



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP DIVISION

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to provide the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Environmental Stewardship Division's (ESD) 2018 Annual Report. The 2018 activities continued to address our mission to administer programming that encourages environmentally sound agricultural practices and prevents agriculture-related pollution.

To this end, ESD is responsible for programs related to resource management of Michigan's working lands. The following report summarizes the considerable efforts of ESD's dedicated employees. To meet the challenges of an agricultural community, the division continues to assist with the following:

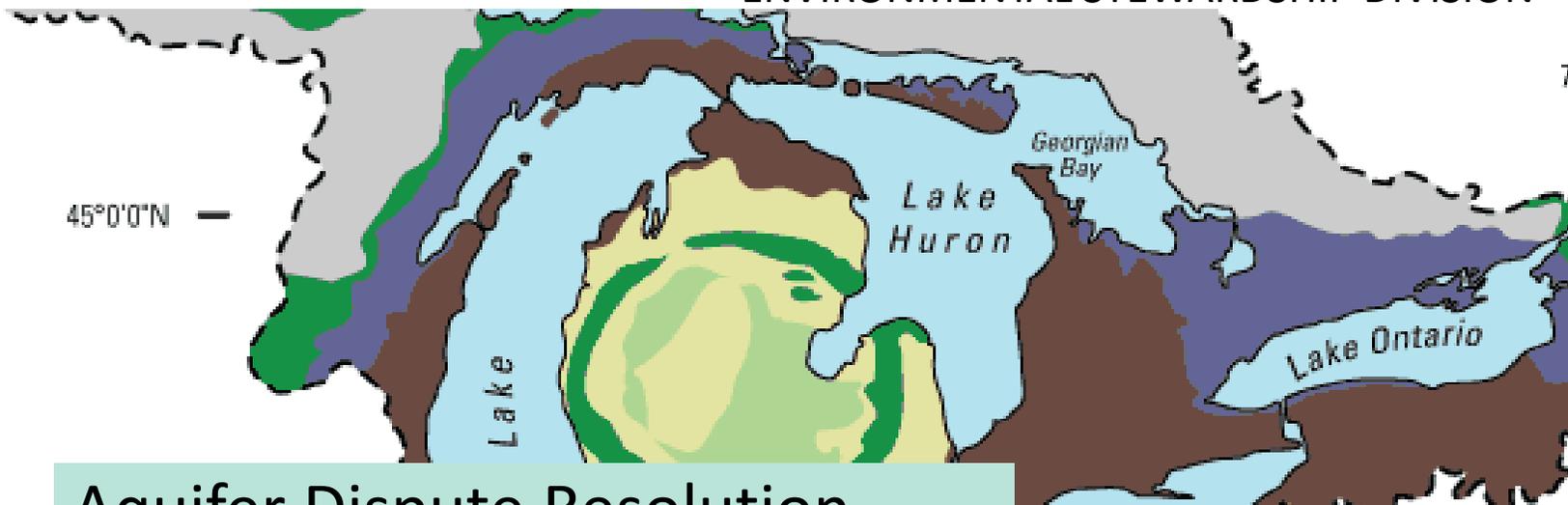
- Securing movement of storm water in rural and urban settings
- Helping landowners manage privately held forest lands
- Protecting Michigan's tremendous farmland
- Helping producers address our natural resources
- Minimizing nuisance conditions
- Ensuring good housing for migrant workers

I am very proud to be associated with ESD's hard-working staff and all they do to protect consumers, the environment, and the long-term viability of Michigan agriculture.

Jim Johnson
Division Director
Environmental Stewardship Division

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Aquifer Dispute Resolution

PROGRAM MANAGER: Abigail Eaton | 517-284-5612 | eatona@michigan.gov

The Aquifer Dispute Resolution program allows small quantity well owners to file complaints with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) or the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) if their wells fail to furnish their normal water supply or provide potable water. Agricultural related complaints are investigated by MDARD. The investigation is intended to determine if there is a scientifically-based cause-and-effect between the pumping of the high capacity well and the failure or impairment of the small quantity well. If the high capacity well is found to be the cause, the State of Michigan will propose a remedy to resolve the dispute equitably.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The program establishes a process for small quantity well owners to file a complaint with the State of Michigan to investigate when they feel their water supply has been compromised by drawdown from a high capacity well. Without the program, the only recourse is through the courts, under Common Law/Riparian Doctrine. The burden of proof in these legal cases can be expensive and lengthy.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 12 formal complaints were received.
- Nine cases resolved.
- One case still pending.
- Two complaints did not fall within program requirements.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2016	2017	2018
Complaints files	8	3	12
Informally facilitated remedies	1	0	0
Resolved/closed conflicts	3	1	11
Open complaints	4	1	1
Unresolved/disputed complaints	0	0	0
Number of invalid complaints	1	1	2
Cost to producers for resolution	\$12,441	\$8,000	\$31,590
Wells replaced or improved	4	11	8

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Improve aquifer dispute resolution tracking.
- Train more staff to respond to program related complaints.
- Continue to work with MDEQ to develop better methods of obtaining information on potential drawdown impacts of large quantity withdrawals (requiring Geographic Information System) in a more timely manner.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Small capacity drinking water well owners
- Large capacity irrigation well operators
- Private well drillers and pump installers
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 317 (Aquifer Protection and Dispute Resolution), as amended



Biosolids

PROGRAM MANAGER: Steve Mahoney | 517-930-2966 | mahoneys@michigan.gov

Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic materials resulting from the controlled treatment of sewage sludge. Because of that treatment, biosolids can be safely recycled and applied to farm fields for crop production as fertilizers. While regulated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provides education and technical assistance to farmers, locally elected officials, and other stakeholders on the use of biosolids as fertilizer for crop production.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The land application of biosolids at agronomic rates saves Michigan farmers more than \$12 million each year in fertilizer costs. It also reduces municipal sewage treatment waste disposal costs by \$7.9 million each year.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 65,000 dry tons of biosolids were applied over farmland, with a fertilizer value of \$8 million.
- Created banners for biosolids displays.
- Attended the 2018 Biosolids Conference.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Biosolids applied (tons)	88,000	82,000	76,000	105,000	120,000	65,000
Biosolids application area (acres)	19,000	18,000	16,500	26,600	29,550	14,130
Nitrogen used as fertilizer (tons)	3,750	3,500	3,250	4,500	4,800	2,780
Phosphorus used as fertilizer (tons)	1,950	1,800	1,650	2,300	3,000	1,400
Potassium used as fertilizer (tons)	320	300	275	380	500	235
Farm value as fertilizer	\$11M	\$10M	\$10M	\$14M	\$15M	\$8.5M
Biosolids Conference Participants	103	88	80	60	-n/a-	105

*No conference in 2017

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Provide training to conservation district technicians on the benefits of biosolids. Technicians can then provide education and targeted technical assistance to farmers and local officials in their districts.
- Participate in Michigan Water Environment Association's (MWEA) biosolids committee meetings, activities, and the biosolids conference subcommittee to plan the 2019 Biosolids Conference.
- Promote and educate about the beneficial use of biosolids at conferences.
- Work with Agro-Liquid staff to establish and maintain biosolids demonstration plot.
- Work with Michigan State University Extension, MWEA and Michigan Farm Bureau to promote the beneficial use of biosolids.
- Develop new educational materials.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Michigan livestock producers
- Rural non-farm neighbors
- Local governments
- Commodity organizations

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, Part 24 Rules and Part 31, as amended





Business Unit

PROGRAM MANAGER: Michael Hetherington | 517-284-5603 | Hetheringtonm1@michigan.gov

The Business Unit provides centralized office services within the Environmental Stewardship Division. Office services include budget development and monitoring, grant management, payment processing, procurement, equipment and technology support, timekeeping, office supplies, travel, coordination of Freedom of Information Act requests, and record retention. The centralized services allow staff to focus on program implementation and process improvement.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Prior to the creation of the Business Unit, operational tasks were distributed between three staff and four managers, all using different procedures and processes with operational redundancy. The Business Unit has standardized Environmental Stewardship Division's (ESD) procedures, thereby increasing quantity, quality, and timeliness within the division. The Business Unit also provides for continuity of operations through cross-training of staff on essential functions.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Played a key role for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in implementing the functionality of the Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Applications (SIGMA) software in its inaugural year of production.
- Successfully completed closing schedule for the fiscal year while taking on new responsibilities for interagency transactions and asset reporting.
- Aided in the transformation of the ESD into a mobile workforce through laptops and tablets.
- Facilitated the merging of the Water Use Reporting database into the MI-Login portal as well as various user enhancements.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2017	2018
Grants		
Specific types	17	16
Originated and processed	154	186
Payments processed	616	716
Spending Plan		
Appropriation line items	7	7
Funds managed - federal	4	4
Funds managed – state restricted	5	5
Indexes tracked	74	0
Staff supported	56	66
Portion of budget charged to general fund	34.6%	36.5%
Office Management		
Computers refreshed	24	3
Smart phone updates	15	10

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue information management upgrades.
- Develop efficiency gains with the new SIGMA Enterprise software.
- Train grantees to use SIGMA for payment requests and reporting.
- Increase cross-training for bench strength.
- Professional growth for staff.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- ESD program managers and staff
- MDARD Budget Office
- Accounting Services Division
- Conservation districts
- Other state agencies
- Federal government

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Omnibus Budget Appropriations Bill, Public Act 252 of 1994, as amended



Conservation District Operations

PROGRAM MANAGER: John Switzer | 517-284-5606 | switzerj3@michigan.gov

Michigan's conservation districts are local units of government. They utilize local, state, federal, and private sector resources to deliver conservation programming designed to solve today's agricultural and natural resource problems. Conservation districts are the primary mechanism by which the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) delivers conservation programs to private landowners. MDARD helps conservation districts operate in a manner consistent with applicable laws and provides program delivery support.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Michigan's agriculture and forest products industry is a \$117 billion sector of the state's economy. Conservation districts deliver \$6.65 million in MDARD programs including:

- Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
- Forestry Assistance Program
- Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative
- Michigan Produce Safety Program
- Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative

Conservation programming is most effective when delivered at the local level, by local people, with local technical assistance.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Increased the quantity and quality of trainings offered to conservation districts resulting in 77 board directors and 54 district managers participating in core training.
- Received 175 survey responses on how to improve the effectiveness of services provided to conservation districts by MDARD.
- Participated in 54 grant goal setting meetings, using program metric data to increase the output of conservation program grant activities delivered through conservation districts.
- Certified 44 elections for conservation district board directors.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2016	2017	2018
Number of conservation districts	77	75	75
Number of district managers	73	69	70
Total district staff	244	199	282
Number of districts receiving grants	61	62	57
Total number of grants to districts	124	135	127
Value of ESD grants	\$5.9M	\$6.2M	\$6.65M
Board meeting participation	172	127	163
Quarterly financial evaluations	323	692*	383
Search and selection processes	44	35	40
District capacity building occasions	138	135	52
District employee development assistance	67	51	36

* Includes financial evaluations from the last quarter of fiscal year 2017 typically counted towards the following fiscal year.

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Improve communication and cooperation with core conservation partners.
- Support ongoing efforts to restore operational funding to conservation districts.
- Update the conservation districts operations manual with current, relevant guidance.
- Continue to grow core training opportunities for conservation district board directors and staff.
- Improve the effectiveness of services provided by MDARD to conservation districts.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Conservation district staff and boards
- Michigan landowners
- Federal and state partnering agencies
- Users of Michigan's natural resources

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 93 (Soil Conservation Districts), as amended



Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative

PROGRAM MANAGER: Laura Doud | 517-898-4041 | doudl@michigan.gov

The Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI) program provides technical assistance to landowners interested in implementing conservation practices on their land. The CTAI program is a partnership between federal, state, and local units of government, working together to assist farmers and rural landowners. The program assists conservation districts in their efforts to help Michigan citizens better understand, plan, manage, protect, and utilize their natural resources.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The engineering and construction oversight provided by CTAI opened a bottleneck in our conservation implementation system, bringing \$7 million in federal revenues into Michigan that otherwise would have been allocated to other states. CTAI supports farmers' efforts to implement the conservation practices needed for verification under the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program. The implementation of these practices spurs the local economy through the purchase of materials and the use of local contractors.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- CTAI employees provided assistance on 57 different types of conservation practices.
- 746 conservation practices were designed or implemented across 45 Michigan counties.
- More than \$7 million was made available to Michigan landowners by the CTAI program.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2015	2016	2017	2018
Counties Served	40	44	51	45
Engineering Staff (FTEs)	5	5	5	5
Soil Conservationists (FTEs)	9	9	9	9
Conservation Practices Designed or Implemented	528	644	625	746
Federal Cost Share	\$6.5 M	\$6.5 M	\$5.3 M	\$7 M

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue to work with partners to determine the best placement and types of technical assistance needed across the state.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Farmers
- Agriculture industry groups
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Commodity groups
- Conservation and environmental groups

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 82 (Conservation Practices) and Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended



Farmland Conservation Easements

PROGRAM MANAGER: Beth Juras | 517-243-7949 | jurase@michigan.gov

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development enters into and monitors permanent conservation easements on agricultural land. A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and the State of Michigan that keeps land available for agricultural or open space uses.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The availability of permanent conservation easements on agricultural land and open space provides a focal point for local land use planning, zoning, and associated farmland preservation efforts. More than 25,000 acres of land in conservation easements contributed to the estimated \$22 million in agricultural products each year.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Conservation Easement Program entered into five new agreements, covering 480 acres in 2018.
- Staff completed on-site monitoring of 132 easements for prohibited land-use changes.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New Conservation Easements					
Conservation easements recorded	6	5	2	2	8
Acreage enrolled	718	656	87	276	480
Program Total Conservation Easements					
Conservation easements recorded	124	129	131	133	141
Local conservation easements	11	11	11	11	11
Acreage enrolled	24,102	24,758	24,815	25,038	25,518
Easement Monitoring					
Donated development rights	45	50	51	53	61
State purchase of development rights	50	50	50	50	50
USDA farm and ranch land	21	21	21	21	21
Total	116	121	122	124	132

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Work with the agriculture community, open space conservancies, and the legislature to receive appropriation approval for an application cycle for the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund in 2019.
- Work on ways to collaborate with the Federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Michigan farmers
- Agribusiness
- Consumers of Michigan grown food
- Those who enjoy the open space and farmland

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended, MCL 324.36101 *et seq.*
- Conservation and Historic Preservation Easement Act, Sub Part 11 of Part 21 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 Public Act 451, as amended, MCL 324.2140 *et seq.*
- Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended, MCL 324.36201 *et seq.*



Farmland Preservation

PROGRAM MANAGER: Rich Harlow | 517-284-5627 | harlowr@michigan.gov

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation program or Public Act 116 (PA 116) program preserves farmland from being developed for non-agricultural uses. Participating landowners are exempt from some special assessments and may also receive a Michigan income tax credit for property tax in excess of 3.5 percent of total household income.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

PA 116 was established in 1975 in response to the loss of farmland associated with high property taxes. Michigan is one of the few states in the nation with market-based property tax assessments. Agricultural lands near developing urban areas were being taxed based on what their land would sell for if converted into housing developments or strip malls. As a result, Michigan was losing cropland at an average rate of six percent per year. Michigan's food and agriculture sector contributes \$104.7 billion to the state's economy.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- New program database became fully functional. It dramatically reduced processing times, and captured and provided meaningful data more efficiently.
- Limited term staff worked through the program backlog built up during 2014, 2015, and 2016.
- More than 9,500 legal documents were processed in 2018, a 25 percent increase from the 7,600 processed in 2017.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2014*	2015*	2016*	2017	2018
Applications submitted	604	529	652	569	500
New acreage enrolled	40,101	34,910	52,160	45,520	40,000
Transfer requests processed	738	687	738	1,674	3,219
Extension requests processed	1,170	1,639	1,457	2,294	2,705
Expiration requests processed	17	909	199	712	1,630
Total new or modified agreements recorded	2,009	3,082	2,725	7,644	9,573
Tax credits issued in previous year	\$39M	\$44M	\$53M	\$51M	\$53M

**Dramatic reduction in productivity in 2014-2016 due to staff reductions and time spent on agreement status calls.*

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Review all requests within 30 days of receipt and notify landowners if additional information is needed to complete the processing.
- Process all requests within 60 days of receiving the request in the office.
- Continue providing good customer service to landowners and stakeholders.
- Continue working with the Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and Center for Geographic Information to map parcels in the PA 116 Program in a Geographic Information System.
- Continue working with Michigan Department of Treasury on process improvements for the program.
- Continue developing operational guidance and procedures for the program.
- Complete work on inputting images in the new database.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Michigan farmers
- Agri-businesses
- Consumers of Michigan grown food
- Rural and urban residents who enjoy the open space provided by active farmland

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 361 (Farmland and Open Space Preservation), as amended



Forestry Assistance

PROGRAM MANAGER: John Switzer | 517-284-5606 | SwitzerJ3@michigan.gov

The Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) is designed to help family forest owners manage their forests in an economically beneficial and environmentally sound manner. Conservation district foresters help family forest owners understand the value of actively managed forest resources. They also refer landowners to private sector professionals for management plan development, forest management, timber valuation, and harvests.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Nearly 50 percent of Michigan's 19 million acres of forestland is owned by non-industrial private forestland owners (family forest owners). Family forest owners contribute 64 percent of Michigan's timber supply. The forest products industry contributes more than \$20 billion to the state's economy annually with the potential to contribute much more. Only one-third of the growth of timber on private forestlands is currently being harvested.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Conducted more than 2,000 landowner site visits.
- Referred \$9.7 million in forest management projects for private landowners.
- Completed 74 risk assessments for the MAEAP Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat system.
- Completed 81 American Tree Farm Inspections.
- Delivered 368 outreach events targeted to family forest owners, foresters, and loggers.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2015	2016	2017	2018
Outreach events	346	337	407	368
On-site visits to family forest owners	2,012	2,202	2,037	2,007
Service referrals to the private sector	837	735	864	1,070
Service referrals to the public sector	627	649	663	907
Service referrals for timber harvest	360	295	335	413
Estimated value of referrals (\$M)	8.4	9.8	10.1	9.7
Acres referred to Qualified Forest	77,049	69,535	77,224	62,005

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Increase awareness and enrollment in Michigan’s Qualified Forest Program.
- Conduct 2,000 on-site visits to forest properties.
- Conduct 1,500 referrals to the public and private sectors.
- Host 200 outreach events.
- Complete a master plan document that outlines program mission, vision, values, and strategic priorities for the next 5-10 years.

