

**PUBLIC INPUT MEETING**

**GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

**Manure Management and Utilization  
Site Selection & Odor Control for New & Expanding Livestock Production Facilities  
Nutrient Utilization  
Irrigation Water Use**

**December 17, 2007**

Present:

Dr. Wendy Powers, Michigan State University  
Scott Piggott, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Jeff Haarer, Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Wayne Whitman, Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Amy Bearss, Michigan Department of Agriculture

***OPENING***

***Jeff Haarer***

Good afternoon everyone. For the record it is now 1:08 p.m. on December 17, 2007.

We are in the Lake Superior Room of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 717 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan.

My name is Jeff Haarer. I am the Producer Security Services Manager and Hearings Officer for the Michigan Department of Agriculture. This meeting is being held to receive public comment on the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (also known as GAAMPs), for Manure Management and Utilization, Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Production Facilities, Nutrient Utilization, and Irrigation Water Use. The GAAMPs for Care of Farm Animals, Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control, and Cranberry Production, have no proposed

changes for 2008. Thank you for taking the time to be here today to participate in this very important public policy issue. On behalf of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, Director Don Koivisto, and the staff of the Michigan Dept. of Agriculture, I thank you for your comments and input to improve these GAAMPs.

Information about this meeting was released to the News Media on November 16, 2007. Over 300 daily, weekly, food, farm, and environmental media and organizations were notified. In addition, this information, along with copies of proposed changes to several of these GAAMPs, were posted on the Michigan Department of Agriculture Web Site.

Copies of the four sets of GAAMPs under consideration are available here in this room, on the table behind me. All GAAMPs are developed by multi-agency Task Force Committees which are chaired by Michigan State University faculty. GAAMPs are then presented to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture for consideration and adoption under the Authority of the Michigan Right to Farm Act, Public Act 93 of 1981, as amended. Since their initial adoption, these GAAMPs have undergone annual review by the respective task force committees, which include scientists and others with expertise, education, and knowledge in the field. The Chair of each Task Force gathers comments from members and then makes recommendations for revisions of the GAAMPs to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture. The Commission approves, amends, or rejects those recommendations.

The Commission of Agriculture determined that it would like to hear input from the general public, as well as from the scientific community, in their review and adoption of proposed changes to the GAAMPs. Therefore, we are meeting today to hear your views about these proposed GAAMPs and the changes to them especially the current wording of recommended changes by the Task Forces. The purpose of this meeting is to receive public comment on the wording on the GAAMPs themselves and not to debate the merits or history of the Right to Farm Program. If you would like to provide input on any of these GAAMPs or word changes, we welcome your comments. Agriculture Commission deliberation on these GAAMPs is currently scheduled for January 14, 2008. The Commission meeting is scheduled to be held in Lansing, and public comment will be taken there. .

In addition to oral comments today, anyone may submit written comments to me by 5:00 p.m. today, December 17, 2007. You may write to me, Jeff Haarer, Michigan Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909, or contact me by email at [haarerj@michigan.gov](mailto:haarerj@michigan.gov) or fax me at (517) 241-4217. I will provide copies of all written and a summary of all oral comments to the Task Force Chairpersons **and each member of the Commission of Agriculture.**

If you wish to speak today on Manure Management and Utilization GAAMPs, Site Selection and Odor Control GAAMPs, Nutrient Utilization GAAMPs, or Water Use Irrigation GAAMPs, please fill out one of the slips found at the table. If your completed slip indicates your desire to speak, I will call your name to ask that you speak on the

record. When you begin your comments please state your name, spell your last name, and identify whom you represent, if you represent an organization. Even if you do not wish to speak I encourage you fill out one of the slips so that we can record your attendance at today's meeting. At this time, the only one I see who wishes to make a comment is Scott Piggott from the Michigan Farm Bureau.

***Scott Piggott, Michigan Farm Bureau.***

Thank you. My name is Scott Piggott, and I represent the Michigan Farm Bureau. I am making comments on behalf of our organization and have supplied some in writing. I'll leave those comments to those who are reviewing for the technical merits of each of the respective GAAMPs. I would make one comment. It may be a good addition to the process, in that some of the committees were a little late in getting some of the materials that had been changed to the respective, to the Department of Agriculture so they could be posted on line. It may be beneficial to extend some of the comment period, maybe not re-do the public input meeting process but extend the written comment period so that you can get more input regarding those GAAMPs. Thank you.

### ***CLOSING***

The time now is 1:15 p.m., so with no other persons present wishing to make comment, I will close this public input meeting. Comments received will be transcribed as soon as possible and will be provided to the Chairs of the GAAMP task force committees, as well as the Commission of Agriculture. We will continue to accept written comments until 5 p.m. today; you can email, mail, or fax those comments to me at the Department of Agriculture. It has come to our attention that most likely the input on any of these

GAAMPs will be brought in front of the Commission on February 13, 2008, rather than the date mentioned earlier on January 14, 2008. Currently, the location is still scheduled in Lansing. This concludes our meeting, and we will adjourn.

RTF/GAAMPs/PublicInputGAAMPs12-17-07