

Animal Residuals Annual Conference - May 6 to 8, 2002
Approaches to Accelerate Nutrient Management Plans

Delivering Manure Management Strategies Locally in Michigan

Janice Swartz Wilford, Program Manager, Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

Background

Agriculture has changed significantly during the past 50 years and will continue to change in the future. A visible sign of this change in Michigan is the dramatic loss of farmland. Urban encroachment into traditional areas of agriculture continues to present unique environmental and social challenges. Even with an aggressive farmland preservation program, Michigan farmland is being converted to non-agricultural uses at the average rate of almost 75,000 acres per year. Furthermore, perceptions of traditional farming practices, by both the non-farm and the traditional farm community, often conflict with the reality of modern farm operations and production agriculture.

Important to the state's economy, Michigan agriculture is ranked second after the automotive and related industry. Animal agriculture represents half of Michigan's agricultural income. Following the auto industry and agriculture is tourism, reinforcing the importance of soil, water, air and other resource management to the state's citizens and guests. Michigan has more miles of coastline than any state other than Alaska. The state's 11,000 inland lakes and rivers, 13,000 trout waters and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams are important resources to agricultural and non-agricultural residents alike.

The transformation of farming practices over the past several years requires producers to take a closer look at the impact these practices may have on the environment. In addition, the heightened focus on conservation and environmental awareness has placed production agriculture under close scrutiny. No where has that been truer than in Michigan where Sierra Club lawsuits against several individual producers and the state's enforcement arm, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), have put all producers on high alert. As a part of the state's total Pollution Prevention Strategy, and led by the livestock industry, the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) was developed to aggressively address environmental stewardship.

Regulatory History

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the MDEQ share a mutual interest in maintaining a viable agriculture industry while protecting environmental quality. An interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) spells out the roles and responsibilities of each department in relation to the environmental regulation of farms and farm operations. The Michigan Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) is administered by MDEQ and establishes a no-discharge standard for farms and provides the framework for enforcement.

Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) provide technical and regulatory guidance to Michigan's agricultural producers, for an economically viable farm industry that is protective of the environment. Farm operations that voluntarily conform to these GAAMPs are provided nuisance protection and other provisions pursuant to the Michigan Right to Farm Act, P.A.93 or 1981, as amended. Under the Act, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture is charged with defining the GAAMPs. With that responsibility, the Commission developed the GAAMPs to address the unique characteristics of modern production agriculture in Michigan and their impact on environmental quality. The Act requires an annual review and revisions as considered necessary by the Commission of Agriculture and provides for public comment as a part of the process.

Also, the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities (Siting GAAMPs) provide a mechanism for proper siting of livestock facilities considering factors such as impacts on groundwater and surface water, neighboring land uses, design of facility and technology, and manure and odor management. A Michigan Spill Response System is operational with a 24-hour access to report and abate agri-chemical spills. This program provides technical assistance to land apply agricultural substances and prepares producers and local government for emergency readiness. Additionally, MDEQ involves local partners in monitoring of impaired water bodies with funds from the Clean Michigan Initiative bond proposal. Through this program, resources can be targeted to problem areas.

By design, MAEAP builds on programs that have already been established, have proven effectiveness, and are operational in Michigan. (See Attachment #1)

MAEAP Program Structure and Goals

MAEAP was designed by a coalition of agricultural, conservation and environmental representatives to assist producers in developing farm-specific pollution prevention practices. (MAEAP Partners are listed in Attachment #2) MAEAP's timeline and goals quickly have established the need for an accelerated approach to nutrient management development and to sustainable changes on the land. MAEAP uses a comprehensive, education-based approach to help producers develop and adopt site-specific pollution prevention practices on farms, to use consistent record keeping systems, and to conserve our state's valuable natural resources of soil and water. Program responsibilities among industry, agencies and Michigan State University (MSU) have been formalized through a Partnership Agreement (Attachment #3).

MAEAP is based on sound scientific practices and includes education, on-farm technical assistance, environmental risk assessments and action plans that are site and farm specific. MAEAP has developed three systems to be introduced over the next four years, including cropping systems, farmstead systems and livestock systems. The livestock system is the first priority for implementation and was launched in 2001. This multi-year approach allows producers to meet personal objectives, while best managing both time and resources. By participating in all three systems, producers comprehensively evaluate their entire farming operation for potential environmental risks.

The Livestock System Education Phase (Phase 1) is designed to raise the awareness of practices that may prevent or reduce on-farm legal and environmental risks. The educational meetings are held at various locations throughout the state, sponsored by local county Farm Bureaus, Michigan State University Extension (MSU-E) agents, and/or conservation districts. Commodity organizations have provided financial support to offset costs associated with these meetings. By mid-year, these sessions will also be available on the Internet.

During the educational phase, producers learn about the three MAEAP systems, as well as state and federal environmental rules and regulations, and the potential impact of agriculture pollution on the environment. Michigan's Right to Farm Act is briefly reviewed with special emphasis on the GAAMPs. Additionally, preparation for completing Phase II – On-Farm Assessment – is discussed, including how to develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and what resources and technical assistance are available to develop and implement a CNMP. Upon completion of the education phase, producers are equipped with the necessary information to begin organizing their own CNMP.

Phase II, and the heart of the program, is for producers to assess the environmental risks on the farm and to begin the development and implementation of a farm-specific plan to address identified risks through either developing a CNMP or having one developed. The CNMP is used to minimize impacts to the environment while maintaining the economic viability of the farm.

Michigan's CNMP guidelines meet or exceed USDA's national standards. The CNMP is written to include a timeline, which allows for implementing changes. To be approved, a CNMP must be signed by a certified plan writer. MAEAP has a goal to involve 85% of the livestock production in Michigan in the livestock system by the end of 2005, with the emphasis being on CNMP development. This objective represents about 3,000 farms. CAFOs in Michigan number between 200 and 250. Livestock producers will write some plans themselves and NRCS will write some that are linked to specific program areas. The private sector will assist most producers in writing plans. Initiatives are underway which currently provide Certified Crop Consultants (CCAs) and Professional Engineers (PEs) a vehicle for CNMP certification.

Phase III is for third party, on-farm, verification that the plan is being implemented and followed as written. Conformance to Michigan's Right to Farm Program is also evaluated. The Michigan Department of Agriculture completes this on-farm verification, at the producer's request. With an on-going commitment to use environmentally sound management practices, and to maintain MAEAP Verification, producers must

request a MDA visit every three years and must review and update their CNMP annually. The state has passed legislation that guarantees producer confidentiality for any information provided as a part of this voluntary program.

Current Events

General Permit Development

On January 14, 2002, the State of Michigan reached agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regarding environmental concerns on Michigan livestock farms. Up to this time, Michigan was delegated to enforce the Clean Water Act through existing state programs and environmental law, which establish a no-discharge standard and had no permit program. The terms of this resolution include, but are not limited to, the development of a general National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for livestock farms with greater than 1000 animal units that have or have had a discharge in the past 2 years and an option for those farms of like size that have not discharged to either voluntarily apply for coverage under the permit or complete the MAEAP Livestock System. This approach provides a structure to address those farms that violate Michigan's zero discharge standard while allowing proactive farmers to continue a voluntary approach. Only facilities with more than 1000 animal units that have had a documented discharge of waste within the last two years will be required to be covered under this new general permit.

Conservation District Involvement

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is piloting a program of Conservation District Environmental Assurance Specialists, through a grant to several conservation districts to support MAEAP. The grant is in partnership with MDEQ and USEPA through 319 funds. Conservation districts were prioritized based on verified Right to Farm complaints, verified MDEQ enforcement actions, number of animal units and access to surface water. A Request for Proposal was sent to the seven top conservation districts on the prioritized list. All seven indicated interest in the program and have since applied for and received grants and have hired staff.

This innovative approach to local delivery of manure management strategies in Michigan addresses nonpoint source pollution on livestock operations. Although the Environmental Assurance Specialist is trained in the CNMP process, the main thrust of the position is to assist private industry and local producers in CNMP preparation, with specific focus on conservation practices and treatment areas. These individuals encourage partnerships within the conservation district and work to meet goals related to CNMP development.

CNMP Workgroups

Numerous small group work sessions were organized around the state this last winter to help producers begin work on nutrient management plans, record keeping, and various components which are necessary in CNMP development. Led by MSU-E livestock agents, farmers gathered for full-day seminars with their own farm specific information to begin work. Beginning with the nutrient management aspects of the plan, producers and educators, assisted by state agency staff and area private consultants, began meaningful analysis of farm information – all at no cost to the producer.

These small group meetings are expected to continue and increase, sponsored by the state's commodity organizations. The dairy industry has committed staff to assist with plan writing. The swine industry has organized a pilot group of producers to work with national CNMP writers, sponsored by Michigan Pork Producers Association, the National Pork Board and Environmental Management Solutions, L.L.C. Local partnerships have developed across the state as resources focus on accelerating nutrient management plan development.

MAEAP.org

To facilitate communication and program promotion and to provide a common location for CNMP resources, MAEAP has also developed a web site, maeap.org. The site contains the MAEAP approved CNMP outline, checklist and other tools to assist both producers and plan writers alike. A Frequently

Asked Questions section has recently been added. A CNMP Writer's Guide is stated for introduction, pending a funding source. The Phase I Education Session will be located here. MAEAP committee lists, calendars and meeting information are current and accessible. Links to important resources are in place. Developed in cooperation with MSU's Virtual University and the MSU Institute of Water Research, the site is the result of a cooperative effort with representation from interested MAEAP partners.

