MAEAP 10 years
A DECADE OF PROGRESS

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

A Comprehensive and Proactive Environmental Program for Michigan Farmers

House Agriculture Committee
April 29, 2009

Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

MAEAP is a voluntary program for Michigan farmers designed to help them reduce environmental risks on their farms. Created by farmers and industry, MAEAP teaches effective land stewardship practices, helping farmers comply with state and federal regulations through:

Education

Risk Assessment

Verification

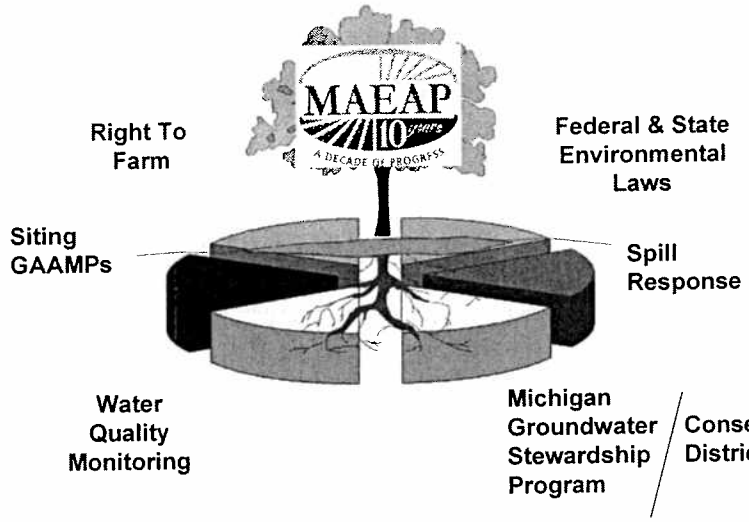
- **Cropping System**
- **Farmstead System**
- **Livestock System**

MAEAP

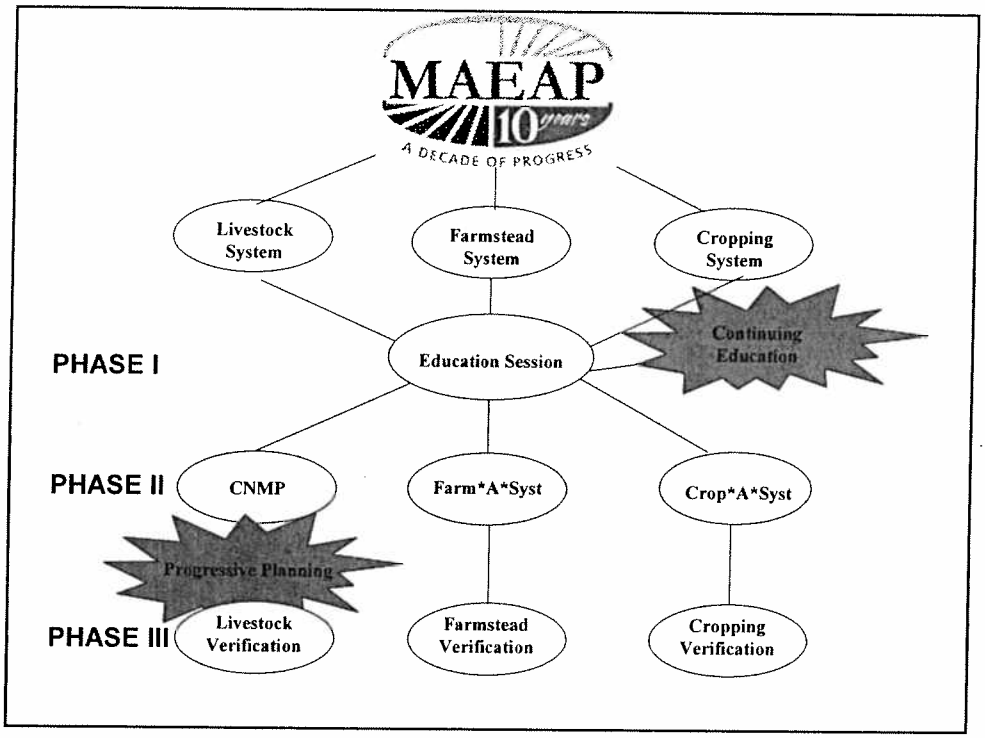
A coalition of agriculture producers, commodity groups, universities, state and federal agencies, conservation and environmental groups began MAEAP in 1998.

