

Environmental Stewardship Division

Jim Johnson
Director



Protect • Promote • Preserve

Michigan Right to Farm Act

- PA 93 of 1981
- Addresses differing/changing land use policies
- Amended in 1987, 1995 and 1999
- Defines farm, farm operation and farm product

Right to Farm Act in a Nut Shell

- Creates conditions for nuisance protection
- Establishes the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices creation/review process
- Establishes the complaint response process for MDA
- Determines the relationship between MDA and DNRE for NREPA violations

Provides Nuisance Protection

Two Conditions

- Existed prior to change in surrounding land use
- Farm operation is following Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs)

GAAMPs

Eight Sets of GAAMPs

- Manure Management and Utilization
- Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control
- Nutrient Utilization
- Care of Farm Animals
- Cranberry Production
- Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Production Facilities
- Irrigation Water Use
- Farm Markets

GAAMPs

- Need is established by Michigan Agriculture Commission
- Written by a task force; reviewed yearly
- Task force consists of private/public/university experts in the topic area
- Commission reviews/approves GAAMPs updates yearly

RTF and Zoning/Ordinances

- “...It is the express legislative intent that this act [RTF] preempt any local ordinances, regulation, or resolution that purports to extend or revise in any manner the provisions of this act or GAAMPs developed under this act.”
- “... A local unit of government shall not enact, maintain, or enforce an ordinance, regulation, or resolution that conflicts in any manner with this act or GAAMPs developed under this act.”

RTF and Zoning/Ordinances

- “...may submit to the Director a proposed ordinance prescribing standards different from those contained in GAAMPs.”

Possible Urban Agriculture Solutions

- Legislation that amends RTF that exempts urban agriculture from RTF
- Ordinance submittal to the MDA Director that establishes different GAAMP standards
- A new GAAMP for urban agriculture

Michigan Department of Agriculture, Right to Farm Program

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