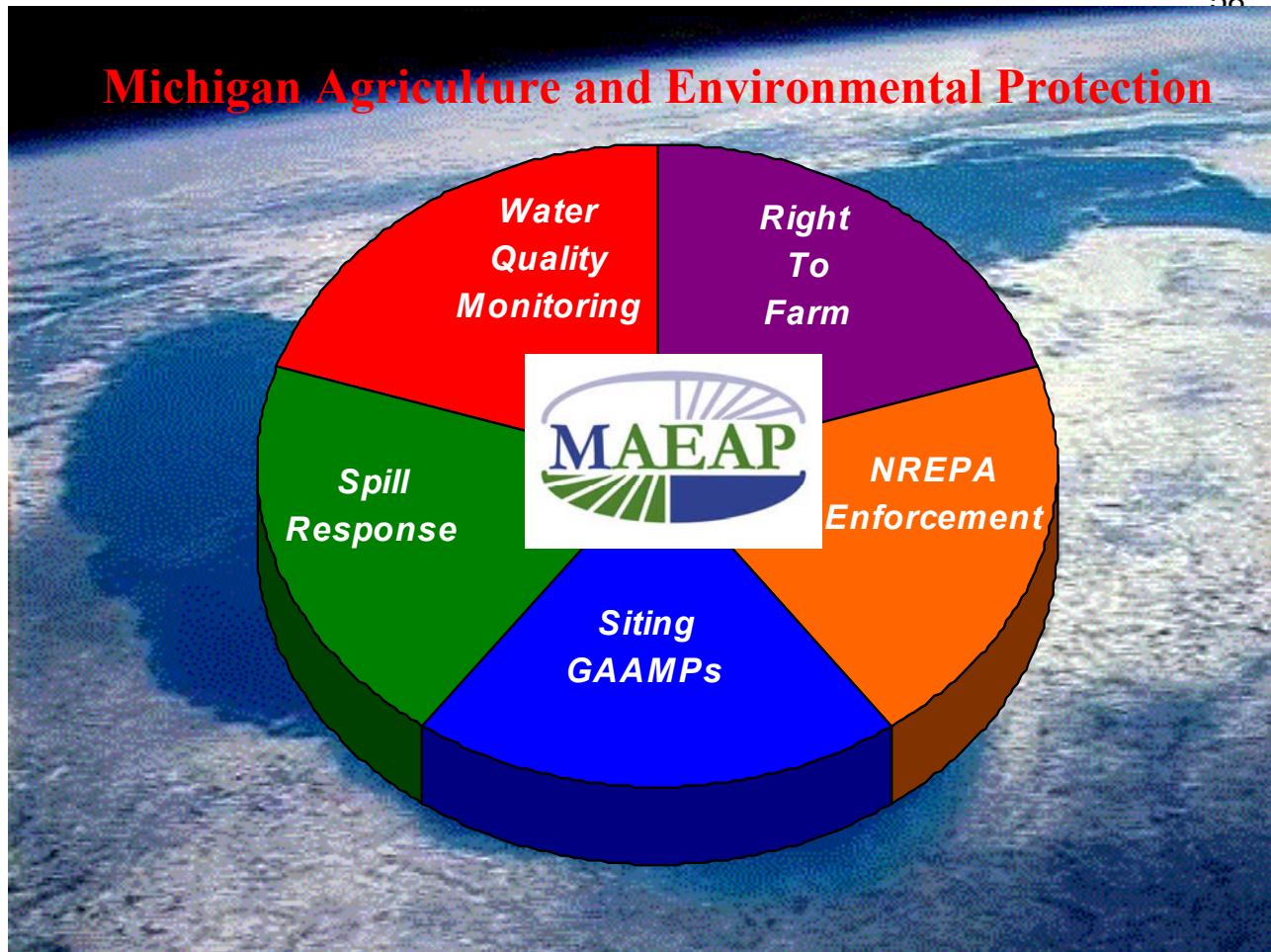
Conclusion

The MAEAP Livestock System is an effective program that works with individual producers in cooperation with local resources to evaluate livestock operations based on what environmental practices are in place, what practices need to be improved and the appropriate timeline for making those improvements. In addition to minimizing potential environmental risks and enforcement penalties, MAEAP offers other incentives to producers that range from farm owner's pollution liability insurance premium reductions to sponsorships and financial awards for program completion from non-livestock commodity groups. Alone, environmental guidelines can be overwhelming, but with the guidance of MAEAP, producers are able to effectively review and adapt practices to meet state and federal regulations, ultimately reducing the risk of enforcement penalties and assuring stewardship practices and manure management specific to the livestock operation.

