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**MICHIGAN
USDA/AMERICORPS
FINAL REPORT
1995**

Prepared by: Christina Coulon, Sergio Perez
and Kenrick Pierre-USDA/AmeriCorps Cluster Leaders

Submitted by: Alan Herceg, Michigan USDA/AmeriCorps Program Director
and Assistant State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE NUMBER |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 2 |
| 2. RECRUITMENT FOR 1995 | 3 |
| 3. OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS | 3 |
| Objective I: Community Service | 3 |
| Objective II: Member Development | 5 |
| Objective III: Community Building | 7 |
| 4. USDA/AMERICORPS EVALUATION RESULTS | 8 |
| 5. RECOMMENDATIONS | 9 |
| Training | 9 |
| Agency Involvement | 9 |
| Financial Resources | 9 |
| AmeriCorps Esprit de Corps | 10 |
| 6. CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT | 10 |
| 7. GRADUATION | 11 |
| 8. RECRUITMENT FOR 1996 | 11 |
| APPENDICES | |

1. INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first Michigan USDA/AmeriCorps program began in October, 1994 with the swearing-in of fifteen AmeriCorps members. Twelve of the fifteen USDA/AmeriCorps members served in field offices of both the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Michigan State University Extension promoting the Farm*A*Syst (Farm*A*Syst). Three members were selected as cluster leaders and served in East Lansing (see appendix A).

This was the first year of AmeriCorps, and as with any new program there was much uncertainty. The AmeriCorps members were challenged with the task of proving the value of AmeriCorps to skeptics as well as delivering a quality service to Michigan farm families. The USDA/AmeriCorps members rose to this challenge and superseded all expectations. They provided a valuable service to their host communities and experienced considerable personal growth as a result. Each and every one of the fifteen members considered their year with AmeriCorps an incredible learning experience.

However, the benefits extend far beyond what the AmeriCorps members gained personally. The communities served by the AmeriCorps members are reaping the rewards of the AmeriCorps members diligent efforts. An evaluation was conducted of the USDA/AmeriCorps program and from the responses it is clear that those served in the USDA/AmeriCorps Farm*A*Syst program continue to support ground water protection effort.

This report summarizes the activities of the USDA/AmeriCorps program for the fiscal 1995 year. The total number of Farm*A*Syst completed is 795. Over 318 or 40% of the farmers have made changes or are planning to make changes to correct high risk areas. Over 2.5 million people have heard of the ground water protection program. Ten Ground Water Stewardship Teams have been formed involving 149 people to continue ground water protection. The objectives, accomplishments, and evaluation results are highlighted. The preliminary results of the evaluation are very encouraging. A total of 96% of respondents rated the assistance provided by the

USDA/AmeriCorps member as good, very good or excellent. An explanation of the cluster concept is included and recommendations are made for future USDA/AmeriCorps programs.

2. RECRUITMENT FOR 1995

The first year of the USDA/AmeriCorps program began with a recruitment effort. News releases were distributed to the various newspapers and to the networks of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Congressional Offices. Seventy plus colleges and universities throughout the state were notified. More than one hundred applications were received and thirty people were interviewed. The kick-off ceremony for the fifteen members selected was held on October 3, 1994 at the Michigan Farm Bureau Headquarters in Lansing, Michigan. The state House of Representatives speaker, Paul Hilligonds was present as were representatives from other congressional offices and the Michigan Community Service Commission. For sample press releases, a copy of the recruitment plan and an agenda of the kick-off ceremony, see Appendix B.

3. OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OBJECTIVE I- Community Service

The first goal of the USDA/AmeriCorps Farm*A*Syst program was to have AmeriCorps members initiate a ground water education and risk assessment program. They used the Farmstead Assessment System (Farm*A*Syst) as a tool for helping farm families determine what impact their farmstead activities may have on their ground water. The Farmstead Assessment System was originally developed by the University of Wisconsin and Minnesota in conjunction with EPA's Region V. The Farmstead Assessment System was adapted to Michigan by Michigan State University Extension. Farm*A*Syst is a series of factsheets and worksheets. The sheets are arranged by subject: Well Condition, Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Handling, Petroleum Product Storage etc... The factsheets provide information on best

management practices. The worksheets are questionnaires that seek to assess what the farmer is actually doing. The goal of the USDA/AmeriCorps program was to assist 1000 farm families complete Farmstead Assessments.

The USDA/AmeriCorps members utilized the networks and structure of already existing community organizations in their outreach efforts. However, most assistance was provided by the local District Conservationists (DC) and MSU Extension Agents. The DC's and Extension Agents have built trusting relationships with the farmers, so when they endorsed the Farm*A*Syst program the farmers were much more likely to invite the USDA/AmeriCorps member on to their farms.

Even with the endorsement of the DC's and Extension Agent it was not easy to reach farmers. Some farmers did not support the program and there was a lot of initial skepticism on the part of other farmers. A few farmers felt that they were being 'picked upon'-and that farmers were not the only ones who contribute to ground water contamination. Some people also mistook the program for another 'big government' regulatory program. Farm*A*Syst was a hard sell and a public relations and information campaign was necessary.

Members attended as many farmer organization meetings as possible. At every meeting they introduced themselves and the program. Members also published articles in the local newspapers, Extension and District newsletters. Some members did radio interviews and every member went with the local DC or Extension Agent on farm visits. Trade shows, conferences, and just about any forum in which farmers assembled was used to bring the program to them. In addition, flyers, direct mailings and displays were placed in MSU Extension, NRCS and CFSA offices throughout the watersheds (see Appendix C for examples).

Farmers frequently sought technical advice from the USDA/AmeriCorps members. The AmeriCorps role was not to provide technical advice but to direct the farmers to organizations who could help them. Every USDA/AmeriCorps member compiled a service directory with a total of 26 counties covered in the State of Michigan that provided sources of technical and financial information (see Appendix D for an example).

In addition to the resource directory each USDA/AmeriCorps member gathered information that would be useful to the farmers in his/her particular area. They collected soil maps and aerial photos, county conservation directories, well logs and geological information, pesticide recertification credit forms, regulations concerning the storage and disposal of hazardous material and MSU Extension bulletins. Members also researched any questions or concerns a farmer may have had that was not addressed in any of the literature provided. The total number of Farm*A*Syst completed is 795. Over 318 or 40% of the farmers have made changes or are planning to make changes to correct high risk areas. Over 2.5 million people have heard of the ground water protection program. Ten Ground Water Stewardship Teams have been formed to continue ground water protection.

OBJECTIVE II- Member Development

The second objective of the USDA/AmeriCorps program was to improve the skills and overall capabilities of the members. A series of training sessions were organized to help improve their performance in their current tasks and also to improve their chances for future employment. The following is a list of the training programs conducted:

| <u>Training</u> | <u>Month</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| - Farm*A*Syst Satellite Conference | September |
| - Orientation Training | October |
| - Farm*A*Syst Training | November |
| - Soils ID and Map Interpretation | November |
| - Watershed Management | December |
| - Follow-up Farm*A*Syst Training | February |
| - CPR and First Aid | February |
| - Evaluation Training | February |
| - Great Lakes Stewardship Conference | March |
| - Watershed Stewardship Conference | March |
| - Total Quality Management | March |
| - Land Use Planning | April |
| - Creating Environmental Partnerships | April |
| - Personality Mapping | May |
| - Effective Presentation | May |
| - Follow-up Evaluation Training | May |
| - Resume Writing and Job Search | July |

Cluster Concept

The Michigan USDA/AmeriCorps Rural Development program was unique because all the members were not at the same site. Members were operating from Natural Resources Conservation Service and Michigan State University Extension offices located throughout the six priority watersheds.

To help maintain communication between members and a sense of connection to AmeriCorps and the national identity of the services program a "cluster system" of support to the members was created.

The priority watersheds were divided into three area clusters: Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. Each cluster was assigned a cluster leader who was responsible for coordinating the activities of the cluster, organizing and facilitating communications and the exchange of information between members. They also organized state-wide training.

Each group met at least once per month (see Appendix E for a typical cluster site meeting agenda). Between cluster meetings, members met at training sessions and at other farm related activities they attended. Members were always in touch with each other by E-mail, telephone or fax. Whenever someone came up with a good idea the cluster leaders immediately communicated it to the members in the field. The cluster leaders also had access to the NRCS specialists based in the state office. The Cluster site concept worked well in keeping the members fully connected to each other, the State of Michigan Program and to the national service movement.

Career Selection

Following their USDA/AmeriCorps service agreement, twelve members found jobs which were in the field of agriculture and natural resources as a result of their AmeriCorps experience. The following is a list of the current activities of the former USDA/AmeriCorps members:

- Paul Rodock was hired as a groundwater technician for the MDA Groundwater Protection Program.
- Mike Gaden was hired as a greenhouse manager.
- Kristin Korutz was hired by the NRCS based on her outstanding performance with AmeriCorps.

- Teresa Rudnicki was hired as a Michigan State University Extension Agent.
- Wachaua Powell was hired by another AmeriCorps program.
- Mike Szynski was hired by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the State Park System.
- Karry Van Vorst was hired by a Soil and Water Conservation District as a ground water technician.
- Jennifer Blaker was hired by Soil and Water Conservation District to work in the gypsy moth control program.
- Christina Coulon is being retained by the NRCS to complete the evaluation of the USDA/AmeriCorps Farm*A*Syst program.
- Jodi Rogers is attending graduate school to study Environmental Science.
- Sergio Perez is helping to translate the Farm*A*Syst packet into Spanish so it can be used in Puerto Rico and the South West. There is a possibility he will also be part of a USDA/NRCS delegation that would be taking Farm*A*Syst to Mexico in February 1996.
- Faith Traylor was hired as a ground water technician for the Presque Isle Soil and Water Conservation District.

OBJECTIVE III- Community Building

The final objective of the USDA/AmeriCorps program was to establish Ground Water Stewardship Teams. There were ten Ground Water Stewardship Teams that started. These Ground Water Stewardship Teams involve 149 people and will continue the ground water protection and education efforts after the USDA/AmeriCorps member's term of service is over. The Ground Water Stewardship Teams are intended to be representative of the stakeholders in the community (See Appendix F for details on the activities and membership of the Ground Water Stewardship Teams).