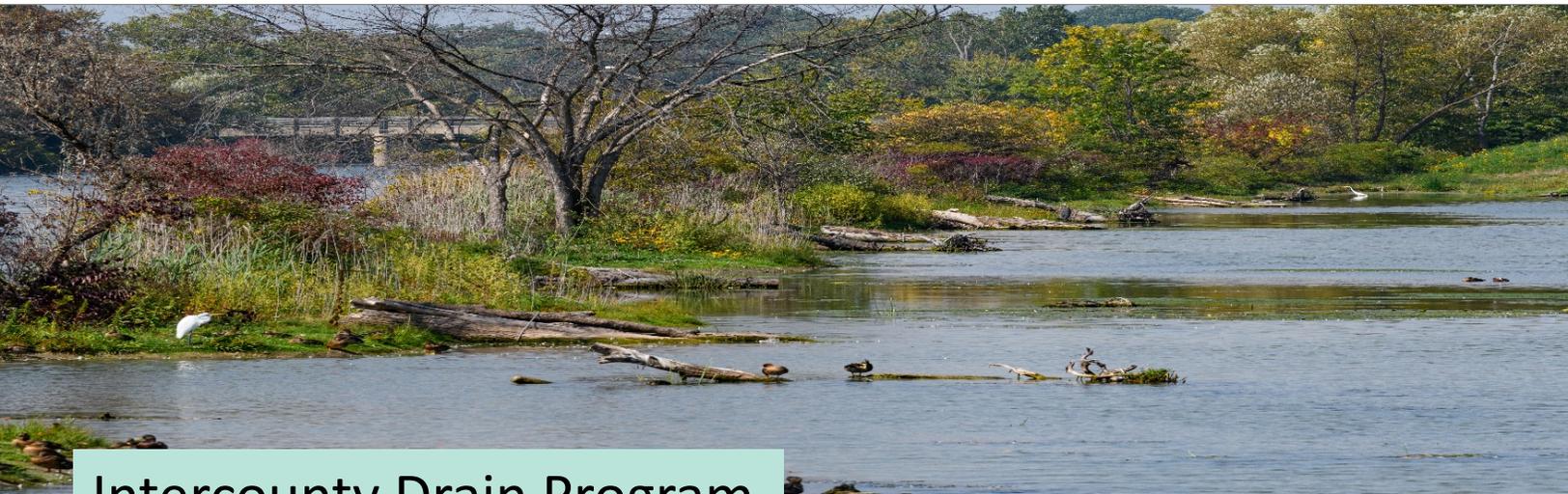


KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Family forest owners
- Private sector professional foresters
- Michigan’s forest products industry
- Local units of government
- Forestry, wildlife, and conservation advocacy groups

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Public Act 59 of 2013, as amended



Intercounty Drain Program

PROGRAM MANAGER: Michael R. Gregg | 517-284-5622 | greggm@michigan.gov

There are more than 1,000 intercounty drainage systems in Michigan with an estimated combined length of more than 6,000 miles, serving approximately six million acres. Each of these drainage systems is governed by a drainage board that administers the proceedings to establish, improve and maintain storm drains and sanitary sewers serving two or more counties under the Michigan Drain Code. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) serves as chair for each of these boards.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

County and intercounty drains are the prerequisite infrastructure for Michigan's economic development. They have played a key role in the development of agriculture, roads and highways, residential, and commercial properties by removing excess soil moisture, reducing flood impacts, and improving public health. Michigan has more than 35,000 miles of legally established "public" drains serving more than 17 million acres of agricultural and urban lands and roadways.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Worked with the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners (MACDC) and the legislature to implement amendments to the Michigan Drain Code. This will improve the transparency and equality of intercounty drain administration that will take affect in 2019. This was a result of the Intercounty Drain Procedures Manual that was completed in 2017.
- Responded to 12 petitions by property and public corporations with an estimated cost of more than \$8.5 million.
- Administered 28 drain projects and dozens of maintenance activities with an estimated combined cost of more than \$90 million.
- Conducted 525 public meetings, including nine public hearings on petitioned projects, which was an increase from 2017.
- Hired one resource analyst and one departmental technician.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Miles of new or improved drains	112	122	120	118	104
Miles of drains maintained	142	131	233	241	213
Acres affected	736,000	785,000	876,000	857,000	825,000
Public meetings chaired	225	288	345	439	525
Project costs	\$85M	\$92M	\$102M	\$94M	\$96M
Counties served	31	33	36	41	38

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Improve the project tracking database, document management, and mapping capacity to conduct and report program output more efficiently.
- Collaborate with MACDC and the Michigan Department of Treasury on updating the Drain Code's financial disbursement procedures.
- Digitize program historic files and maps.
- Initiate the development of a spatial database and Geographic Information System.
- Mentor and integrate new program staff to reduce response time.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- County drain, water resource, and public works commissioners
- Agricultural, residential, commercial property owners
- Cities, villages, and townships
- County road commissions
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

The Drain Code of 1956, Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended, MCL 280.1 et seq.



Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

PROGRAM MANAGER: Joe Kelpinski | 517-284-5608 | kelpinskij@michigan.gov

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is dedicated to helping Michigan's farmers protect the environment in a manner that is performance based and cost effective. MAEAP brings together training, risk assessment, technical assistance, conservation practice support, engineering, cost-share, and agency verification in an industry lead partnership dedicated to pollution prevention. It is a legislated certainty program with incentives for farmers to become verified under the program.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Michigan is surrounded by 20 percent of the world's available fresh water. It is imperative for current and future generations that the most effective water protection strategies are implemented. Michigan's agriculture industry has taken a lead in supporting MAEAP, which is funded primarily by fees on pesticides and agricultural fertilizers.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Collaborated with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Natural Resources to begin implementation of Michigan's Domestic Action Plan to address nutrient loading to the Great Lakes.
- Reached 4,839 verifications statewide, a 12 percent increase from 2017.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2017	2018
Verifications	637	511
Completed risk assessments	1,538	1,678
Sediment stabilized (tons)	163,526	318,337
Phosphorus contained (pounds)	283,487	547,049

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue development and implementation of database to quantify practice implementation.
- Collaborate on water monitoring efforts in Saginaw Bay.
- Work with program partners on sustainability efforts.
- Complete 500 new verifications.
- Complete 550 reverifications.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Farmers and agribusiness
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Commodity groups
- Conservation districts
- Michigan residents

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 82 (Conservation Practices) and Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended
- Public Acts 1 and 2 of 2011, as amended



