



Bureau of Environment and Sustainability

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Conservation District Operations

PROGRAM MANAGER: John Switzer | 517-881-5172 | SwitzerJ3@Michigan.gov

Michigan's conservation districts are local units of government that utilize local, state, federal, and private sector resources to deliver conservation programming designed to address today's agricultural and natural resource challenges. MDARD partners with conservation districts to provide local delivery of following programs to help protect and conserve Michigan's natural resources, including Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, Forestry Assistance Program, Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative, Michigan Produce Safety Program, and Michigan Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The overall impact of Michigan's food and agriculture industry on the state's economy exceeds \$104.7 billion annually. The sustainable use of our soil, water, and forest resources is critical to ensuring the future of our agriculture and forest products industry.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Developed an improved grant progress review process to better inform program managers and grantees of progress towards deliverables, program successes, and challenges.
- Completed 223 grant progress review evaluations.
- Provided 171 instances of operational capacity building assistance to conservation districts.
- Attended 184 conservation district board meetings.
- Provided grant program delivery support to 74 conservation districts who collectively received more than \$9.9 million in grant funding for the delivery of MDARD programs.
- Established an official retention schedule for conservation district records.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Number of conservation districts	75	75
Number of district managers	73	73
Total district staff (full-time employees and seasonal staff)	317	300
Number of districts receiving ESD grants	74*	74*
Total number of grants to districts	172	172
Value of grants to districts (millions)	\$9.83	\$9.94
Grant program progress reviews	259	223
Conservation district board meetings attended	242	184
Conservation district employee search and selection assistance	37	46
Conservation district capacity building assistance	219	171
District employee development assistance	88	99

**Macomb Conservation District was nonfunctional and unable to execute their operations grant.*

2024 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Support the implementation of operational and technical assistance grants to conservation districts.
- Implement an improved grant progress review process, providing better feedback to program managers and grantees.
- Expand training resources and opportunities for conservation district directors and staff.
- Seek opportunities for collaboration within the Bureau of Environment and Sustainability to better meet programmatic goals and grantees’ needs.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Conservation district directors and staff
- 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 Reserve Enhancement Program

PROGRAM MANAGER: John Switzer | 517-881-5172 | SwitzerJ3@Michigan.gov

Michigan's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a partnership with the federal government to implement conservation practices that improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat for fish and wildlife, and enhance nesting for upland birds and mammals within the Lake Macatawa, Saginaw Bay, and Western Lake Erie Basin watersheds in Michigan. Michigan's CREP agreement was initially approved on July 14, 2000, but suspended on March 15, 2016, due to a lack of state funding for its commitments required under the agreement. On March 13, 2022, a revised Michigan CREP agreement was reinstated, and enrollment was re-opened in April 2022.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Michigan's CREP was created to help protect our environment and wildlife by implementing focused conservation practices that improve water quality and benefit wildlife in priority areas of the state. State funding is leveraged to bring in federal funding which provides cost-share assistance to establish conservation practices and annual land rental payments. Farmers and other landowners agree to maintain the practices for 15 years. The benefits of Michigan's CREP go beyond the state's borders by helping to maintain the purity of the Great Lakes, which make up 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Enrollment of 423 new acres and 964 re-enrolled acres totaling 1,387 acres contracted in Fiscal Year 2023.
- \$682,299 in state funding leveraged to bring \$3,679,146 of federal funding into Michigan's rural economy.
- Estimated annual reduction of 20,875 tons of sediment reaching rivers and streams.
- Estimated annual reduction of 30,438 pounds of phosphorus reaching rivers and streams.
- Estimated annual reduction of 92,740 pounds of nitrogen reaching rivers and streams.
- Estimated 17,595 metric tons carbon sequestered annually.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Number of new acres enrolled	Not reported*	423.3
Number of acres re-enrolled	Not reported*	963.9
Total acres under contract	20,239.0	18,895.5
Total number of contracts	Not reported*	1,661
Total State cost share and sign-up incentives paid	\$0*	\$136,799.07
Total State funded in-kind support	\$518,510.99	\$545,500.28
Total Federal cost share and sign-up incentives paid	\$0*	\$63,612
Total Federal land rental payments issued	\$3,590,017	\$3,615,534
Estimated annual reduction of sediment reaching streams	Not reported*	20,875 tons
Estimated annual reduction of phosphorus reaching streams	Not reported*	30,438 pounds
Estimated annual reduction of nitrogen reaching streams	Not reported*	92,740 pounds
Estimated annual amount of carbon sequestered	Not reported*	17,595 metric tons

**The Michigan CREP was re-opened for enrollment in April 2022 after being suspended since 2016. Over 1,100 acres were enrolled in Fiscal Year 2022, but those contracts did not take effect until Fiscal Year 2023 and are not reported here.*

2024 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue to promote CREP enrollment to meet the agreement goal and enrollment cap of 80,000 acres.
- Revise the Michigan CREP agreement to make programmatic improvements and add new practices.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

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



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 residents better understand, plan, manage, protect, and utilize their natural resources.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The engineering and construction oversight provided by CTAI brought in \$18.7 million of federal funds 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.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- CTAI employees helped to implement 62 different types of conservation practices.
- 1,654 conservation practices were designed or implemented across 45 Michigan counties.
- More than \$18.7 million was made available for Michigan landowners to implement conservation practices.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Counties served	46	46	37	33	45
Engineering staff (FTEs)	5	5	5	5	4
Soil conservationists (FTEs)	9	9	9	9	10
Practices designed or implemented	975	1,129	1,089	1,349	1,654
Federal cost-share (millions)	\$10.8	\$10.2	\$11.4	\$12.3	\$18.7

**Full-time employees (FTEs)*

2024 PROGRAM GOALS:

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

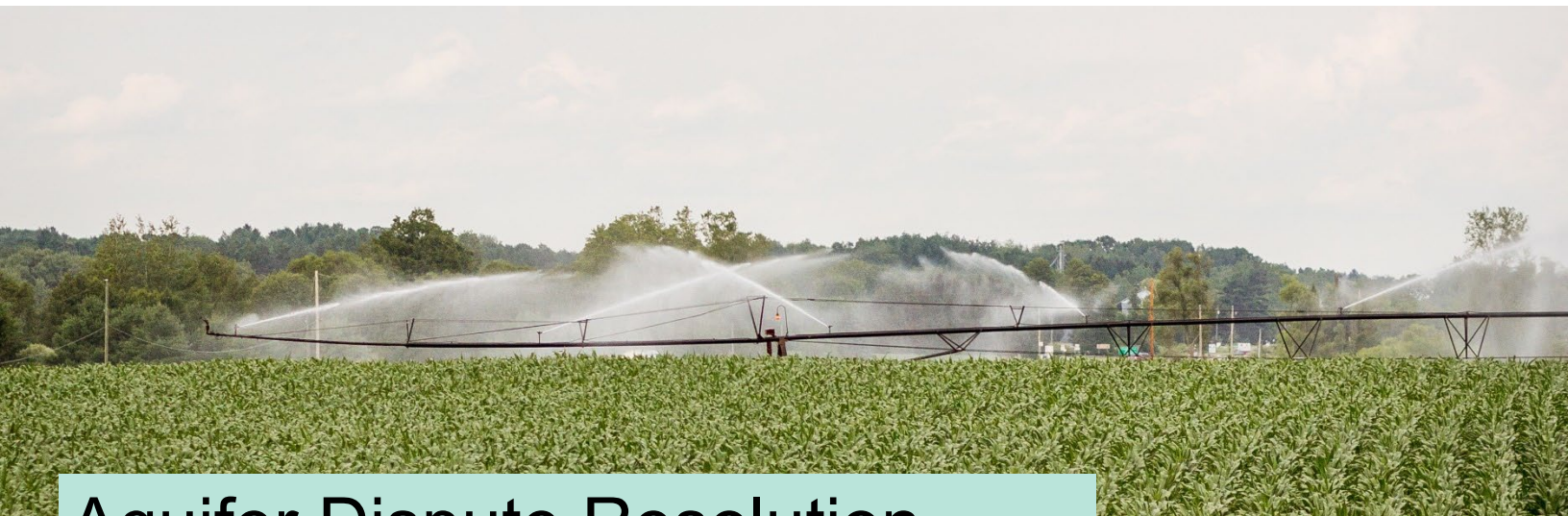


KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- 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



Aquifer Dispute Resolution

PROGRAM MANAGER: Michael Wozniak | 517-285-1752 | WozniakM1@Michigan.gov

The Aquifer Dispute Resolution program allows small quantity well owners to file complaints with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) 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 the Common Law/Riparian Doctrine. The burden of proof in these legal cases can be expensive and lengthy.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Three complaints were filed. One complainant closed without reimbursement and two complaints remain under investigation.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Complaints filed	1	1	1	10	3
Informally facilitated remedies	0	0	0	4	1
Resolved/closed conflicts	1	0	1	8	1
Open complaints	0	0	0	2	2
Unresolved/disputed complaints	0	0	0	1	1
Number of invalid complaints	1	1	1	3	1
Cost to producers for resolution (dollars)	\$0	\$0	\$6,680	\$4,000*	\$0
Wells replaced or improved	0	0	1	1	2

**Estimated amount*

2024 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Implement a robust aquifer dispute resolution tracking process.
- Train more staff to respond to program-related complaints.
- Continue to work with EGLE to develop better methods of obtaining information on potential drawdown impacts of large quantity withdrawals (requiring Geographic Information System) to better meet the required response timeline.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Small quantity well owners
- High capacity well owners
- Private well drillers and pump installers
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

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



Spill Response

PROGRAM MANAGER: Michael Wozniak | 517-285-1752 | WozniakM1@Michigan.gov

The Spill Response Program provides technical assistance for agrichemical 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 Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy allows for MDARD to take the lead in the state's response to agrichemical and manure spills. 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.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Received and triaged 46 calls.
- Responded and mitigated the impacts of 22 agrichemical spills.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Spill incidents reported	7	8	4	13	22
After action reviews completed	7	8	4	12	13
Agronomic application of spilled materials (pounds)	13,200	80,680	417,850	38,022	*83,500
Landfill/incineration of spilled materials (pounds)	3,895	0	0	568	**68,000

**Agronomic application of spilled materials are largely comprised of manure and manure contaminated fill.*

***Landfill and incineration of spilled materials are largely comprised of fertilizers, pesticides mixed with fuel or non-agronomic additives in accidents and cleaning.*

2024 PROGRAM GOAL:

- Conduct after-action interviews within 30 days of each incident.
- Conduct outreach to non-department personnel to bring awareness to the program.
- Conduct training for personnel throughout MDARD involved in spill responses to ensure consistency.



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)



Right to Farm Biosolids

PROGRAM MANAGER: Michael Wozniak | 517-284-5618 | WozniakM1@Michigan.gov

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Steve Mahoney | 517-930-2966 | MahoneyS@Michigan.gov

Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic materials resulting from the controlled treatment of sewage sludge. Due to this controlled treatment, biosolids can be safely recycled and applied to farm fields for crop production as fertilizers. While regulated by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), 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 \$10 million each year in fertilizer costs. It also reduces municipal sewage treatment waste disposal costs by about \$8 million each year.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 90,239 dry tons of biosolids were applied on farmland, with a fertilizer value of \$15.5 million.
- Assisted with planning the 2023 Biosolids Conference.
- Published two *Amendments* newsletters.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Biosolids applied (dry tons)	64,000	68,000	86,000	89,000	90,239
Biosolids application area (estimated acres)	21,300	22,700	32,000	29,700	30,000
Nitrogen used as fertilizer (estimated tons)	2,560	3,750	4,760	4,900	4,950
Phosphorus used as fertilizer (estimated tons P ₂ O ₅)	3,170	2,040	2,590	2,680	2,710
Potassium used as fertilizer (estimated tons K ₂ O)	278	200	250	260	263
Farm value as fertilizer* (N-P ₂ O ₅ -K ₂ O) (approximate millions)	\$6.4	\$7.0	\$15.5	\$14.2	\$12.4
Biosolids Conference Participants	155	165	112	119	146