The Michigan Department of Agriculture has also instituted a new ground water protection program that is modeled after the USDA/AmeriCorps Farm*A*Syst program. The MDA ground water technicians are working with the USDA/AmeriCorps members in forming additional Ground Water Stewardship Teams. These teams may receive funding from the MDA to ensure the sustainability of the ground water protection effort.

Community Service

The community service activities performed by the USDA/AmeriCorps members during the term included: the Signature Service Project in Detroit for the National Day of Service, education activities for fifth graders at the Stubnitz Nature Center Groundwater Festival in Adrian (see Appendix G), tree sales for the Conservation Districts Earth Day activities and drain stenciling for the "Protect our Bay" movement in Traverse City. These community service activities provided a tremendous amount of satisfaction to the USDA/AmeriCorps members because it gave them an opportunity to interact with a variety of people from different backgrounds. These activities also fostered a spirit of community service that may have been lacking in the day to day routine.

4. USDA/AMERICORPS EVALUATION RESULTS

An evaluation of the Community Service of the USDA/AmeriCorps program was conducted. The purpose of the evaluation was two-fold, first to assess the service provided by the USDA/AmeriCorps member and second to assess the effectiveness of the service and Farm*A*Syst. Funds for the evaluation were provided by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The evaluation was conducted by surveying participants in the Farm*A*Syst program. A survey form was sent out to the Farm*A*Syst participants by the USDA/AmeriCorps member that assisted in the assessment and was returned to the USDA NRCS State Headquarters (see Appendix H for a sample survey form). The data collection process ran from May through August, 1995. Of the 550 surveys sent out, a total of 308 were returned. This 58% response rate was reached after a follow-up mailing was conducted.

The preliminary results of the evaluation are very encouraging. When asked if the USDA/AmeriCorps Farm*A*Syst was of value to the participant, nearly ninety-five percent of the respondents indicated that it was. A question was included in the survey asking the farmer to rate the USDA/AmeriCorps member. A total of 96% of respondents rated the assistance provided by the USDA/AmeriCorps member as good,

very good or excellent. These results indicate that the USDA/AmeriCorps members were well-trained, knowledgeable and professional representatives.

A more extensive examination of the evaluation results will be covered in a report to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (see Appendix I for an executive summary).

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The first year of the USDA/AmeriCorps program was a pioneering period. A few mistakes were made, the timing was off in certain respects, but also, much was learned. The following recommendations are a compilation of all the USDA/AmeriCorps members suggestions for the coming USDA/AmeriCorps programs.

Training: Most members felt that while the training was appropriate and helpful, the timing could have been better. It was suggested that there be a shorter lag period between the swearing-in and the Farm*A*Syst training. Also, some of the member development training, such as the session on writing press releases, should be given more towards the beginning of the term as opposed to later.

Agency Involvement: Due to the nature of farming, there were some down-times during which the members felt they could be doing more. One example of this is the planting season in the spring. During this period farmers do not have time to talk with anyone, therefore they could not do a Farmstead Assessment. In times like these, the members felt if they had some other project to work on, perhaps something the agency in which they were housed was involved in, they would have been more productive.

Financial Resources: The USDA/AmeriCorps members were sent to their field locations with no budget to work with. They were completely dependent on the agencies supporting the Farm*A*Syst program for their financial needs. It would be helpful if a small budget, taken from one of the agencies involved in Farm*A*Syst, could be allocated for the members use (for mailings, copies, supplies etc...). This would make the member feel more like contributor and less like a burden to the host agency.

AmeriCorps Esprit de Corps: There was a tendency for this year's USDA/AmeriCorps members to feel more aligned with the agency in which they were housed than with AmeriCorps as a national community service movement. While some members were very enthusiastic about AmeriCorps and radiated that spirit, others were more susceptible to the negative attitudes some held of the program. More emphasis on AmeriCorps early on may counteract this tendency. The cluster site concept did help maintain a sense of "belonging" and identity with AmeriCorps. It may also help to have a community service project early on in the program to foster a sense of service and community.

6. CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT

Many organizations were helpful in making this year's USDA/AmeriCorps program a success. The Natural Resources Conservation Service generously housed eleven of the fifteen USDA/AmeriCorps members, provided training, use of vehicles and technical support to the members. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts supported the USDA/AmeriCorps members in the critical first months of the program by participating in Farm*A*Syst on their farms and spreading the word about the program to other farmers. The Michigan State University Extension Service housed four members, supplied training and promoted the program to their clients. The Michigan Department of Agriculture provided financial support to the program through a grant for program evaluation and materials. The Michigan Farm Bureau was behind the program from the kick-off in October which was held at their state headquarters in Lansing. They also voiced their support of the program to farmers in their association throughout the state. Many others helped out the program and the USDA/AmeriCorps members throughout the year, including the local health departments, universities and agribusinesses. The USDA/AmeriCorps members would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all those that contributed to the success of this first year of the USDA/AmeriCorps Farm*A*Syst program!

7. GRADUATION

To celebrate the accomplishments of the 1994-1995 "class" of USDA/AmeriCorps volunteers, a graduation ceremony was held. The ceremony took place in Traverse City, Michigan on the campus of Northwestern Michigan College. A video was made of all the USDA/AmeriCorps members and was shown at the graduation. A copy of the tape was given to all the USDA/AmeriCorps members as a remembrance. A plaque was also given to each member in appreciation for their contribution to the development of rural Michigan communities. There was news coverage of this event and four members were interviewed by the host of "Good Morning Northern Michigan", a local counterpart to "Good Morning America".

After the graduation celebration the USDA/AmeriCorps members participated in a community service project. They stencilled drains discharging into the Grand Traverse Bay to remind people that what enters the drains exits in the bay. Following the community service project the USDA/AmeriCorps members participated in a sailing excursion on the tall ship Madiline. This celebration was a fitting closure to the years activities.

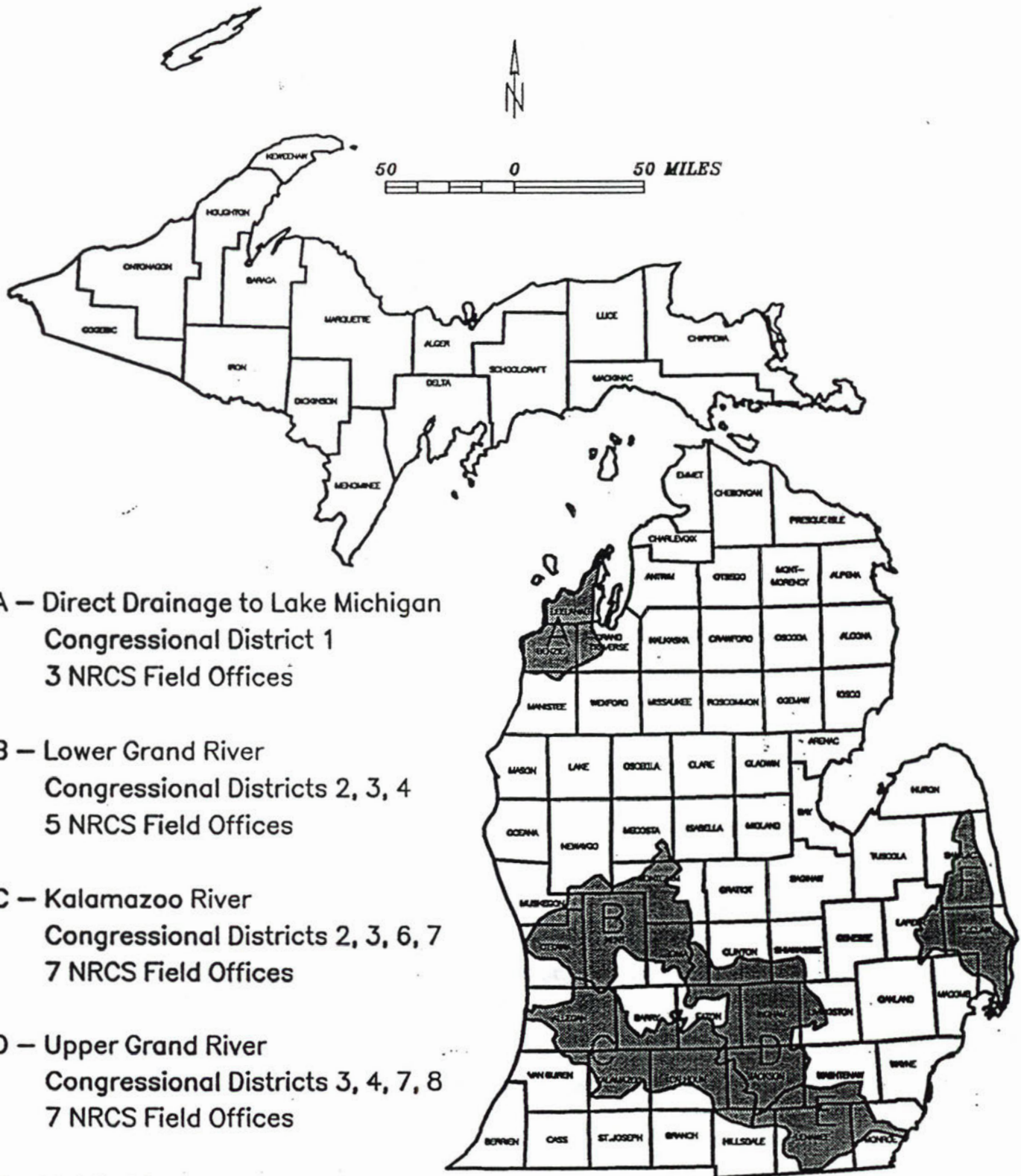
8. RECRUITMENT FOR 1996

Recruitment for the second year of the USDA/AmeriCorps program is underway. The announcement from Washington confirming the existence of this year's program was late in coming, therefore, the recruitment process began about three weeks later than initially planned. In mid-August mailings were sent out to all of the universities and colleges in the State of Michigan. Native American organizations were notified and sent applications as were congressional offices. Individuals that had applied with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), AmeriCorps, Michigan State University Extension (MSU)-E, Consolidated Farm Services Agency (CFSA), and the Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) Agency were also sent information. A list of names obtained in a conference for minority students and professionals in agriculture and natural resources was also used. Press releases were sent to placement centers at universities and colleges and all the major Michigan

newspapers. A spot on a morning radio show highlighted recruitment for the program. Applications were sent out as requested on the Michigan NRCS and AmeriCorps recruitment hotlines. In total, approximately 800 applications were sent out. At the present time, individuals are being selected for interviews. The 1996 USDA/AmeriCorps program is scheduled to begin late October. We are confident that this year's program will also be a success.

