



January 22, 2014

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)  
Environmental Stewardship Division  
P.O. Box 30017  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: 2014 Draft for Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities

Thank you for accepting comments on the 2014 draft GAAMPs. The Michigan Farmers Market Association (MIFMA) is a statewide, member-based association located in East Lansing, Michigan. Our mission is to advance farmers markets to create a thriving marketplace for local food and farm products. We have been in existence since 2006 and work to support and represent Michigan farmers and farmers markets.

We are writing today because of the concerns some of our farmers market vendor members who raise livestock have with the proposed changes to the GAAMP for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities. Our association's leadership is concerned about the impact these changes may have on our members and, more broadly, on Michigan farmers and farmers markets. Please ensure that the voices of small-scale farmers are heard, considered, and represented in this process as these farmers and livestock producers also critical to the growth of healthy, regional food systems.

MIFMA is willing to work with MDARD, the Review Committee for the GAAMPs for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Production Facilities, and the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to facilitate a conversation with small-scale livestock producers that could be impacted by these changes. Organizationally we believe it is essential for regulations to proceed only when all stakeholders are fairly represented in the dialogue.

On behalf of the Michigan Farmers Market Association, thank you for your careful consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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