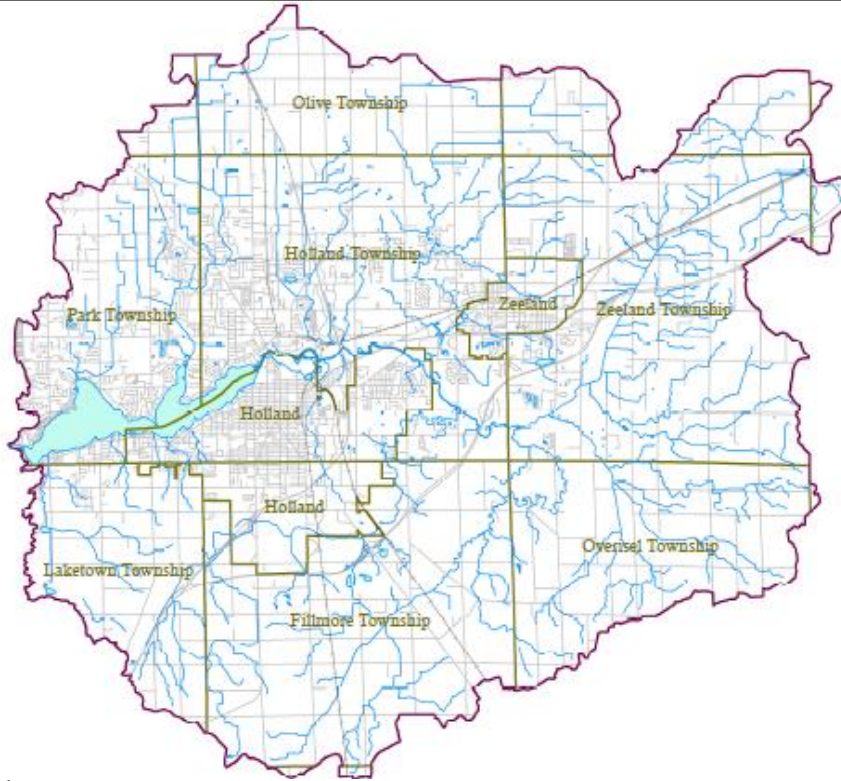


**Fact:** The Macatawa Watershed suffers from poor water quality which results from urban, suburban and rural land uses. Farming makes up 50% of the land use in the watershed. That's why we want to know how you view water quality and how you think farms can help improve water quality in our area.



Dear Agricultural Landowner,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the following survey! The purpose of this survey is to gain valuable insight from the agricultural community on water quality related issues, the use of best management practices on the farm and participation in government funded cost share programs. This is your chance to tell us what you think! *If you are not a farmer, or if you do not own land that is farmed, please disregard this survey.*

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Please read each question carefully. Your answers are completely confidential and will be included only in summaries where individual answers cannot be identified. Unless otherwise instructed, please check the circle that corresponds to the answer category that best describes you and your situation or your opinion. It will take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete this questionnaire. If you have questions or want further information, please contact the project coordinators listed on the back page.

### ***LET US SHOW OUR APPRECIATION!***

**By taking the time to complete and return this survey  
you will be eligible to win one of seven monetary prizes totaling \$250!**

Upon receipt of the completed survey, the unique code (located on the back page of the survey) will be entered into a drawing. This code is only used to track who has responded and will not be used for any other purposes.

All prizes will be mailed to the address associated with this code.

The survey must be completed by an adult member of your household 18 years of age or older. Please mark all answers clearly, in pen or pencil, as indicated in the example below.

## 1. Water Quality

**Overall, how would you rate the quality of the water in the rivers, streams, and lakes of the Lake Macatawa watershed?**

	Poor	Okay	Good	Don't Know
a. For canoeing / kayaking / other boating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. For eating locally caught fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. For swimming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. For picnicking and family activities near water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. For fish habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. For wildlife habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 2. Your Water Use

**a. Of these activities, which is the most important to you?**

- Canoeing / kayaking / other boating
- Eating fish caught locally
- Swimming
- Picnicking and family activities near water
- Fish habitat / fishing
- Scenic beauty / enjoyment

**b. Do you know where the rain water goes when it runs off of your property?**

- No, I don't know
- Yes, it goes to \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. General Water Quality Attitudes