www.maeap.org

Michigan: Building on Programs That Work



MAEAP: Over 30 Partners



MAEAP - An Innovative Approach

- Broad partnership – diverse participation
- Problem solving through collaboration - based on science
- Farm and site specific
- Systems – multi-media
- Raises pollution prevention performance expectation

MAEAP's Success…

- Technical Support
- Cost-share through EQIP
- Consistent Message

"Tell me what to do and I'll do it"

MAEAP's Success…

- Education
  - Key to voluntary programs
  - 50-70 meetings each year
  - Partner sponsorships
- Peace of mind

Farmer Motivations

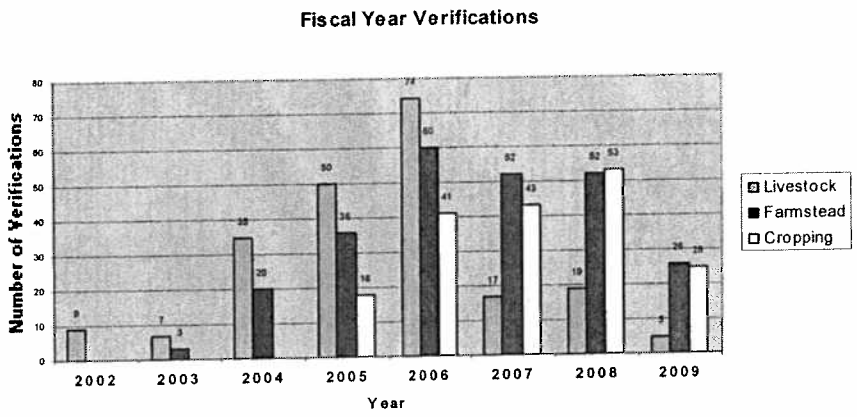
- Fear of Regulations
- Risk of Lawsuit & Fine
- Peer Pressure
- Technical & Financial Assistance
- Community Awareness

MAEAP Verification

- Farmer requests
- Michigan Department of Ag oversight
- On-farm visit
- Conformance with GAAMPs
- Identified state and federal environmental regulations
- Recognized standards
- Every 3 years – reverification

MAEAP Verification-based on actual change, not promises

MAEAP Makes a Difference



635 Total Farms Verified to Date
7,000 Educated in Phase I

Cost of Becoming Livestock System Verified

- Average Livestock Farm: $104,432
- Small & Medium Livestock Farms
  - $12.11 per animal unit ($8 more than large livestock farms)
  - 38% time was a barrier (only 19% of large livestock farms)

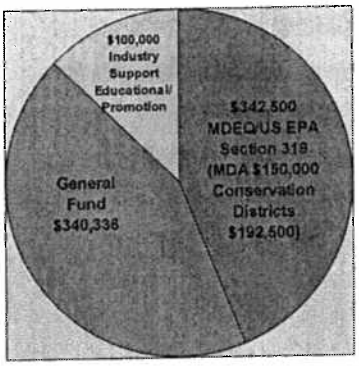
Environmental Outputs and Outcomes

- Sedimentation control – Phosphorus loading reduced by over one million pounds
- Almost one million acres receiving pesticides have implemented an approved pest management plan
- Commercial fertilizer costs reduced by almost $48 million dollars
- Almost 1.8 million gallons of silage leachate contained & prevented from reaching lakes & streams
- 10,000 acres of cover crops, 1400 acres of filter strips, over 400 gullies stabilized

Challenges For Adoption

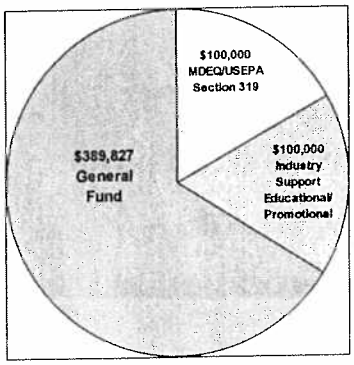
- Balancing practicality with environmentally defensible solutions
- Funding adequate technical assistance
- Identifying meaningful incentives
- Linking investment to environmental outcomes

Government Efficiencies FY 2008



- Approximately $2 million in risk assessment development & evaluation
- MAEAP verified Livestock farms have accessed $1.2 million average annually
- Annually $500,000 federal Farm Bill used for CNMP development

Current Program Cost FY 2009



US EPA Section 319 Funds Reduced:

- MDA – from $150,000 to $100,000

(FY10 will be reduced to $0)

- Conservation Districts- $192,500 eliminated

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