MAEAP Clean Sweep

PROGRAM MANAGER: Abigail Eaton | 517-284-5612 | eatona@michigan.gov

The Michigan Clean Sweep program helps protect the state's natural resources by facilitating the proper disposal of outdated, unused, or unwanted pesticides. Permanent pesticide drop-off sites operated by local staff and frequently coordinated with local hazardous waste programs have been a key to program success. The state's conservation districts provide technical assistance by arranging special collection events in areas not typically served, expanding the reach of some permanent sites. Pesticide disposal costs are covered by the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The Michigan Clean Sweep program makes it easier for farmers and other homeowners to dispose of pesticides from old barns, basements, homes, and sheds. Investigations of environmental contamination from chemicals can cost tens of millions of dollars, last for many years, and require remediation that may cost more than the investigation. This program helps ensure that the state and its citizens avoid additional costs of accidents, fires, floods, and other disasters.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Collected more than 180,400 pounds of pesticide.
- Maintained an upward trend in collection numbers.
- Satellite collections held in 13 counties.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Clean sweep permanent sites	18	18	18	18	18	17
Pesticides collected (pounds)	127,481	176,970	173,483	179,470	194,039	184,081
Disposal program costs covered (\$)	196,956	240,859	207,520	230,610	200,000	230,952

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Have 18 permanent sites.
- Have 16 satellite collection events coordinated with permanent collection sites.
- Collect and dispose 160,000 pounds of pesticides.
- Streamline collection reporting requirements to reduce recording burden and decrease per pound collection costs for grantees and vendors.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Agriculture industry groups
- Michigan agri-business
- Greenhouse industry
- Residential pesticide users
- Local hazardous waste program

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 82 (Conservation Practices) and Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended
- Public Acts 1 and 2 of 2011, as amended



MAEAP Education for Farmers and Technicians

PROGRAM MANAGER: Joe Kelpinski | 517-284-5608 | kelpinskij@michigan.gov

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is a nationally recognized proactive environmental assurance program serving Michigan's agricultural industry. Interested farmers enter the program through participation in what is known as a MAEAP Phase 1 training event. These local and statewide events provide farmers with information on participation in MAEAP, as well as associated environmental and risk mitigation topics.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Phase 1 events cover environmental practices allowing farmers to qualify for continuing education credits for pesticide use licenses. These events are offered by MAEAP partners, technicians, and online.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed 140 Phase 1 trainings for farmers.
- 13,555 people attended Phase 1 events.
- Enrolled 623 farmers/landowners in MAEAP.
- Held 11 trainings for technicians.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2017	2018
Phase 1 trainings held for farmers	137	140
Attendees at Phase 1 events	7,742	13,555
Farmers/landowners that enrolled in MAEAP	709	623
Trainings held for technician	15	11

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Increase Phase 1 training opportunities through partners and online videos to reach a broader audience.
- Create and deploy a new Employee Development Plan template for conservation district technicians to complete, and identify training needs and opportunities.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Farmers
- MAEAP technicians
- Educational partners

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 82 (Conservation Practices) and Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended, and Public Acts 1 and 2 of 2011, as amended



MAEAP Pesticide Container Recycling

PROGRAM MANAGER: Abigail Eaton | 517-284-5612 | eatona@michigan.gov

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), the Michigan Agri-Business Association, the Ag Container Recycling Council, and G. Phillips and Sons LLC form a partnership designed to promote the proper cleaning and recycling of pesticide containers. Information on proper container rinsing techniques and recycling locations is distributed by the partnership to pesticide users. A network of agribusinesses and conservation districts are available for the collection and recycling of properly cleaned plastic containers into appropriate post-consumer products. Containers up to 56 gallons in size are accepted.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The Michigan Pesticide Container Recycling Program decreases the likelihood that unclean or improperly stored containers will leach pesticide residue into the environment. It also reduces environmental and human health risks by promoting safe container rinsing practices. Plastics can be recycled or converted to other beneficial uses rather than taking up valuable landfill space.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- A total of 216,408 pounds of empty, properly cleaned pesticide containers collected and recycled in 2018. This exceeded 2017 collections by 19 percent and 2016 by 52 percent.
- 43 agribusinesses participated.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pesticide containers recycled (pounds)	115,326	66,281	103,989	175,316	216,408
Agribusinesses collecting containers	40	23	29	43	43

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- MDARD will improve outreach to more agribusinesses to increase participation with G. Phillips & Sons LLC services.
- MDARD, along with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and conservation districts, continues to explore options, to develop a program for collection and recycling of other agricultural plastics. These include silage wrap, mulches, and greenhouse covers.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Agriculture industry groups
- Michigan agri-business
- Greenhouse industry
- Conservation districts
- Ag Container Recycling Council

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended



MAEAP Spill Response

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The Spill Response Program provides technical assistance for agri-chemical and manure spills, including the approval of land application of spilled materials at agronomic rates. Individuals with a pesticide, fertilizer, or manure spill can call the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Spill Response line at 800-405-0101. An agreement between MDARD and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality allows for MDARD to take the lead in the state's response to agri-chemicals and manure. This voluntary program allows agricultural producers to minimize or eliminate environmental contamination resulting from a spill incident.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Michigan's farmers seek to raise food, feed, and fiber in a cost-effective and environmentally sensitive manner. The Spill Response Program provides support to address both aspects when accidents occur. While rare, accidents involving pesticides and/or fertilizers can present significant environmental risk.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Responded to and properly mitigated the impacts of 7 ag-chemical spills.
- 72,000 pounds of spilled products were safely land applied.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2016	2017	2018
Spill incidents reported	8	11	7
Agronomic application of spilled materials (pounds)	480	13,953	72,000
Landfill/incineration of spilled materials (pounds)	2,185	0	330,000

2019 PROGRAM GOAL:

- Improve after action documentation of spill responses with standardized Spill Incident Reporting Form.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Agricultural suppliers and producers
- Environmental advocates and regulators
- Michigan consumers

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Parts 83 (Pesticide Control) and 85 (Fertilizers)



MAEAP Water Monitoring

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Robert Pigg | 517-284-5611 | piggr@michigan.gov

