



Cropping System for Fruit Producers -- Verification Checklist

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification.

Bold Black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold blue italic print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified 2017 Right to Farm (RTF) Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs).

(Revised Date: 9-26-17)

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
1.00) Has there ever been a formal Right to Farm complaint against the farm?	There has never been a Right to Farm complaint, or the concern was not verified, or the concern was resolved.		There was a formal Right to Farm complaint and the concern has not resolved.	Producer's verbal indication of complaint history.	YES NO N/A
1.01) How often are fields tested for nutrient levels (P, K, Ca, Mg) and pH?	<i>All fields</i> are <i>sampled and tested</i> (both tissue and soil) <i>on a regular basis</i> , at least every 4 years.	<i>All fields</i> are <i>sampled and tested</i> (either tissue or soil) every 4 years or producer plans to bring tests up to date.	Fields have not been soil or tissue tested within the past 4 years.	Field names or map. Acres in the cropped portions of the field. Up-to-date soil test and tissue analysis reports, or schedule to bring all tests up to date.	YES NO N/A
1.04) How are all sources of nutrients considered when making fertilization decisions?	<i>Credit taken for nutrients supplied by organic matter, legumes and manure or other biological materials</i> (biosolids). Fertilizer rates are reduced accordingly.	When organic matter, legumes, manure or other biological materials (biosolids) are used, fertilizer rates are sometimes reduced.	When organic matter, legumes, manure or other biological materials (biosolids) are used, rates are not reduced.	Written records available, showing nutrient credits utilized.	YES NO N/A
1.05) How are fertilizer application rates determined?	<i>Consistent with Michigan State University</i> (MSU) <i>recommendations</i> . When MSU recommendations are not available, other land-grant university recommendations developed for the region may be used. (Based on site-specific, block-by-block soil and tissue analysis.)	<i>Consistent with Michigan State University</i> (MSU) <i>recommendations</i> , based on composite analysis representing the whole farm.	Fertilizer rates are not based on tissue or soil analysis.	Applications consistent with MSU recommendations (MSU soil test printout or calculated MSU recommendations on file). When MSU recommendations are not available, applications are consistent with industry standards.	YES NO N/A

Comments:

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CONTINUED)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
1.06) How are nutrient management plans for each field annually developed and followed?	Annual nutrient plan is developed on a block-by-block basis to meet crop nutrient needs and minimize loss of nutrients to the environment.	A nutrient plan is developed each year for each crop species. Soil or tissue tests are up-to-date.	Nutrient plan is not developed, or the same plan is used for more than four years.	Annual nutrient plan by field or crop grown.	YES NO N/A
1.07) Is fertilizer application equipment checked for proper adjustment?	<i>Application equipment is checked for rate of application and placement.</i> Over- and under-applications are monitored and corrected.		Application equipment is not checked.	Name of person responsible for fertilizer applicator adjustments and the dates of adjustments.	YES NO N/A
1.08) What soil nutrient management records are kept?	<i>Records of soil tests and tissue analysis reports and quantities of nutrients applied to individual fields or blocks are maintained.</i>	Partial nutrient management records are kept. Complete nutrient management records will be kept in the future, for review at time of reverification.	Minimal or no nutrient management records kept.	Three years of records – or five years, if applying manure, - or plans to begin keeping records. - Soil fertility tests and/or plant analysis results. - Previous crop grown and yield harvested. - Date(s) of nutrient application(s). - Nutrient composition of fertilizer or other material used. - Amount of nutrient-supplying material applied per acre. - Method of application and placement of applied nutrients. - The name of the individual responsible for fertilizer applicator. calibrating and the dates of calibration. - Vegetative growth and cropping history of perennial crops.	YES NO N/A

Comments:

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CONTINUED)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
MANURE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (IF MANURE IS NOT USED, SKIP THIS SECTION.)					
1.15) What manure management records are maintained?	Complete application <i>records of manure analysis, soil test results and rates of manure application for individual fields are maintained.</i>	A minimum of one season of manure application records, or partial application records have been kept. Complete manure application records will be kept immediately and will be available for review at the time of reverification.	Minimal or no records are maintained.	Additional nutrient management records that are needed if manure is used in the cropping system: - Dates(s) of manure application and incorporation, when applicable - Rate of manure application - Weather conditions during application of manure - Field conditions during application of manure - Manure/wastewater quantities produced and nutrient analysis results - Records of rental or other agreements for application of manure/wastewater on land not owned by the producer - Records of manure/wastewater sold or given away to other landowners	YES NO N/A
1.16) How is the nutrient content of manure determined?	<i>Laboratory analysis for percent dry matter (solids), ammonium N, and total N, P and K.</i>	Book values or standard nutrient content values used.	Manure nutrient content is unknown or not considered.	All manure analysis or book values on file.	YES NO N/A
1.17) How are desired manure application rates achieved?	Manure analysis (book value, manure test or mass balance) and <i>field application rates are known.</i>		Manure application rate is not known.	Rate of manure applied known for all spreaders. Records indicate date of calibration.	YES NO N/A

Comments:

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CONTINUED)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
MANURE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (IF MANURE IS NOT USED, SKIP THIS SECTION.)					
1.18) How is manure, and/or compost, generally applied to fields?	<i>Manure, and/or compost, is incorporated within 48 hours or injected into the soil, and/or conservation practices</i> (residue management, perennial crops, cover crops, etc.) <i>are used to protect against runoff and erosion losses to surface waters.</i>	Manure, and/or compost, is generally surface applied and conservation practices are employed to reduce the risk of runoff.	Manure, and/or compost, is applied in a manner that results in ponding, soil erosion losses, or manure runoff to adjacent property, drainage ditches or discharge directly to surface water. ⁴	Manure, and/or compost, application records.	YES NO N/A
1.19) How are streams, wetlands, farm ditches and other water bodies protected from manure runoff?	<i>Manure is incorporated within 48 hours or injected. Or, surface applications are not done within 150 feet of surface water.</i> Or, filter strips, riparian buffer strips, and other conservation practices are maintained between fields and surface waters on the farm and around surface water inlets.	Conservation practices are maintained on some fields.	Manure is applied within 150 feet of surface waters and not incorporated without conservation practices. And/or manure occasionally reaches neighbor's property.	Field maps with setbacks identified. Records of manure incorporation.	YES NO N/A
1.20) How are manure Nitrogen (N) application rates managed?	<i>Manure and N fertilizer are applied at rates that do not exceed the N requirements of the crop</i> and are credited toward fertilizer needs.	Manure N credits are considered but not to their full extent.	Commercial N is not reduced to account for manure nitrogen credits.	Manure rates do not exceed crop N needs, consistent with GAAMPs.	YES NO N/A
1.21) How are manure Phosphorus (P) application rates managed?	<i>High testing fields (>150 ppm Bray P1) do not receive manure, and fields between 75 and 150 ppm P receive no more than four years, crop P removal, if one-year application is impractical.</i>	High testing fields (>150 ppm Bray P1) removed from spreading plan, but crop removal rates are not followed.	Manure application rates are not based on soil tests and/or crop removal rates.	Manure rates do not exceed crop P needs. If developing a Crop Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), refer to USDA-NRCS 590 Standard.	YES NO N/A
1.22) How is manure, and/or compost, temporarily stockpiled in relation to surface water?	<i>Manure stockpiles are kept at least 150 feet from surface waters or areas subject to flooding unless conservation practices are used to protect against runoff and erosion losses to surface waters.</i>		Manure stockpiles closer than 150 feet to surface waters or areas subject to flooding, and conservation practices are not used to protect against runoff and erosion losses to surface waters. ⁴	Appropriate temporary manure stockpiling management demonstrated.	YES NO N/A

Comments:

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NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CONTINUED)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
MANURE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (IF MANURE IS NOT USED, SKIP THIS SECTION.)					
1.23) In the field, what management practices are used to reduce odors and pests from manure temporarily stockpiled?	<i>Stockpiled manure is at least 150 feet away from non-farm homes and stockpiled manure is covered with a tarp, straw, woodchips or other materials or additives are used to reduce odors and pests.</i>	<i>Stockpiled manure is at least 150 feet away from non-farm homes.</i>	Stockpiled manure is closer than 150 feet to non-farm homes.	Appropriate temporary manure stacking management demonstrated.	YES NO N/A
1.24) How long is manure stockpiled in the field?	<i>Manure is spread as soon as field and weather conditions allow, and does not exceed six months; or twelve months if covered with an impermeable cover.</i>		Manure stockpiled for more than six months without a cover, or more than twelve months with an impermeable cover.	Appropriate temporary stockpiling management demonstrated.	YES NO N/A
1.25) How are fields selected for spreading on frozen and snow-covered ground?	No applications on frozen or snow covered ground without injection or incorporation.	Manure application risks index (MARI) has been completed for each field receiving manure on frozen or snow covered ground. Frozen or snow covered fields receiving manure have met MARI criteria for Low or Very Low rating and <i>no liquid manure is applied on slopes greater than 3%, and no solid manure is applied to slopes over 6%.</i>	Applications are made to fields where runoff to water resources may occur.	MARI completed for each field receiving winter manure application, or spreading plan does not include winter spreading.	YES NO N/A
1.26) How are field tiles managed to prevent manure discharge to surface water?	<i>Liquid manure is prevented from reaching tile lines.</i> Management practices are in place to prevent runoff to surface inlets. Tile line outlets are monitored.		Tile outlets are not monitored for manure discharge.	Tiled fields identified on map. Records of tile flow before and after application (flow, rate, color and odor).	YES NO N/A

Comments:

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SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
<p>2.01) Have environmentally sensitive areas been identified (land near surface water, highly erodible soils, soils with high leaching or runoff potentials, wells, surface drains and inlets) that require additional management when applying nutrients and pesticides?</p>	<p>Environmentally sensitive areas are identified. Family members, employees, and contractors are aware of and understand the management practices to protect these areas.</p>	<p>Some environmentally sensitive areas are identified.</p>	<p>Environmentally sensitive areas are not considered.</p>	<p>Areas identified on field maps with appropriate management or setbacks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Next to surface waters -Fields with shallow groundwater -Fields with water wells -Areas near surface water inlets -Fields with highly erodible soils -Fields with highly leachable soils -Fields with high runoff potential <p>Training/communications plan to inform workers and contractors of appropriate management or setbacks.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>2.02) Is soil erosion under control on the farm fields?</p>	<p>Soil erosion losses are within tolerances as documented by the revised universal soil loss equation (RUSLE2) and the Wind Erosion Prediction System (WEPS). Minimal evidence of erosion and no evidence of erosion of concentrated water flows. Cover crop may be in place.</p>	<p>RUSLE2 and WEPS are run on fields that are not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In pasture or hay ground, or no-till planting systems. Receiving fall tillage, with >30% residue on less than 12% slopes. Receiving more than one pass fall tillage that leaves fields rough with >40% residue and less than 8% slopes. And regardless of fall tillage, spring tillage leaves > 20% residue. And for all of the above there is no evidence of sheet, rill or gully erosion. 	<p>Excessive soil erosion is occurring on the farm.</p>	<p>RUSLE2 and WEPS calculations completed and on file.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>NO</p> <p>N/A</p>

Comments:

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PEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CONTINUED)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
PEST APPLICATION					
3.10) How are surface and groundwater protected in and near fields from pesticide contamination?	Pesticide labels with groundwater and surface water advisory statements are followed.		Labeled directions are not followed. ¹⁸ Spray is applied adjacent to or over the top of surface water, tile drain inlet or well. Other field restrictions are ignored.	Field maps indicating pesticide label setbacks and other restrictions are followed. Plan identifies sensitive areas and how they are treated. Drift management plan available.	YES NO N/A
3.12) Are the purchasers and applicators of restricted-use pesticides (RUP) certified applicators?	<i>The purchaser and applicator of RUP comply with certification requirements.</i>		Non-certified and unsupervised applicators use RUP. ⁶	RUP certification confirmed.	YES NO N/A
3.14) If pesticides are mixed and loaded in the field, how are they handled?	A mixing and loading pad is used. Mixing and loading is done more than 150 feet from any well and more than 50 feet from surface waters.	Mixing and loading are done in different locations in the field, more than 150 feet from a private well, more than 800 feet from a public well* and more than 50 feet from surface waters. A mixing and loading pad is not used.	Pesticides are mixed and loaded at the same spot in the field year after year without a pad.	Proper pesticide mixing and loading demonstrated.	YES NO N/A
3.15) How are empty pesticide containers rinsed and disposed?	<i>Containers are triple-rinsed or power rinsed, punctured and returned to dealer, properly recycled, or disposed of in a licensed landfill. Bags are returned to dealer or taken to licensed landfill. Properly rinsed containers can be disposed in a dumpster that is taken to a licensed landfill.</i>	Disposal of empty containers and bags on the farm property. ^{8,18}	Disposal of partially filled containers. Burning of containers on the farm property. ^{8,18}	Evidence of containers being recycled.	YES NO N/A

Comments:

PEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CONTINUED)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
PESTICIDE APPLICATION (CONTINUED)					
3.16) Do pesticide applicators read and follow the label instructions?	<i>Everyone using pesticides follows label and labeling instructions.</i>		Label and labeling instructions are not always followed. ¹⁸	Evidence that labels are followed.	YES NO N/A
3.18) Is a spill kit immediately available to pesticide applicators in the field?	<i>A spill kit</i> containing a shovel, absorbent material, PPE and a container <i>is immediately available.</i>		No spill kit is available or no plan is in place to contain spills. ⁶	Adequate spill kit present.	YES NO N/A
3.19) How is excess spray mixture or rinse water from the interior of the spray system disposed?	<i>Spray mixture is applied to labeled site at or below labeled rate of application</i> or appropriately stored for later use.		Spray mixture dumped at farmstead or in nearby field or pond. ⁴	Satisfactory explanation of procedures for excess spray mixtures.	YES NO N/A
3.20) Where is the exterior of the spray equipment and tractor washed if there is accumulated residue?	Washed in containment or washed in the field in different locations >200' from surface water, catch basins, or tile inlets and >150' from a well.		Washed in the same location without collection, or in the field <200' from surface water, catch basins or tile inlets or <150' from a well.	Satisfactory explanation of procedures for washing spray equipment.	YES NO N/A
3.21) How is accumulated spray building wastewater or other comingled rinsates that cannot be directly applied to growing crops disposed?	Applied to a site where there is growing vegetation or where a crop will be planted following labeled setbacks at or below labeled rates. Application areas are rotated and records of contents of material and application site are kept. Or taken to a hazardous waste landfill.		Dumped at the farmstead, in the field, or direct discharge to surface water. ⁴	Records of application provided.	YES NO N/A
3.22) How is the proper and safe operation of pesticide application equipment ensured?	<i>Equipment is correctly calibrated at least annually and leaks are minimized to apply intended rate and distribution pattern.</i>		Pesticide application equipment is not properly calibrated. ⁶	Date of annual equipment calibration recorded.	YES NO N/A
3.23) How are pesticide applications assured to remain on-target and minimize off-target pesticide spray drift?	<i>A written drift management plan is utilized that minimizes off-target drift.</i>	Pesticide applications follow labeled instructions for target pests, but no drift management plan is utilized.	Spraying operations are completed regardless of weather conditions or forecast, and regardless of the potential of off-target drift. ⁷	Written drift management plan on file.	YES NO N/A

Comments:

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WATER USE (CONTINUED)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
4.02) Have new or increased large quantity water withdrawals been registered (pumping capacity greater than 70 gpm or 100,000 gallons per day for systems established after July 9, 2009)?	The Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT) was used to determine if a proposed withdrawal or expansion is likely to cause an Adverse Resource Impact, and to register the water withdrawal with MDEQ, prior to beginning the withdrawal. The WWAT and registration site is: http://www.miwwat.org/		Pump capacity is greater than 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute) and water use is not reported to the State of Michigan. <small>13</small>	Producer's verbal indication of compliance with regulation.	YES NO N/A
4.03) Is there an unused well located in the cropping area?	No unused well, or abandoned well properly sealed.	Unused well temporarily abandoned properly: -Meets minimum isolation distances -Is disconnected from any water distribution piping. -Has the top of the casing securely capped.	Unused, unsealed well in cropping area. ¹	Unused well(s) properly sealed or temporarily abandoned.	YES NO N/A

IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

(IF IRRIGATION IS NOT USED, SKIP THIS SECTION.)

SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

5.01) Are all sprinkler systems operated to minimize drift and off-target application?	All sprinkler systems are operated to minimize drift and off-target application. No off-target irrigation application present.	Most sprinkler systems operated to minimize drift and off-target application. Few off-target irrigation applications occur.	Sprinkler systems are often operated under windy conditions. Water is sprayed over roads, adjacent property or structures.	No field evidence of off-target applications.	YES NO N/A
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Comments:

IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CONTINUED)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
RECORD KEEPING					
5.03) Are proper irrigation system management records collected and retained for use in decision-making and for reference in case of complaints?	Irrigation system management records are collected and retained, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Crop type and location.</i> - <i>Source of the water used.</i> - <i>Date, method and amount of each irrigation water application.</i> - <i>All system inspections and repairs that influence uniformity and leaks.</i> - <i>Calibration of fertigation and chemigation equipment, if used.</i> - <i>Records on system uniformity evaluation.</i> 	Most of irrigation system management records are collected and retained. Plan to maintain complete irrigation records.	Few or no irrigation system management records are collected or retained.	Irrigation records on file, or plans to maintain records.	YES NO N/A
IRRIGATION SCHEDULING					
5.04) How is irrigation scheduling used to determine when it is necessary to irrigate and how much water should be applied during each irrigation event?	Irrigation water is scheduled on the basis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Available soil water for each unit scheduled.</i> - <i>Depth of rooting for each crop irrigated.</i> - <i>Allowable soil moisture depletion at each stage of crop growth.</i> - <i>Measured, estimated or published evapotrans-piration data to determine crop water use.</i> - <i>Measured rainfall in each field irrigated.</i> 	Irrigation water is scheduled based on observed soil moisture content and/or daily water crop usage.	Irrigation water is applied at a set rate per week if no precipitation is received.	Scheduling system evident by records.	YES NO N/A
5.05) Is there a rain gauge in every irrigated field?	<i>Every field is being managed for irrigation has a rain gauge in the field.</i> Rain events are observed and used in conjunction with irrigation scheduling.	Most fields have a rain gauge; plan to have gauge in all fields.	No rain gauges OR only one rain gauge at the farmstead.	Rain gauges in all irrigated fields, or plan to maintain in all fields.	YES NO N/A

Comments:

IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (CONTINUED)

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WELLHEAD PROTECTION					
5.15) Is a horizontal sock well (HSW) present in the cropping system?	-HSW outlets are clearly identified as not being suitable for human consumption. -HSW is completely separated (no common piping) from any potable water supply system. -HSW meets isolation distance requirements the entire horizontal length of the HSW -Both ends of the HSW are identified.	-HSW outlets are clearly identified as not being suitable for human consumption. -HSW is completely separated (no common piping) from any potable water supply system. -HSW meets isolation distance requirements the entire horizontal length of the HSW, except for chemigation/fertigation systems during active use season that have backflow prevention device installed , including a reduced pressure zone (RPZ), double check valve assembly, or chemigation valve with an internal air gap installed and secondary containment. -Both ends of the HSW are identified	HSW is being used for human consumption, shares common piping with a potable water supply, does not have both ends clearly identified, or does not meet State of Michigan, for isolation distances, or MAEAP Standard, for its entire horizontal length. ^{1,3}	Low or medium risk criteria are present or demonstrated.	YES NO N/A

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN THE CROPPING SYSTEM

6.04) Are there other activities, products, processes/equipment, services, byproducts and/or wastes in the cropping areas that pose contamination risks to groundwater or surface water?	No risk(s) identified.	Risk(s) identified and plan to mitigate the contamination risk(s).	No plan to mitigate contamination risk(s).	No other environmental risks found in cropping areas.	YES NO N/A
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Comments:
