

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

Fiscal Year 2023 Report

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MDARD) Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) provides this report pursuant to Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 87. It includes single year as well as historical totals for the program where available.

County and Statewide Totals for Fiscal Year 2023

Conservation Practices

These include measures to reduce soil erosion, prevent water pollution, and mitigate other environmental risks.



- 2,744 conservation practices were implemented.
- Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI) technicians, funded partially by MAEAP in agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), assisted the implementation of 480 large-scale, cost-shared practices on Michigan farms.
- 278 risk assessments and 551 re-assessments were conducted for a total of 829 completed technical assistance assessments.
- 167,800 acres with nutrient management plans or comprehensive nutrient management plans.

Environmental Impacts

The outcomes listed below are based on formulas utilized by NRCS and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to calculate the effects of conservation practice implementation.

- 167,800 acres of MAEAP verified farms have a nutrient management plan.
- Sediment reaching waterways is reduced by 246,381 tons.
- Phosphorus runoff is reduced by 399,866 pounds.
- Nitrogen leaving farm fields is reduced by 824,635 pounds.

In the future, improvements in data capture will provide additional information about conservation practices implemented by farmers who are working with MAEAP but are not yet verified.

Verifications, Reverifications, and Unique Farms Verified

- 314 new verifications
 - 120 cropping system
 - 98 farmstead system
 - 51 livestock system
 - 45 forest, wetland, and habitat system
- 548 reverifications
 - 212 cropping system
 - 204 farmstead system
 - 78 livestock system
 - 54 forest, wetland, and habitat system
- 154 unique sites verified



Number of Farms in Tiered Recognition System

Farms at Tier 1 have attended a MAEAP Phase 1 educational session, have had a conservation district technician conduct one or more risk assessments, have had the technician develop an action plan to address risks identified during the assessment, and have no evidence of discharge on the farm. Currently, 162 farms are at Tier 1. MAEAP staff continue to work with these farms to achieve verification.

Total Area and Percentage of Michigan's Farmland

In fiscal year 2023, 167,800 (2.1%) of Michigan's 7,924,480 acres of cropland (USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture) were verified or reverified.

County and Statewide Totals To-Date

Conservation Practices

- From FY 2009 through FY 2016, conservation practices and technical assistance practices were recorded together. During this period, 48,668 risk reduction practices were implemented.
- Beginning in FY 2017, conservation practices and technical assistance practices were recorded separately. Since FY 2017, 22,977 practices were implemented.
- No data prior to FY 2009 is available.



Environmental Impacts

Environmental impacts are measured over a five-year rolling cycle due to the five-year verification period for farms. Reporting covers the five years from FY 2019 to FY 2023.

- 949,988 acres of MAEAP verified farms have a nutrient management plan.
- Sediment reaching waterways is reduced by 1,397,045 tons.
- Phosphorus runoff is reduced by 2,288,417 pounds.
- Nitrogen leaving farm fields is reduced by 4,813,020 pounds.

Verifications, Reverifications, and Unique Farms Verified

- 6,666 new verifications from FY 2002 through FY 2023
 - 2,688 cropping system
 - 2,296 farmstead system
 - 1,130 livestock system
 - 552 forest, wetland, and habitat system
- 4,126 reverifications from FY 2005 through FY 2023
 - 1,686 cropping system
 - 1,557 farmstead system
 - 714 livestock system
 - 169 forest, wetland, and habitat system
- 3,657 unique sites verified from FY 2002 through FY 2023

Number of Farms in Tiered Recognition System

Currently, 162 farms are at Tier 1 but have not yet been verified.

Total Area and Percentage of Michigan's Farmland

As of fiscal year 2023, 949,988 (12.0%) of Michigan's 7,924,480 acres of cropland (USDA 2017 Census of Agriculture) are verified, meaning they were verified or re-verified between FY 2019 and FY 2023.

Changes to Educational and MAEAP Standards

There were no changes made to MAEAP standards in FY 2023. However, Cropping-A-Syst, Farm-A-Syst, and Livestock-A-Syst documents were merged into a unified Farm-

A-Syst document. The result is improved data capture, less redundancy, more efficient standards management, and reduced printing costs. Beginning in FY 2023, there will be only two A-Syst documents, the previously mentioned Farm-A-Syst and the Forest, Wetlands and Habitat-A-Syst.

Summary of Subcommittee Work Beyond Standards

Farmstead, Cropping, and Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat Committees. These committees did not meet or take action in FY 2023. With the move to alternate year standards updates, these committees elected to wait and receive feedback on any potential changes needed to the combined A-Syst standards before beginning review of changes for FY 2024.

Livestock Committee. This committee met to discuss new offal guidelines and manure hauler certification in FY 2023. Proposed standard specific changes were tabled for discussion until FY 2024.

All Committees. With the combined A-Syst tool getting field use during FY 2023 into FY 2024, the committees will begin their reviews in late fall 2023 and will conclude with the introduction of proposed changes to the MAEAP Advisory Council in spring of 2024.