**The estimated value of nutrients applied had the producer purchased them in the form of synthetic fertilizers.*

2024 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Provide education and information 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 2024 Michigan Biosolids Conference.
- Work with AgroLiquid staff to establish and maintain a biosolids demonstration plot.
- Work with Michigan State University Extension, MWEA, EGLE, and Michigan Farm Bureau to provide education and technical assistance to persons involved in or affected by land application of biosolids.
- Develop new educational materials.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Michigan Water Environment Association
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Michigan State University Extension
- Michigan Townships Association
- Conservation districts
- Local crop producers

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

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



Right to Farm Complaint Response

PROGRAM MANAGER: Michael Wozniak | 517-284-5618 | WozniakM1@Michigan.gov

The Right to Farm (RTF) program responds to nuisance complaints involving farms. Program staff evaluate farm activities to determine whether a farm is following the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). GAAMPs are guidelines for good farm management promoting 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 improved on-farm stewardship practices, improved quality of life for non-farm rural residents, and a strong and stable agricultural industry.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Conducted 246 complaint response investigations and received 178 new complaints.
- Overhauled the RTF website for better organization and focus on resources for producers and complainants.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New complaints received	193	136	163	156	178
Initial inspections conducted within 7 business days	86%	81%	84%	85%	82%
On-farm investigations	227	250	213	200	246
Complaint cases closed	173	127	159	142	169

2024 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Initial inspection conducted to over 85 percent within seven business days.
- Continue to develop resources for producers to meet conformance with the GAAMPs.
- Work with all stakeholders to understand the Right to Farm Act.
- Work with Michigan farmers to promote the implementation of GAAMPs.



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: Michael Wozniak | 517-284-5618 | WozniakM1@Michigan.gov

The Michigan Right to Farm Act provides broad definitions of a farm, its operations, and 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 approval. The GAAMPs cover the following:

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

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.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

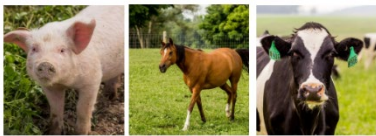
- Initiated annual reviews of all eight GAAMPs.
- Revised GAAMPs documents, including formatting enhancements.
- A public input meeting was conducted on August 25, 2023, to receive feedback and input on all draft GAAMPs.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Review Meetings Held	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Manure Management and Utilization	2	2	3	2	2	1
Pesticide Use and Pest Control	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nutrient Utilization	0	0	0	1	0	0
Care of Farm Animals	1	1	1	1	2	2
Cranberry Production	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock Site Selection	4	2	8	5	2	8
Irrigation Water Use	1	2	0	1	0	0
Farm Markets	0	1	3	1	1	1

2024 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Increase consistency between GAAMPs documents.
- Identify ambiguous language across GAAMPs.
- Continue to improve facilitation of the review process by offering additional trainings, information, and technical support to the review committees.
- Develop a Greenhouse GAAMP.
- Update the Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities GAAMP.



Generally Accepted Agricultural and
Management Practices for Manure
Management and Utilization

2022
Michigan Commission of Agriculture & Rural
Development
PO BOX 30017
Lansing, MI 48909



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



Right to Farm Proactive Review

PROGRAM MANAGER: Michael Wozniak | 517-284-5618 | WozniakM1@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 \$104.7 billion food and agriculture industry, with livestock facilities generating more than \$8.2 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.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Processed 118 total applications, including 15 for livestock production facilities.
- Responded to 103 applications from small/non-livestock operations, a new program record high.
- Proactive reviews approved in 2023 will annually generate:
 - \$48.7 million in economic activity
 - \$8.8 million in earnings for farm households
 - 549 ongoing full-time jobs
 - \$2.4 million in additional tax revenues

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New Site Selection Requests	15	6	8	12	4	15
New facilities	7	2	3	8	1	5
Expanding facilities	8	4	5	4	3	10
Siting Appeals Received	2	0	0	0	0	1
Siting Determinations Upheld on Appeal	2	0	0	0	0	1
Final Approvals by Species						
Dairy	4	2	0	0	1	1
Swine	6	7	1	6	2	1
Poultry	3	5	3	6	1	3
Beef	2	0	0	0	2	1
Other	0	0	0	0	2	1
Small/Non-Livestock Reviews	49	52	50	57	76	103

2024 PROGRAM GOALS:

- Complete initial reviews for all new small farm proactive requests within 20 business days.
- Develop helpful management plan templates for small/non-livestock proactive reviews.
- Implement a process for review and adoption of innovative odor control technologies for new and expanding livestock production facilities.
- 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.
- Continue to develop resources to assist technicians, consultants, and landowners submit conformance review applications.
- Establish a Greenhouse GAAMP.



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

Plant Health Certification and Export

PROGRAM MANAGERS:

AMBER NEILS | 517-449-0786 | NeilsA@Michigan.gov

ANDRIA MCCUBBIN | 517-599-5748 | MccubbinA@Michigan.gov

The Plant Health Certification and Export Program helps prevent the introduction and dissemination of serious insects and diseases injurious to nursery stock and plant products through inspections and outreach. The program also facilitates the trade of nursery stock, plant products, and agricultural commodities to and from other states and countries through inspections and oversight of systems-approach programs that advance detection, eradication, and control of plant pests and diseases.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The Plant Health Certification and Export Program works to prevent the introduction of plant pests and invasive species, protects Michigan's agricultural and natural resources, promotes domestic and international commerce, minimizes pest control costs, and promotes tourism and outdoor recreational industries.