APPENDIX A

Americorp Michigan Priority Watersheds



A – Direct Drainage to Lake Michigan
Congressional District 1
3 NRCS Field Offices

B – Lower Grand River
Congressional Districts 2, 3, 4
5 NRCS Field Offices

C – Kalamazoo River
Congressional Districts 2, 3, 6, 7
7 NRCS Field Offices

D – Upper Grand River
Congressional Districts 3, 4, 7, 8
7 NRCS Field Offices

E – Raisin River
Congressional Districts 7, 16
4 NRCS Field Offices

F – Black, Belle, and Pine Rivers
Congressional Districts 5, 9, 10
3 NRCS Field Offices

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 1) *AmeriCorps National Service - Team USDA*, is the center of President Clinton's National and Community Trust Act of 1993.
- 2) The program will create teams of professional and paraprofessional participants who can assist rural communities in identifying needs and resources available for economic, human, and environmental well-being.
- 3) The Michigan team will work one-on-one with farm families to assess farmsteads for potential pollution problems. Farm families with potential problems will also be directed to sources of technical and financial assistance available to correct any situations.
- 4) The fifteen USDA/AmeriCorps members will serve in one of Michigan's six priority watersheds: Direct Drainage to Lake Michigan, Lower Grand River, Kalamazoo River, Upper Grand River, Raisin River and Black, Belle, and Pine Rivers (see map).
- 5) *Who can participate?* For this USDA/AmeriCorps program only, participants will be mostly college and professional school graduates whose expertise will be matched with needs of rural communities. However, anyone over 17 years of age, including high school dropouts, high school graduates, college students, college graduates, and professional school graduates may qualify. The participant profile will mirror the demographics of the civilian work force in Michigan. Diversity is based on education, social-economic factors, race, gender, and physically challenged.
- 6) *Benefits.*
 - 1) Living stipend of \$12,000
 - 2) Education awards for college or vocational training (\$4,725 for tuition or loan forgiveness)
 - 3) Basic health insurance
 - 4) Child care allowance
- 7) The term of service will be 1812 hours. Participants will serve full time, Monday through Friday. Part-time positions may also be available. Positions are scheduled to start October 16, 1995.
- 8) *Recruitment begins immediately.* Applications may be sent to Alan G. Herceg, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1405 S. Harrison, Rm 101, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

For information call (517)337-6701, ext. 1218, East Lansing or 1-800-880-4183 for the USDA or 1-800-94A-CORPS for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

June/July 1992

FOCUS

International Joint Commission / Commission internationale

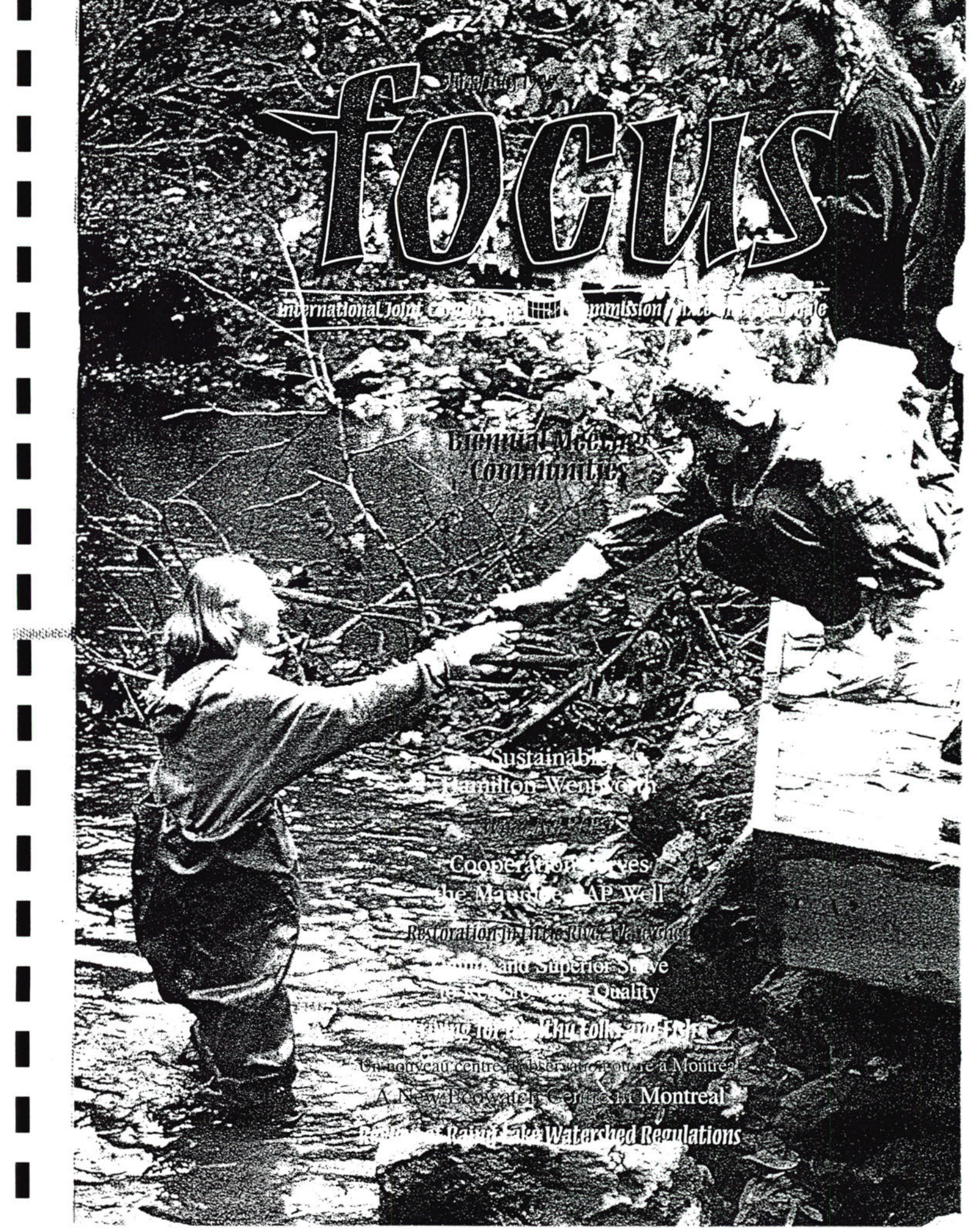
Biennial Meeting
Communities

Sustainable
Hamilton-Wentworth

Cooperation Serves
the Maurice AP Well

Restoration in the River
St. Lawrence
and Superior Serve
the Rest of the Quality

Working for the People and Fish
On a new centre of water and nature in Montreal
A New Eco-water Centre in Montreal
Regulations for Lake Watershed Regulations





U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Carol Browner joined U.S. Senators Carl Levin and John Glenn and Indiana Governor Evan Bayh on March 13, 1995 to unveil the long-awaited final version of the **Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative (GLI)**. The GLI, which sets forth an interstate approach to water quality protection for the Great Lakes, was released in draft in mid-1993.

The Great Lakes Critical Programs Act of 1990 authorized U.S. EPA to consult with states to develop the GLI package, including uniform water quality criteria. In response to many public comments, U.S. EPA made substantive changes in its draft regulatory proposal, including revision of its metals criteria, bioaccumulation factors, wildlife criteria, antidegradation procedures, intake credits and mixing zone requirements. As a result, the agency notably reduced the estimated cost of compliance with GLI provisions. States must adopt water quality programs consistent with the GLI within two years or U.S. EPA may promulgate standards for them.

For more information contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water WH-556, Washington, DC 20460. (202)260-5700.



Would rapid access to Great Lakes and environmental news be useful to you? Booth Newspapers

of Michigan has launched the **Great Lakes Environmental Wire (GLEW)**. The online service provides current news stories, editorials, opinion pieces and more from seven of Michigan's largest daily newspapers. The service focuses on Michigan, but reports news of basinwide interest, such as the impacts of U.S. federal budget cuts on Great Lakes agencies and Congressional actions related to the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative. You can find GLEW at the regional news link of the Great Lakes Information Network's homepage at <http://www/great-lakes.net:2200/0/glinhome.html> or under "News" at gopher.great-lakes.net.



A dedicated research program on endometriosis has been established by the Endometriosis Association in conjunction with Dartmouth Medical School. Endometriosis is a disease in which tissue from the uterus migrates to the abdomen, ovaries, bowel or bladder, often causing internal bleeding, infertility and other problems. This program is linking endometriosis to dioxin (a widely prevalent toxic chemical). A new book on **Endometriosis Sourcebook** is also planned for release in 1995.

The Endometriosis Association is hosting a major conference November 3-5, 1995 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for an audience of over 1,500 women. To receive information contact Mary Lou Ballweg, Executive Director/President, Education Support Research, 8585 North 76th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53223. (414)355-2200; fax (414)355-6065.



*USDA/AmeriCorps training for Farm*A*Syst on a farm in Michigan*



During the past three years, farmers in Michigan have been taking a proactive approach to groundwater protection through the use of farmstead assessments. The assessment system was originally developed in Wisconsin and Minnesota and adopted by Michigan State University Extension. The program, called **Farm*A*Syst**, addresses how structures and management activities can influence groundwater quality. Twelve worksheets help the farmer rank the risk to groundwater from such activities and develop plans to reduce risk and protect drinking water.

In Michigan, the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service and Michigan State University Extension developed a plan to use **Farm*A*Syst** in six watersheds that are most vulnerable to groundwater contamination. The plan includes the use of AmeriCorps members to assist farmers in completing the assessments. Currently 14 U.S. Department of Agriculture/AmeriCorps members are working with farmers throughout the state. The effort began in October 1994 and will continue through August 1995.

One of the goals of the program includes assisting 1,000 farm families with farmstead assessments. As of April 1995, over 400 assessments have been completed. Farmer response has been quite positive. The assessment is completely confidential; the completed worksheets stay

on the farm and no information about the farmstead is kept on file. While there are no requirements for regulatory compliance it is encouraged. Michigan farmers recognize the need to protect groundwater and thus are taking proactive steps toward this end.