The Water Monitoring Program is the only program in Michigan routinely testing water quality in privately-owned (non-community) water wells. Samples are analyzed for pesticides, volatile organic compounds, and nitrate contamination. Well owners with results indicating a water quality problem are provided with information on risks and steps to take to verify water quality safety. If a groundwater contamination problem is identified, the program works with local landowners to determine the extent and severity of the problem. In some cases, financial assistance can be provided for alternate water supplies.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Pesticide contamination of groundwater has been detected at 104 of 4,764 sites sampled by the program in Michigan, or 2.2 percent of the sites sampled. Elevated nitrate levels have been identified at 17 percent of private sites tested for nitrate, and half of these contain nitrates above public drinking water standards. Contaminant concentrations in groundwater indicate the need for improving pesticide and fertilizer management by both homeowners and agriculture.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Continued work on a privately funded multi-year research study evaluating the impact of the newly registered pesticide isoxaflutole, which included hosting a project update.
- Worked with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality colleagues to determine locations for surface water monitoring of nutrient loads in several Michigan tributaries to the Western Lake Erie Basin.
- Worked with the newly-formed multi-agency Michigan Water Quality Workgroup.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
MDEQ or MDARD Analytical Lab Analysis					
Wells Sampled	99	130	84	94	114
Pesticide Detections	2	1	1	3	1
Pesticide > Drinking Water Standards	0	0	0	0	0
Nitrate Elevated between 5 and 10 ppm	5	8	5	7	8
Nitrate over Drinking Water Standard of 10 ppm	9	8	5	8	4
Screening with Test Strips					
Water Screenings	575	707	932	567	825
Nitrate Elevated between 5 and 10 ppm	44	53	44	33	69
Nitrate over Drinking Water Standard of 10 ppm	58	46	67	47	54
*Households Notified of Drinking Water Risks	118	116	122	98	136

- Equals the total of pesticide detections and all nitrate detections over 5 parts per million (ppm)
- Nitrate levels reported as NO₃-N (Nitrate as N)

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Conduct at least one online and one in-person training in well monitoring procedures.
- Work with state colleagues and supervisors, university researchers, and commodity groups to evaluate monitoring for neonicotinoid pesticides in Michigan groundwater and surface water.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Domestic well owners and users
- Pesticide and nitrogen fertilizer users
- Pesticide registrants
- Local health departments
- State and federal partner agencies

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 87 (Groundwater and Freshwater Protection), as amended



MAEAP Water Use Reporting

PROGRAM MANAGER: Abigail Eaton | 517-284-5612 | eatona@michigan.gov

The Water Use Reporting Program requires all water users having a capacity to withdraw water quantities of 100,000 gallons per day or greater to report their use on an annual basis. Agricultural users report to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at no cost. All other industries report to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for a fee. Water users are required to submit their annual reports to the State of Michigan by April 1 of the following year.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

On December 13, 2005, the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Annex 2001), implementing agreements to provide unprecedented protections for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin. Annex 2001 stipulates that within five years of the effective date, each state will create a program for the management and regulation of new or increased large withdrawals to ensure an effective and efficient water management program. The Water Use Reporting Program is Michigan's solution to meeting Annex 2001.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Managed reporting for approximately 1,910 user accounts, representing 3,879 farms reporting water use for more than 10,761 large capacity pumps.
- Worked with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget to finalize and rollout an updated user and administrative database. The new database will allow for transfer requests and better tracking of changes in pump ownership and leasing, providing continuity in withdrawal history.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Users submitting water use on-line	1,416	1,452	1,457	1,463	1,430
Pumps reported	7,579	7,996	8,207	8371	8637
Withdrawal from groundwater (%)	76	77	76	77	77
Withdrawal from surface water (%)	24	23	24	23	23
Irrigated acres reported	533,160	553,889	566,112	595,576	598,311
Water withdrawal (billion gallons)	109	98	105	127	129
Water withdrawal (acre feet)	333,183	302,120	322,651	385,460	399,490

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Assist users in the transition to the new reporting database.
- Work on historical backlog of pump transfer requests and edits that could not be addressed in the previous reporting system.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Agricultural large quantity water use operations
- State governors and premiers of Canadian provinces in the Great Lakes Basin
- Great Lakes Commission
- Agriculture industry groups
- International Joint Commission
- Conservation Districts

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 327 (Great Lakes Preservation), as amended



Migrant Labor Housing

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The Migrant Labor Housing Program is designed to ensure the safety of housing occupied by five or more migrant agricultural workers. Licensure indicates safe water supplies, fire and structural safety, proper sanitation facilities, proper food preparation, storage facilities, and waste treatment and disposal.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Migrant workers play an important role in the planting, cultivating, harvesting and packaging of 38 labor-intensive crops grown in Michigan. These crops generate \$2.3 billion in farm gate revenues each year. Quality housing is needed to retain Michigan's reputation as a good place to work and attract this much needed seasonal workforce.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed 752 housing inspections for farmers participating in the H2A guest worker program. This expanding effort represents a 24 percent increase over 2017.
- Supported a legislative amendment to Part 117 of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act allowing farmers to move portable toilets in the field along with their workers without a license from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Program staff also established a model sanitation plan for farmers to use and reference as part of this exemption.
- Staff continued to develop an electronic inspection system for use in 2019 licensing season.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Applications					
Not Opening	50	76	43	200	77
Opening	784	798	833	853	871
Inspections					
Licensing	971	1,014	1,136	1,132	1,110
H2A	88	157	305	608	752
CAP-Follow up	108	357	480	558	510
Occupancy	713	718	820	830	843
Enforcement	4	3	12	10	2
Plan Review	44	84	154	180	111
Total*	1,771	1,934	2,401	2,443	2,236
Licensing					
Camps	772	774	801	811	840
Units	3,836	3,944	4,147	4,046	4,278
Capacity	23,583	24,100	24,862	25,054	26,166

* Inspections cover multiple components of camp operation. The total is less than the sum of the individual components.

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Fully implement new inspection system.
- Improve model housing plans supporting reduced cost/modular building technologies.
- Continue effort on document management to automate and expedite licensing.
- Update and improve program webpage.

