

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Fiscal Year 2024 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 2024

Conservation Practices

These practices include items which reduce soil erosion from water and wind, as well as improve water quality and improve environmental protections on Michigan farms.

<i>Practice</i>	Quantity	Unit	Percent change over FY23
<i>Conservation practices</i>	3,722	Practices	+ 35.6%
CTAI led cost-share conservation practices	1,830	Practices	+3801%
Risk Assessments & Repeat Risk Assessments	908	Assessments	+9.5%
Nutrient management planned	144,923	Acres	-13.7%

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. This is an assumption based on the practices being fully implemented on farms.

Projected impact of NMP	Quantity	Unit	Percent change over FY23
Sediment reduction in waterways	220,606	Tons	-10.5%
Phosphorus runoff	359,064	Pounds	-10.3%
Nitrogen runoff	741,380	Pounds	-10.1%

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

Description	Quantity	Cropping System	Farmstead System	Livestock System	Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat System
New Verifications	418	136	125	78	79
Reverifications	490	223	171	51	45
Unique Sites	199				

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

Total Area and Percentage of Michigan’s Farmland

In fiscal year 2024, 144,923 (2.1%) of Michigan’s 6,880,850 acres of cropland (USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture) were verified or reverified.

**County and Statewide
Cumulative Totals
Through December 31, 2024**

Conservation Practices

FY09-FY16*	48,668 combined conservation/risk reduction practices implemented
FY17-FY24	26,649 conservation practices

*Prior to FY17, both conservation practices and risk reduction practices were a combined number. After FY16 conservation practices were recorded separately. No data prior to FY09 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 2020 through FY 2024.

Item	Unit of Measure	Quantity
Nutrient Management Plan	Acres	675,166
Sediment	Tons	984,055
Phosphorus	Pounds	1,574,488
Nitrogen	Pounds	3,148,976

Verifications, Reverifications, and Unique Farms Verified

Description	Quantity	Cropping System	Farmstead System	Livestock System	Forest Wetlands and Habitat System
New Verifications FY02-FY24	7,084	2,824	2,421	1,208	631
Reverifications FY05-FY24	4,616	1,909	1,728	765	214
Unique Sites FY02-FY24	3,845				

Number of Farms in Tiered Recognition System

Currently, 267 farms are at Tier 1 but have not yet been verified.

Total Area and Percentage of Michigan's Farmland

As of fiscal year 2024, 675,166 (9.8%) of Michigan's 6,880,850 acres of cropland (USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture) are verified, meaning they were verified or re-verified between FY 2020 and FY 2024.

Changes to Educational and MAEAP Standards

There were no changes made to MAEAP standards in FY 2024. The current standards were reviewed and approved by both the MAEAP Advisory Council and the Michigan Agriculture Commission for continuation in FY 2025.

Summary of Subcommittee Work Beyond Standards

Farmstead, Cropping, Livestock and Forest, Wetlands, and Habitat Committees.

These committees met only to reapprove the FY2023 standards to continue through FY 2025. They have begun meeting already in FY 2025 to begin a more thorough review of standards for FY 2026. This may include the addition of questions/standards relating to Regenerative Agriculture and Climate Smart practices.

Climate Task Force

This workgroup was tasked by the MAEAP Advisory Council (AC) to review known Climate Smart practices against the MAEAP Standards to consider incorporation of these into the standards. This group met monthly from May to September to review the standard, evaluate whether climate smart practices were handled by the standards, and what action, if any should MAEAP make to include these in the standards document.

The group reported back to the AC in October with three possible courses of action. Take no action and leave this for a different program, offer a Climate Smart accreditation or do a full system of MAEAP. The group also felt that there was a multitude of things that were pertinent to climate smart practices that were not in the standards at all. Upon review and discussion, the AC referred the discussion to the MAEAP Standards committee for discussion and determination of what, if anything, would be adopted as a recommendation for MAEAP.

All Committees. In addition to the two standards committees, the MAEAP Advisory Council meetings for calendar year 2025 will be held February 10, April 14, June 9 and October 20. All meeting times are 1-3:30, locations to be determined.