



2020-2021 AGRICULTURE & TOURISM PLATFORM

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

MAC supports:

- The state of Michigan providing greater leadership, including increased funding, in permanently preserving agricultural land. The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) certification should be a component of the preservation of farmland.
- The Department of Natural Resources working with agricultural producers to promote the utilization of state-owned land for agricultural production, either through leasing of the land or sale of the land to producers.
- State funding for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

PURCHASE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS PROGRAM

MAC supports:

- The utilization of all farmland preservation tools or resources, that are available and exploring options for new preservation methods.
- Appropriate and sufficient funding from the State to support this program.

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

MAC supports:

- The Legislature restoring historical funding to local Conservation Districts and Michigan State University Extension to assist with the preservation of agricultural lands and natural resources.

CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFOs)

MAC supports:

- The consistent enforcement of current regulations and permit requirements for CAFOs. All CAFOs should be working toward MAEAP certification.

COOPERATIVE FARMING

MAC supports:

- Legislation that would provide protections to co-op farms and farm-to-table enterprises.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

MAC supports:

- State and federal timber management standards that provide for maximum yield, the highest timber quality and reforestation.
- The Qualified Forestry Program (QFP) and the Forestry Assistance Programs (FAP), which provide timber management assistance and promote active management of forests and woodlands for private landowners.

AGRIBUSINESS

MAC supports:

- State tools and investment to encourage food processors to come to, and stay in, Michigan. The expansion of GAAMPS (Generally Accepted Agriculture Management Practices) to include all new agribusiness models.

TOURISM

MAC supports:

- Legislation that would provide for additional revenue options for counties to promote tourism.
- Maintaining, or increasing, the current level of funding for the Pure Michigan marketing and economic development campaign.
- Providing adequate or additional funding to ensure the additional growth of tourism across the state of Michigan.
- The proliferation of hiking, walking, biking, and blue trails throughout Michigan.
- Funding for repair and maintenance of motorized, and non-motorized, existing trails.