

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Fiscal Year 2025 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. This report includes single year metrics, as well as historical totals for the program where available.

Totals for Fiscal Year 2025

Conservation Practices Implemented

Activities	Quantity	Unit of Measurement
New Environmental Risk Assessments Completed	612	Systems
Repeat Environmental Risk Assessments Completed	541	Systems
Environmental Risk Reductions Implemented on Farm or Field	3,725	Risks
Newly Verified Cropland in Nutrient Management	24,650	Acres
Reverified Cropland in Nutrient Management	146,279	Acres
Newly Verified Cropland in No-Tillage, Conservation Tillage or Grass Cover Systems	7,329	Acres
Reverified Cropland in No-Tillage, Conservation Tillage or Grass Cover Systems	62,482	Acres
Newly Verified Cropland Utilizing Cover Crops in Cropping Rotation	9,165	Acres
Reverified Cropland Utilizing Cover Crops in Cropping Rotation	53,274	Acres
Newly Verified Filter Strips Managed	418,465	Linear Feet
Reverified Filter Strips Managed	6,167,775	Linear Feet
Newly Verified Gullies Stabilized	16	Gullies
Reverified Gullies Stabilized	92	Gullies
Newly Verified Land in Land Management Plans (Forest, Wetlands and Grasslands)	5,097	Acres

Reverified Land in Land Management Plans (Forest, Wetlands and Grasslands)	15,425	Acres
Newly Verified Restored or Improved Wetland Habitat	404	Acres
Reverified Restored or Improved Wetland Habitat	154	Acres
Newly Verified Land Under Management for Invasive Species	3,543	Acres
Reverified Land Under Management for Invasive Species	3,372	Acres
Newly Verified Land Managed as Buffers to Surface Water	175	Acres
Reverified Land Managed as Buffers to Surface Water	1,237	Acres
Newly Verified Streambanks & Shorelines Managed	80,291	Linear Feet
Reverified Streambanks & Shorelines Managed	144,070	Linear Feet

Environmental Impacts

Projected environmental impacts are calculated from formulas utilized by Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to quantify the effects of conservation practice implementation, assuming full implementation of practices on MAEAP verified farms.

Projected Environmental Impact	Quantity	Unit of Measurement
Sediment Reduction in Waterways	271,094	Tons
Phosphorus Runoff from Farm Fields Reduced	451,824	Pounds
Nitrogen Leaching from Farm Fields Reduced	975,416	Pounds

System Verifications & Reverifications

Verifications, Reverifications and Verified Sites	Quantity	Unit of Measurement
New Farmstead Verifications	77	Systems
New Cropping Verifications	98	Systems
New Livestock Verifications	39	Systems
New Forest, Wetlands & Habitat Verifications	48	Systems
Total New Verifications	262	Systems
Farmstead Reverifications	143	Systems
Cropping Reverifications	185	Systems

Livestock Reverifications	60	Systems
Forest, Wetland & Habitat Verifications	41	Systems
Total Reverifications	429	Systems
Total Sites Verified or Reverified	390	Sites

Current Status of Sites in the MAEAP Verification Process

The table below represents a snapshot in time (as of November 13, 2025) representing all sites (farms or properties) and their status in the MAEAP verification process.

Status	Quantity	Unit of Measurement
Enrolled	3,324	Sites
Tier 1	293	Sites
Pending Verification	54	Sites
Pending Reverification	83	Sites
Verified	3,812	Sites
Retired	116	Sites
Total	7,682	Sites

Status Descriptions:

- Enrolled:
 - Any site that has not met all the requirements for the status of Tier 1 (see below).
- Tier 1:
 - Any site that has completed all the following:
 - Met the Producer Education Requirement
 - Conducted at least one MAEAP Risk Assessment on an applicable system with a Conservation Technician
 - Developed an Action Plan with a Conservation Technician to address environmental risk identified during the assessment
 - Confirmation of no evidence of discharge at the site by a Conservation Technician.
- Pending Verification or Pending Reverification:
 - Any site that has achieved Tier 1 and has requested a Verification Visit with a MAEAP Verifier and Conservation Technician
 - A site that has completed a Verification Visit, but has at least one system Pending Verification or Pending Reverification due to an identified environmental risk that requires resolution
- Verified:
 - Any site with at least one system that has completed a MAEAP Verification or Reverification
- Retired:
 - Any site that was previously verified and now all systems for that site are retired (no longer farming, etc.)

Total Area and Percentage of Michigan’s Harvested Cropland Verified in FY2025

MAEAP Verified & Reverified Cropland (FY 2025)	Harvested Cropland (USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture Report)
170,929 acres	6,880,850 acres

In fiscal year 2025, 2.5% of Michigan’s harvested cropland was verified or reverified in MAEAP.

