



Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program

Show Your Community You Care!

Agenda

- Introduction & Origin
- What is MAEAP?
- Objectives
- Process -Systems
- Impact-Benefits
- Questions
- Thank You!



What is MAEAP?



MAEAP Stands for:

Michigan

Agriculture

Environmental

Assurance

Program





Started in 1998, **MAEAP** is a voluntary program that recognizes farmers who are top stewards of their land. **MAEAP** helps farmers adopt cost-effective practices that reduce erosion and runoff into ponds, streams, and rivers.



Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks.

- 100% Confidential
- Free
- Achievable – over 6,000 farms enrolled
- Applicable to all farms and sizes
- Recognizes the top stewards of their land in the state



Objectives



Objectives



- Actively engage agricultural producers through educational presentations
- Facilitating assistance in assessing environmental risks
- Identifying practices to comply with regulations and reduce potential risks
- Providing Third Party verifications that Good Agricultural Practices are being followed

****Overall goal of helping farmers reduce the risk of soil and water pollution and comply with state regulations***



Process





Systems to be verified

Four systems within the MAEAP Program



1. Farmstead

Reviews potential risks at the farm site. This includes a review of chemical, fuel and pesticide storage, and wells. It may also include manure storage on livestock farms. This system is applicable to all farms

2. Cropping

Reviews production practices that occur wherever crops are grown on the farm. It reviews risks associated with pesticide and nutrient application, erosion control, and record keeping

3. Livestock

Reviews practices related to livestock production. This includes manure storage, transfer and land application, record keeping, feed storage, and lot management. It relates to all types of livestock produced on the farm

4. Forest, Wetland Habitat

Reviews management practices relating to areas on the farm with woodlands, wetlands, and other types of managed habitats. This review looks at the management plans created for all of these land uses to promote and ensure sustainable practices are being implemented



This Farm is
Environmentally
Verified



Farmstead System

Cropping System

Shady Lodge Farm L.L.C.
The Loniers



Scott Lonier, Shady Lodge Farm

MAEAP Verification Process



1. Education- Phase 1

- 2 hours of content related to environmental stewardship
 - i.e. Conferences, seminars, webinars, online videos

2. Technician Assessment

- Site Visit – Database entry

3. MDARD Verification Meeting

- Verifier and Technician meet with grower again

4. Recognition

- Sign installed at farm location



Education: Phase 1
Attend and educational Workshop



Farm Visit and Recommendations

Assessing the Farm Operation



- Water well contamination
 - Isolation from potential pollution risk
 - Pesticide storage
 - Fertilizer storage
 - Manure Storage
 - Livestock Yard
 - Fuel Storage
- Fuel tank leaks
- Irrigation scheduling – Water use
- Emergency management plan
- Drift management plan
- Nutrient management plan



Farm Visit and Recommendations



Assess Risks and Develop a plan to resolve



Implement



Joe Gust, Gust Brothers Farms

Impact




MAEAP Environmental Impact



Fiscal Year 2021 MAEAP Environmental Impact

Environmental Practice	Totals
Acres included in nutrient management plan	173,120
Linear ft. of buffer/filter strips	692,355
Acres of cover crops	45,232
Acres of conservation tillage	82,834
Acres of no-till, zone till, or grass cover	54,898
Number of gullies stabilized	571
Feet of livestock exclusion	57,241
Acres of Pest Management plans	153,989
Sediment reduced (tons)	254,783
Nitrogen / Phosphorous reduced	N: 951,353 lbs. / P: 428,584 lbs

A photograph of a large agricultural field filled with young green plants, likely soybeans, in rows. A path of dry straw mulch runs down the center of the field, separating the rows of crops. The sky is overcast and grey.

Water pollution comes from many sources, and some of it comes from farms. We are here to help and recognize farmers who reduce erosion and runoff from private land into public waters.



Why Enroll?

www.maeap.org



Why Enroll?



You can earn:

- Recognition as a top steward in the community
- Regulatory assurances
- Preferred access to cost share and technical assistance
- An enduring sense of accomplishment and pride
 - Be among the top 5% of farms who have earned this designation

"MAEAP show[s] the public that we as a family business do things that are environmentally friendly...and we also get compliments on our nice sign in front of the farm..."



Community Engagement



Community Engagement



- Technicians operate within local Conservation Districts to work directly with farmers to educate, assist and evaluate their operations
- Mi Clean Sweep Program – proper pesticide disposal/container recycling
- Water Use Reporting Program
- Private well water nitrate/nitrite, coliform testing
- Recycled tire program

Why MAEAP?





"We are participating in MAEAP because we recognize the benefit to the environment, our community and our farming operation."





“With MAEAP, there is no hidden agenda. These folks are really there to help with your operations. It’s refreshing to have people who are nice and are there to genuinely help you.”

— *Michael Wells, Arbor Vineyard and Farm*

Tecumseh



“These people (MAEAP technicians) want to help farms, they are there to help you. Their goal is to get you rolling in the right direction. That’s exactly what they do.”

— *Phil Gordon, Gordon Valley Farms*

Saline



“If I had to do it by myself, it would have been quite an effort... The technicians made the process go a lot easier. It’s not as difficult as you may think.”

— *Jerry Heck, Heck Farms*

Monroe

Other MAEAP Incentives



- Farm Bureau Insurance
 - Discount on the liability portion of farm owners' policy
- Crystal Flash
 - Discount on fuel tank purchase
- Michigan Corn Growers Association – Free 3-year membership
- Michigan Wheat Program
 - \$50 financial award

Questions?



For More Information



Visit our website at www.maeap.org

Or contact me at...

adam.brown@macd.org

231.866.9783 ext. 268