



MAEAP Forest, Wetland, and Habitat-A-Syst

Are you interested in best management practices for your forestland, wildlife habitat, and evaluating your property for its potential?

The Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) Forester can help, using the MAEAP's (Michigan Agriculture and Environmental Assurance Program) Forest, Wetland, and Habitat-A-Syst (FWH-A-Syst) verification process! The FWH-A-Syst will assess your current management practices and identify alternative practices that, when implemented, will ensure that you are following Michigan's Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land and the American Forest Foundation Standards of Sustainability.

This workbook and tool can also be used to identify possible practices, and funding sources to help implement these practices, by working closely with your Conservation District Forester, NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) personnel, and Farm Bill cost-assistance programs.

How to Get Started

This comprehensive, voluntary, proactive program is designed to reduce forest landowner's legal and environmental risks through a three-phase process: 1) education; 2) forest-specific risk assessment and practice implementation; and 3) on-site verification that ensures the landowner has implemented environmentally sound practices. After becoming MAEAP verified, a farm can display a [MAEAP sign](#) signifying that MAEAP partners recognize the farm is environmentally assured.

To get started:

1. Verify your enrollment eligibility, you must have a written Forest Management Plan for your property
2. Complete the MAEAP Forest, Wetland, and Habitat-A-Syst Workbook, either on your own, with your Plan Writer, with your FAP Forester, and/or NRCS Personnel. The workbook is a series of risk questions that help you assess how effectively your management protects the environment and incorporates Best Management Practices. The key to FWH-A-Syst is that you implement the actions you have identified to reduce environmental risks. Farm Bill cost-assistance programs are available to help with many management decisions that are identified.
3. If you would like to become fully verified by MAEAP, then complete MAEAP Phase 1 verification:
 - a. Attend an educational meeting in your area. There is an upcoming events link on the MAEAP website for "Phase 1 Educational Session" at: <http://www.maeap.org/events>

- b. Or, view three videos on the MAEAP educational sessions Phase 1 credit webpage at this link: http://www.maeap.org/get_verified/educational_sessions
- c. Complete the Phase 1 Credit Form, and submit it to the MAEAP office by mail, email, or fax, or to a local FAP Forester or MAEAP verifier.

MAEAP Contact Information:

MI Dept. of Ag and Rural Development
MAEAP
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
MDA-ESD-MAEAP@Michigan.gov
Fax: 517 335-3329

4. Plan a verification visit to your parcel with the MAEAP Verifier for your area, and with your local FAP Forester

The owner of a MAEAP-verified system will be eligible for incentives and can enjoy the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their forest management system is sustainable. Verified systems are positioned to achieve regulatory compliance with state and federal environmental laws.

The preceding is an outline providing general guidance on how to enroll in MAEAP FWH Program. For additional assistance, please contact your local FAP Forester.

FAP Forester for Alger and Marquette County:

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For all other FAP Foresters, navigate here: michigan.gov/mifap

