



**Michigan
Agri-Business
Association**

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**Michigan ‘Certified Fertilizer Applicator’
Program hosts inaugural training session**
*First-ever fertilizer applicator program helps 70
professionals master latest industry practices*

LANSING – The **Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)** last week provided its first training session under the **Michigan Certified Fertilizer Applicator Program**, a first-of-its-kind effort to provide certification to professionals who handle, mix and apply fertilizer in Michigan.

“This new program is designed to be sure anyone applying fertilizer in our state is well-prepared to maximize benefits to crops while protecting the air, land and water,” said **Dr. Tim Boring**, vice president of **MABA** and director of the new program. “Used properly, fertilizer is a critical component for agriculture – but without the right training, it can impair yields and affect water quality.”

Nearly 70 applicator professionals started or completed their certification during multiple training sessions held at the 2016 MABA Winter Conference and Trade Show.

“We have a forward-looking industry in Michigan, and this is one more way to ensure our applicators and fertilizer handlers are up to speed on the latest advancements in a rapidly-changing industry,” said **Jim Byrum**, president of **MABA**. “This is also a way to recognize those who proactively seek enhanced professional development and training.”

Boring said the program aims to reinforce the fundamentals of nutrient application, cover safety issues, and reinforce the link between practices, water quality, and production outcomes. These issues are relevant for all parts of the fertilizer supply chain and the program is designed to provide important information on nutrient application and stewardship to varied experience levels.

Additional Information on Certification:

Certification is based on the annual accumulation of credits obtained from training and educational sessions. The certification year begins on April 1 of each year and is issued based on credits accumulated during the past 12 months. Certification requires 10 credits annually. Certification credits will be available for any training session covering relevant content. Companies may apply for certification credits for events through the MABA office.

The next opportunity to earn credits will be:

Details on obtaining meeting credits are available at www.miagbiz.org or by calling the MABA office at 517-336-0223.