What is your level of agreement with the following statements?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. The economic stability of my community depends upon clean lakes, rivers, and streams.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. The way that I care for my property can influence water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. It is my personal responsibility to help protect water quality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. It is important to protect water quality even if it slows economic development.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. What I do on my property doesn't have much impact on overall water quality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Investing in water quality protection puts the farmer at an economic disadvantage.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Farm management practices (on individual lots) do not have an impact on local water quality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. My actions have an impact on lakes, rivers, and streams.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Taking action to improve lakes, rivers, and streams is too expensive for me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. It is okay to reduce water quality to promote economic development.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. It is important to protect water quality even if it costs me more.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. I would be willing to pay more to improve lakes, rivers, and streams (for example: through local taxes or fees).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. I would be willing to change the way I care for my farm to improve water quality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. The quality of life in my community depends on good water quality in local streams, rivers, and lakes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 4. Types of Water Pollutants

*Below is a list of types of water pollutants that are generally present in water bodies to some extent. In your opinion, how much of a problem are the following pollutants in the Lake Macatawa watershed?*

	Not a Problem	Slight Problem	Moderate Problem	Severe Problem	Don't Know
a. Dirt and Soil in local streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Nutrients from fertilizers in local streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Phosphorus in local streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Bacteria and viruses in local streams (such as E. coli/Coliform)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Algae in local streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Toxic materials such as PCBs in local streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Not enough oxygen in the water in local streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Invasive aquatic plants and animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Cloudiness of the water in local streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Trash or debris	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 5. Sources of Water Pollution

*The items listed below are sources of water quality pollution across the country. In your opinion, how much of a problem are the following sources in the Lake Macatawa watershed?*

	Not a Problem	Slight Problem	Moderate Problem	Severe Problem	Don't Know
a. Discharges from industry into streams and lakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Discharges from sewage treatment plants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Soil erosion from construction sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Soil erosion from farm fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Soil erosion from stream channels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Lawn fertilizers and pesticides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Grass clippings and leaves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Improperly maintained septic systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Grazing-related sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Manure from farm animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Stormwater runoff from streets, highways, and/or parking lots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Animal feeding operations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Droppings from geese, ducks, and other waterfowl	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Pet waste (such as dogs or cats)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Agricultural fertilizers and pesticides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. Land development or redevelopment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. Removal of riparian vegetation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
r. Drainage / filling of wetlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
s. Outputs from marinas and/or recreational boats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 6. Consequences of Poor Water Quality

*Poor water quality can lead to a variety of consequences for communities. In your opinion, how much of a problem are the following issues in the Lake Macatawa watershed?*

	Not a Problem	Slight Problem	Moderate Problem	Severe Problem	Don't Know
a. Contaminated drinking water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Polluted / closed swimming areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Contaminated fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Increase in water / sewage bill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Loss of desirable fish and wildlife species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Reduced beauty of rivers, lakes, and streams	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Reduced opportunities for water activities such as boating, canoeing, and fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Reduced quality of water activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Excessive aquatic plants or algae	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Fish kills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Odor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Lower property values	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 7. Practices to Improve Water Quality

Please indicate which statement most accurately describes your level of experience with each practice listed below.	Never Heard Of It	Somewhat familiar with it	Know how to use it; not using it	Currently Use It
a. Conduct regular soil tests for pH, and nutrients	○	○	○	○
b. Construct sediment basins to collect and store debris or sediment	○	○	○	○
c. Construct an artificial wetland for waste treatment	○	○	○	○
d. Rotate crops to maintain or improve soil	○	○	○	○
e. Use a grassed waterway to reduce erosion and soil loss	○	○	○	○
f. Use fences to exclude livestock from streams, rivers, ditches, etc.	○	○	○	○
g. Restore wetlands	○	○	○	○
h. Stabilize and protect streambanks and/or shorelines	○	○	○	○
i. Regular servicing of septic system	○	○	○	○
j. Install a two stage ditch design to reduce bank erosion	○	○	○	○
k. Regulate the water level in tile lines	○	○	○	○

## 8. Making Management Decisions

*In general, how much does each issue limit your ability to change your agricultural management practices (such as those in Question 7)?*

	Not at All	A little	Some	A lot	Don't Know
a. Personal out-of-pocket expenses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Concerns about reduced yields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Lack of available information about a practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. No one else I know is implementing the practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Approval of my neighbors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Environmental damage caused by the practice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Don't want to participate in government programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. I do not own the property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Requirements or restrictions of government programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Possible interference with my flexibility to change land use practices as conditions warrant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Not being able to see a field demonstration of the practice(s) before I decide	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Other _____ (Please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 9. Participation in Government Funded Programs

**Have you ever participated in a government funded cost share program? (Examples: Conservation Reserve Program, Wetland Reserve Program, EQIP-Environmental Quality Incentives Program)**

- No
- Yes, I have participated in \_\_\_\_\_

**In general, how important are these issues when you decide whether or not to participate in a government funded conservation or cost-share programs?**

	Not at All	A little	Some	A lot	Don't Know
a. Amount of funding provided by the program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. The time it takes to work through the application process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Requirements/Restrictions (red tape) of government programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Possible interference with my flexibility to change land use practices in the future	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Difficulty understanding the program requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Being able to attend a field day or field demonstration of the practice(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Access to program staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Other _____ (Please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 10. Constraints for Specific Practices

### Cover Crops.

Cover crops include grasses, legumes and forbs for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes.