For more information contact Christina Coulon, U.S. Department of Agriculture/AmeriCorps, Michigan State University, Cooperative Extension Service, 11 Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1039. Email diragmkt@msuces.canr.msu.edu; (517)355-0117; fax (517)353-4995.



Lake Michigan Federation's Muskegon, Michigan office, with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, is helping communities around the Great Lakes basin to confront the **human health concerns** related to environmental conditions. This project provides citizens and communities throughout the basin with strategic approaches to confront growing concerns about exposures to chemical hazards.

If you would like to learn more about this project, contact Tanya Cabala or Liz England, Lake Michigan Federation, 425 W. Western Avenue, Suite 201, Muskegon, MI 49440. (616)722-5116; fax (616)722-4918.



February 21, 1995 Gary Heilig, Jack Knorek, Laurie Rhodes-Griffith, and Teresa Rudnicki

HIGH-TENSILE WIRE FENCING HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

The use of high-tensile fencing has become a popular and effective alternative in intensive grazing programs for dairy cattle, beef cattle and sheep. This type of fencing is also appropriate for horse facilities and deer fencing.

The MSU Agricultural Engineering Department has an excellent bulletin available titled "High-Tensile Wire Fencing", published by the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service. This bulletin was written by land grant university faculty members with strong input from experts within the fencing industry.

Designs for high-tensile wire fence systems are described for all types of livestock. Both electric and non-electric versions are described in enough detail that the fencing system can be designed and constructed. Fencing for control of deer and predators is discussed. This bulletin also has an extensive list of references for more background information.

"High-Tensile Wire Fencing", NRAES-11 is available by writing to the Plan Service Secretary, 217 Farrall Hall, Agricultural Engineering Department. The price is \$4.00.

•Howard Person

A MARKETING DILEMMA

How do you get a better than average return on your corn acres? One strategy which should be considered is to expand your corn sales over an 18 month period (9 months before harvest and 9 months after harvest). Plan on selling 1/6 of your production at a time, determine the best possible price for a 3 month period, and make a sale. By forward contracting some of your corn, you can take advantage of premium prices which the market pays for production uncertainties. Forward contracts will generate cash flow and you will only be selling a small percentage of the harvest lows.

Use the options market or flexible price contracts to manage your production risks. No one knows whether 1995 will bring us 120 bushel Corn at \$1.80 or 80 bushel corn at \$2.60. With a marketing plan you can greatly improve your chances of increasing your return per acre.

•Philip Malefyt

FARM•A•SYST: PROGRESS IN INGHAM COUNTY

AmeriCorps members have been providing the Farm•A•Syst (Farmstead Assessment System) program to farm families free of charge in the Upper Grand River Watershed, which includes Ingham County, since November 1994. Currently the AmeriCorps member in Ingham County is at 30 percent of her goal (100 assessments in Eaton, Ingham, and Livingston Counties before July 30, 1995). Ingham County is in the lead with 13 participants.

The response to the Farm•A•Syst program has been very positive: "the program provides useful information and AmeriCorps members are able to answer questions during the assessment," said one participant. Also, if a farm family needs more information about a practice AmeriCorps members can research the issue confidentially and provide the information to them at a later date.

Farm•A•Syst consists of twelve worksheets and factsheets with information on "Best Management Practices" (BMPs are designed to utilize animal wastes, fertilizers and pesticides in an environmentally and economically sound manner), current Michigan well codes, and laws that apply to practices which occur on the farmstead. The assessments are completely confidential (all of the worksheets stay on the farm). An added benefit of the program is that pesticide applicators can earn up to six pesticide recertification credits, with the completion of six worksheets. Each worksheet takes about 10 minutes to complete.

To take advantage of the Farm•A•Syst program contact Teresa at (517) 676-7301.

•Teresa Rudnicki, AmeriCorps Member

CROP ADVISORY TEAM (CAT) ALERTS

The *Cat Alerts* are newsletters with pest management advice that is timed to arrive when you need it. MSU Extension Specialists provide expert advice to help make management decisions. Information is targeted to your needs, from preventing insect and disease injury to weather conditions and growing degree days for each region. There are different editions for each crop area (Fruit, Field Crops, Vegetables, and Landscape). For more information or to order *CAT Alerts* you can call Joy Landis, *CAT Alerts* editor (517) 355-0117 or contact our office for a brochure.

ATTENTION FARMERS:

Would you like to earn R.U.P. credits and protect the drinking water on your farm?

THEN TRY FARM*A*SYST!!!!!!

WHAT IS FARM*A*SYST?

Farm*A*Syst is a voluntary farmstead assessment program designed to help you, the farmer, identify potential sources of groundwater pollution that might affect the drinking water on your farm.

IT CAN HELP TO:

- *Earn up to six R.U.P. credits per applicator per three year certification period.
- *Increase the value of your property.
- *Preserve drinking water on the farm for you and your family.

IT WILL:

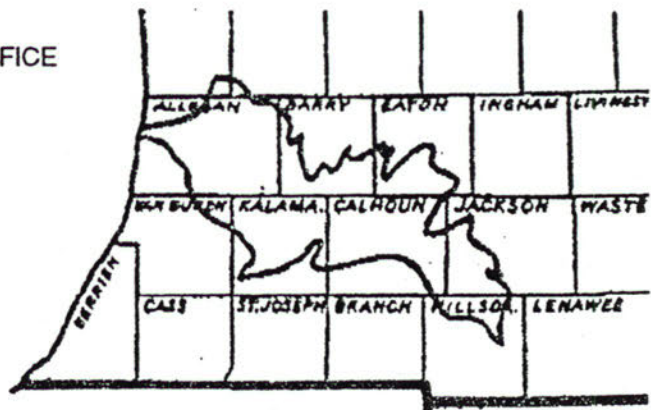
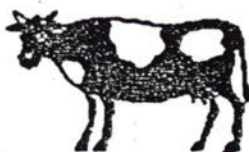
- * Provide one-on-one assistance in completing the voluntary groundwater pollution risk worksheets.
- *Identify available technical, financial, and educational assistance to you and other farmers who participate.

THIS PROGRAM IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL. THE WORKSHEETS STAY WITH YOU, THE FARMER, TO ASSURE THAT NO REGULATORY AGENCY OBTAINS THE INFORMATION COLLECTED FROM YOUR FARM. THIS IS FREE ASSISTANCE. TAKE ADVANTAGE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE, CONTACT:

KARRY VANVORST (616)781-4264
AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE MEMBER
c/o NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION
SERVICE (FORMERLY SCS)
CALHOUN SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE

**AMERICORPS IS COVERING THE
KALAMAZOO RIVER WATERSHED!!**



APPENDIX B

SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
Alan G. Herceg
(616)946-6811
Michigan USDA AmeriCorps Manager

MICHIGAN'S AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM BEGINS RECRUITMENT

EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN -- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today that it has begun recruitment for the AmeriCorps national service project that the Department will run in Michigan starting this September.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants in this particular program will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$12,000 and then receive an educational award worth \$4,725.

According to Alan Herceg, Michigan's AmeriCorp Manager, "The 14 participants in the Michigan program will work one-on-one with farm families to assess farmsteads for potential pollution problems. Farm families with potential problems will also be directed to sources of technical and financial assistance available to correct any situations."

Any citizen age 17 or older is eligible to apply for the program. There is no maximum or minimum family income required to apply. College and professional school graduates whose expertise will match the needs of rural communities are especially encouraged to apply. Applications will be accepted immediately.

To apply for the program or obtain more information, call Alan Herceg at 616-946-6811, or the toll-free national USDA AmeriCorps hot line at 1-800-880-4183.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy urged all interested Americans to apply. Said Espy, "AmeriCorps is grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility, and opportunity. It is good for the participants, who benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school - good for communities, which benefit from their service --- and good for the country, which benefits from a renewed civic spirit."

Soil Conservation Service AmeriCorps Kick-Off/Swearing-In Ceremony

October 4, 1994

AGENDA

| Time | Item | Program Participants |
|-------|---|---|
| 9:15 | AmeriCorps Member Group Photo Other Posed Photos | |
| 10:00 | Reception | |
| 10:20 | Welcome | Alan Herceg Assistant State Conservationist USDA-Soil Conservation Service |
| | Team USDA and AmeriCorps | Carole Jett State Conservationist USDA-Soil Conservation Service |
| | Farm*A*Syst | Gail Imig Director MSU Extension |
| | Making a Difference | Frank Dirks Executive Director Michigan Community Service Commission |
| | | Laura Rowen Regional Peace Corps Representative for Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky |
| | Oath of Office | Alan Herceg |
| | Adjourn | |
| 11:00 | Orientation Session for AmeriCorps Members and Field Staff | |

AMERICORPS/USDA
Michigan
RECRUITMENT PLAN
January 23, 1995

- July 21 Utilize congressional offices to obtain articles in the major newspapers in the state
- July 26 Prepare Recruitment documents and Application Packets
- July 28 Contact the Peace Corps representatives and Community Service Commission for Michigan to see if there are people on their lists who they could not utilize
- July 28 Provide recruitment material to Hispanic organizations, Native American organizations, women's organizations, disabled organizations, Afro-American organizations and Asian organizations through special emphasis managers from the NRCS, EO & CR Committee in Michigan
- July 28 Distributed recruitment packets to all Department Chairs at Ag & Natural Resource College of MSU Extension, NRCS, MDA, and SCD offices (200)
- July 28 Contact with recruitment packages affirmative action leaders and placement officials for the key universities and colleges in and surrounding Michigan (70)
- August 8 Obtain lists of local residents interested in program who have called into USDA and the Corporation for National and Community Service 800 lines
- August 8 Have Michigan's affected Congressional offices announce the AmeriCorps program state wide with news releases and recruitment action
- August 9 Mail Application Packets to 90 potential employees who have contacted NRCS in the last two years for employment
- August 25 Last day to receive applications; select finalists for interviews; will interview twice as many applicants as there are slots in the program
- August 22 Obtain approval of finalist list from national office
- August 28 Begin interviewing finalists
- September 11 Send list of final selections to national office for approval
- September 15 Selections are finalized; local office calls all of those selected and as many of those not selected as possible; national office sends letters from Secretary Espy to all those who were and were not selected

Michigan

SECTION B WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1994

"The joy of helping others — that is undoubtedly the biggest benefit."

CHRISTINA COULON
AmeriCorps volunteer



Vowing to "get things done for America," Jodie Rogers (left), Wachauna Powell and Mike Szynski are among 15 being sworn in as the first AmeriCorps volunteers in the state Tuesday at the Farm Bureau in Lansing. *Bruce A. Pollock / Associated Press*

15 in state join AmeriCorps team

The group will help farmers identify and prevent sources of ground water pollution.

By Kenneth Cole
Detroit News Lansing Bureau

LANSING — Moments after being sworn in as an AmeriCorps volunteer, Christina Coulon held her crying 10-month-old son, Jesse, and talked about the give-and-take pact she'd just made with the U.S. government.

"The joy of helping others — that is undoubtedly the biggest benefit," said Coulon, a 28-year-old native of Oscoda, who's among the first state residents to join the "domestic Peace Corps" set up by President Clinton. Fifteen volunteers took an oath as

AmeriCorps members Tuesday morning at Michigan Farm Bureau headquarters, vowing to "get things done for America." They'll be paid for spending the next 11 months in a federal Agriculture Department program helping Michigan farmers.

Although patriotism and her desire to help others moved Coulon to apply, she also cited the free child care offered workers as an incentive to join.

"That's a big plus, especially for a single mom with two kids like myself," said the Michigan State University graduate student, who's majoring in resource development. She has another son, Alex, who is 6. Mike Szynski, a 23-year-old Utica

Please see CORPS, 8B

Volunteers for America

■ **Who:** AmeriCorps participants can be students, retirees or anyone else over 17.

■ **Commitment:** Applicants must agree to work about 1,700 hours over 11 months.

■ **Screening:** A four-page form must be accompanied by a one-page letter on reasons for applying. Finalists are interviewed for about an hour.

■ **To get application:** Write to the Corporation for National Service, 1100 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20525; or call (800) 942-2677.

CORPS

Continued from Page 1B

native, also has altruistic and economic motives.

"There's no question getting a chance to help people and gain experience in your field is motivation enough to join AmeriCorps, but the money helps," said Szynski, who's completing his resource development studies at MSU.

In addition to child care, AmeriCorps workers get a \$4,725 stipend they can spend on tuition or college loans, and a \$12,000 living allowance. They're also eligible for government-paid insurance.

White House officials estimate that 20,000 volunteers nationwide will work this year in community programs focusing on public safety, urban development and health care.

Alan Herceg, a conservationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Lansing, didn't know how many volunteers will be Michigan residents.

of ground water pollution. They'll focus on six problem watersheds in Michigan, including drainage areas of the Grand River, the Raisin River and the Leelanau Peninsula.

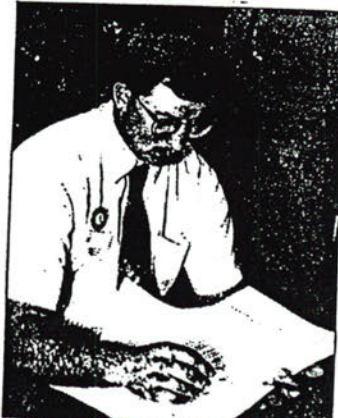
Jodi Rogers, a 21-year-old environmental policy and ecology major at the University of Michigan, will tackle water pollution in the Raisin River, which zigzags through Lenawee County. "Because it's so crooked," she explained, "lots of sediment gets stuck in its curves."

The sediment includes cow manure and other nitrate pollutants "that make it difficult for fish to breathe," the student added, "so you can imagine what it does to drinking water."

Herceg said he interviewed 33 of the 70 Michigan applicants before picking 15 for the program's first class.

Most of the volunteers said they heard about the program from ads or media coverage.

Wachauna Powell, a communications major at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, will work as an AmeriCorps participant in Jackson because her mother decided to get an application for her.



Bruce A. Pollock / Associated Press

LOCAL & STATE

★
Wednesd
October 5, 19



DAVID OLDS/Lansing State Journal

Volunteers sworn in: Wachauna Powell (left) of Jackson, Mike Szynski of Ann Arbor, and Kenrick Pierre of East Lansing are sworn in Tuesday as new members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorp.

AmeriCorp workers to help Michigan farmers

By A.J. Evenson
Lansing State Journal

Michigan's first agricultural AmeriCorp members began work Tuesday, helping state farmers in six watersheds protect their groundwater supplies.

"The family farm and what that represents is in trouble," Frank Dirks, executive director of the Michigan Community Service Commission, told the 15 workers Tuesday during a swearing-in ceremony in Lansing.

Today, there are "too many technicians and not enough nurturers and communicators — people who are willing to lift a hand to help others," Dirks said. "There is an opportunity for each of you to reach out to people on those farms."

The workers will go into communities near Michigan's main watersheds and help farmers in those areas identify potential sources of groundwater pollution

AmeriCorp

Highlights of U.S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorp program:

- Fifteen workers will help farmers assess potential pollution problems, and find technical and financial assistance to correct situations.
- Workers will be placed in one of Michigan's six main watersheds.
- Term of service is 1,700 hours.
- Workers will receive a \$12,000 living stipend, education awards for college or vocational training, health insurance and child-care allowance.
- Anyone 17 years or older may qualify to participate.

on their farms — a first step to preventing such pollution.

The watersheds involved include the drainage areas of the upper and lower Grand River, Kalamazoo River, River Raisin, Black River, Pine River and an area in Leelanau and Benzie counties that drains into Lake Michigan.

The AmeriCorp workers also will help farmers find technical and financial assistance to solv-

ing existing pollution problems.

"It's a great opportunity to come in contact with the public and do something about our groundwater supply," said Jodi Rogers, 21, a University of Michigan senior studying environmental policy and ecology. "I want to be able to help make a change."

Working with the AmeriCorp program also is a chance to give back to the community, said Wachauna Powell, a University of

Michigan student, studying organizational communication.

"It gives me something to challenge myself with," Powell said. "I would like to see a lot of the farms get the help they need."

But being the state's first U.S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorp workers doesn't come without reservations or worry.

"We are the first group," said Kenrick Pierre, who is working on his doctorate in resource development at Michigan State University. "We can't really anticipate all the problems that may lie ahead."

What's more, workers question how long it will take to build a solid relationship with the farmers they are trying to help.

"I'm worried about the farming community trusting us," Rogers said. "It's all confidential. But as soon as they hear 'government agency,' they may be reluctant to talk to us."



DAVID OLDS/Lansing State Journal

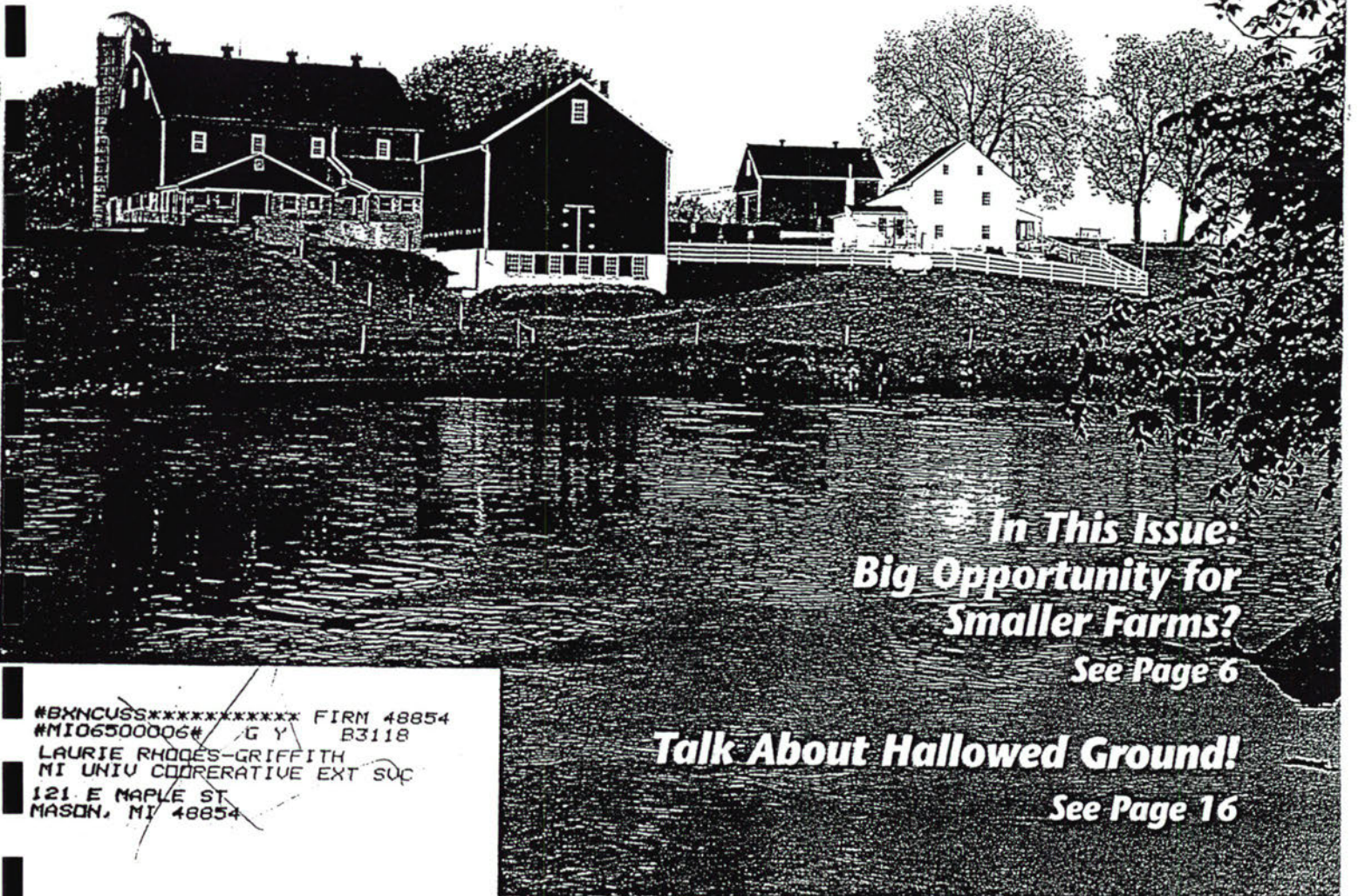
Local people get ready to help out: Mike Szynski of Ann Arbor (left), and Kenrick Pierre of East Lansing are among new AmeriCorp members. Page 1B

APPENDIX C

1995

Farming

The national farm magazine with home



***In This Issue:
Big Opportunity for
Smaller Farms?***

See Page 6

Talk About Hallowed Ground!