In the coming months, MAEAP will continue to broaden the partnership and the scope of the program. The Farmstead System, modeled closely after the Farm*A*Syst program will be introduced in the fall of this year. The Cropping System is slated for 2004. The development and implementation of these systems will involve new stakeholders and will provide all Michigan farms with the opportunity to become environmentally assured. To perpetuate the viability of CNMPs, Michigan and USEPA are working to develop an Innovation Agreement with defined, measurable performance standards. The MAEAP partnership is committed to continuing aggressive and resourceful agricultural pollution prevention to ensure a truly sustainable agriculture in Michigan.

For further information please contact:

Janice Swartz Wilford, Program Manager, Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program,
Michigan Department of Agriculture, Environmental Stewardship Division, Constitution Hall,
525 West Allegan, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909 - Email: wilfordj9@michigan.gov
Phone: 517. 241-4730



plaint response program administered by Michigan Department of Agriculture. Farmers receive nuisance suit protection when following Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs).

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an Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program: A comprehensive, proactive environmental assurance program for Michigan's agriculture industry and natural resources.

MAEAP STEERING COMMITTEE

William Bickert, Co-Chair

120A Farrall Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-8643
bickert@age.msu.edu

Dr. Sandra Batie

Elton R. Smith Professor in Food &
Agricultural Policy
Michigan State University
204 Agriculture Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-355-4705
Fax 517-432-1800
Batie@pilot.msu.edu

David Bertram

Legislative Liaison
Michigan Township Association
512 Westshire Drive
PO Box 80078
Lansing, MI 48908-0078
517-321-6467
517-321-8908
David@mta-townships.org

Ernie Birchmeier

Livestock and Dairy Specialist
Michigan Farm Bureau
7373 West Saginaw
Lansing, MI 48909-8460
517-323-7000, ext. 2024
517-323-0230
ebirchmeier@poweruser.com

Stephen Davis

USDA/NRCS
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-324-5232
Fax 517-324-5171
Sdavis@mi.nrcs.usda.gov

Dennis Fox

Environmental Policy Specialist
Michigan United Conservation Club
PO Box 30235
Lansing, MI 48909
517-346-6487
517-371-1505
dfox@mucc.org

Brian Geerlings

Herbruck Poultry Ranch Inc.
6425 West Grand River Avenue
Saranac, MI 48881
616-642-9421
616-642-9826
Fax 616-292-4861
hpranch@iserv.net

Tom Guthrie

MIFFS
1405 South Harrison, Room 115
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-432-0712
Fax 517-353-1812
miffs@pilot.msu.edu

Ed Hanenburg

River Ridge Farms
15585 68th Avenue
Coopersville, MI 49404
616-837-7307
616-837-7162
RIVERRIDGE15585@aol.com

Kathleen Hawkins

Executive Vice President
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
2145 University Park Drive, Suite 300
Okemos, MI 48864
517-347-8117
kjhexec@aol.com

Sam Hines

Michigan Pork Producers Association
4801 Willoughby Road, Suite 5
Holt, MI 48842
517-699-2145
Fax 517-399-2233
Miporkasso@aol.com

Lyndon Kelley

Water Quality Agent SW
Michigan State University Extension
Kellogg Biological Station
3700 East Gull Lake Road
Hickory Corners, MI 49060
1-800-505-8775

kelley@msue.msu.edu

Jody Pollok

Executive Director
Michigan Corn Growers Association
504 South Creyts Road, Suite A
517-323-6601
517-521-4415
jpollok@micorn.org

Natalie Rector

Michigan State University Extension
County Building
315 West Green Street
Marshall, MI 49068
616-781-0908
Fax 616-781-0907
rector@msue.msu.edu

Kevin Wickey

USDA, NRCS
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250
East Lansing, MI 48823-6350
517-324-5279
Fax 517-324-5171
kwickey@mi.nrcs.usda.gov

Ronda Wuycheck

Michigan Department of Environmental
Quality, SWQD
PO Box 30273
Lansing, MI 48909
517-241-7832
Fax 517-373-9958
wuycheckr@michigan.gov

Larry Nobis

1980 North Lowell Road
St. Johns, MI 48879
989-224-3388
989-224-8860
Fax 989-224-4801
larryn@voyager.net

Roberta Osborne

County Extension Director
Branch County MSU Extension
Courthouse Annex
23 East Pearl Street
Coldwater, MI 49036
517-279-4311
osborner@msue.msu.edu

Charles Gould

Ag and Natural Resource Agent
Ottawa County MSU Extension
333 Clinton Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417-1329
616-846-8250
Fax 616-846-0655
gouldm@msue.msu.edu

Maury Kaercher

Ag & Natural Resource Agent
Kalamazoo County MSU Extension
201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue, Rm. 302
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
616-383-8830
Fax 616-384-8035
kaercher@msue.msu.edu

The Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program
(Livestock Systems Module)

*Official Partnership Agreement Signing
Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
Traverse City, Michigan
December 7, 2000*

Partnership Agreement Summary

This “Partnership Agreement” is to formalize a cooperative agreement among the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), Michigan State University (MSU), Michigan State University Extension (MSUE), the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The purpose of this Partnership Agreement is to support the MAEAP as a voluntary, cooperative government and industry education/facility assessment program. MAEAP is a key recommendation of the Michigan Agriculture Pollution Prevention Implementation Plan, an industry and government initiative signed by the Directors of the Departments of Environmental Quality and Agriculture in 1998. The program’s objective is to assist Michigan farmers in meeting federal and state requirements relating to manure and nutrient management. The program’s ultimate goal is to help ensure a healthful environment for the people and wildlife of the state of Michigan and to ensure the viability of agriculture in Michigan. The core components of the Livestock Systems module of MAEAP include education workshops for producers, the creation of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) tailored to each livestock facility, and an on-site assessment by a third party.

Each of the participating State and Federal agencies will support the partnership to the extent that it does not conflict with any agency’s statutory and regulatory obligations. The parties to the Partnership Agreement recognize their related interests and by mutual agreement will create a framework to enhance farm viability and environmental health in the State of Michigan. Industry and environmental interest organizations supporting this agreement include but will not be limited to: Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Corn Growers Association, Michigan Pork Producers Association, Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems, Michigan Township Association, Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, Michigan Environmental Coalition, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Cattlemen’s Association, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, Michigan Milk Producers Association and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.

Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (Livestock Systems Module)

The Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is an industry led initiative that is supported by federal, state, and academic partners. MAEAP partnership obligations range from general administration to program support on farms. This document details obligations from partners that are organization specific and integral to program actualization and success. Partners that support this agreement whose obligations are not explicitly stated understand that their role and commitment to the program is not secondary to those partners with detailed obligations. The sequence of signatories in this agreement reflects the order of respective obligations.

Robert D. von Bernuth, Co-Chairperson

Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program

Scott D. Piggott, Co-Chairperson

Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program

William Taylor, Acting Dean

[College of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#)

[Michigan State University](#)

Arlen Leholm, Director

[Michigan State University Extension](#)

Ian Grey, Director

Michigan Agriculture Experiment Station

Dan Wyant, Director

Michigan Department of Agriculture

Russell Harding, Director

Michigan Department of Environmental

Ronald C. Williams, State Conservationist

Natural Resource Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Michigan Farm Bureau

John G. Laurie, President

Michigan Corn Growers Association

Michigan Pork Producers Association

Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems

Michigan Township Association

Michigan Land Use Institute

Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Michigan Cattleman's Association

Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

Michigan Milk Producer's Association

Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee

Partnership Agreement

Between the

Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program
(Livestock Systems Module)

and

Agricultural Industry Organizations and Environmental Interest Groups

and

Federal, State and Academic Organizations

Agreement to Establish Partnership

This “Partnership Agreement” is to formalize a cooperative agreement among the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP), Michigan State University, Michigan State University Extension, the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the United States Department of Agriculture’s Michigan Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The term “Partnership”, as used in this agreement is not intended to create a legal partnership that refers to an association of one or two persons to carry on as co-owners of a business for profit. No party of this agreement is authorized to enter into any contract or arrangement on behalf of any other party to this agreement in the absence of specific written authorization. Furthermore, it is intended that each party to this agreement shall bear its own liability for its own acts and shall assume no liability for the acts of any other party to this agreement. Industry organizations and environmental interest groups supporting this agreement include but are not limited to Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Corn Growers Association, Michigan Pork Producers Association, Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems, Michigan Township Association, Michigan Land Use Institute, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Cattlemen’s Association, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, Michigan Milk Producers Association and Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.

The Partnership Agreement will ultimately result in a voluntary, cooperative government and industry environmental stewardship education program. Farmers completing this program will become “certified”. The term “certified” or “certification” as used in this agreement carries no regulatory significance other than to inform local, regional, state and federal agencies of the farmer’s efforts in meeting program requirements. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as surrendering existing statutory authority of any regulatory agency. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to release a farmer from complying with the applicable federal, state, regional, and local environmental statutes, regulations, or orders.

The exact policies and procedures by which a farmer will become certified will be in part determined following the completion of a Program model for Inter-species Livestock system On-farm Training (PILOT) project to be coordinated by MAEAP. The policies and procedures will be agreed to by unanimous consent of all partners prior to their implementation.

Partnership Purpose and Goals

The purpose of this Partnership Agreement is to support MAEAP as a voluntary, cooperative government and industry education and facility assessment program. The MAEAP Livestock System module’s objective is to assist Michigan farmers in meeting all Federal, State, regional, and local regulations relating to manure and nutrient management. The program’s ultimate goal is to help ensure a healthful environment for the people and

wildlife of the state of Michigan. The program core components include education workshops for producers, the creation of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans specific to each farm according to guidelines set by MAEAP and on-site assessment by a third party. However, a third party assessment and certification as performed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is not a determination that a facility is or is not in compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

In order to facilitate the education and certification of Michigan's livestock farmers, all partners in this agreement will cooperate in the development of training materials designed to assist farmers into coming into compliance with federal, state, regional and local environmental rules and regulations. Each of the participating state and federal agencies, industry organizations, and environmental groups will support the partnership to the extent that it does not conflict with any agency's statutory and regulatory obligations. The parties to the Partnership Agreement recognize their related interests and by mutual agreement will create a framework to enhance public and environmental health in Michigan.

Program Areas and Activities

This agreement sets forth the working arrangements among these agencies and participating industry organizations concerning mutual planning, sharing of information, and training in matters relating to environmental stewardship for Michigan livestock farmers. Principle considerations will be the enhancement of environmental health through education and sharing of information.

Each of the signatories will support the agreement in the following areas:

- a. The primary responsibility of the partners are:
 1. To develop training materials designed to assist producers in determining their compliance with all federal, state, regional, and local environmental laws and regulations related to manure and nutrient management.
 2. To communicate and coordinate with each other to assist farmers in achieving compliance. A product of this effort will be educational materials for use by livestock farmers and their advisors in developing and implementing Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs).
- b. Each partnering organization will have a primary contact/coordinator and a backup. Contact information will be made available to all partners.
- c. Each of the partners will have representation on the MAEAP steering committee. The MAEAP Steering Committee will meet monthly or bi-monthly to the group's discretion. Each of the partnering entities will be represented on a committee responsible for MAEAP administration. Work will be delegated by these committees to sub-committees that are responsible for finances, incentive formulation, program development, as well as CNMP development and implementation tools. Meetings of all sub-committees will be at the discretion of the respective sub-committee chair.

The Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program

The Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) will coordinate efforts of the livestock industry, government, and academic partners participating in this agreement. This program is a voluntary state, federal, and industry cooperative whose mission is to "...promote science-based livestock management practices which promote economic, environmental, animal, and public health." The program is currently funded by grants that are located at Michigan State University and by funding allocated to the Michigan Department of Agriculture by the Michigan Legislature. While the Farmstead System and Cropping System modules will be developed as the program evolves, the Livestock Systems module represents the first element of the program to be implemented. Obligations of the public and private signatories of this agreement

in no way obligates collaborating organizations or individual producers to participate in any other components of MAEAP (such as the Farmstead System and Cropping System modules).

Michigan livestock producers may voluntarily chose to become certified in MAEAP for Livestock Systems. The requirements and benefits of this certification as well as the role each or the organizations participating in this Partnership Agreement will play in the Certification Process is outlined below. The process by which a producer is certified will be finalized by unanimous consent of all partners following completion of PILOT.

Requirements for Producer Certification

Participation in MAEAP by a livestock producer is strictly voluntary. These certification requirements are intended to assist the farmer in complying with laws and regulations set forth in state and federal law. In order for a producer to become certified in MAEAP Livestock Systems, each of the requirements listed below must be completed. By participating in this partnership agreement, the signatories to this agreement are not making a determination that producers receiving third party certification are in compliance with applicable laws. However, third party certification as performed by MDA is one mechanism by which local, state, and federal regulatory agencies are informed of a producer's "good faith" efforts in achieving compliance with environmental laws.

1. **Livestock Systems Module Education Session** – Each producer (or authorized employee representing the farm) must complete an educational workshop in Livestock Systems developed or approved by Michigan State University Extension (MSUE). Workshops will be held at various locations throughout the state. Certificates of Completion will be provided and records of attendance kept by MSUE in cooperation with the MAEAP program manager.
2. **MAEAP Livestock Systems Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan and associated documents** – Each producer (or authorized employee representing the farm) will complete and have certified by a certified CNMP provider a MAEAP CNMP tailored to his or her farm. The producer is responsible for developing the CNMP and the plan shall remain at the facility. A regulatory agency's authority to gather information, an operator's right to withhold information and the public's right to access the information shall be governed by existing laws and regulations. These plans will conform to the CNMP requirements as established by the MAEAP Steering Committee which are in agreement with national USDA-NRCS guidance.
3. **Initial On-Site Assessment** – The producer (or authorized employee representing the farm) will participate in an on-site assessment performed by MDA. This evaluation will only occur at the request of the producer. The partners will develop an "assessment" tool during MAEAP PILOT. No on-site evaluations or certifications will be performed until PILOT is complete. The completed assessment tool will be accessible to producers prior to on-site evaluation. Assessments will rely heavily on examination of the CNMP developed by the producer. The on-site evaluation will be non-regulatory in nature.

