

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING REPORT

GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Manure Management and Utilization

Site Selection & Odor Control for New & Expanding Livestock Production Facilities, Care of Farm Animals, Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control, Nutrient Utilization, Irrigation Water Use, and Cranberry Production

August 31, 2009

Pursuant to the Michigan Right to Farm Act, (Act 93 of 1981, MCL 286.471 *et seq.*), the Michigan Commission of Agriculture may define Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs), developed with assistance by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and with written recommendations from Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Extension Service, and Agricultural Experiment Station, as well as the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency; the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and other professional and industry organizations. In addition, the Commission directed the Department to hold a public meeting to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed changes to the GAAMPs. This meeting occurred on August 19, 2007, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Lake Superior Room of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 717 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Present from the Michigan Department of Agriculture were Wayne Whitman, Kristin Linderman, Alan Krizek, and Lisa Lipsey.

Information about this meeting was released to the News Media on July 22, 2009. 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, was posted on the Michigan Department of Agriculture web site.

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.

Members of the public attending the meeting were told that a summary of all oral comments and copies of all written comments would be sent to the Task Force Chairs, the Director, and each member of the Commission. The deadline to receive written comments was 5 p.m., August 19, 2009. Copies of all written comments submitted are attached; written comments were received from:

1. Janet Kaufmann, Bean/Tifflin Watershed Coalition & Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan, Hudson
2. Billben@aol.com - did not sign a name
3. Mark Messing, 619 5th Street, Traverse City
4. Julia Heilig
5. Michael Fike, Alice Clark, and Mark Vandenbusche, Ogden Ag Advisory Committee Members
6. James Flammig, Michigan Trout Unlimited
7. Sheila Burkhardt, Michigan Milk Producers Association
8. Sharon Schall, Wheeler Township Treasurer
9. Scott Piggott, Michigan Farm Bureau
10. Pat Hjertos, 30189 E Michigan Ave, Leonidas
11. Rita Jack, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

In addition to the written comments provided, the following individuals attended the public input meeting on April 23, 2007, and filled out attendance slips:

1. Janet Kaufmann, Bean/Tifflin Watershed Coalition & Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan, Hudson
2. Matthew Kapp, Michigan Farm Bureau, Lansing
3. Corey Guza, Michigan Sugar Company, Bay City
4. Vern Osgood, Clayton Twp., Flint
5. Ted Henry, Genesee County Board, Flushing

Oral Comments at the public input meeting covered a range of subjects, along the following lines:

- The GAAMPs should keep up with scientific developments and new research, particularly on water quality and pathogens.
- In odor control, the section on practices to reduce dust, particulates, and ammonia should include information from Dr. Wendy Powers' work in Iowa.
- In manure management, stockpiling of manure from lagoons on fields should not be allowed; it should be incorporated immediately. Stockpiling also increases particulates as the manure dries.
- The set-back distance for wells should be increased for liquid based manures.

- Volume sprayers for liquid manure should not be allowed because of impact on neighbors.
- There should be a requirement for a vegetative buffer between field applications and surface water ways.
- Concern about the potential to use soil samples not from the area in question and that there could be fraud.
- Concern that in rural areas, having complaint based system with no anonymity leads to problems not being reported.

Bradley N. Deacon
Hearings Officer
August 31, 2009