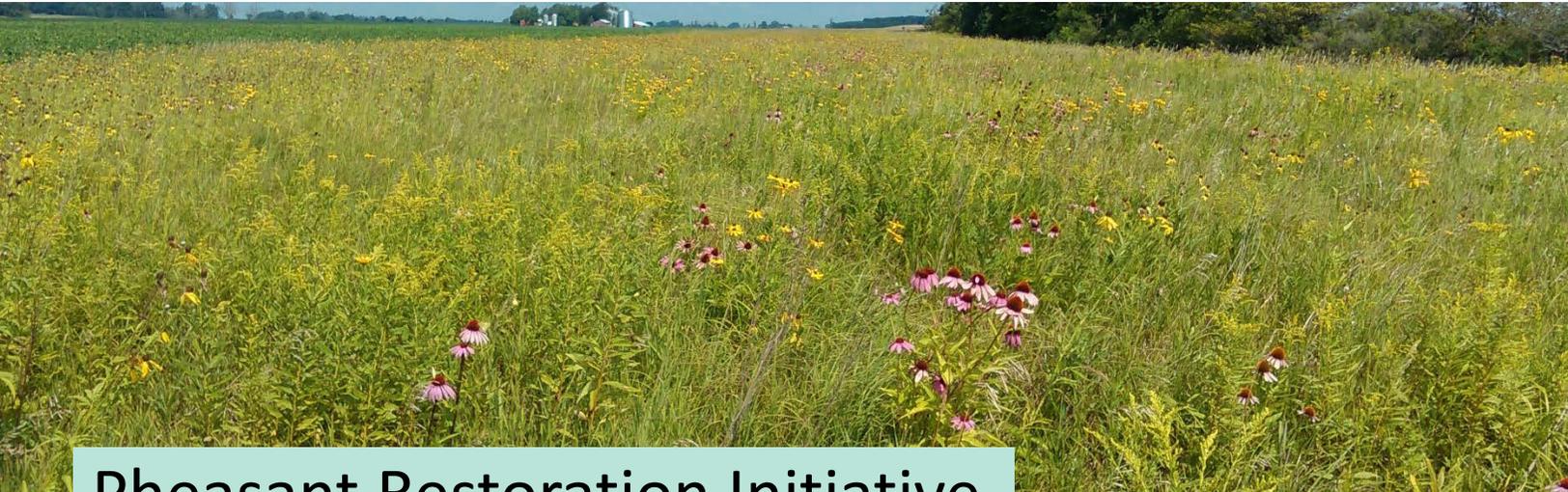


KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Fruit and vegetable growers
- Migrant farm workers and advocates
- Consumer of fresh fruits and vegetables
- H2A guest workers program

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Public Health Code, Public Act 368, 1978, Part 124, as amended.



Pheasant Restoration Initiative

PROGRAM MANAGER: John Switzer | 517-284-5606 | switzerj3@michigan.gov

The Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI) is a conservation initiative to restore and enhance Michigan pheasant habitat, populations, and hunting opportunities on private and public lands. The initiative is implemented through collaboration between the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, United States Department of Agriculture, Michigan Conservation Districts and various non-governmental organizations.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Pheasants rely on high-quality grasslands and agricultural areas for adequate cover and food resources throughout their life. Changes in agriculture practices, urbanization, and reforestation have contributed to their declining numbers. Migratory bird and upland game hunting account for nearly \$72.5 million in retail sales in Michigan. Grasslands and wetlands restored through the initiative reduce sediment and nutrient delivery by as much as 75 percent.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Assisted 960 landowners implement wildlife habitat enhancing conservation practices on 27,562 acres of private lands.
- Aided with the enrollment and implementation of 12,318 acres of conservation practices beneficial to monarch and pheasant habitat through the USDA State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement program.
- Assisted with 261 acres of habitat improvement through wildlife habitat grant projects.
- Delivered over \$900,000 in financial assistance to landowners through federal Farm Bill programs.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2016	2017	2018
Conservation District Technical Staff Employed	8	9	9
Counties Served	16	14	14
Conservation Plans Developed	365	175	469
Acres of Conservation Practices Implemented	9,366	8,043	27,562
Field Days and Outreach Events	89	81	79
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	82,000	43,000	32,584
Acres improved - Wildlife Habitat Grants Projects	1,520	574	261
Pheasant Cooperatives	11	12	12
Hunting Access Program Farms Assisted	32	72	50

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Maintain Farm Bill Biologist assistance in priority counties.
- Maintain landowner cooperatives (co-ops) and support habitat improvements activities on co-op lands.
- Assist 125 landowners implement 5,000 acres of wildlife friendly conservation practices on private lands.
- Increase hunter recruitment and retention through education, outreach and hunting events.
- Increase access to quality pheasant hunting on both public and private lands.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Michigan's hunting community, especially pheasant hunters
- Michigan landowners
- Federal and state partnering agencies
- Conservation districts

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 93 (Soil Conservation Districts), as amended



Qualified Forest Program

PROGRAM MANAGER: Rich Harlow | 517-284-5627 | harlowr@michigan.gov

The Qualified Forest Program (QFP) provides a property tax exemption for private landowners who actively manage their forestland for commercial harvest. The goal of the program is to fuel regional economies through timber harvest and individual tax savings.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

More than 10 million acres of forested land in Michigan is owned by “non-industrial” private landowners. These lands are currently harvested at one-third the rate of forest growth. Consequently, millions of dollars of timber that could be harvested is going unutilized. By helping landowners manage their forestland, it is estimated that the QFP will stimulate more than 900 additional forestry-related jobs, \$195 million in business revenue, and \$44 million in labor income.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Enrolled 52,930 new acres, bringing total participation to 497,745 acres.
- Passed Public Act 672 of 2018, increasing the current limitation of 1,200,000 acres of qualified forest property that can be exempted to 2,500,000 acres--eliminating the cap on the number of acres that may be enrolled per local unit of government; clarifying the intent to bring wood products to market; and improving the administration of the program.
- Improved the functionality of the current database to provide meaningful data to partners in forestry.
- QFP and Forestry Assistance Program staff are continuing collaborative marketing efforts to landowners that may be eligible for program enrollment, based on acreage and property classification. Targeted efforts resulted in a 15 percent response rate from potential QFP landowners.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Applications Submitted	637	702	704	681	617
Forest Management Plans Received	669	647	547	587	546
Acres from Commercial Forest (DNR)	8,557	8,191	1,227	1,772	1,512
New Acreage Enrolled	73,065	81,875	80,851	77,224	55,409
Cumulative Acres Enrolled	217,223	299,099	367,593	427,959	483,368
Harvested Wood Products (cords)	19,585	67,091	381,401	112,298	275,402
Harvested Timber Value (dollars)	600,000	2,885,998	3,706,610	3,143,995	5,636,097
Revenue Received from 2 Mill Fee	131,687	203,142	278,775	342,114	-n/a-

n/a- Revenue received in 2018 does not reflect winter taxes which are collected in February 2019.