1. Do you have or have you used cover crops?
- Currently use
  - Don't currently use
  - Never used

2. How familiar are you with cover crops?

- Never heard of it
- Somewhat familiar with it
- Know how to use, not doing it
- Currently use it

3. Are you willing to try to use cover crops?

- Yes or already do
- Maybe
- No

<i>How much do the following factors limit your ability to use cover crops (or limited, if you already use)?</i>	Not at All	A little	Some	A lot	Don't Know
a. Lack of information or skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Time required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The features of my property do not support it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Insufficient proof of water quality benefit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Desire to keep things the way they are	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Hard to use with my farming system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Lack of equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Filter Strips.

Filter strips include grasses and other plants that provide a vegetative buffer between farmland and watercourses.

1. Do you have or have you used filter strips?
- Currently use
  - Don't currently use
  - Never used

2. How familiar are you with filter strips?

- Never heard of it
- Somewhat familiar with it
- Know how to use, not doing it
- Currently use it

3. Are you willing to try to use filter strips?

- Yes or already do
- Maybe
- No

<i>How much do the following factors limit your ability to use filter strips (or limited, if you already use)?</i>	Not at All	A little	Some	A lot	Don't Know
a. Lack of information or skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Time required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The features of my property do not support it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Insufficient proof of water quality benefit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Desire to keep things the way they are	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Hard to use with my farming system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Lack of equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Conservation Tillage**

Conservation tillage is a practice that requires planting directly into the undisturbed residue left from the previous crop.

1. Do you have or have you used conservation tillage?
- Currently use
  - Don't currently use
  - Never used

2. How familiar are you with conservation tillage?
- Never heard of it
  - Somewhat familiar with it
  - Know how to use, not doing it
  - Currently use it

3. Are you willing to try using conservation tillage?
- Yes or already do
  - Maybe
  - No

<i>How much do the following factors limit your ability to use conservation tillage (or limited, if you already use)?</i>	Not at All	A little	Some	A lot	Don't Know
a. Lack of information or skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Time required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The features of my property do not support it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Insufficient proof of water quality benefit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Desire to keep things the way they are	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Hard to use with my farming system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Lack of equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and or Manure Management Plan (MMP)**

Both are plans unique to livestock operations that guide the use of manure on a farm in a way that protects natural resources.

1. Do you have or have you used a CNMP or MMP?
- Currently use
  - Don't currently use
  - Never used

2. How familiar are you with CNMPs or MMPs?
- Never heard of it
  - Somewhat familiar with it
  - Know how to use, not doing it
  - Currently use it

3. Are you willing to try using a CNMP or MMP?
- Yes or already do
  - Maybe
  - No

<i>How much do the following factors limit your ability to use CNMPs or MMPs (or limited, if you already use)?</i>	Not at All	A little	Some	A lot	Don't Know
a. Lack of information or skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Time required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. The features of my property do not support it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Insufficient proof of water quality benefit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Desire to keep things the way they are	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Hard to use with my farming system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Lack of equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 11. **Additional BMP questions**

*BMP: Stands for “Best Management Practice” which is an agricultural practice that has been determined to be an effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution.*

**a. Would you be willing to speak to other farmers about your experiences with the BMPs you have implemented? (Note: Your answers here do not commit you to anything)**

- Yes
- No

**b. Are you familiar with the Carbon Trading Program and the financial benefits it provides to those farmers that implement practices that sequester carbon (like planting perennial grasses or practicing no-till)**

- Yes, I am familiar with the program and I plan on participating.
- Yes, I am familiar with the program but I do not plan on participating.
- No, I am not familiar with the program but I would like to learn more.
- No, I am not familiar with the program and am not interested in learning more

**c. Are you familiar with the farmland preservation concept of purchasing development rights (PDR)?**

- Yes, I am familiar with the concept of PDR.
- No, I am not familiar with the concept of PDR.

**d. If you had the opportunity, would you be willing to permanently protect your farmland from development by selling your development rights to a county or land conservancy? (Note: Your answers here do not commit you to any involvement in the program)**

- Yes, I would be willing to participate in a PDR program.
- Maybe, depending on how much money was offered for the development rights.
- No, I would not be willing to participate in a PDR program.
- I need more information before I could make a decision.

**e. Are there other BMP(s) that are not listed previously that you would like to implement on your farm / property? Please list here:**

**f. In your opinion what are some barriers or obstacles to installing these BMPs on your farm? Please list up to three.**

**g. Are there any agricultural cost share programs you would like to know more about? (Ex. EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), WRP (Wetlands Reserve Program), CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) etc.)**

## 12. Information and Activities

**People get information about water quality from a number of different sources. To what extent do you trust the organizations listed below as a source of information about water quality and land management?**

	Not At All	Slightly	Moderately	Very Much	Am Not Familiar
a. NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Farm Services Agency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Michigan State University Extension	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Conservation District	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. MDA (Michigan Department of Agriculture)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. MDEQ (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. County Drain Commission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Michigan Farm Bureau	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Macatawa Watershed Project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Macatawa Area Coordinating Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Other _____ (Please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

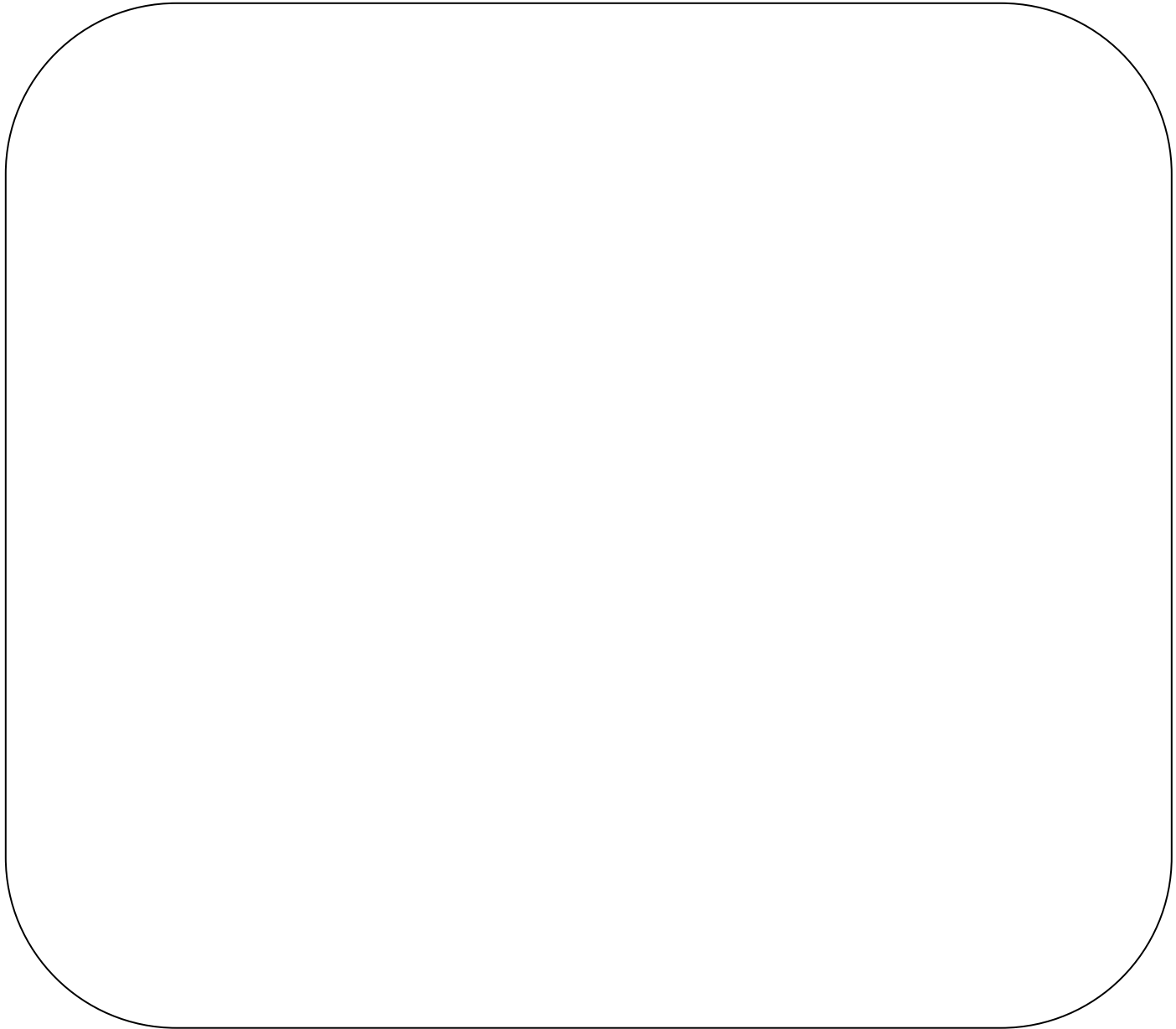
## 13. About Your Farm Operation

- a. How many years have you been farming in the Macatawa Watershed?  
\_\_\_\_\_ years
- b. Do you consider yourself retired from your farm operation?  
 Retired  
 Partially Retired  
 Not Retired
- c. Which of the following best describes your position as a farm operator? (Please check all that apply)  
 Me alone or with my spouse  
 Me with my family partner(s) (ex. siblings, parents, children)  
 Me with the landowner  
 Me with my tenant  
 Me and my business partner(s)  
 Someone else makes the decisions for the operation
- d. How likely is it that any family member will continue farm operations when you retire or quit farming?  
 Will not happen  
 Likely  
 Will definitely happen  
 Unknown
- e. Five years from now, which statement will best describe your farm?  
 About the same as it is today  
 It will be larger  
 It will be smaller  
 I don't know/unsure
- f. Please estimate the total tillable acreage (owner and/or rented) of your farming operation this year?  
 1-99 acres  
 100-499 acres  
 500-999 acres  
 1,000-1,999 acres  
 2,000 or more acres
- g. This year, how many acres of the following do you manage? If none, please enter zero.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Corn  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Soybeans  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Small grains  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Canning crops  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Clover/alfalfa  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Pasture  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation set aside  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Forest/woodland  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Non row crops for energy  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Blueberries  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other
