. 7dd & 34c of 1893 PA 206 (MCL 211.7dd & 211.34c).	3/7/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Roger Victory	Support
House Bill	5203	Agriculture; other; office of the small farms coordinator; create. Creates new act.	11/6/2019	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Angela Witwer	
House Bill	4593	Animals; care and treatment; devocalization procedure on an animal; prohibit, except for a therapeutic purpose. Amends 1978 PA 368 (MCL 333.1101 - 333.25211) by adding sec. 18830.	5/15/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Tim Sneller	
House Bill	4594	Crimes; animals; ownership, possession, breeding, sale, and importing of nonhuman primates; prohibit with certain exceptions and provide penalty. Amends 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.1 - 750.568) by adding sec. 70b.	5/15/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Jim Ellison	
House Bill	4595	Animals; birds; issuance of carrier pigeon permits; require compliance with local ordinances and regulations, and prohibit the enactment of local ordinances that prohibit the keeping of carrier pigeons. Amends sec. 2 of 1974 PA 57 (MCL 433.352).	5/15/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Frank Liberati	
House Bill	4596	Animals; cats; establishment and promotion of community cat programs; provide for. Creates new act.	5/15/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Laurie Pohutsky	
House Bill	4641	Crimes; animals; penalties for performing or allowing a devocalization procedure to be performed if no therapeutic purpose; provide for. Amends sec. 50 of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.50).	5/21/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Sherry Gay-Dagnogo	
House Bill	4947	Food; other; labeling as meat a laboratory-grown meat substitute; prohibit. Amends sec. 7129 of 2000 PA 92 (MCL 289.7129).	9/11/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Beau LaFave	
House Bill	4833	Agriculture; animals; import or transfer live Cervidae from a region that has tested positive for chronic wasting disease; prohibit. Amends sec. 30a of 1988 PA 466 (MCL 287.730a).	8/29/19	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Thomas Albert	
House Bill	5085	Health occupations; veterinarians; consulting with animal owner on the use of marihuana and CBD oil; allow under certain circumstances. Amends 1978 PA 368 (MCL 333.1101 - 333.25211) by adding sec. 18817.	9/15/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Douglas Markkanen	
House Bill	5090	Animals; care and treatment; experimentation on dogs in a manner that causes pain or distress, and certain related activities, by an affiliate of a public body; prohibit. Creates new act.	10/8/2019	Referred to the Committee of Agriculture	Sara Cambensy	
Senate Bill	185	Drains; maintenance and improvement; frequency of maintenance; limit based on period since most recent maintenance assessment. Amends secs. 196 & 201 of 1956 PA 40 (MCL 280.196 & 280.201).	3/7/19	Referred to the Committee of Local Government	Jim Stamas	

House Bill	5060	Drains; maintenance and improvement; expenditures and assessments without petition; increase maximum amounts. Amends sec. 196 of 1956 PA 40 (MCL 280.196).	6/3/2020	Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means	Alex Garza	Support
House Bill	5126	Drains; other; petition to add or remove lands and notice of receipt of bids and review of apportionments; revise requirements. Amends secs. 135 & 154 of 1956 PA 40 (MCL 280.135 & 280.154).	12/31/2020	PA 281 '20	Steven Johnson	Support
House Bill	5508	Animals; cats; certain medical procedures for declawing a cat; prohibit. Creates new act.	2/20/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Nate Shannon	
House Bill	5577	Animals; care and treatment; adequate shelter for dogs; clarify. Amends sec. 50 of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.50).	3/4/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Darrin Camolleri	
Senate Bill	823	Cemeteries and funerals; other; pet cemetery regulation act; create. Creates new act.	3/5/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Paul Wojno	
Senate Bill	850	Agriculture; industrial hemp; regulations for growing industrial hemp; create. Creates new act.	6/30/2020	PA 137 '20	Dan Lauwers	Support
Senate Bill	851	Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; allowing a falsified preharvest sample to be tested; provide for. Amends sec. 12m, ch. XVII of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 777.12m).	3/17/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Dan Lauwers	Support
Senate Bill	852	Agriculture; industrial hemp; regulations for growing industrial hemp; create. Creates new act.	10/21/2020	PA 220 '20	Dan Lauwers	Support
Senate Bill	853	Criminal procedure; sentencing guidelines; allowing a falsified preharvest sample to be tested; provide for. Amends sec. 12m, ch. XVII of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 777.12m).	3/17/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Dan Lauwers	Support