Certification ensures that shipment of plant-based commodities to other states and countries is successful. Nursery stock producers generate over \$290 million in annual sales and distribute over 50 percent of their products to other states. In addition, holiday tree certification allows growers to ship trees to markets outside of Michigan, an industry which has an annual farm gate value of \$27 million. Michigan consumers also benefit by having nursery stock free of pests and diseases.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Assisted firms in the enrollment of new and existing systems-approach programs that open new markets and reduce costs.
- Quickly prescribed compliance actions in response to new pests of concerns in receiving states, facilitating the safe movement of plant material out of the area.
- Increased enforcement action on firms shipping material into Michigan in violation of Michigan's exterior plant pest quarantines.
- Fully implemented an interior quarantine to slow the spread of Box Tree Moth, a newly introduced, destructive landscape pest of both federal and state concern.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Nursery Stock Growers Inspected	552	419
Nursery Stock Dealers Inspected	857	240
Export Certificates Issued	5,804	6,622
Christmas Tree Fields Inspected	162	161

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue to expand the use of a risk-based approach to nursery stock inspections by updating policies and procedures promoting uniform inspections focusing on harmful pests and diseases threatening Michigan nurseries and the environment.
- Strengthen communications to industries and consumers to raise awareness about available programs to increase efficiency, ensure timely service, and reach all stakeholders that can benefit.
- Expand certification options for Michigan's green industry to facilitate more consistent and effective plant pest control.
- Modernize regulations surrounding the exchange of plants and related products to ensure that the environment is safeguarded in the context of increasing global trade.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Nursery stock growers and dealers
- Fruit and vegetable producers
- Hay, straw, grain, log, and lumber exporters
- Christmas tree growers
- Greenhouse/floriculture growers
- Apiarists
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- The public

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- The Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act, PA 189 of 1931, as amended
- Insect Pests and Plant Diseases, PA 72 of 1945

Invasive Pest Detection and Response

PROGRAM MANAGER:

ROBERT MILLER | 517-614-0454 | MillerR35@Michigan.gov

SUSANNAH IOTT | 517-420-0473 | Iotts@Michigan.gov

The Invasive Pest Detection and Response Program focuses on the early detection of invasive species and management of these pests. Early detection, pathway analysis, inspections, and outreach programs are essential to the successful eradication or containment of invasive pest populations. Sustained monitoring programs keep national and international markets open to Michigan-produced agricultural and forest commodities.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN

Michigan is home to numerous agricultural industries, producing more than 300 commodities on a commercial basis. The Port of Detroit is one of the busiest commercial border crossing in the world, placing Michigan at exceptional risk for the introduction, establishment, and impacts of invasive pests. Left undetected and unmanaged, these pests can reduce agricultural yields, increase input costs, lower the volume and quality of timber, reduce forest biodiversity, imperil threatened and endangered species, and impact property values.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Responded using Incident Command System to the detection of the destructive forest pest, balsam woolly adelgid, in Oceana and Missaukee counties. Response efforts include survey, and industry outreach including Christmas tree growers, nurseries, and landscapers.
- Hosted spotted lanternfly mock exercise and preparedness meeting for federal, state, and local partners. MDARD continues to assist with and survey and control efforts in Oakland County.
- Monitored for Asian longhorn beetle, Michigan's most significant invasive species threat, through visual survey at over 108 sites.
- Worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and MSU to conduct a statewide survey of 56 pest species threatening our environment and food production.
- Coordinated with DNR, USDA, and local cooperative invasive species management groups to unify survey and control efforts.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Invasive Species Awareness (Audience Hours)	665	648
Asian Longhorn Beetle Survey Sites	119	108
Invasive Species Survey Sites	747	3,001

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Protect Michigan environment and agricultural lands and crops from exotic, invasive pests.
- Slow the spread of hemlock woolly adelgid within the state.
- Slow the spread of recently introduced box tree moth and balsam woolly adelgid.
- Slow the spread of spotted lanternfly via suppression of the single active infestation in the state.
- Monitor for the possible introduction of Asian longhorn beetle and maintain response readiness.
- Strengthen existing relationships with external invasive species response partners.
- Continue education of industry professionals and public on exotic or invasive forest pest detection and reporting to increase the number of informed citizens that can help discover new pests and have the knowledge to recognize them and report their findings.
- Respond to new reports of exotic and invasive pests, including hemlock woolly adelgid, Asian longhorn beetle, spotted lanternfly, box tree moth, and balsam woolly adelgid.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Agricultural producers
- Forest products producers
- Property owners, municipalities, and businesses maintaining turf and landscape plants
- Nursery plant, Christmas tree, and floriculture producers
- USDA-APHIS, USDA-Forest Service, MDNR, MSU, Environment Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE).
- The public

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- The Insect & Plant Disease Act, PA 189 of 1931, as amended
- Insect Pests and Plant Diseases, PA 72 of 1945
- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 452 of 1994, as amended, Part 413

Industrial Hemp

PROGRAM MANAGER:

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Industrial hemp is defined at the state and federal level as *Cannabis* containing 0.3% or less tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). The 2018 Farm Bill removed hemp as a Schedule I controlled substance and allowed for commercial hemp cultivation under approved state plans or USDA authority. In response, MDARD gained approval from the USDA for the Michigan's first Hemp Production Plan, with implementation beginning on December 1, 2020. 2023 is the third year MDARD has managed this program.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN

Hemp is an emerging industry in Michigan and is grown for fiber, grain, cannabinoid production, seed, and microgreens. Laws regulating hemp are in their infancy and are constantly being reevaluated at the federal and state levels. Growers are learning best practices as agronomy research continues, and the industry is developing supply chains and watching market stability. Hemp remains a versatile crop, with research underway for expanded uses in animal feed, medicine, building materials, phytoremediation of contaminated soils, and more.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed 100% of industry sampling requests in a timely manner.
- Moved all inspection reporting into the division's web-based reporting system.
- Completed post-harvest inspections to collect required federal data regarding planting and harvesting acreage with 100% of the registered growers.
- Partnered with Michigan State Police on multiple investigations to halt illegal marijuana grows operating under the guise of registered hemp growing locations.
- Finalized performance-based sampling processes for reduced sampling of low-risk fiber crops, microgreens, clones/transplants, and research crops.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Number of Samples Collected for THC Compliance Testing	110	71
Percentage of Lots Disposed of Due to THC Noncompliance	5 (4.7%)	2(2.8%)
Registered Industrial Hemp Growers Inspected	59 (64%)	14(29%)
Registered Industrial Hemp Growers	92	49

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue to work with legislators to ensure proposed hemp legislation meets the needs of the people of Michigan.
- Maintain partnerships with MDARD divisions and other state agencies to promote hemp as a new agricultural commodity and address crossover issues.
- Collect 100% of requested preharvest and remediation samples in a timely manner.
- Conduct comprehensive inspections with 50% of registered growers.
- Finalize enforcement processes that meet state and federal requirements.
- Conduct outreach sessions with stakeholders to ensure awareness of Michigan hemp laws and continue to maintain good communication with the industry regarding program activities.
- Update the Industrial Hemp Growers Act, PA 220 of 2020, as amended, to ensure program compliance and tools are available to address illicit grows operating under the guise of hemp.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Hemp growers, propagative material suppliers, manufacturers, retailers, food and feed processors and retailers
- Industry associations
- College and university hemp researchers
- Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA), marijuana growers and processors
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Related economic development businesses

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Industrial Hemp Growers Act, PA 220 of 2020, as amended
- Michigan Hemp Production Plan

Plant Pathology

PROGRAM MANAGERS:

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The Plant Pathology Laboratory is responsible for plant disease diagnostics and phytosanitary testing for export certification. Plant samples with diseases caused by bacteria, fungi, nematodes, and viruses are submitted to the lab by MDARD Plant Health inspectors and specialists. The lab uses microscopy, culturing, protein analysis, and DNA sequencing to identify and detect plant pathogens. Plant Pathology program work falls into the following three primary categories: diagnostic services, export certification, and surveys.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Through innovation and collaboration, the MDARD Plant Pathology Program continues to provide cutting edge plant pathogen testing locally to our regulated community in support of phytosanitary certification. Accurate and expedient identification of plant pathogens enhances the marketability of Michigan's agricultural and horticultural products and protects Michigan agricultural industries, the environment, and our quality of life from damaging plant pathogens.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed 93% of the Quality Management System documents required for obtaining National Plant Diagnostic Network Laboratory Core Accreditation.
- Collaborated with Michigan State University to develop a reliable and effective direct potato tuber Potato Virus Y diagnostic assay for seed growers.
- Surveyed for *Xylella fastidiosa*, bacterial leaf scorch, in two counties in western Michigan for the establishment of a Pest Free Area to meet the European Union conditions for export.
- Identified and implemented efficiencies for the Potato Cyst Nematode Survey and Bacterial Ring Rot testing, resulting in highly improved expedience of results reporting.

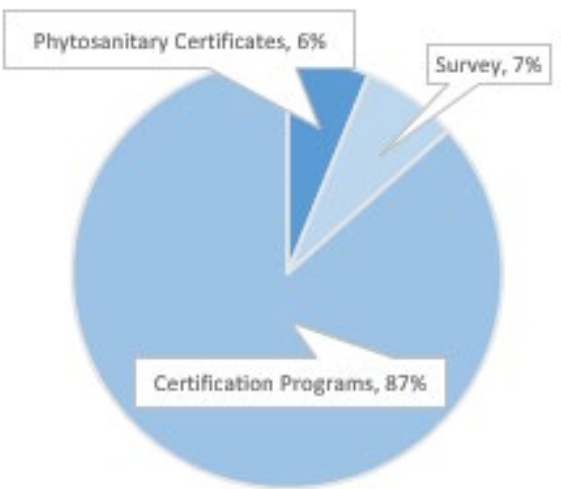
MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Plant Disease Analyses (Tests) Requested	5,123	6,251
Number of Analyses for Export Certification	4,049 (79%)	5,130 (82%)
Virus-Tested Certification Programs Enrollees	2	2
Plant Diagnostic Molecular Assays Available	29	29

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Expand the implementation of the voluntary MDARD Nursery Stock Virus Certification program by educating the hop, grape, and berry industries on its advantages for growing clean plants.
- Continue to survey for *Xylella fastidiosa* in support of implementing the Pest Free Area which would expand the export markets for host plants to the European Union.
- Increase program efficiency and diagnostic assays supporting the seed potato export program to produce savings for growers.
- Improve quality of plant diagnostic assays by implementing a quality management system (QMS) for laboratory accreditation through the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN).

