

# MAEAP MISCONCEPTIONS

You might be thinking...

***“There is too much record keeping for MAEAP.”***

***FALSE***

The only record keeping required for MAEAP verification is what is already required by state and federal laws and statutes. The MAEAP goal isn't to require any additional records, but to ensure that producers are already keeping the records that are required of them. The idea is to be sure that practices are documented to reduce producer's liability.

***“If the technician comes to my farm I will get reported to other agencies.”***

***FALSE***

Reporting of farms is not what MAEAP does. Everything on the farm is handled in a confidential manner between the MAEAP technician and the producer. This confidentiality carries over into the verification process as farmers work with the MAEAP verifiers. The goal of MAEAP is not to report farms, but to help improve environmental management on farms.

***“MAEAP will tell me how I need to farm and manage my business.”***

***FALSE***

MAEAP never tells producers how to farm. In fact, the very mission statement of MAEAP is to find solutions for issues on farms that can be done within the producer's management and/or financial abilities. MAEAP is about helping producers discover their potential liabilities, and to work with them to reduce those liabilities, while still allowing them to maintain growing, productive, and profitable enterprises.

***“MAEAP is only for farms that heavily pollute.”***

***FALSE***

MAEAP is for ALL farms of ALL sizes. Working toward and achieving MAEAP verification benefits any farm involved. Oftentimes producers don't see opportunities to improve on practices or systems because they are highly involved in the day to day operation of the farm. Working with MAEAP technicians can give all farms an unbiased view of their current practices and recommend improvements or changes that will benefit them.



Michigan has an official environmental voluntary program for farmers known as MAEAP, the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program. This program was signed into law at the beginning of Governor Snyder's term and Michigan agriculture has the goal of 5,000 verifications by the end of 2015. MAEAP allows for a verification of farms in the Livestock, Cropping and Farmstead systems of agriculture. It also allows farmers the opportunity to be in compliance with environmental standards. Consider learning more about MAEAP.

***For more information contact your local Conservation District.***

***Visit [www.maeap.org](http://www.maeap.org)***