



## Partnership

- Farmers
- Industry Groups
- Conservation
- Agency
- University
- Implemented by MDARD with consultation from the MAEAP Advisory Council
- All farm types – all sizes

## Why MAEAP?



MAEAP verified farms keep their land, water and air as healthy as the food they produce.

They represent the highest standards of environmental stewardship and the pinnacle of responsible agriculture.

MAEAP farms are required to go through a rigorous review by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development every three years to ensure they are in compliance with MAEAP Standards.

Michigan Agriculture  
Environmental Assurance Program



Michigan Agriculture  
Protecting the Environment



Dairy Farmers of America



CRAWORLD



MICHIGAN  
ALLIED  
POULTRY  
INDUSTRIES, INC.



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION



MICHIGAN  
CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION

MICHIGAN  
AGRICULTURAL  
EXPERIMENT STATION

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY



Over 50 Partners...



Michigan Agriculture  
Environmental Assurance Program



Michigan Agriculture  
Protecting the Environment

# And Growing...



Corn Marketing Program of Michigan  
Michigan Corn Growers Association



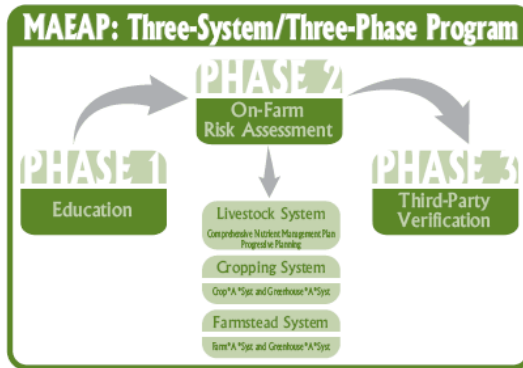
Michigan Food &  
Farming Systems-MIFFS  
Bringing Farmers & Communities Together



THE MICHIGAN BEAN  
COMMISSION



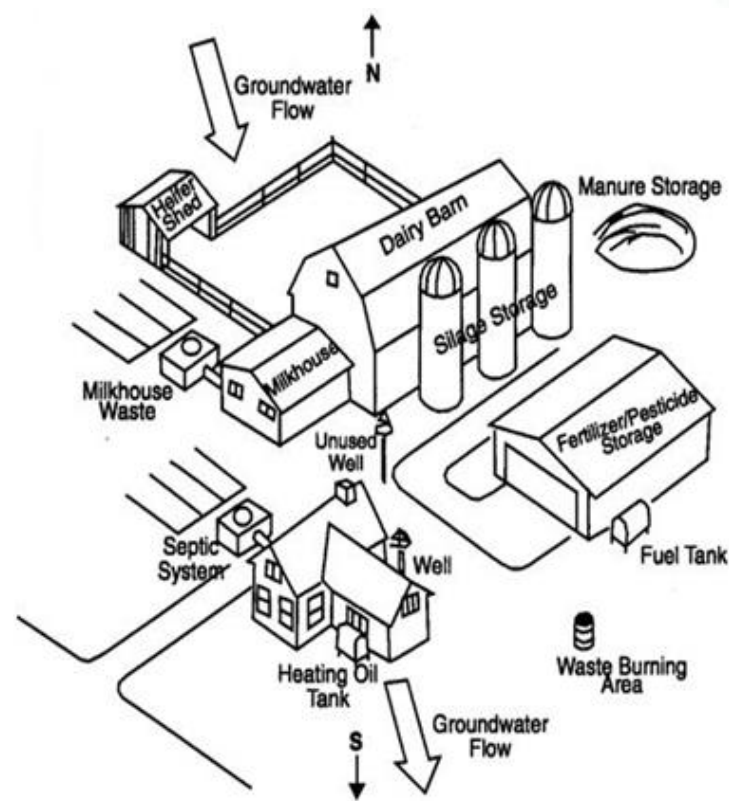
## How does MAEAP Work?







## What does MAEAP do?







MAEAP

Michigan Agriculture  
Protecting the Environment



Michigan Agriculture  
Environmental Assurance Program



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It's the  
**The Big Quiz**

[MAEAP.org](http://MAEAP.org)





# What Does MAEAP Stand For?

This is a soft serve





Michigan Agriculture  
Environmental Assurance Program



Michigan Agriculture  
Protecting the Environment

# Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program



[MAEAP.org](http://MAEAP.org)



# Participation in MAEAP is Mandatory

True or False?