Samples Supporting Export in 2023



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Nursery stock growers and dealers
- Dry bean seed and fruit producers
- Seed potato growers
- Exporters of blueberry nursery stock, seed corn, and seed potato
- MCIA, MSPA, MPIC, MNLA, NPDN
- Michigan State University researchers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- The Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act, PA 189 of 1931, as amended
- Certification of Seed, PA 221 of 1959
- Michigan Seed Law, PA 329 of 1965

Agrichemical Bulk Storage

PROGRAM MANAGER: Jarrod Fletcher
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The Agrichemical Bulk Storage Program regulates commercial facilities storing bulk agrichemicals and private facilities storing bulk liquid fertilizers. Inspections help ensure bulk fertilizer and pesticide containments are constructed, installed, and maintained in a safe manner, with the least possible impact on people, property, and the environment. Construction plans are reviewed, and site consultation and inspections are conducted to help facilitate new projects and ensure bulk quantities of agrichemicals are stored properly and securely.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

The Agrichemical Bulk Storage Program safeguards approximately 76 million gallons of Michigan agrichemicals and ensures fertilizers and pesticides are properly identified, stored, and secured to prevent misuse and environmental discharges. The program promotes economic development by enforcing regulations, providing environmental protections, and maintaining a strong relationship with agribusiness companies expanding their operations. This regulatory oversight benefits industry and producers by preventing environmental contamination and prevents product losses and clean-up costs if a spill or release were to occur. This program initiates proactive efforts to help provide a safer environment through proper storage of agrichemicals.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Performed commercial consultations with businesses building new containment and renovating existing containment.
- Conducted outreach activities to inform staff, industry, and producers about on-farm fertilizer storage and poly tank integrity.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Bulk Storage Facility Registrations Issued	204	208
Facilities Inspected	87	88
State Liquid Agrichemical Storage Capacity (gallons)	76 Million	76 Million

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Inspect 50 percent of registered bulk storage facilities.
- Increase construction and site plan reviews and on-site consultations to ensure proper agrichemical containment construction and promote Michigan's economic development.
- Increase outreach efforts to advise agricultural dealers and farmers on ways to deter illicit use of agrichemicals such as anhydrous ammonia, while protecting their safe, intended use.
- Register all bulk storage facilities electronically.
- Respond to emergencies where there is a release of fertilizer and/or pesticide product to the environment.
- Identify aging and/or failing infrastructure and work with firms to implement a plan to update failing systems.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Fertilizer and pesticide manufacturers and distributors
- Agricultural producers
- Michigan Agri-Business Association
- Michigan Farm Bureau

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, as amended:
 - Part 83, Pesticide Control
 - Part 85, Fertilizers
 - Part 87, Groundwater and Freshwater Protection
- Regulation 640, Commercial Pesticide Bulk Storage
- Regulation 641, Commercial Fertilizer Bulk Storage
- Regulation 642, On Farm Fertilizer Bulk Storage

Fertilizer and Liming Materials

PROGRAM MANAGER: JARROD FLETCHER

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The Fertilizer Program regulates approximately 906 manufacturers and distributors of approximately 1.89 million tons of fertilizers and soil conditioners, as well as 82 licensed liming materials from 44 manufacturers, for both farm and non-farm use. The program ensures fertilizers meet label claims and guarantees and are stored securely in an environmentally protective manner.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

- Fertilizer is the most widely used agrichemical and is agronomically applied on 10 million acres of Michigan farmland.
- Michigan producers rely on this program to purchase accurately labeled fertilizers, maximize yields, and maintain a profitable agricultural operation.
- Restrictions limiting phosphorus applications on turf help maintain and protect Michigan's vast water resources.
- Residents purchasing home and garden fertilizers rely on this program to protect them from misbranded and adulterated products.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Reviewed and analyzed 41 turfgrass fertilizers with “zero phosphorus” claims, 39 of which were found to be accurate.
- Issued stop sale violation notice to manufacturers selling misbranded products with a false claim.
- Sampled and analyzed 216 fertilizer samples for 1765 analytes, of which, 78 analytes were found violative, a 4.4 percent violation rate. Violation notices were sent to all retailer and manufacturer locations with violative samples.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Fertilizer Licenses Issued	887	906
Specialty Fertilizers Registered	6,287	5,818
Liming Material Licenses Issued	91	82

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Help prevent illegal trade and sale of unapproved and unregistered products to homeowners, professional applicators, and farmers.
- Increase fertilizer sampling and analysis activities to verify label guarantees for industry and consumers.
- Continue to focus on fertilizer and water quality reports and fee payment auditing to ensure manufacturing facilities are complying with fertilizer laws and regulations.
- Work with industry and other agencies on approval of recycled products for use as fertilizer, liming and soil conditioners products as allowed under P.A. 451 of 1994, Part 115.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Fertilizer manufacturers
- Agricultural producers
- Turfgrass application businesses, including golf courses
- Michigan Agri-Business Association

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, as amended:
 - Part 85, Fertilizers
 - Part 87, Groundwater
- Liming Materials, PA 162 of 1956
- Regulation 634, Commercial Fertilizers

Pesticide Applicator Certification

PROGRAM MANAGER:

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Pesticide applicator certification is a bedrock of a pesticide regulatory program. The certification of applicators ensures that baseline proficiency standards are maintained for applicators who apply pesticides for both private and commercial purposes. To become certified, applicators must demonstrate an understanding in various categories related to pesticide use, including how to use pesticides safely, environmental protection, and label comprehension.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Michigan has approximately 25,000 applicators certified by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD). Computer and paper-based testing opportunities, as well as approved recertification seminars, provide avenues for applicators to increase their understanding of pesticide applications and ensures MDARD's certification program is of the highest caliber. Ensuring applicators are competent with the knowledge and skills required to safely apply pesticides is core to fulfilling MDARD's mission of protecting human health and the environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

