

For Immediate Release

FREE! Productive Lands, Cleaner Water Workshop

On Wednesday, January 27th, 2016 a free informative workshop, open to the public, will take place at the MTEC Building (Room 134), 400 Klock Road, Benton Harbor, Michigan from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Plan to attend if you farm or are interested in our local streams, rivers and Lake Michigan.

Each attendee will receive a Free soil testing kit valued at \$16 and entered in a drawing for a door prize. Morning refreshments will be served. The event is free but **registration is required**. Call the Berrien Conservation District at 269-471-9111, x3 by Monday, January 25th, to reserve your spot!

At this workshop, you will learn about farming practices and also incentives available to farmers to build healthier soil and reduce polluted runoff into our drains, streams, rivers and lakes. Presentations will include topics on water quality, wetlands, USDA conservation practices and Michigan's Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). There will also be a special demonstration showcasing the benefits of non-tilled versus tilled soil that may convince you to try no-till on your land.

And if you are wondering about the MAEAP signs going up that say "This Farm is Environmentally Verified," you can find out how to get that sign for your farm. This workshop also qualifies for MAEAP Phase One credit if you are seeking MAEAP verification.

This workshop is part of a larger effort to reduce pollution in Ox Creek, the Paw Paw River, St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan. This workshop has been funded wholly or in part through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Nonpoint Source Program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.