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Increase enrollment in the QFP by 100,000 acres for the 2020 tax year.
- Improve database to accommodate legislative changes to increase acres per unit of government, and to improve efficiencies in processing time of applications and data management.
- Continue working with Forestry Assistance Program staff and other marketing partners on a targeted marketing campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of the QFP.
- Meet with forestry stakeholders and local units of government to discuss QFP, participation benefits, and encourage collaborative efforts within the public and private sectors.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Private forestland owners
- Forest plan writers
- Commercial foresters
- Conservation district foresters
- Forest products industry

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- MCL 211.7jj[1] (general provisions)
- MCL 211.1033 (recapture tax imposition)
- MCL 211.1034 (recapture tax rate)
- MCL 324.51305 (private forest land enhancement fund)
- MCL 324.51306 (qualified foresters)
- MCL 380.1211 (exemption of qualified forest property)
- MCL 211.1091-211.1101 (transitional qualified forest)



Right to Farm Complaint Response

PROGRAM MANAGER: Ben Tirrell | 517-284-5618 | tirrellb@michigan.gov

The Right to Farm (RTF) program responds to nuisance complaints involving farms. Program staff evaluate farm activities to decide whether a farm is following the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). GAAMPs are guidelines for good farm management that also help promote a positive image of Michigan agriculture.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Right to Farm Complaint Response assists in resolving nuisance issues related to farming operations. This promotes environmental protection, improved quality of life for non-farm rural residents, and a strong and stable agricultural industry.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Developed and implemented a streamlined complaint response process.
- Decreased the time of complaint resolution by approximately 66 percent.
- Closed approximately 60 old complaint cases during the current fiscal year
- Responded to complaints, which were above the five-year average.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2017	2018
New complaints received	107	176
Initial inspections conducted within seven business days	85%	90%
On-farm investigations	168	251
Complaint cases closed	88	250

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Improve customer service and communication.
- Implement a new inspection data handling system.
- Attempt 100 percent of initial inspections within seven business days, with an average response of three days or less.
- Work with all stakeholders to understand and promote the Right to Farm Act, as well as implementing GAAMPs on Michigan farms.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Michigan farmers
- Non-farm rural residents
- Local governments
- Commodity organizations
- State and federal conservation and environmental agencies

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Michigan Right to Farm Act, Public Act 93 of 1981, as amended



Right to Farm GAAMPs Revision

PROGRAM MANAGER: Ben Tirrell | 517-284-5618 | TirrellB@michigan.gov

The Michigan Right to Farm Act provides broad definitions of a farm, farm operation, farm products, as well as a process for the development and adoption of Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). GAAMPs are developed by technical advisory review committees and presented to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development for review and approval. The GAAMPs cover the following:

- Manure Management and Utilization
- Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control
- Nutrient Utilization
- Care of Farm Animals
- Cranberry Production
- Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities
- Irrigation Water Use
- Farm Markets

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

GAAMPs define socially and environmentally responsible farming practices used as the basis for conformance under the Right to Farm Act. Conformance with GAAMPs can be used as an affirmative defense against nuisance litigation. The number of task force meetings on each set of GAAMPs provides an indicator of the frequency of use, as well as updates needed.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Initiated annual reviews of all eight GAAMPs.
- Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development staff participated in each GAAMPs review committee meetings.
- A public input meeting was conducted on October 29, 2018, to receive feedback and input on all draft GAAMPs.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Review Meetings Held	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Manure Management and Utilization	1	3	2	1	2
Pesticide Use and Pest Control	0	0	0	0	0
Nutrient Utilization	1	2	0	0	0
Care of Farm Animals	1	0	1	1	1
Cranberry Production	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock Site Selection	2	5	5	2	4
Irrigation Water Use	0	0	0	0	1
Farm Markets	0	0	0	0	0

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Implement a more active and technology-driven GAAMPs review process.
- Facilitate review committee operations by collecting public input, providing on-farm context, and supporting committee activities.
- Improve formatting, consistency and accessibility of the GAAMPs.
- Create guidance documents for public use in implementing GAAMPs standards.
- Provide information on MDARD's administration of the GAAMPs to the Commission.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Michigan farmers and commodity organizations
- State and locally elected officials
- Michigan State University and AgBioResearch
- State and federal conservation and environmental agencies

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Michigan Right to Farm Act, Public Act 93 of 1981, as amended

The logo for GAAMPs (Green Agriculture Assessment and Management Program) features the word "GAAMPs" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. A stylized green leaf is integrated into the letter 'P'. Below the text, there are several curved, parallel green lines that resemble a field or a stylized wave.



Right to Farm Proactive Review

PROGRAM MANAGER: Ben Tirrell | 517-284-5618 | TirrellB@michigan.gov

The Right to Farm Program can assist farms of all sizes by reviewing the farm operation's conformance with Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). The most intensive portion of this activity is in the siting of livestock facilities. This service is designed to help farmers properly plan, site, build, and maintain new and expanding livestock facilities. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development works with the farm to evaluate all applicable management practices and facility designs, as well as the proximity to non-farm neighbors and existing land use considerations.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

On-farm production agriculture is the foundation of Michigan's \$117 billion food and agriculture industry, with livestock facilities generating more than \$3.3 billion in annual cash receipts. Yet, there are increasing social and environmental concerns regarding agricultural production in Michigan, especially animal agriculture. Right to Farm proactive reviews allow the industry sector to grow in a responsible way that minimizes nuisance to non-farm neighbors.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Implemented a more consistent and streamlined review process.
- Processed 65 total applications, including 15 for livestock production facilities.
- Responded to 49 applications from small/non-livestock operations, nearly double the average in the past year.
- Livestock facilities approved in 2018 will annually generate:
 - \$10.2 million in economic activity
 - \$1.9 million in earnings for farm households
 - 63 ongoing full-time jobs
 - \$500,000 in additional tax revenues

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Site Selection Requests	58	46	50	49	15
New facilities	22	13	25	25	7
Expanding facilities	36	33	25	24	8
Final Approvals by Species					
Dairy	23	19	10	22	4
Swine	18	8	20	17	6
Poultry	7	16	18	9	3
Beef	6	3	1	0	2
Other	3	0	1	2	0
Small/Non-Livestock Reviews	10	37	23	30	49

2019 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue developing standardized application templates.
- Complete initial reviews for all new proactive requests within 20 business days.
- Increase education, outreach, and guidance to the agricultural industry on GAAMPs, including those for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Michigan farmers
- Non-farm rural residents
- Local governments
- Commodity organizations

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Michigan Right to Farm Act, Public Act 93 of 1981, as amended