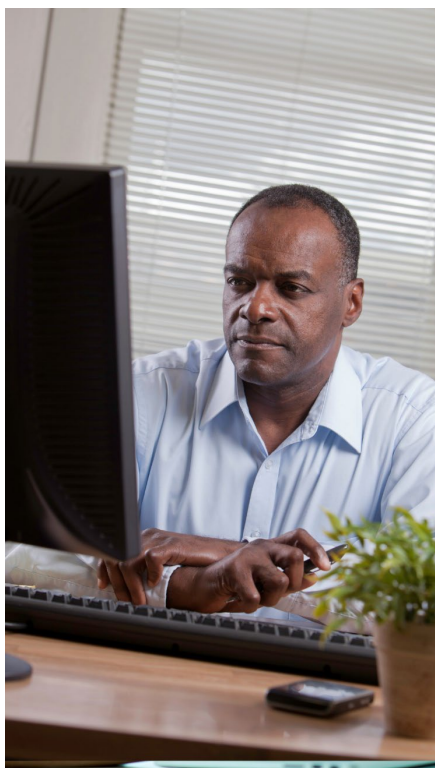
- Reduced program costs, including eliminating over 18,000 sheets of paper, by streamlining the certification renewal process.
- Ensured equal access to pesticide certification exams by offering over 1,300 exams in areas of the state that lack access to computer-based exams.
- Reduced risks associated with pesticide use by:
 - Updated our federal Certification and Training Plan.
 - Provided funding and support for Michigan State University's Pesticide Safety and Education Program Coordinator.
 - Facilitated over 14,000 pesticide certification exams.
 - Approved over 1,600 continuing education courses for certified pesticide applicators.
 - Developed new guidance materials and improving communication with regulated stakeholders.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Total Applicators Certified in Michigan	23,512	24,797
Commercial Applicators	14,548	15,322
Private Applicators	6,598	6,403
Registered Applicators	2,366	3,072
Recertification by Seminar Sessions Approved	1,516	1,609

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Work effectively with stakeholders to implement Certification & Training Program updates to comply with incoming federal pesticide standards.
- Increase PSEP influence and program support to improve relevance to applicators.
- Make computer-based and online exams as convenient and reasonably priced as possible while continuing to provide training and paper-based exam opportunities to underserved communities.
- Improve exam integrity and content to verify applicator competence and confidence.
- Develop additional compliance assistance materials to improve understanding of certification information and pesticide use.
- Streamline processes for ease of access to information and better the customer experience.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Agricultural producers and commodity organizations
- Michigan Agri-Business Association and other Michigan pest management, landscape, and aquatic associations
- Pesticide application businesses, and pesticide applicators
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- The public

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, Part 83, as amended, Pesticide Control

Integrated Pest Management and Public Health Pests

PROGRAM MANAGER:

EMILY POCHUBAY | 517-231-8723 | PochubayE@Michigan.gov

Instead of using only pesticides, integrated pest management (IPM) is a systematic approach involving the use of multiple methods to mitigate pests in a variety of contexts including public health. While IPM is a concept, Michigan requires certain industries to comply with IPM laws and regulations. The IPM and Public Health Pest Program protects human and animal health, property, and the environment through compliance monitoring and stakeholder education. Traditionally, compliance monitoring has been done by inspecting regulated industries. Moving forward, the program will emphasize education and outreach to provide stakeholders with the knowledge and skills they need to implement IPM.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Adherence to IPM principles and requirements in Michigan schools, day cares, and health care facilities promotes healthy environments for vulnerable people to live, work, learn, and play. Encouraging stakeholders via education and outreach to practice pest prevention (i.e., sanitation and exclusion methods) improves the effectiveness of pest management while minimizing risks of pesticide use and the monetary costs of management.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Facilitated the expansion of IPM outreach and education by hiring the IPM and Public Health Pest Program Specialist in June 2023.
- Improved access to IPM information via new IPM webpages and developing Spanish-language templates for schools/day cares to use to notify Spanish-speaking parents/guardians of pesticide use.
- Ensured applicator education of IPM principles by verifying training and updating the verification process by implementing an electronic/email forms submission.
- Promoted the use of IPM in schools by educating 131 school administrators and pesticide applicators via outreach presentations and monitoring compliance.
- Expanded awareness of state IPM requirements and MDARD's mission by monitoring compliance of health care facilities (see table).
- Increased awareness of bed bug IPM by educating 67 home care/service providers.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	FY2022	FY2023
Health care facilities monitored for compliance with pesticide use, IPM, and related notification requirements.	0	31
School and daycare facilities monitored for compliance with pesticide use, IPM, and related notification requirements.	92	74
Applicators who completed MDARD-approved IPM training	288	330

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Continue to identify stakeholder groups and partners, measure stakeholders' education and outreach needs, and develop avenues for information dissemination.
- Protect vulnerable populations from pest-related health risks and pesticide exposure by increasing awareness of IPM practices at schools, day cares, and health care facilities.
- Foster healthy communities through the development and delivery of urban and public health pest IPM education and outreach to the public.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Michigan schools, day cares, health care facilities, and managers of public buildings
- Pesticide application businesses and pesticide applicators
- Professional associations such as the Michigan Pest Management Association, Michigan Mosquito Control Associations, and the Michigan School Business Officials
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Local health departments
- Local units of government
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- The public

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, Part 83 Pesticide Control, as amended.
- Regulation 637, Pesticide Use

Pesticide Business Licensing

PROGRAM MANAGER:

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Businesses applying pesticides for hire, dealers of restricted use pesticides, and dealers of agricultural pesticides all play key roles in Michigan business and agriculture. MDARD has the responsibility of supporting these businesses while promoting the safe use of pesticides. MDARD licenses and routinely inspects these businesses to ensure compliance with all applicable pesticide laws and regulations which helps accomplish our goal of protecting human health and the environment.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

In FY2023, MDARD issued 2,041 pesticide applicator business licenses, 254 restricted use pesticide dealer licenses and 317 agricultural pesticide dealer licenses. Licensing of these businesses enhances compliance with all pesticide laws and regulations and helps ensure the people of Michigan have the pest control resources they need to protect themselves and their property from damaging pests.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Protected people and the environment by ensuring restricted use pesticides were only sold to certified pesticide applicators.
- Implemented policies to ensure applicators could safely and legally utilize uncrewed aerial vehicles for pesticide applications.
- Helped consumers more easily identify licensed pesticide businesses by improving accessibility and functionality of online licensing list.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Pesticide Applicator Business Licenses Reviewed	416	386
Restricted Use Pesticide Dealers Audited	15	18
Restricted Use Pesticide Enforcement Actions	11	10