In the event that the on-site assessment reveals circumstances that need to be corrected, the evaluator will leave an itemized list of corrections with the farmer and will schedule a subsequent re-evaluation. Upon successful completion of the re-evaluation, MDA will notify MAEAP regarding requirement completion and MAEAP will complete the certification process.

Producers (or an authorized employee representing the farm) will only have to attend an MAEAP Livestock Systems Educational Session once, but a separate CNMP will have to be completed for each contiguous set of facilities where livestock are kept.

4. **Re-certification** – Periodic re-certifications that follow MDA on-site assessment protocols will be necessary for a producer to maintain his or her Livestock System certification in MAEAP. The frequency of

these re-certifications will be determined as part of the policy and procedure development following MAEAP PILOT.

Obligations of the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

1. The Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) will support the goals and activities of this agreement as outlined in the above sections I (Agreement to Establish Partnership), II (Partnership Purpose and Goals), and III (Program Areas and Activities). The primary responsibility of all partners is to communicate with the other partnering organizations to assist in meeting a generally understood set of federal, state, regional, and local environmental regulations.
2. MAEAP will fund, implement and promote a program that will make Livestock Systems workshops available to any livestock producer, regardless of marketing or service organization affiliation. The Livestock Systems module of MAEAP has a goal of having 85% of Michigan livestock production implementing the program by 2005.
3. The MAEAP will be the lead organization responsible for coordination of the efforts of the various state, federal, industry, and academic partners. This coordination will include, but is not limited to, matters related to training, educational materials, and funding.
4. MAEAP will be the lead organization responsible for the maintenance of routine communications between the organizations participating in this Partnership Agreement. This coordination will be the responsibility of a paid program manager and will include but is not limited to progress reports, scheduling, and meeting minutes.
5. MAEAP will be the lead organization responsible for communication of the goal, requirements, and benefits of the MAEAP Livestock Systems module to Michigan farmers.
6. MAEAP will keep a list of producers that have successfully completed MAEAP Livestock Systems certification.

Obligations of Michigan State University, Michigan State University Extension, and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES).

1. Michigan State University (MSU) and Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) will support the goals and activities of this agreement as outlined in the above sections I (Agreement to Establish Partnership), II (Partnership Purpose and Goals), and III (Program Areas and Activities). The primary responsibility of all partners is to communicate with the other partnering organizations to assist in meeting a generally understood set of federal, state, regional, and local environmental regulations.
2. MSUE will coordinate and lead MAEAP Livestock Systems workshops and make them available to every livestock farmer in Michigan. The MAEAP Livestock Systems module has set a goal of having 85% of livestock production in Michigan implementing the program by 2005. Attendance by a producer in a MAEAP Livestock Systems educational workshop does not require that he or she participate in an on-farm certification. However, both workshop training and on-site certification are prerequisites for a producer to become certified in MAEAP. MSUE will work with all partners to ensure that the content of the workshop is consistent and current with all federal, state, regional and local environmental regulation.
3. MAES will support research programs relative to manure management and nutrient management and work with the partners to ensure that research is timely and relevant.
4. MSU and MSUE will continue to develop and distribute informational and educational materials that assist farmers in completing the MAEAP certification requirements.

5. MSU will continue to offer information to individuals regarding Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan development and implementation in the form of coursework and educational programs.
6. With the assistance of other partners, MSUE will compile a central databank of information regarding emerging technologies and educational materials relevant to MAEAP participants.

Obligations of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

1. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) will support the goals and activities of this agreement as outlined in the above sections I (Agreement to Establish Partnership), II (Partnership Purpose and Goals), and III (Program Areas and Activities). The primary responsibility of all partners is to communicate with the other partnering organizations to assist in meeting a generally understood set of federal, state, regional, and local environmental regulations.
2. MDA will develop a process for verification that farm conditions and operations are consistent with the goals of MAEAP. The tools and processes used in verification will be made available to producers prior to the site visit so the producer knows explicitly what is required of them in the MAEAP.
3. MDA will provide verification services for the MAEAP upon producer request. In the event the verification site visit reveals circumstances which need to be corrected, MDA will provide the producer with a list of needed corrections and work with the producer to develop a mutually agreed upon schedule for implementation. During the initial demonstration stage of MAEAP implementation verification will rely heavily upon examination of the producers CNMP and indicators of CNMP implementation.
4. MDA will notify the MAEP when producers have successfully completed the verification process.
5. MDA will develop a system that allows producers to maintain their MAEAP verification status. This system is currently envisioned to include a mixture of options that include but are not limited to continuing education, expanded on-site risk assessment, and repeat site verification visits.

Obligations of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

1. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will support the goals and activities of this agreement as outlined in the above sections I (Agreement to Establish Partnership), II (Partnership Purpose and Goals), and III (Program Areas and Activities). The primary responsibility of all partners is to communicate with the other partnering organizations to assist in meeting a generally understood set of federal, state, regional, and local environmental regulations.
2. MDEQ will consider the “good faith” efforts of farmers participating in the MAEAP Livestock Systems module when investigating environmental problems on farms. MDEQ will factor the findings of MAEAP assessment into enforcement considerations.
3. MDEQ will participate in the development of environmental stewardship educational materials. These materials may include fact sheets, question and answer sheets, and livestock operation environmental assessment tools.
4. MDEQ will share with other partner’s changes in policies, guidance, and existing regulations at the same time and in the same manner as the rest of the public prior to implementation.
5. MDEQ will refer livestock operations found in violation of state and federal law to MAEAP for participation.
6. MDEQ will pursue the action items of the Agriculture Pollution Prevention Implementation Plan to advance the adoption of pollution prevention activities through MAEAP.

Obligations of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

1. The Michigan Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will support the goals and activities of this agreement as outlined in the above sections I (Agreement to Establish Partnership), II (Partnership Purpose and Goals), and III (Program Areas and Activities). The primary responsibility of all partners is to communicate with the other partnering organizations to assist in meeting a generally understood set of federal, state, regional, and local environmental regulations.
2. NRCS will provide for certification of CNMP providers through Memorandum’s of Understanding (MOUs) with private and public organizations.
3. NRCS will continue to provide technical standards and tools supporting the development of CNMPs.

4. NRCS will continue to provide technical and financial assistance to operators of animal feeding operations.

Obligations Partnering Agricultural Organizations and Environmental Interest Groups.

1. The Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) will support the goals and activities of this agreement as outlined in the above sections I (Agreement to Establish Partnership), II (Partnership Purpose and Goals), and III (Program Areas and Activities). The primary responsibility of all partners is to communicate with the other partnering organizations to assist in meeting a generally understood set of federal, state, regional, and local environmental regulations.

General Provisions of the Agreement

1. Obligations of the public and private signatories of this agreement are limited to the elements of the agreement itself. Participation in this MAEAP Livestock Systems module partnership agreement in no way obligates collaborating organizations or individual producers to participate in other components of the MAEAP (such as the Farmstead Systems and Cropping Systems modules).
2. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as surrendering existing statutory or regulatory authority of any party.
3. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to release a livestock producer from complying with the applicable federal, state, regional, or local environmental statutes, regulations, or consent orders.
4. This agreement may be amended through mutual agreements of the parties.
5. Individual partners may unilaterally withdraw from the partnership agreement following a thirty-day notice and explanation of the reasons for withdrawal given at a meeting of the MAEAP Steering Committee.

JUNE 21, 2002

MANURE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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| 1929 | Michigan establishes Michigan Water Resources Commission. |
| 1972 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Water Pollution Control Act – Regulates discharges of pollutants to US waters. • Michigan Water Quality Protection Act. |
| 1977 | Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) – Unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into US Waters...unless a NPDES permit is obtained. |
| 1981 | Michigan enacts Michigan Right to Farm (RTF) Legislation. |
| 1988 | Michigan adopts Manure Management Generally Accepted Management Practices (GAAMPs). |
| 1994 | Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) – Establishes “no discharge” law in Michigan. |
| 1998 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry lead Animal Initiative, through Michigan’s Pollution Prevention |

Strategy, creates Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) for livestock, farmstead and cropping systems.

- Federal Clean Water Action Plan
 - w Polluted runoff is the greatest source of water quality problems in US.
 - w Expanded CWA permit controls to large facilities (CAFOs).
 - w Unified Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations (CNMP).

- 1999
 - Michigan environmental groups review state records – Challenge MI DEQ’s delegated authority to enforce the Clean Water Act.
 - Environmental groups petition USEPA.
 - MI Senate Bill 205 establishes Siting GAAMPs.
 - USDA/USEPA release Final Unified National AFO Strategy.

- 2000
 - USEPA Investigates environmental group petition in MI.
 - MAEAP introduces Livestock System to producers.
 - MI DEQ reviews protocol for enforcement consistency.
 - Nationally, USEPA proposes strict new controls to CWA.

- 2001
 - USEPA continues investigation and inspects MI farms.
 - MAEAP Pilot program underway.
 - Environmental groups continue lawsuits/letters to MI producers.
 - MAEAP meets with USEPA Leadership in DC and in MI.

- 2002
 - USEPA Report due on final rules.
 - Environmental groups continue lawsuits in MI.
 - Stakeholder group works to draft a general permit with MAEAP option for CAFOs without a verified discharge.
 - MDA inspectors verify first MAEAP livestock operation.