False

Participation in MAEAP is Voluntary





“If the Technician comes to my farm, I will get reported to other agencies.”

True or False







MAEAP is a Confidential  
program.







# Good Idea or Bad Idea?







# Good Idea or Bad Idea?







# Good Idea or Bad Idea?







# Good Idea or Bad Idea?







# Good Idea or Bad Idea?







# How Many tons of sediment are reduced annually by MAEAP Verified Farms?

- a. About 10,000 tons
- b. About 100,000 tons
- c. About 500,000 tons
- d. About 1,000,000 tons







Answer: D. About 1,000,000 Tons

Sediment reduced on MAEAP farms could have filled 91,296 10 yard dump trucks. Put in a line they would stretch 346 miles

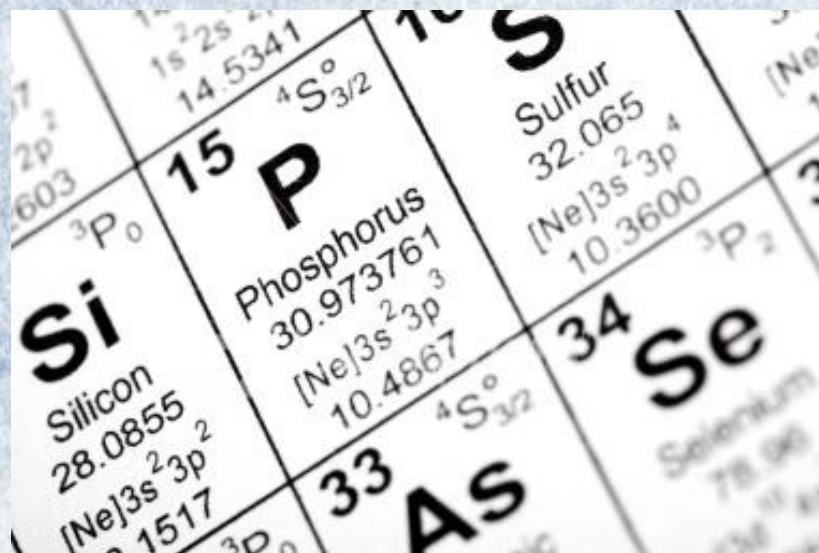






How many pounds of phosphorus  
are reduced annually by MAEAP-  
verified farms?

- A. About 10,000 pounds
- B. About 100,000 pounds
- C. About 1,700,000 pounds
- D. About 2,000,000 pounds





Answer C: About 1,700,000  
pounds

Phosphorus reduced on  
MAEAP farms could have  
grown 429,140 tons of  
algae in surface waters  
enough to cover 83% of  
Houghton Lake.







## Why do farmers participate?

- Environmental concern
- Marketing opportunities
- Good neighbor
- Legislated incentives
- Peace of mind/right thing to do
- Access to cost-share and incentive payments
- RUP credits
- Liability/Ins \$ Reduction
- RTF protection
- GAP audit assistance
- Follow State and Federal laws
- Improved Management
  - Plan for long term
  - Ahead of curve
  - Learn & improve
  - Recognition



## PA 1 & 2, 2011

MAEAP codified in law

- Standards, Advisory Council, Ag Commission Role, Regional Assurance Teams, MOU with MDEQ & more.

Incentives in law

- Accidental discharge – No fines & penalties. (responsibility for notification/resource damage).
- TMDL- Farms verified in all applicable systems considered as meeting all required practices.
- Verified farms following standards & receiving defined rainfall with discharge considered nonpoint source discharge. Corrective action to avoid future discharge.





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## What's New With MAEAP?