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Ensure businesses and individuals can legally operate in Michigan by issuing licenses and certification credentials in a timely matter.
- Facilitate compliance assistance by developing self-assessment guides and how-to-comply manuals for regulated businesses.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Agricultural producers and commodity organizations
- Michigan Agri-Business Association
- Michigan pest management, landscape, and aquatic plant management and mosquito associations
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- The public

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994 as amended:
 - Part 83 Pesticide Control
 - Part 85 Fertilizers
- Regulation 633, Restricted Use Pesticides
- Regulation 636, Pesticide Applicators
- Regulation 637, Pesticide Use

Pesticide Registration

PROGRAM MANAGER:

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Pesticide registration is an important aspect of protecting human health and the environment. The registration of pesticides provides the mechanism to identify and track the use and sale of pesticides in Michigan. Funding from pesticide registration is key in supporting inspection and monitoring programs that promote compliance with state and federal laws and regulations and helps mitigate misuse.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Registering pesticides ensures producers, businesses, and residents have access to the pesticides they need to protect themselves, their crops, and their property from damaging pests including insects, vertebrates, fungi, bacteria, and weeds. Registration also provides MDARD with the means to cancel or restrict the use of a pesticide in the event it causes adverse effects on human health or the environment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Helped Michigan growers protect their crops from critical pests.
- Renewed nine Special Local Needs registrations.
- Facilitated the approval of one emergency use exemption.
- Protected consumers and reduced risks associated with pesticide use.
- Conducted 42 marketplace inspections to ensure pesticides being offered for sale in the state are properly labeled and registered with MDARD and the EPA.
- Canceled the registration of one misbranded pesticide product identified through sampling project.
- Conducted inspections at four pesticide production facilities.
- Conducted 13 federal marketplace inspections at facilities that distribute pesticides.



MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Pesticides Registered for Sale in Michigan	16,780	16,780
State Marketplace Inspections Conducted	62	42
Unregistered Pesticides Found	140	98
Enforcement Actions Taken	140	98
Federal Producer Establishment Inspections Conducted	5	4
Federal Marketplace Inspections Conducted	7	13
Federal Samples Collected	10	9

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Protect human health and the environment by ensuring pesticides sold in Michigan are legally registered, properly labeled, accurately formulated, safely stored, and properly disposed.
- Ensure all people in Michigan have the pesticides they need to protect themselves, their property, and their communities from damaging pests.
- Protect human health by ensuring pesticides used on cannabis do not pose unacceptable risks to applicators or consumers.
- Ensure Michigan's agricultural producers can protect their crops from new and emerging pests by facilitating emergency exemption requests and special local needs registrations.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- General Public
- Michigan's agricultural producers
- Michigan's pest control industry
- Pesticide manufactures
- Michigan State University

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, Part 83, as amended, Pesticide Control

Pesticide Enforcement

PROGRAM MANAGER:

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Pesticide investigations and inspections are conducted in numerous agricultural and non-agricultural settings where pesticides are used, sold, and manufactured in Michigan. The Pesticide Enforcement Program protects human health, animals, and the environment by utilizing a combination of education, monitoring, and enforcement actions to promote compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Sanctions imposed can include warnings, administrative fines, and pursuit of civil or criminal prosecutions.

IMPACT FOR MICHIGAN:

Misuse of pesticides can result in human or animal exposure, illness, or death; property and crop damage, including illegal residues on food crops; and other negative impacts to the environment.

Types of field activities include:

- Investigations of alleged pesticide misuse, including drift.
- Inspections of pesticide application businesses, including landscape companies, pest control operators, and custom agricultural applicators.
- Monitor restricted use pesticide sales.
- Monitor agricultural establishments for compliance with the federal Worker Protection Standard.
- Monitor compliance with integrated pest management requirements at schools, daycares, and health care facilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Protected human health and the environment by ensuring pesticides were used according to state and federal laws.
- Issued 32 administrative penalties, 32 warning letters, and 200 field orders related to pesticide misuse.
- Responded to over 200 complaints of alleged pesticide misuse.
- Conducting over 100 pesticide misuse investigations.
- Ensured fair and consistent enforcement process.
- Created a new Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Unit.
- Updated inspection and enforcement policies and procedures.

MEASURING SUCCESS:

Metric	2022	2023
Complaints investigated alleging pesticide exposure, drift, off-target direct discharge, or other misuse*	165	131
Complaints investigated alleging violations of business licensing, applicator certification, or other customer and/or public notification requirements*	59	95
Agricultural establishments monitored for compliance with federal agricultural Worker Protection Standards, including marijuana growers	69	40
Schools, day cares, public buildings, and health care facilities inspected for pesticide use	94	106

*Allegations could involve both tallied categories. Total complaints received was 233 in FY2022 and 220 in FY2023.

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Support high quality field activities by continuing to enhance the staff training program, particularly for new inspectors, and refining the complaint intake and response processes.
- Protect vulnerable populations from pesticide exposure by increasing awareness of agricultural worker protection standards and integrated pest management practices at schools, daycares, public buildings, and health care centers. Activities will include increased numbers of monitoring inspections, conducting outreach presentations, and the distribution of compliance assistance materials.
- Increase industry awareness of new pesticide label use restrictions. Activities will include providing newly developed compliance assistance materials to applicators during inspections, investigations, and outreach activities.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

- Agricultural producers and commodity organizations
- Michigan Agri-Business Association
- Michigan pest management, landscape, and aquatic plant management associations
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- The public

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, as amended:
 - Part 83 Pesticide Control
 - Part 85 Fertilizers
- Regulation 633, Restricted Use Pesticides
- Regulation 636, Pesticide Applicators
- Regulation 637, Pesticide Use