- h. Does the property you manage touch a stream, river, lake, drain, ditch or wetland?  
 Yes  
 No
- i. How many of the following animals are part of your farming operation? If none, please enter zero.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dairy cattle (incl. heifers, young stock)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Beef cattle (incl. young stock)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Hogs  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Poultry  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other livestock
- j. Is your farm MAEAP verified? Please check all that apply.  
 Yes, verified in cropping systems  
 Yes, verified in livestock systems  
 Yes, verified in farmstead systems  
 Yes, verified in greenhouse  
 No, my farm is not MAEAP verified  
 No, my farm is not verified but I have filled out a Farm-A-Syst, or Crop-A-Syst, or Livestock-A-Syst form  
 I don't know what MAEAP verification is

## 14. About You and Your Property

- a. Do you make the home or lawn care decisions in your household?
- Yes
  - No
- b. What is your gender?
- Male
  - Female
- c. What year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. What is the highest grade in school that you have completed?
- Some formal schooling
  - High school diploma or GED
  - Some college
  - 2 year college degree
  - 4 year college degree
  - Graduate degree
- e. How long have you lived at your current residence?  
\_\_\_\_\_years
- f. Do you use pesticides or herbicides on your farm?
- Yes
  - No
- g. If yes, are pesticides or herbicides applied by a commercial applicator?
- Some
  - All
  - None
- h. Do you use fertilizer on your farm?
- Yes
  - No
- i. Is manure applied to your farm?
- Yes
  - No
- j. If yes, is manure applied in accordance with a manure management plan?
- Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable
- k. Is application equipment for pesticides, fertilizers and/or manure calibrated regularly?
- Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable
- l. If so, have you ever had your soil tested to determine your fertilizer needs?
- Yes
  - No, it is too expensive
  - No, I don't know how
  - No, I didn't know soil testing was important
  - Other
- m. I've heard about local water quality problems from the following (check all that apply).
- Newsletters/brochures/factsheets
  - Internet
  - Radio
  - Newspaper/Magazine
  - Workshops/demonstrations/meetings
  - Television or Billboards
  - Schools
  - Conversations with others
  - Other
- n. In what county is your property principally located in?
- Ottawa County
  - Allegan County
  - I have property in both counties

**Thank you for your time and assistance! Please return your completed survey in the postage-paid envelope provided. Please use the space below for any additional comments about this survey or water resource issues in the Lake Macatawa watershed.**



**Local Project Coordinator:**

**Mary Fales**

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Macatawa Area Coordinating Council  
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www.the-macc.org

**ENTER YOUR NAME FOR A PRIZE!**

We appreciate that you took the time to complete this survey and we want to give you something to show for it! If you would like to be entered into a drawing for an appreciation gift, please return this completed survey in the envelope provided and make sure not to remove the sticker at the bottom of this page.

Appreciation gifts include five \$20 gift cards, one \$50 gift card, and one \$100 gift card!

Gift cards will be in the form of VISA prepaid gift cards that can be used anywhere VISA is accepted. (Gift cards will be mailed)