**Cumulative and/or Current Verified Totals
Through September 30, 2025**

Environmental Risk Assessments, Risk Reductions Implemented and Measured Conservation Practices on Farms

Due to the change in data tracking systems for MAEAP over the historical lifetime of the program, a cumulative total for Environmental Risk Assessments completed cannot be provided for this report.

Prior to FY 2009, there is no cumulative data to report on the Risk Reductions Implemented. Below is a table representing cumulative totals for Risk Reductions Implemented from FY 2009 through FY 2025.

Timeline	Quantity	Unit of Measurement
FY 2009 – FY 2025	79,042	Risk Reductions

Conservation practices are reported on a five-year rolling cycle, aligning with the five-year verification period for sites. The table below represents the environmental impacts for the last five years from FY 2021 through FY 2025

Conservation Practice	Quantity	Unit of Measurement
Cropland in Nutrient Management	746,530	Acres
Cropland in No-Tillage, Conservation Tillage or Grass Cover Systems	473,805	Acres
Cropland Utilizing Cover Crops in Cropping Rotation	208,377	Acres
Filter Strips Managed	10,760,727	Linear Feet
Number of Gullies Stabilized	1,478	Gullies
Land in Land Management Plans (Forest, Wetlands & Grasslands)	266,445	Acres
Restored or Improved Wetland Habitat	24,406	Acres
Land Under Management for Invasive Species	212,263	Acres

Land Managed as Buffers to Surface Water	26,751	Acres
Streambanks & Shorelines Managed	2,626,810	Linear Feet

Environmental Impacts

Environmental impacts are reported on a five-year rolling cycle, aligning with the five-year verification period for sites. The table below represents the environmental impacts for the last five years from FY 2021 through FY 2025, assuming practices being fully implemented on MAEAP verified farms.

Projected Environmental Impact	Quantity	Unit
Sediment Reduction in Waterways	1,124,269	Tons
Phosphorus Runoff from Farm Fields Reduced	1,850,131	Pounds
Nitrogen Leaching from Farm Fields Reduced	3,916,567	Pounds

System Verifications & Reverifications

System verifications and reverification are reported on a five-year rolling cycle, aligning with the five-year verification period for sites. The table below represents the verification and reverifications for the last five years from FY 2021 through FY 2025, as well as the total number of sites verified in the program over the history of the program.

Verifications & Reverifications	Quantity	Unit
New Farmstead Verifications	2,588	Systems
New Cropping Verifications	3,003	Systems
New Livestock Verifications	1,304	Systems
New Forest, Wetlands & Habitat Verifications	719	Systems
Total New Verifications	7,614	Systems
Farmstead Reverifications	1,899	Systems
Cropping Reverifications	2,121	Systems
Livestock Reverifications	819	Systems
Forest, Wetland & Habitat Verifications	270	Systems
Total Reverifications	5,109	Systems
Total Sites Verified	4,011	Sites

Total Area and Percentage of Michigan’s Harvested Cropland Verified Since FY2021

MAEAP Verified & Reverified Cropland (FY 2021 - 2025)	Harvested Cropland (USDA 2022 Census of Agriculture Report)
787,488 acres	6,880,850 acres

As of FY 2025, 11% of Michigan’s harvested cropland is currently verified, meaning those sites were verified or reverified between FY2021 and FY2025.

Changes to Educational and MAEAP Standards

On September 24, 2025, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development approved the MAEAP standards for FY 2026-2028. There were many clarifications and the removal of redundant questions, and only a few substantive changes.

In the Farm Assessment (Farmstead, Cropping, and Livestock Systems), the most significant change was to risk question 18.03, related to siting of livestock facilities in Michigan. MAEAP verification will no longer require an animal facility to pass the MAEAP site screening tool to become verified. This change occurred as part of a two-year process and in discussion with many partners and MDARD staff.

The only substantive change in the Forest, Wetland & Habitat System Assessment is the addition of a new question: “If Livestock grazing occurs on the property, how is it managed?” This is specific to grazing areas managed as part of the land management plan (LMP). The low risk boxed answer indicates that “Grazing occurs with limited frequency for the purpose of habitat improvement and conforms with the LMP. Grazing is closely monitored and controlled. Outcomes are evaluated for the desired effects.”

Summary of Work by the Standards Committees

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

These committees met throughout FY 2025 to complete a more thorough review of the Farm Assessment and Forest, Wetland & Habitat standards for FY 2026. This review included committee discussion on proposed changes, drafting the proposed changes and including all proposed changes in a summary document. The Committees presented the proposed changes to the standards under the MAEAP Advisory Council for review, discussion and approval to move forward. From there, the Interim Program Manager and MAEAP Specialist (chair of the Standards Committee) presented the proposed changes to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development for approval.

MAEAP Advisory Council

The MAEAP Advisory Council meetings for calendar year 2026 will be held February 9, April 13, June 8, and October 19. All meeting times are 1:00-3:30 p.m., locations to be determined.