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# Michigan Small Farm Council

## Update

March 2014

On March 20th the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development will vote on the proposed changes to the 2014 Site Selection GAAMPs.

This last Thursday, March 13th - one week before the vote - MDARD released a **Revised version of the 2014 Site Selection GAAMPs**. For small farmers the words have changed, but the intent has not - the proposed changes still aim to relieve small farmers in residential areas from their Right to Farm protection. One MSFC member estimates that 95% of urban properties are residential, and 60 - 75% of rural property is residential.

Thus this current effort by MDARD aims to deny the majority of the state from legal protections established in the Right to Farm Act, using the GAAMPs as the vehicle. These changes to the 2014 Site Selection GAAMPs

### **How they did it:**

The **Revised changes to the Site Selection GAAMPs** first create one new definition (a **Livestock Facility**) to bring farmers with as few as one animal under the control of the Site Selection GAAMPs (p. 4), and then create a second new definition (**Category 4 Sites**) that are primarily residential and are not acceptable for Livestock Facilities (p. 14). Put these two changes together and

are vigorously opposed by the Michigan Small Farm Council.

The membership of the MSFC is smart and diverse, with different arguments being made about different aspects of the revised changes. If you've missed the discussion on the [MSFC Facebook](#) page, I encourage you to find us there, and to join in the discussion.

In addition, many of us will be attending the [meeting on March 20th](#). Since we come from across the state, this is a great way to meet in person. I hope you'll contact me to let me know you're coming, so we can be sure to look for you there.

And if you can't attend in person, I hope you'll [write to the Agriculture Commission](#) one last time to let them know that you oppose this revised version to the proposed 2014 Site Selection GAAMPs.

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what you get is a new Site Selection GAAMPs document that for the first time evaluates whether an operation is protected by Right to Farm based on zoning, rather than on the agricultural and management practices of the farm.

[Contact the Michigan Commission of Agriculture directly.](#)

[Attend the March 20th Meeting of the Agriculture Commission.](#)

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### [Please support the Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund \(FTCLDF\)!](#)

The FTCLDF is a national non-profit organization dedicated to defending the rights and broadening the freedoms of family farm. The FTCLDF arranged to have the January 22nd Public Comment Period professionally videotaped, and has provided legal assistance to many Michigan farmers seeking Right to Farm protection.



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