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## Forest Wetland And Habitat System

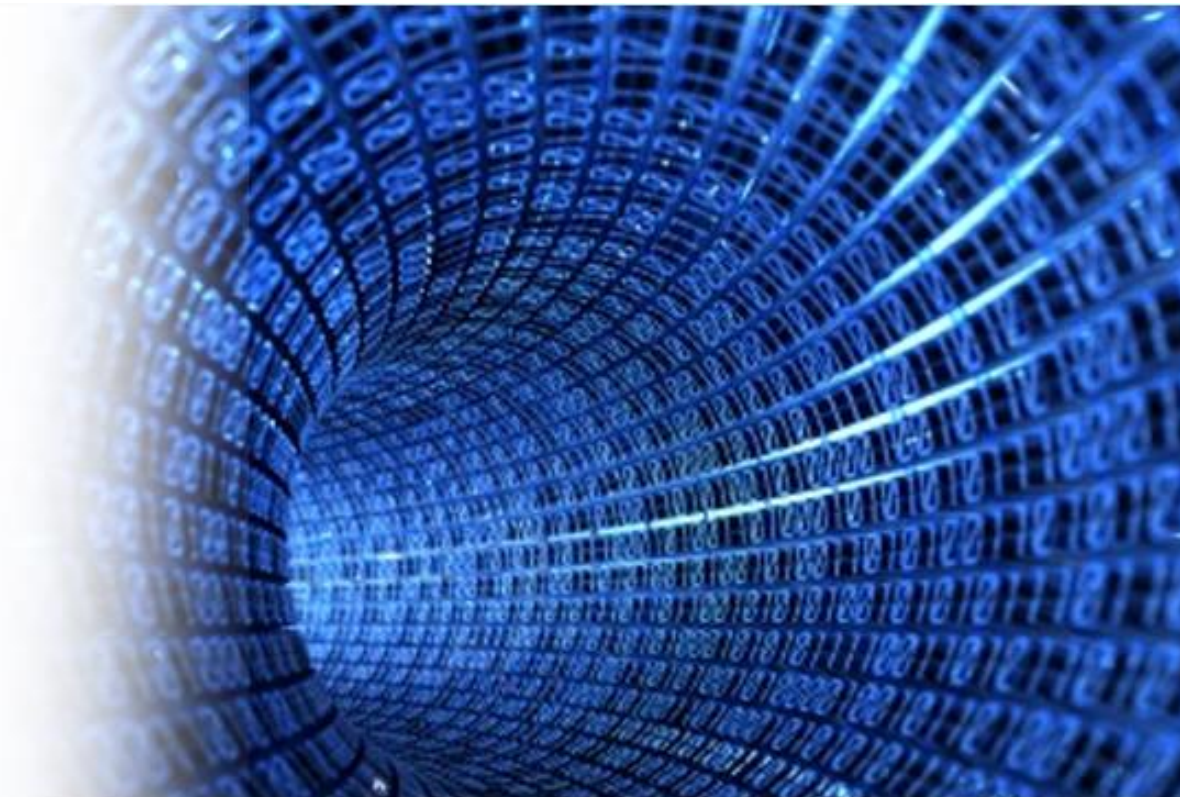




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Database



## Tiering





## Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program



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September 2013



# Environmental Report Cards You Can Use



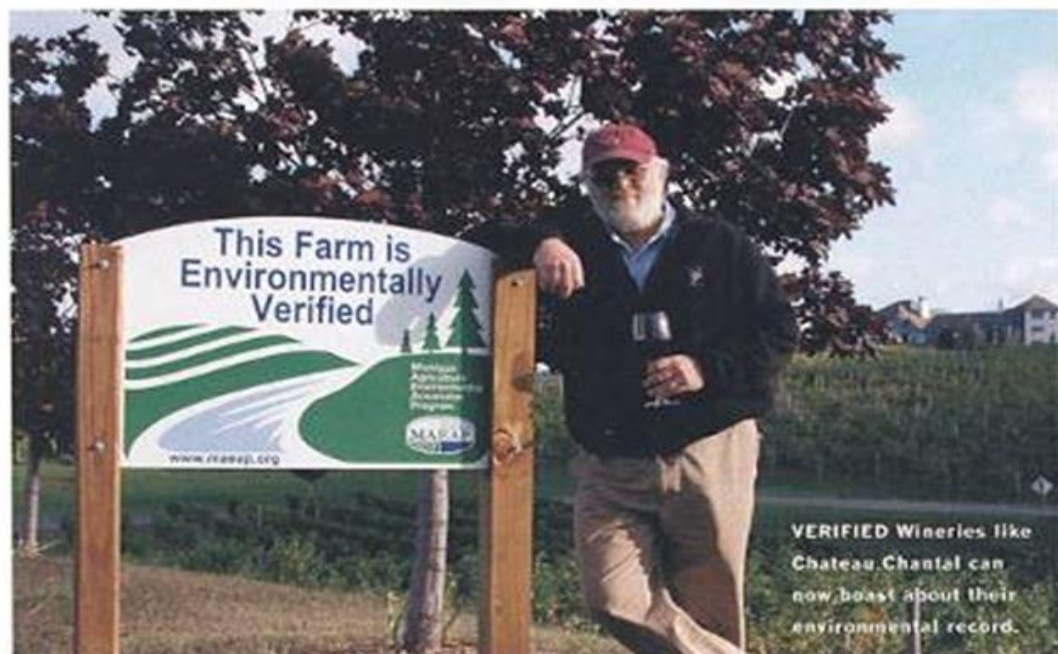


# Local Stewards of the Land

## Involvement

MICHIGAN WINERIES GROW GREEN WITH MAEAP

*By Janice Wilford*



**B**eneath the seeming peacefulness of many Michigan vineyards is an abundance of environmental activity. Farmers have long been regarded as stewards of the land. However, their modern role as caretakers has changed, and life at Michigan's vineyards and wineries is under transformation.

family has always strived to make the land better and more productive. MAEAP verification lets us know we are doing what we can to manage our farm and our land as best we can."

In addition to robust educational requirements, growers are required to work with trained technicians through local conservation districts to establish environmental goals and address identified risks. Following completion of a farm-specific risk assessment and implementing any required corrective actions, farmers may request a third-party objective review by the MDA. The MDA verifies that educational and risk assessment requirements have been met, that the farm is in conformance with Michigan's Right to Farm Generally Accepted Practices and that the practices in place adequately address environmental risks. The farm is then "verified," and the farmer is eligible to purchase a sign to communicate this outstanding accomplishment to the community and to consumers. To maintain certification, the farmer must attend an educational session, update the farm plan, and be subject to an on-site visit every three years.

And the result? MAEAP-verified vineyards have proven they use sound environmental practices to protect natural resources and build



# Community Awareness

JUNE 13, 2012 AT 4:37 PM

## Ford's Cherry Hill farm honored for reducing agricultural pollution

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ THE DETROIT NEWS 4 COMMENTS



Chris VanWashenova, who lives in the farmhouse and has worked the property for 12 years, stands by a 1970s era Ford FW-60 tractor. (David Guralnick / The Detroit News)