See Page 16

#BXNCUSS***** FIRM 48854
#MI06500006# G Y B3118
LAURIE RHODES-GRIFFITH
MI UNIV COOPERATIVE EXT SOC
121 E MAPLE ST
MASON, MI 48854

Extension news for Ingham County farm families

Michigan State University/ Extension



By Teresa Rudnicki
USDA AmeriCorps Member

Maintaining your drinking water

Most residents within the Upper Grand River Watershed depend upon clean well water to satisfy their drinking water needs.

If wells are improperly constructed or maintained, rural residents could be exposed to fecal bacteria, pathogens, pesticides, fertilizers, oil products, and other wastes. When groundwater becomes polluted, these contaminants can put families and livestock at risk. Many factors can influence a well's vulnerability to contamination. Potential risks include: waste dumping or accidental spills, the age and design of the well, depth of casing, maintenance of the well cap and seal, vulnerability of soil types, area geological features, and the presence of direct channels to

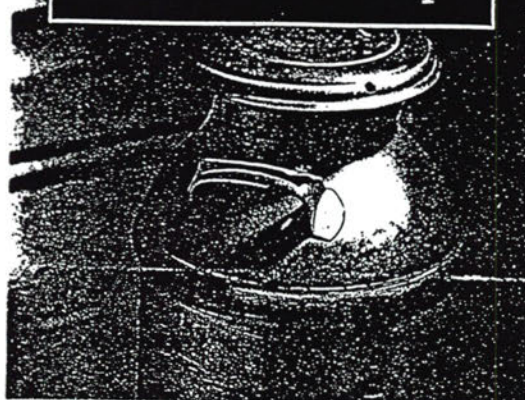
groundwater (such as abandoned wells and sink holes).

Completely isolating your well from contamination sources including feedlots, animal yards, septic systems, fertilizers, and pesticides may save you money and liability problems. Changes in the location of contamination sources in relation to your well should be made to ensure many more years of clean water supplies.

Good well maintenance practices such as installing anti-backflow devices, frequent water testing, and proper plugging of abandoned wells will reduce potential risks for groundwater contamination. Learning to protect your groundwater is essential. Cleaning contaminated groundwater aquifers is often expensive if not impossible. For more information about well condition, set back distances, and using the Farm-A-Syst program to assess the risk of drinking water contamination on your farm, please contact me at 676-7301.

What do 20 eggs, 30 slices of white bread, 2½ cups of greens or 4½ ounces of sardines have in common? They have the same amount of calcium contained in two 8-ounce glasses of milk.

Once again, the cream
has risen to the top.



Farm Credit Services salutes dairy producers and their families. They help keep America strong, contributing products and services that make this country a better place to live. June is National Dairy Month.

 **Farm Credit Services**
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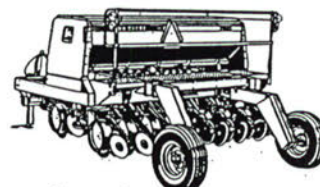
ANDREWS CHEVROLET

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559 S. Diamond Rd., Mason, MI 48854

Vicksburg museum to unveil annual yuletide exhibit

VICKSBURG — The Christmas season is celebrated at the Vicksburg Depot Museum's annual Christmas exhibit that will open from 1-4 p.m. Saturday at the museum, 300 N. Richardson.

This year's theme is "Christmas in the Village," and will feature a display of several tiny villages decked out for the holidays.

There will also be trains, including Seth Giem's annual holiday layout and a display of miniatures.

The holiday exhibit will run through Dec. 17. The museum is open each Saturday from 1-4 p.m.

The gift shop will also be open to purchase gifts, and the depot will be decorated in all its Christmas finery.

On Dec. 3 from noon to 5 p.m., the museum will have its annual Christmas Open House. Refreshments will be served.

USDA helps farmers with groundwater pollution woes

BY ROSEMARY PARKER
HOMETOWN GAZETTE

Whether it's nitrates or bacteria in a residential drinking water well or excess fertilizer running off a suburban yard, groundwater pollution is everybody's worry.

Now, Kalamazoo and Allegan counties have new AmeriCorps workers on hand to help people learn how to prevent polluting the surface and groundwaters of the Kalamazoo River watershed.

Like the Peace Corps or the Civilian Conservation Corps, the AmeriCorps takes students fresh out of college and ready for service — but the service is to the environment.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has an office in Portage, has unveiled an inter-agency project designed to help farmers in six Michigan watersheds identify potential sources of groundwater pollution on their land.

A total of 15 young people, members of the first USDA AmeriCorps, are working from Soil Conservation Service offices in Portage, Allegan, Marshall, Adrian, Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Fremont, Grand Rapids, Ionia and Jackson.

These workers will help farmers evaluate conditions on their farms with the Farm-A-Syst program developed by the Extension Service and will refer problem

situations to appropriate resources.

AmeriCorps is a domestic program designed to involve citizens, especially young people, in community service work across the nation. It is patterned after the Civilian Conservation Corps which, after the Great Depression, helped restore the nation's economic health while rebuilding roads and addressing severe soil erosion problems.

In return for their service, AmeriCorps members will receive a living allowance, child care, health care and, after one year of service, an educational voucher worth \$4,725 for college expenses or college loan payments.

Jennifer Medema is one of Michigan's first 15 AmeriCorps members. She will work with farmers in the Kalamazoo watershed and will be based at the Allegan County Soil Conservation Service.

"I'm really excited about helping people prevent water pollution and the AmeriCorps voucher I'll earn after a year means I can continue my education," said Medema, who is studying environmental geology.

"Identifying potential sources of ground and surface water pollution is an essential first step in efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution," said Bill Semeyn, dis-

trict conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.

The Soil Conservation Service is the U.S.D.A. agency that, working with local conservation districts, is responsible for helping farmers and others to protect food-producing and water resources.

George Heffner, District Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service in Kalamazoo County, explained that in Portage, Western Michigan University graduate Mike Gaden will work through next summer to help people, especially farmers, assess how they might cut down on non-source water pollution.

Gaden said as soon as he completes his training next month he will begin to help landowners using the Michigan State University Extension program Farm-A-Syst, a 12-part analysis of practices around the home and farm that could contribute to pollution.

Separate work sheets have been developed on pesticide storage and handling, petroleum product storage, household wastewater management, manure storage, livestock yards management, silage storage, milking center wastewater, fertilizer storage and handling, well condition, and hazardous waste management Gaden said.

Landowners who volunteer to participate in the program can do as many or as few of the assess-



JERRY CAMPBELL / GAZETTE

Western Michigan University graduate Mike Gaden works out of the Portage office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ments as they wish, Gaden said. If they discover problem practices, Gaden can also direct them to the agencies that can help resolve the problems, he explained.

AmeriCorps involvement is entirely confidential — no records will even exist of his visit — so landowners can use his services without fearing reprisal from enforcement agencies.

Other watersheds participating in the program are those that provide direct drainage to Lake Michigan with an office in Traverse City; the lower Grand River

in Ottawa, Kent and Ionia counties; Upper Grand River, Raisin River and the Black and Pine rivers north of Detroit.

"I have to work on a good marketing strategy to try to get farmers to use this program," Gaden said.

For more information about the AmeriCorps program, contact the Soil Conservation District in Allegan at 616-673-8903 or in Portage at 327-0696.

Correspondent Dawn Kemp contributed to this report.

PUBLIC NOTICE



QUALITY OAK FURNITURE AT VERY

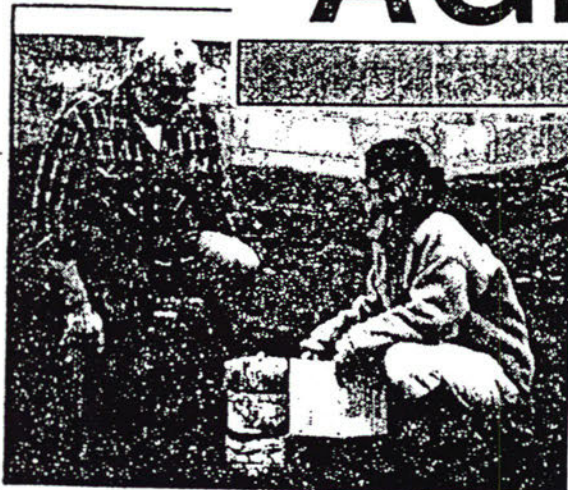
REASONABLE PRICES



AGRICULTURE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1995

7



Courtesy Photo

Monica Bullard and John Feuerstein examine and discuss the water well condition at Feuerstein's farmstead.

Farm*A*Syst is a success in Ionia

IONIA — Agricultural producers in the Ionia County area are participating in the Farm*A*Syst program, a national service project quickly spreading across the United States. The program's purpose is clean water education.

Farm*A*Syst is part of the USDA AmeriCorps National Service Program, which began in 1993 and is bringing people together from various backgrounds to work on projects across America. In Michigan, there are 14 AmeriCorps members implementing Farm*A*Syst in six targeted watersheds, including the Lower Grand River Watershed.

Monica Bullard is the Farm*A*Syst coordinator in the area working out of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office. A graduate of Hope College in Holland, she moved to Ionia from Traverse City last October to work on the program.

"It helps farmers become more aware of the improvements they could make to prevent groundwater contamination," producer John Feuerstein said.

Of course, one does not have to be in agriculture to be polluting. Whether it be a golf course or an industry, one acre or a thousand acres, anyone could be doing damage to our drinking water. But the 12 worksheets in the Farm*A*Syst series deal directly with farmstead structures and management practices to give the farmer a better idea of his or her own risk.

"It also makes a person a better steward of the land for future generations," Feuerstein noted.

The program's purpose is to educate, not regulate, and all results are left on the farm to the discretion of the landowner. A site evaluation, which includes a soil map with descriptions, is also provided as part of the assessment.

