



**Michigan  
Agri-Business  
Association**

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## **MABA Certified Fertilizer Applicator Program enrolls 450 professionals**

*In first five months, new program trains fertilizer applicators  
from 45 companies in best practices, safety*

LANSING – The **Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)** announced today that in its first five months of operation, the newly-launched **Michigan Certified Fertilizer Applicator Program (CFA)** has enrolled more than 450 professionals representing 45 companies in Michigan. The CFA is designed for individuals who professionally apply fertilizer for farmers, and usually work for companies that sell fertilizer products.

“This new program is another way for our industry to be proactive, and the enthusiasm for this program shows Michigan’s fertilizer and agronomy businesses are ready to lead on environmental stewardship,” said **Tim Boring**, vice president of **MABA**. “Many custom applicators already undergo extensive annual training to properly apply nutrients, and this program helps recognize their expertise and professionalism. This new program is all about optimizing nutrient applications, minimizing environmental risks, and leveraging new technologies for custom fertilizer application.”

About 270 of the participants have already earned certification in the program, which emphasizes best practices and safety in fertilizer application, and aims to ensure environmental stewardship within the custom nutrient application industry. To earn certification, an applicator must attend at least six hours of training approved by MABA. In addition to responsible nutrient application principles, the program covers safety, transportation, spill response and other important issues.

**Jim Byrum**, president of **MABA**, said that in addition to providing useful information to those with experience in fertilizer application, employees new to the industry must quickly learn the fundamentals of responsible nutrient management.

“Anyone involved in custom application of fertilizer already receives training from their company, and this program is designed to recognize employees at all levels who want to go the extra mile and show leadership,” said **Byrum**. “The tremendous interest in this program across Michigan proves that employees are focused on constant improvement, and interested in growing professionally within our industry. It is also interesting the number of farmers who have gained credits in the new program. While they usually only apply fertilizer on their own farms, their interest in the program also demonstrates their interest in better understanding the issues surrounding fertilizer application and all the issues we discuss in the new program.”

Thanks to the high demand shown for the training, **Boring** said the program will expand later this year to include online training modules.

#### 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.

Details on obtaining CFA meeting credits are available at [www.miagbiz.org](http://www.miagbiz.org) or by calling the MABA office at 517-336-0223.