

MAEAP - GET THE FACTS PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP, PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



What is MAEAP?

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is a holistic approach to environmental protection. It helps farmers evaluate their entire operation and truly make sustainable management decisions balancing society's needs, the environment, and economics. MAEAP is a partnership effort that aims to protect natural resources and build positive communities by counseling Michigan farmers that operate farms of all sizes and all commodities on environmentally responsible agricultural production practices. Public Acts 1 and 2 of 2011 codify MAEAP into law, providing incentives and structure. To become MAEAP-verified, farmers must complete three comprehensive steps: educational seminars, a thorough on-farm risk assessment, and development and implementation of an action plan addressing potential environmental risks. The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) conducts an on-farm inspection to verify program requirements related to applicable state and federal environmental regulations, including GAAMPs. To retain MAEAP verification, a farm must repeat all three steps including MDARD inspection every three years.

What does MAEAP do for Communities?

Connects Farms & Communities

Agriculture plays a vital role in Michigan communities, and MAEAP-verification strengthens the relationships between farmers and their neighbors. Farmers who closely examine their operation's potential impact on water; soil and air understand the impact their practices can have on their neighbors concerned about odor, environment and the landscape concerns.

Ensures Emergency Preparedness

Farmers with MAEAP-verified farms are aware of the need for safety planning and are devoted to both prevention and preparedness. They know how to minimize the risk of infectious animal disease, chemical theft, or bioterrorist actions, and know what to do if an incident occurs.

Protects Natural Resources

Farming is an environmentally intense practice and the MAEAP-verification process ensures farmers are making choices balancing production and environmental demands. Measures aimed at protecting air, soil, water, and other environmental factors mean MAEAP-verified farmers are committed to farming practices that protect Michigan's natural resources.

Forward Thinking Planning & Research

MAEAP is based on scientifically supported standards that allow farms to address environmental concerns while remaining economically viable. As knowledge of the economy and our place in the environment progress, so does MAEAP— its progressive planning continually strengthens Michigan's agriculture and natural resources.

Who is behind MAEAP?

MAEAP is a collaborative effort of farmers, MDARD, Michigan Farm Bureau, commodity organizations, universities, conservation districts, conservation groups and state and federal agencies.

MAEAP Facts

- Annually, an average of 5,000 Michigan farmers attend an educational session geared toward environmental stewardship and MAEAP verification.
- In 2013, almost 750 farmers completed initial risk assessments.
- Over 2,000 MAEAP verifications have been completed.
- MDARD has verified that responsible manure application and other conservation practices are the rule on over half a million acres of Michigan farmland.
- The erosion-reducing aspects of MAEAP verification have kept almost 347,620 tons of farming soil where it belongs: in farm fields... EACH YEAR. That's 30,900 – 10 yard dump trucks of soil not reaching streams and lakes – every year.
- Phosphorus delivery to lakes & streams through sedimentation was reduced by 1.4 million pounds over 3 years.
- Annual Phosphorus delivery to lakes & streams through sedimentation is reduced almost 600,000 pounds PER YEAR through MAEAP... enough to grow almost 150,000 TONS of algae in lakes and streams.
- Almost 730,000 acres receiving pesticides have approved pesticide management plans over 3 years.
- Over 13,000 acres of filter strips have been installed and almost 2,300 gullies have been stabilized, improving water quality, during the last 3 years.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.MAEAP.ORG OR
WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/MAEAP OR CALL THE MAEAP HOTLINE: 517.284.5609**