**Superior Township**— Tuesday wasn't your average day on the farm for Al VanWashenova.

But then again, Cherry Hill is no run-of-the-mill farm.

"I could be out baling hay, but baling hay isn't as important as this," VanWashenova said, pointing to the throngs of guests outside the farm's shop for a pig roast. "This is very out of the norm."

The pig roast — VanWashenova's idea — was a nice way to celebrate earning state honors for efforts to reduce farm pollution. The roast also was a fitting gesture. Such a community-building meal would have pleased the property's original owner, Henry Ford.



Ken Sparks said it is important that his farm addresses the most current good environmental practices. "The best part is the sense of accomplishment that neighbors can see and say, hey, they must be taking this farming thing seriously."

By John Eby

### LATEST STORIES

## MAEAP verifies Sparks farm

Published 10:52pm Tuesday, April 17, 2012

[Email](#) [Print](#) [a](#) [a](#) [a](#) [Comments](#)

CASSOPOLIS — Ken Sparks of Sparks Cedarlee Farm recently received the Farmstead verification in the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). Sparks Cedarlee Farm consists of 1,200 acres of cash crops and a 230-cow, pasture-based dairy.

MAEAP is a program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agriculture pollution risks.

It teaches farmers how to identify and prevent environmental risks and to comply with state and federal environmental regulations.

It is a collaborative effort of producers, Michigan Department of Agriculture,



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# MAEAP Verified Farms in Farm Market Promotions

## A sign of integrity.

MAEAP-verified farms keep their land, water and air as healthy as the food they produce. They represent the highest standards of environmental stewardship and the pinnacle of responsible agriculture.



Look for MAEAP signs at the local farms and markets you visit, and talk with the farmers. They're experts at producing safe, healthy, nutritious foods for you and your family, while caring for the environment that makes their livelihood possible.



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[www.maeap.org](http://www.maeap.org)





# Michigan Farmers Are Proud to Be MAEAP Verified!







## Questions?



Visit us on  
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[www.maeap.org](http://www.maeap.org)  
[www.michigan.gov/maeap](http://www.michigan.gov/maeap)