Up to six pesticide recertification credits are available by going through six worksheets, which can be completed in approximately one to two hours.

Bullard will be making visits locally until the second week in August and can be contacted at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office at 1966 South State Road, Ionia, MI, 48846. You can also call her at 616-527-2620.

Ionia Soil & Water Conservation District

AGENDA

Regular Board Meeting

December 12, 1994

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Place: SCS Office

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting - Treasurer's Reports - Bills to be Paid**
2. **SCS Report - Jim Scott, SCS District Conservationist**
3. **Americorps Report- - Monica Bullard**
- 4.. **Administrative Report - Charlotte Fountain - Betsy Koehnlein**
- 5 **Other Agency Reports:**
 - CES-Dave Guikema, Director
 - ~~MMDP-Christopher Lufkin, Coordinator~~
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Annual Meeting-plaques, etc.
 - b.
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Annual Report
8. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - a. NRCS-ltr. re: cutting costs and NRCS customer service plan
 - b. Prog. Engineering-contract to write final report to be signed
 - c. SWCS-renewal of membership for 95 (\$56)
 - d.
 - e.
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, , 1995 AT 8:00 p.m.

Farmer Pesticide Recertification Program

"Protecting Your Farm Family"

3 Credits (private)

Date: December 12, 1994

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Farm Credit Services Basement (enter lower level - north side)

Topics: Pesticide Storage and Handling
Farm Hazardous Waste Management
Livestock Manure Storage

Cost: \$5.00 Includes Materials and Lunch!

Sponsored By: Ionia Co. Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee
MSU/Ionia Extension Office

Optional: Earn up to 6 more credits by completing Farm-A-Syst worksheets at home!

R.S.V.P. by calling (616) 527-3960 by December 8, 1994

Other MSU/Ionia Extension Pesticide Recertification Programs:

January 19 Farm Pesticide Storage and Handling - 1 credit
and other crop production topics
Portland Crop Production Services - call (517)647-6919 to register

February 22 Crop Weed Control Programs (Full Day Program) - 3 credits
MSU Clarksville Station - call (616) 527-5357 to register and to learn details

Others with dates or programs incomplete:

- Mueller Bean/MSU Extension - 4 programs in March for perhaps 8-12 credits total

- Muir Vigoro/MSU Extension - 2 programs in February for perhaps 2-6 credits

Optional at Home Pesticide Recertification Credits:

Complete up to 6 worksheets assessing your Groundwater - results stay with you and are confidential - Americorp worker Monica Bullard discusses worksheets with you and certifies completion. Earn 1 credit per worksheet (limit 6). Call Monica at (616) 527-2620 to make an appointment.



It's here; a domestic Peace Corps that works to get things done in neighborhoods and communities all across America

AmeriCorps is a national service program put into effect by President Clinton in 1993. It is bringing people together (age 17 and over) from diverse backgrounds working to meet environmental and human needs in communities, while earning a living stipend and educational award.

In Michigan there are 15 members on the Rural Development Team, who are either college students or graduates, that are implementing the Farmstead Assessment System. The system is a voluntary assessment of structures and practices on the farm which may pose a risk of groundwater contamination. There are a series of 12 fact and worksheets, of which the farmer may choose to do as many as he or she wants. The results are left at the farmstead and the farmer may choose to take action him/herself or seek technical, financial, or educational assistance.

There are six targeted watersheds in Michigan receiving Farm-A-Syst assistance, and here in the Lower Grand River Watershed there are three AmeriCorps members: Monica Bullard in Ionia, Jennifer Blaker in Grand Rapids, and Paul Rodock in Fremont. Pesticide recertification credits are also available upon completion of at least two worksheets, and up to six. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Monica Bullard at (616) 527-2620. Or fill this slip out and return to: Monica Bullard, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1966 S. State Road, Ionia, MI 48846.

Yes, I am interested in Farm-A-Syst.

_____ Please give me a call.

_____ I am also interested in Pesticide Recertification Credits.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

County: _____ Twp: _____



A domestic Peace Corps in neighborhoods

across the country ...

By MONICA BULLARD

There are currently 15 AmeriCorps members across Michigan implementing the Farm*A*Syst program. AmeriCorps is a National Service Program similar to a domestic Peace Corps. There are three AmeriCorps members working in the Lower Grand River Watershed, trying to create an awareness of groundwater protection through a personal and confidential system.



BULLARD

Farm*A*Syst is a simple step-by-step series of 12 worksheets to help the farmer evaluate management practices, structures and other farm features that could pose a risk of groundwater contamination.

We have begun doing the assessments this month, one-on-one with the farmer and/or his or her spouse, and we are committed to providing this service until the fall of next year. The assessments are going well thus far. Farmers are finding it to be a free and easy way to receive pesticide recertification credits while learning how well their farm structures, management practices and soil features are protecting their drinking water from contamination.

You may also see us (AmeriCorps members) showing up at board meetings, workshops or banquets to become more familiar with farming, the people, and to promote this relatively new program.

Pesticide recertification credits are available, upon completion of two worksheets, and up to six credits may be achieved. Topics in the program series include well condition, pesticide storage and handling; fertilizer storage and handling, petroleum product storage; hazardous waste management; household wastewater management; manure storage; livestock yards management; silage storage; milking center waste water; site evaluation and overall assessment.

If you have any questions, or are interested in completing any worksheets, please contact me, Monica Bullard, at the Ionia Field Office, 1966 S. State Road, Ionia, MI 48864, 616-527-2620, or Paul Rodock, MSU Extension, 817 South Steward, Fremont 49412, 616-924-0500.

How to improve runoff water

Do you ever wonder what you can do to improve the water quality leaving your land into bordering lakes or streams? A simple but effective answer may be a filter strip.

A filter strip is an area of grass or shrubby vegetation used to remove sediment, organic matter and other pollutants from runoff and waste water. This practice may apply at the lower edge of cropfields or above other conservation practices such as terraces or diversions; as part of a waste management system to treat polluted waste water, and along streams, ponds, lakes and drainways to filter nonpoint source pollutants from entering surface water.

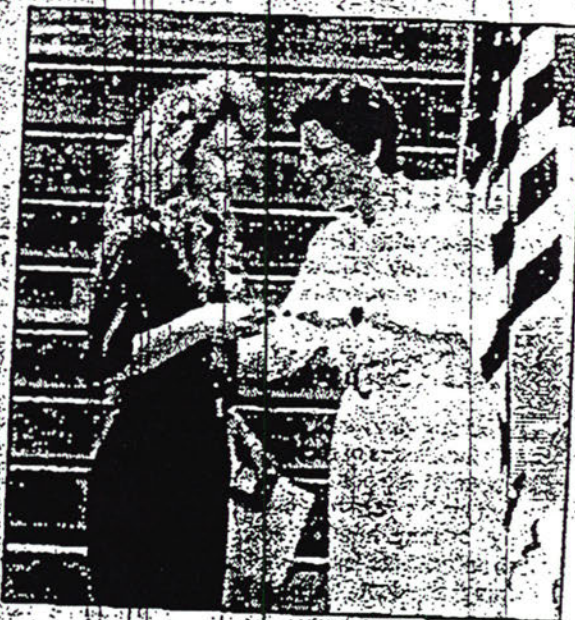
Runoff water leaving a field will pick up soil particles as it proceeds out of the area. A filter strip will intercept these particles by slowing down the water, allowing the sediment and organic matter to drop out. The nutrients have time to be absorbed by the

plants while other or volatilize.

Establishing a filter area is out of production that can be planted to other species cover for wildlife.

Maintaining a detailed record in keeping the that accumulates along every few years to opening the strip.

Filter strips are water quality by contaminants from entering are interested in filtration Service for assistance.



Student

The following letter students who attend Tour.

Dear Montcalm S Thank you for having today. (10-5-94). I

My favorite exhibits ones. I liked these important things in

I learned many things that sand is made out of. Another thing I learned could save someone.

I'm sorry if there uncourteous. I tried to enjoyed having us at

Thanks again for

SCHOLARSHIP

Through the generosity of Theron and Beatrice Comden and R.W. Petersen family, the district is able to sponsor two scholarships which operate on a rotating basis. Crystal Cogswell, Lakeview High School student, received the Comden Towle Model Forest Scholarship in 1994.

1994 conserva

Individual landowners during the year

Individuals apply practices — 81 acres

Conservation plan erodible land (HEL)

Conservation system

Land treated for 6

Attachment Options For All Residue Levels

Buy Now Pay Discounts Available

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------|----------------|
| To | Sergio Perez | From | Monica Bullard |
| Dept./Agency | AmeriCorps | Phone # | 616 527 2620 |
| Fax # | 517 337 6905 | Fax # | 616 527 9055 |

NSN 7540-01-317-7388

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

AUCTION

Located: North of Grand Rapids on 131 Expressway to M-5 North to sale site, OR 12 miles West of Greenville on M-57 (Kent County)



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25

APPENDIX D

IONIA & MONTCALM AREA

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

*to supplement the Farm *A*Syst program*



Prepared by Monica Bullard, USDA AmeriCorps Member
Ionia County NRCS Field Office

1994-1995

IONIA AND MONTCALM 1994-95 RESOURCE DIRECTORY
TABLE OF CONTENTS

| <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |
|---|-------------|
| EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS | 3 |
| AGENCY AND OTHER NUMBERS | 4 |
| IMPROVING DRINKING WATER WELL CONDITION | 5 |
| IMPROVING PESTICIDE & FERTILIZER STORAGE & HANDLING | 8 |
| IMPROVING PETROLEUM PRODUCT STORAGE | 11 |
| HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT | 13 |
| IMPROVING HOUSEHOLD WASTEWATER TREATMENT | 17 |
| IMPROVING LIVESTOCK MANURE STORAGE | 18 |
| IMPROVING LIVESTOCK YARD MANAGEMENT | 19 |
| SILAGE STORAGE | 20 |
| MILKING CENTER WASTEWATER TREATMENT | 20 |

FOR AN EMERGENCY CALL: **911**

Police

Ionia: (616) 527-4431
Belding: (616) 794-1900
Coopersville: (616) 837-9731
East G.R.: (616) 494-7010
Grand Rapids: (616) 456-3400
Grandville: (616) 538-6110
Greenville: (616) 754-9161
Hudsonville: (616) 669-0010
Kentwood: (616) 698-6580
Lake Odessa: (616) 374-8844
Lowell: (616) 897-7123
Mulliken: (517) 372-8217
Portland: (517) 647-7521
Rockford: (616) 866-9557
Walker: (616) 453-5441
Wyoming: (616) 530-7300

