



**Michigan
Agri-Business
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**2015 Michigan Green Agri-Business Awards
show leadership on sustainability, water quality**
*97 Michigan companies recognized for progress to save
energy, boost recycling, protect Great Lakes*

LANSING – A record number of Michigan agribusinesses were recognized this week at a Lansing reception for the 5th annual **Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA)** Green Awards. The annual award recognizes proactive sustainability efforts in Michigan agriculture, and the 2015 event focused heavily on protecting water quality.

“Michigan’s agriculture sector is a regional and national leader when it comes to protecting our natural resources, and the Green Awards are one way to recognize companies that are proactive,” said **Jim Byrum**, president of **MABA**. “We must demonstrate our sustainability commitment in concrete ways – whether that means optimizing nutrient use, expanding recycling, or implementing energy efficiency plans. We also see this as a stepping stone to even more progress in the future.”

[A list of all companies receiving a Green Agri-Business Award is available here.](#)

The application includes an evaluation of agronomic practices, water quality and conservation measures, energy efficiency, facilities improvement, transportation, recycling, and the use of advanced site specific agriculture technology. The criteria in the program are specifically designed to help agriculture protect water quality and reduce environmental impact.

As part of the awards ceremony, **Dr. Tim Boring**, vice president of **MABA**, announced details of the organization’s Certified Fertilizer Applicator program to help agronomy suppliers further their efforts to protect water quality. The certification program is rooted in use of the [4R Nutrient Management Strategy](#), while also providing additional guidance and practical tools for the Michigan fertilizer industry.

“The record participation in MABA’s Green Awards, along with the new partnerships we’re seeing agribusiness form with leading conservation organizations, tells a great story for Michigan agriculture,” said **Dan Wyant**, director of the **Michigan Department of Environmental Quality**. “Governor Snyder has identified the need for a collective solution to water quality challenges in our Great Lakes, and agriculture needs to be part of that solution. We have to continue to be proactive, and the Green Awards provide a great platform for Michigan agriculture stay engaged.”

"We need all hands on deck to protect Michigan’s air, land and Great Lakes, and while we know there is more to be done, the companies honored with Green Awards are truly innovating and demonstrating a commitment to our environment," said **Lisa Wozniak**, executive director for the **Michigan League of Conservation Voters**. "We’re proud of our work alongside MABA to call for new research, new solutions and new partnerships to address water quality, and the record participation this year in MABA’s Green Awards provides one solid example of how Michigan agriculture can continue to address this important issue."

In addition to the presentation of 97 Green Agribusiness Awards, **Crop Production Services, Michigan Division** was named the 2015 Outstanding Green Agribusiness.

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