



J U L Y 2 0 0 9

NEWS

www.maeap.org

Michigan
Agriculture
Environmental
Assurance
Program

B U L L E T I N

MAEAP, Right to Farm funded through fiscal '09

Following a June 3 decision by Michigan legislators to allow a one-time transfer of operational funds, the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) and the state's Right to Farm program (RTF) will remain operational through fiscal year 2009.

"On May 21, the state budget office sent a one-time funding transfer package request to the state legislature, transferring \$195,000 to the Right to Farm Program and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program," said James Johnson, Environmental Stewardship Division Director for the Michigan Department of Agriculture. "The future of both programs will be evaluated as part of the 2010 funding process."

For now, both programs are reported to be part of the fiscal year 2010 budget, but with the many financial challenges facing the state, agriculture industry representatives and government officials say their optimism remains guarded for future funding.

"Michigan Farm Bureau members have worked tirelessly to support MAEAP, both at the state level and by implementing the program on farms," said Scott Piggott, manager of Michigan Farm Bureau's Agricul-

Rebates offered for responsible agriculture

The agriculture industry recognizes the efforts of growers whose farms become MAEAP verified. The Michigan Soybean Checkoff offers soybean growers a \$25 rebate on the purchase of a large MAEAP sign. They also give the MAEAP program a \$25 match to assist with environmental education. The Michigan Corn Growers Association offers their members a \$200 scholarship for becoming MAEAP verified in addition to \$75 to help offset the purchase of their MAEAP sign. The Michigan Milk Producers Association gives their members a \$100 gift certificate for MMPA member merchandise. For a complete list of MAEAP rebates, go to <http://www.maeap.org/maeap/incentives/signs>. Michigan agriculture wants to make sure farmers who achieve the highest standards of environmental stewardship are recognized for being the pinnacle of responsible agriculture.



MAEAP staff at MDA: Back row: Josh Appleby, Joe Kelpinski, Tom Young; front row: Jan Wilford, Lisa Lipsey

tural Ecology Department. "The program is a national model and we are proud of what has been accomplished; but we know there is more work to do.

"Agriculture will continue to fight for a viable, funded MAEAP program and increased incentives for farmers to participate. If funding and staff are lost, Michigan's farmers will have lost a great tool to help neighbors and policy makers understand the environmental benefits farmers provide every day while providing affordable, safe food and fiber in a struggling economy."

The RTF Program is a complaint-based response program that works to resolve local disputes resulting from nuisance complaints. MAEAP is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks in a way that addresses federal and state environmental laws.

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Ag Expo: July 21-23

Talk with MAEAP staff
at the MDA tent.

MAEAP farms identified in the 2009 Farm Market Directory

Get your copy at
www.michiganfarmfun.com
or your local Farm Bureau
Insurance office.



Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909

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New Grape*A*Syst for juice grape growers!

- The Grape*A*Syst program meets both MAEAP and National Grape Cooperative standards for environmental sustainability.
- Grape*A*Syst creates a comprehensive checklist that points out changes to infrastructure and production and management practices that make farms more sustainable and eligible for verification with MAEAP and National Grape.

CONTACTS:

Suzanne Forraht, Berrien County groundwater technician, can conduct the Grape*A*Syst risk assessment, 269.471.9111 Ext.103 or suzanne.forraht@mi.nacdnet.net.

Kyle Mead, Allegan and Van Buren County groundwater technician, can conduct the Grape*A*Syst risk assessment, 269.657.4030, ext. 5 or kyle.mead@mi.nacd.net.

Total MAEAP Verifications:

670

With support from:

