

AGRI-BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP

NEWSLETTER

*Brought to you by the Michigan Agri-Business Association
through a grant from the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program.*

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The objective of this document is to provide you with current and helpful information regarding water protection, and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

Michigan's new Certified Fertilizer Applicator program provides opportunity for professional advancement, nutrient stewardship expertise

Beginning this year, the Michigan Agri-Business Association is offering a new training and certification program for fertilizer applicators – the Michigan Certified Fertilizer Applicator Program. This new, voluntary program is designed to help custom fertilizer applicators in Michigan maximize benefits to crops while protecting the air, land and water. As a strong focus continues on water quality issues across the Great Lakes and the nation, fertilizer applicators are strongly encouraged to learn and follow the latest practices in nutrient stewardship.

The program aims to train custom applicators in the latest best management practices, while reinforcing the fundamentals of nutrient application. The training also covers safety issues and the important link between water quality, fertilizer use 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.

Ultimately, by learning and following the latest available nutrient stewardship techniques, applicators can show leadership on water quality issues and increased value for customers.

More than 160 applicator professionals have completed certification for the 2016 season, with another 50 applicators in the process. Additional opportunities to earn credits under the program will be available throughout 2016.

Certification under the Certified Fertilizer Applicator program 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 6 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 meeting credits are available at www.miagbiz.org or by calling the MABA office at 517-336-0223.



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