Senate Bill	869	Occupations; individual licensing and registration; pesticide applicator licensing; extend during a declared emergency. Amends secs. 8312 & 8317 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.8312 & 324.8317).	5/6/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Wayne Schmidt	
Senate Bill	870	Agriculture; weights and measures; vapor pressure restrictions on gasoline sales; suspend during a declared emergency. Amends secs. 3 & 9k of 1984 PA 44 (MCL 290.643 & 290.649k).	5/6/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Wayne Schmidt	
House Bill	5903	Food; other; regulations regarding peppers, cloves, and nutmeg; repeal. Repeals 1919 PA 418 (MCL 289.521 - 289.526).	6/24/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Matt Maddock	
Senate Bill	419	Animals; other; registration and regulation of animal rescues; provide for. Amends title & secs. 1, 2, 5a, 6, 7, 8, 8a, 8b, 8c, 9a & 9b of 1969 PA 287 (MCL 287.331 et seq.) & adds sec. 8d.	7/22/20	Reported from the Committee on Agriculture	Peter Lucido	Opposed
House Bill	5239	Agriculture; animals; Michigan equine commission; create. Creates new act.	1/16/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture (Testimony taken)	Hank Vaupel	Neutral
Senate Bill	728	Appropriations; zero budget; department of agriculture and rural development; provide for fiscal year 2020-2021. Creates appropriation act.	1/22/2020	Referred to the Committee on Appropriations	Roger Victory	

House Bill	5381	Appropriations; zero budget; department of agriculture and rural development; provide for fiscal year 2020-2021. Creates appropriation act.	1/23/2020	Referred to the Committee on Appropriations	Greg VanWoerkom	
House Bill	4806	Public utilities; public service commission; licensing of electric vehicle charging station operators; provide for. Amends title & secs. 10g, 10h & 10q of 1939 PA 3 (MCL 460.10g et seq.).	2/19/20	Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means	Andrea Schroeder	Opposed
House Bill	4807	Agriculture; weights and measures; pricing for charging of electric vehicles; standardize price displays. Amends 1964 PA 283 (MCL 290.601 - 290.635) by adding sec. 28g.	7/10/19	Referred to the Committee on Energy	Padma Kuppa	Opposed
House Bill	5574	State; symbol; cherry; designate as official state fruit. Creates new	2/27/2020	Referred to the Committee on Government Operations	Rebekah Warren	
House Bill	5730	Occupations; individual licensing and registration; pesticide applicator licensing; extend during a declared emergency. Amends secs. 8312 & 8317 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.8312 & 324.8317).	4/24/2020	Referred to the Committee on Government Operations	Brant Iden	
House Bill	5808	Crimes; animals; restitution for care and treatment of certain forfeited animals; impose penalty on ownership of animal to person convicted of certain crimes against animal. Amends sec. 50b of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.50b).	5/20/2020	Referred to the Committee on Judiciary	Douglas Wozniak	
House Bill	5809	Animals; care and treatment; restitution for care and treatment of certain forfeited animals; impose penalties upon owner. Amends sec. 50 of 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.50).	5/20/2020	Referred to the Committee on Judiciary	Douglas Wozniak	
House Bill	5504	Drains; financing; assessment periods for projects and maintenance on drains; extend. Amends secs. 196 & 434 of 1956 PA 40 (MCL 280.196 & 280.434).	12/31/2020	PA 291 '20	James Lower	Support
House Bill	5905	Animals; birds; regulations regarding the sport of racing and carrier pigeons; repeal. Repeals 1974 PA 57 (MCL 433.351 - 433.355).	6/24/2020	Referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform	Matt Maddock	
House Bill	4860	Animals; exotic; applicability of certain provisions of the large carnivore act based on residency; modify. Amends sec. 22 of 2000 PA 274 (MCL 287.1122).	1/15/20	Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means	Thomas Albert	
Senate Bill	971	Animals; care and treatment; conducting of research or training activities on dogs in a manner that causes pain or distress, and certain related activities, by an affiliate of a public body; prohibit. Creates new act.	6/17/2020	Referred to the Committee on Judiciary	Michael McDonald	
House Bill	5445	Public utilities; public service commission; registration procedure for electric vehicle charging stations; provide for. Creates new act.	2/19/2020	Referred to Ways and Means	Andrea Schroeder	Opposed
House Bill	4585	Agriculture; other; fair and festival carnival safety partners program; provide for. Creates new act.	6/18/19	Reported from Regulatory Reform to the Committee of Ways and Means	Thomas Albert	Opposed

Senate Bill	982	Occupations; individual licensing and registration; registration and training of seasonal registered pesticide applicator; provide for. Amends secs. 8306 & 8314 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.8306 & 324.8314).	6/24/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Kim LaSata	
