

Changes to the 2022 GAAMPs for approval and use in 2023

This summary document outlines the proposed changes to the 2022 Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs) that will be reviewed for adoption by the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development for use in 2023.

General Updates Across ALL GAAMPs include:

- Annual review of applicable references to ensure up-to-date links and formatting for readability.

Summary of *Care of Farm Animals* GAAMPs proposed changes:

- Minor text changes throughout related to flow, formatting, and updates to references and research.
- Most livestock sections updated language related to euthanasia, depopulation of livestock and dead animal disposal. (pages 11-12, 21-22, 29-30, 39-40, 48-49, 56-57, 63-64, 69-70, 75, 82, 92-93, 101-102, 109-110)
 - **Euthanasia** and **depopulation** language indicates producers should consult American Veterinary Medical Association standards and state laws for proper euthanasia practices.
 - **Dead animal disposal** update includes language stating that farms should have a plan on file to manage dead animals in a manner consistent with Bodies of Dead Animals Act. This is for individual animals and for mass depopulation scenarios.

This language now reads:

- [Dead Animal Disposal: Whether there is an individual animal or mass depopulation of animals, each farm should have a plan on file to manage the animal tissue\(s\), whole carcasses, or portions thereof. These](#) must be disposed of in accordance to the Michigan Bodies of Dead Animal Act, Act 239 of 1982, Amended Act No. 311, Public Acts of 2008, December 18, 2008.
- All livestock sections now include a phrase in pharmaceutical use that includes veterinary feed directive and antimicrobial drugs. This new language reads as follows:
 - **Pharmaceutical Use:** It is imperative that those engaged in raising livestock (including bees) and poultry for human consumption understand the prudent and legal use of pharmaceutical products. To help ensure that health and welfare of livestock and poultry and the safety of food they produce for the public, a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is highly recommended. In most cases, a valid VCPR is mandatory for acquiring and using pharmaceutical products in food producing animals [ie. veterinary feed directive and medically important antimicrobial drugs.](#) Michigan currently follows the federal definition for a VCPR which states that a VCPR is considered valid if the following is observed (Code of Federal Regulations 530.3)

- There were notable changes in the following sections:

VEAL (pages 25-32)

- Additional language defining “formula-fed veal” and “milk-fed veal.”
- Updated language that includes group housing of veal calves as well as updating existing language related to individual housing components. This specifically is meant to address a herd’s disease related management components.
- Language added that includes working with a reputable nutrition expert to provide quality feeds.
- Modification of language that indicates that castration and dehorning of veal calves is not a necessary practice.
- Addition of language that indicates that hormone implants are prohibited in veal calves.

SWINE (pages 33-42)

- Deletion of line on page 34 – related to: Secure Pork Supply response planning. (Advisory Committee notes this planning occurs regardless of the language identified in these GAAMPs)
- Addition of language on page 35 and 36 related to the transportation of pigs.

EQUINE (pages 43-53)

- Addition of language on page 46 indicating that barbed wire is an acceptable common fencing material for horses.
 - Committee discussed that existing language in this section indicates that ALL fencing types should be easily visible and that some products (such as tape or cloth) may need to be added to some types of fencing to make them more visible to horses.

LAYING CHICKENS

- Language updated related to stocking densities including language specifically related to cage free housing requirements. (Page 66)

DOMESTIC RABBITS

- Updated language indicating that rabbits should be weaned between 6-10 weeks (page 78).
 - Previous language indicated that weaning could happen between 5-10 weeks. Committee felt that 5 weeks was too young to start weaning rabbits.
- Updated language on page 79 references research related to handling of rabbits prior to transport.
- Updated language in the Pens section further defines that wire-mesh floor systems should be using 14-gauge wire mesh (Page 80).

HONEYBEES

- Updated language related to hive orientation, use and placement of barriers (page 115)
- Updated language further defining hive size and disposal of old comb (Page 116-facilities and equipment).
- Updated language related to the provision of water in consolidation yards (page 118).
 - “For colonies that are shipped to holding yards as part of migratory beekeeping, adequate food and [consistent access to](#) water must be provided in holding yards no later than the day that bees are unloaded.”

Summary of *Manure Management and Utilization and GAAMPs* proposed changes

- Updated language under GAAMP 8 (page 4):

Landowners have riparian rights to utilize surface waters that traverse their property provided the use does not degrade the overall water quality. When livestock access streams and shorelines they can cause soil erosion that results in sediment deposition, as well as direct deposition of manure nutrients, organic matter, and pathogens into surface water.
- Updated language in GAAMP 15 (page 8):

Do not locate manure storage in close proximity to residential areas unless site conditions do not allow, and covers are applied as described in GAAMPs 17 and sequential GAAMPs are followed.
- Updated language under **Manure Application to Land** (page 16):

The following management practices are suggested for livestock producers to help them achieve the type of management that will accomplish these two goals. However, adverse weather conditions may, in part, prevent responsible livestock producers from adhering to these practices for a short duration of time. [Training and education about manure application can help minimize the possibility of spills, accidents, and environmental risk. One resource available for both farmers and custom manure haulers to receive training and education is the Michigan Manure Hauler Certification Program, which offers online training modules and in-person equipment inspection to improve understanding and management of manure from storage to transport to land application. More information on this program is available at: \[tinyurl.com/MIManureCert\]\(http://tinyurl.com/MIManureCert\).](#)
- Manure Hauler Certification Program language was additionally added to **APPENDIX B, Manure and Nutrient Management Plans**, (page 33).

In addition to effective nutrient management and water quality protection, applying manure to land warrants close attention to management practices so potential odor problems can be minimized or avoided. Section III contains odor control measures, which should be implemented as part of the land application program.
- Updated Advisory Committee and reference weblinks.

Summary of *Nutrient Utilization and GAAMPs* proposed changes

- Addition of Best Management vs Generally Accepted section, updated introduction section. Updated references and weblinks.

Summary of *Pest Utilization and Pest Control GAAMPs* proposed changes:

- No changes; update of advisory committee members, review and update of references. Minor formatting and weblinks only.

Summary of *Site Selection for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities GAAMPs* proposed changes:

- No changes; update of advisory committee members, review and update of references. Minor formatting and weblinks only.

Summary of *Cranberry Production GAAMPs* proposed changes:

- No changes: review and update of references only. Includes minor formatting and web links only.

Summary of *Farm Market GAAMPs* proposed changes:

- No changes; update of advisory committee members, review and update of references. Minor formatting and weblinks only.

Summary of *Irrigation Water Use GAAMPs* proposed changes:

- No changes; update of advisory committee members, review and update of references. Minor formatting and weblinks only.