

Recertification Credits

Private Certified Applicators can earn up to 4 recertification credits for completion of the Farm*A*Syst evaluations with a trained technician. The technician will submit a form with the chapters that you completed. The results of the evaluation are **not submitted** to MDA. They are for on-farm risk reduction decisions only.



Technical Assistance

After completion, you decide what to do with the results of your assessment. Most people identify several things to reduce their risks and implement them at little or no cost without further support. Simply moving pesticide mix load activities away from the wellhead or putting inexpensive backflow prevention devices on hoses used to fill pesticide tanks can reduce risks.

At times further planning may be needed to implement high risk practices. Technicians can help farms find resources, whether monetary or technical, to reduce the risks that are found during your assessment.

For more information

Contact:
The Michigan Water Stewardship Program at (517) 335-6529, your local Conservation District or your county Michigan State University Extension office.

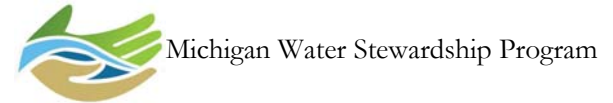
For information online, go to www.michigan.gov/mda and click on these links: Farming>Environment> Groundwater Stewardship Program
or
www.maeap.org



Major
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MICHIGAN STATE
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EXTENSION



Farm*A*Syst



The Gateway to Technical Assistance and Environmental Assurance

Farm*A*Syst is a **voluntary** and **confidential** assessment tool which helps farmers identify risks to groundwater associated with their farmstead practices. Farm*A*Syst also provides information on ways to reduce those risks.

What is Farm*A*Syst

Farm*A*Syst (FAS) identifies potential risks posed by farmstead operations. Farm*A*Syst chapters provide educational information and use a simple question and answer format to evaluate farmstead practices that may pose a risk to water quality.

Farm*A*Syst is **voluntary** and **confidential**. All Farm*A*Syst materials stay with you on your farm. It is important to recognize that Farm*A*Syst only identifies risk. It does not tell you if you have contaminated water or that you will never have contaminated water.

Technical assistance with completing Farm*A*Syst evaluations is available free of charge from the Michigan Water Stewardship Program

Farm*A*Syst Materials

Farm*A*Syst chapters are designed for do-it-yourself use, but most individuals find they get more out of the process by working with a trained Farm*A*Syst technician. Chapters are currently available for:

- ◆ Farmstead Soil Evaluation
- ◆ Water Well Condition
- ◆ Pesticide Storage and Handling
- ◆ Pesticide Handler and Worker Safety
- ◆ Fertilizer Storage and Handling
- ◆ Petroleum Product Storage and Management
- ◆ Waste Management
- ◆ Septic System Management
- ◆ General Livestock Management
- ◆ Livestock Yard Management
- ◆ Silage Storage
- ◆ Milking Center Wastewater Treatment
- ◆ Other Farmstead Environmental Risks
- ◆ Farmstead Improvement Action Plan

Environmental Assurance



The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize

The Farmstead System targets all Michigan farms, regardless of size or commodity. It is the one MAEAP system which is applicable to livestock and all the diverse cropping operations in Michigan, including traditional field crops, orchards, vegetable operations, greenhouses and nurseries. The Farmstead System addresses environmental risks of the entire farmstead, from safe handling of fuels to the proper storage of pesticides. It focuses primarily on protecting surface and ground water. The on-farm risk assessment for the Farmstead System is the **Farm*A*Syst**, coordinated with Michigan Water

Once a plan to address the risks identified in the Farm*A*Syst assessment has been developed, and immediate risks of groundwater and surface water contamination have been implemented, farmers can contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to request Farmstead System verification with an MDA MAEAP verifier.