House Bill	5126	Drains; other; petition to add or remove lands and notice of receipt of bids and review of apportionments; revise requirements. Amends secs. 135 & 154 of 1956 PA 40 (MCL 280.135 & 280.154).	12/31/2020	PA 281 '20	Steven Johnson	Support
House Bill	5890	Food; meats; guidelines for meat cutting facilities; modify. Amends sec. 28a of 1964 PA 283 (MCL 290.628a)	6/24/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Scott VanSingel	
House Bill	6009	Animals: dogs; certain unnecessary medical procedures for dogs; prohibit. Creates new act.	8/9/2020	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture	Mari Manoogian	
House Bill	6044	Labor: hours and wages; hazard pay for certain agriculture, farm, and seasonal workers during a declared emergency; provide for	8/12/2020	Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism	Brian Elder	
House Bill	6054	Taxation: farmland and open space; certain references in the farmland and open space preservation statute; make gender neutral. Amends sec. 36109 of 1994 PA 451 (MCL 324.36109).	8/12/2020	Referred to the Committee on Government Operations	Rebekah Warren	
House Bill	6068	Agriculture: associations and commissions; certain references in the agricultural commodities marketing act; make gender neutral.	8/12/2020	Referred to the Committee on Government Operations	Sheryl Kennedy	
Senate Bill	1067	Liquor: other; fund shift for the Michigan craft beverage council fund; provide for. Amends sec. 303a of 1998 PA 58 (MCL 436.1303a).	10/21/2020	PA 200 '20	Kevin Hertel	
House Bill	6155	Labor: health and safety; additional personal protective equipment for agricultural and food processing employees; require employers to provide during certain states of emergency. Amends 1974 PA 154 (MCL 408.1001 - 408.1094) by adding sec. 60	9/2/2020	Referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform	Alex Garza	
House Bill	6156	Highways: bridges; tractors and farm equipment to cross the Mackinac Bridge; allow under certain conditions. Amends sec. 12 of 1952 PA 214 (MCL 254.322).	9/2/2020	Referred to the Committee on Transportation	Steven Johnson	
Senate Bill	1072	Food: other; use of PFAS in food packaging; prohibit. Amends 2000 PA (MCL 289.1101 - 289.8111) by adding sec. 5106.	9/1/2020	Referred to the Committee on environmental quality	Jeff Irwin	
Senate Bill	1133	Energy: gas and oil; propane commission; provide for. Creates new act.	12/30/2020	PA 332 '20	Ed McBroom	Support
Senate Bill	6298	Traffic control: driver license; waiver of knowledge test for an individual with military commercial motor vehicle experience; provide for	12/8/2020	Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means	Greg Markkanen	Support
House Bill	6280	Food: other; third-party delivery food safety training; require. Amends sec. 1111 of 2000 PA 92 (MCL 289.1111) & adds secs. 6171, 6173 & 6175.	9/30/2020	Referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform	Julie Alexander	

House Bill	6317	Criminal procedure: sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for crimes involving the ownership of a dangerous animal or a vicious dog; modify. Amends sec. 12m of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 777.12m).	11/10/2020	Referred to Judiciary	Mark Huizenga	
House Bill	6318	Animals: dangerous; dangerous or vicious dogs; define and regulate. Amends title & secs. 1, 2 & 3 of 1988 PA 426 (MCL 287.321 et seq.) & adds secs. 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.	11/10/2020	Referred to Judiciary	Mark Huizenga	
House Bill	6323	State: symbol; wild rice; designate as the official native grain. Creates new act.	11/12/2020	Referred to Government Operations	Ronnie Peterson	
House Bill	6446	Food: other; representation of food items to be gluten-free: regulate. Creates new act. TIE BAR WITH: HB 6447'20	12/1/2020	Referred to Regulatory Reform	Matt Koleszar	
House Bill	6447	Crimes: other; sale of food items represented to be gluten-free that do not conform to a posted basis for that representation; prohibit. Amends 1931 PA 328 (MCL 750.1 - 750.568) by adding sec. 297g.	12/1/2020	Referred to Regulatory Reform	Matt Koleszar	
House Bill	6455	Animals: exotic; ownership, possession, transfer, and importing of certain reptiles; regulate. Creates new act.	12/2/2020	Referred to Agriculture	Jim Ellison	
Senate Bill	1231	Criminal procedure: sentencing guidelines; sentencing guidelines for crimes involving the ownership of potentially dangerous and dangerous dogs; create. Amends sec. 12m of 1927 PA 175 (MCL 777.12m). TIE BAR WITH: SB 1232'20	11/18/2020	Referred to Agriculture	Sean McCann	
Senate Bill	1232	Animals: dangerous; dangerous animals act; amend to provide for potentially dangerous dogs and dangerous dogs. Amends title & secs.1, 2 & 3 of 1988 PA 426 (MCL 287.321 et seq.) & adds secs. 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 3a & 3b.	11/18/2020	Referred to Agriculture	Sean McCann	