

## 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).

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### **Conserving land and water through Michigan's Pesticide Container Recycling Program**

Improper pesticide container disposal constitutes a significant environmental risk to air, land, and the Great Lakes. Through programs that ensure container cleaning and recycling, pesticide containers today pose a less of an environmental hazard than in the past.

The Michigan Pesticide Container Recycling Program was created as a public-private partnership that provides a destination for used pesticide containers other than landfills. Since 1993, more than 1.5 million pounds of rinsed plastic pesticides containers have been turned into hazardous waste drums, speed bumps, construction site mats, sound barriers and "new" pesticide containers.

The program accepts all pesticide containers up to 56 gallon (plastic) drums under the regular program. Growers must adhere to three important steps when preparing containers for recycling:

1. Remove any metal or other loose pieces on larger containers as well as any caps and loose labeling from any container, in general.
2. Triple-rinse or pressure rinse empty containers immediately after use. The rinse-water can be used in an appropriate diluted tank mix.
3. Store rinsed containers in a dry area away from wells and water supplies until a pick-up can be arranged or take to a recycling location as soon as possible.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) distributes plastic bags for collection of 5 gallon and smaller containers to facilitate storage and insure that properly prepared containers remain clean until pickup. These bags handle approximately 50 - 2 ½ gallon empty, cleaned jugs. Many agricultural retailers offer pick-up services of cleaned, bagged pesticide containers from the farm.

To participate in the program, or with questions, contact Abby Eaton, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, at (517) 241-3933 or [eatona@michigan.gov](mailto:eatona@michigan.gov); or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/pesticidecontainerrecycling>.



**Developed and Paid for by  
Nitrogen and Pesticide Fees.**

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