State Police

Grand Haven: (616) 842-2100
Grand Rapids: (616) 242-6684
Ionia: (616) 527-3600
Montcalm: (517) 352-8444
Muskegon: (616) 726-3102
Rockford: (616) 866-4411

Sheriff

Ionia County: (616) 527-0400
Kent County: (616) 774-3113
Montcalm Co: (517) 831-5253
Muskegon Co: (616) 724-6351
Ottawa Co: (616) 842-1640

AGENCY AND OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

| | <u>Ionia</u> | <u>Montcalm (517)</u> | <u>Kent</u> | <u>Ottawa</u> | <u>Mecosta</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| NRCS | 527-2620 | 831-4606 | 940-1708 | 842-5869 | 796-2650 |
| MSU-E | 527-5357 | 831-5226 | 336-3265 | 846-8250 | 592-0792 |
| CFSA | 527-2098 | 831-4212 | 456-2341 | 842-5852 | 796-2659 |
| MDA | | | 456-6988 | 456-6988 | |
| Health Dept | 527-5340 | 831-5237 | 336-3030 | 842-9410 | 592-0130 |
| Weather | | | 771-6888 | 771-1313 | 796-7684 |
| DNR | 794-2658* | | 456-5071 | 456-5071 | 734-5492 |
| Hospital | 527-4200 | 291-3261 | | | 352-7275 |

*Wildlife biologist, Dave Smith

Poison Control
1-800-632-2727

Towing

| | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|
| Ada: | JKE Beltline Towing, 6616 2 Mile Rd, Ada | 897-9919 |
| Belding: | K&R Sales & Service, 8624 Storey Rd, Belding | 794-1290 |
| Ionia: | A&A 24 hr. Towing, Ionia | 1-800-850-8935 |
| | Reed & Hoppes, 2661 E Grand River Ave, Ionia (24 hr.) | 527-1672 |
| | Ruehs RE Garage, 205 S Steele, Ionia (24 hr.) | 527-2660 |
| Lake Odessa: | I-96 Towing and Recovery, Lake Odessa | (616)374-0123 |
| Lowell: | Ike's Towing, 11900 Bluewater Hwy, Lowell (24 hr.) | (616) 897-7741 |
| | Roth Towing, 2264 W Main, Lowell | 897-5934 |
| Portland: | Shattuck's Towing, 2324 East Grand River, Portland | (517) 647-6109 |
| Saranac: | Saranac Auto Service, 36 Church, PO Box 135, Saranac | 642-9692 |

IMPROVING DRINKING WATER WELL CONDITION

Certified well water testing laboratories

Amway Corporation, Analytical Services, contact Barth Wilson, 7575 Fulton Street East, **Ada**, MI 49355. (616) 676-6523.

Big Rapids Water Filtration Plant, contact Carman Johnson, 730 Osceola, **Big Rapids**, MI 49307. (616) 796-6231.

Grand Rapids-Lake Michigan Filtration Plant, contact John Wierenga, 17350 Lake Michigan Drive, **West Olive**, MI 49460. (616) 456-3700.

Kent County Health Department, Laboratory Section, contact Kevin Terpstra, 700 Fuller Avenue, N.E., **Grand Rapids**, MI 49503. (616) 774-3475.

Lowell Water Treatment Plant, contact H. George Regan, 301 East Main Street, **Lowell**, MI 49331. (616) 897-5234.

Plainfield Township Water Treatment Plant, contact Albert M. DeWitt; 5220 Woodfield Court, N.E., **Grand Rapids**, MI 49306 (616) 363-9660.

Prein and Newhof, contact Robert Erickson; 3260 Evergreen Drive, N.E., **Grand Rapids**, MI 49505 (616) 346-7600.

Rockford Water Treatment Plant, contact Michael Averill; 10 East Bridge Street, **Rockford**, MI 49341 (616) 866-0560.

Synergic Analytical, Inc. , contact Saeid Yazdani; 450 54th Street, S.W., **Wyoming**, MI 49548.

Earth Tech(was WW Eng & Science), contact Doug Kriscunas; 5555 Glenwood Hills Pkwy, SE, **Grand Rapids**, MI 49588 (616) 942-9600.

Wyoming Gezon Station, contact Ken Doorn; 5610 Byron Center Road, **Wyoming**, MI 49509 (616) 532-6990.

A complete Michigan listing is available from the Water Supply Division, Michigan Dept. of Public Health, P.O. Box 30195, **Lansing**, Mich. 48906. Tel:(517) 335-9216.

Interpreting well water results

Ionia Health Department, 175 E. Adams St., Ionia, MI 48846. (616) 527-5340

Nitrate and Bacteria water testing bottles available.

Mecosta Health Department (616) 592-0130.

Montcalm Health Department, 617 N State Suite B, Stanton,MI 48888. (517) 831-5237

Water Supply Division, Michigan Department of Public Health (517) 335-9216.

Drinking water quality standards

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline. Call toll free
1-800-426-4791 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Water Supply Division, Michigan Department of Public Health at (517) 335-9216.

Ionia Health Department (616) 527-5340.

Mecosta Health Department (616) 592-0130.

Montcalm Health Department (517) 831-5237.

Approved water treatment devices

Use only those devices certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), an independent testing laboratory.

Requirements for installation of treatment devices

Before installing treatment devices on water supplies contaminated with nitrates, heavy metals, VOC's, pesticides, microorganisms, and other health-related contaminants in excess of health standards, contact:

Ionia Health Department (616) 527-5340

Montcalm Health Department (517) 831-5237.

Water Supply Division, MDPH, (517) 335-9216

Locating possible sources of contamination

Water well drilling contractors

Chipman's Well Drilling Service, 6135 Riverside Dr., **Saranac**. (616) 642-9262

Downing Well Drilling, 1985 E Knoll Rd, **Portland**. (616) 374-0955.

Toll free 1-800-262-3089

Geiger Water Well Construction, 5043 Whites Bridge Rd, **Belding**. (616) 794-0658

Heaton A B & Sons, 3541 E Belding Rd, **Belding**. (616) 761-3395.

Toll free-dial "1" then 800 833 0003

Maurer & Parks Water Well Drilling, Keefer Rd, **Portland**. (517) 647-7749.

O'Connor Well Drilling, 4350 Noddins, **Belding**. (616) 761-3519.

Seese G L & Sons Well Drilling, 9751 Clarksville Rd, **Clarksville**. 693-2103.

Shepard Well Drilling, 10012 S State, **Lake Odessa**. (616) 374-7295.

West Mich Water Well Construction & Service, 516 Merrick, **Belding**. (616) 794-3333

DNR district office

Kent County (616) 456-5071

Local health department (sanitarians)

Ionia (616) 527-5340

Kent (616) 336-3030

Montcalm (517) 831-5237

Well construction or inspection

Local Health Department sanitarians (see above)

Registered well drillers or pump installers (also see above)

A copy of your water well record (construction report)

Contact the well drilling contractor who drilled the well, your Local Health Department office (see previous page), or the Geological Survey Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 735 East Hazel Street, Lansing, MI 48912, phone (517) 334-6921. Be prepared to provide the legal description (county, township, range, section, and quarter section) of the well's location. If your farm covers more than one section, make a note of that in case well drillers reported the wrong section.) If known, provide the year the well was installed and the owner's name at the time.

Well abandonment

Contact your local health department (see previous page) or the Water Supply Division, Michigan Department of Public Health at (517) 335-9216.

IMPROVING PESTICIDE AND FERTILIZER STORAGE AND HANDLING

General pesticide information

National Pesticide Telecommunication Network, 1-800-858-PEST(-7378). Answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Provides information on recognizing and treating pesticide poisoning; pesticide products, cleanup and disposal; contacts for animal poison centers; certification and training programs; and pesticide laws.

Health effects of pesticides in water

Michigan Department of Public Health, Division of Water Supply, (517) 355-9216, or Michigan Department of Agriculture, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, (517) 373-1087.

Drinking water quality and treatment and Health Advisories

EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline, Monday through Friday, 8:30-5:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time. Call 1-800-426-4791. Also, Michigan Department of Public Health, Division of Water Supply, (517) 355-9216.

Health and safety information on chemicals

For specific information, contact Michigan Department of Agriculture, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, (517) 373-1087.

Plans and recommendations for mixing and loading pads

Farm Service Agency (517) 337-6671.

Michigan State University Extension Office:

 Ionia County: 100 Library Street, Ionia, MI 48846-1691. (616) 527-5357.
 (Contact Dave Guikema)

 Mecosta County: County Building, 400 Elm Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307
 (616) 592-0792. (Contact Tom Rorabaugh)

 Montcalm County: 617 North State Rd., P.O. Box 308, Stanton, MI 48888-0308.
 phone:(517) 831-5226. (Contact Don Smucker)

Michigan Department of Agriculture, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division
 phone: (517) 373-1087.

Michigan State University, Department of Agricultural Engineering, at (517) 355-4720.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (517) 337-6718.

Pesticide Education Program, Michigan State University, Cooperative Extension Service,
 phone: (517) 355-0117.

Containment Information Resources

Coatings and sealants:

Boichot Concrete Corp, 1800 Turner Street, Lansing, MI 48906. (517) 482-9066.

Wilbur Ellis, 4160 Ten Mile Rd N.W., Sparta, MI 49345-9717. (800) 873-5599.

(Contact Brian Anderson)

Liners:

Beckman-Div of Dart Energy, 600 Dart Rd-PO Box 177, Mason, MI 48854-0177.

(517) 676-2900. (Randall Schroeder)

Self-Contained Storage Buildings:

Jennings of Michigan, 2764 Armstrong, Lake Orion, MI 48360. (800) 632-4153.

Portable Containment:

-Beckman-Div of Dart Energy, 600 Dart Rd, PO Box 177, Mason, MI 48854-0177.

(517) 676-2900 (Randall Schroeder).

Design and Build Services:

-Environmental Structures, PO Box 0218, Hudsonville, MI 49426. (800) 968-9670

(Bob Mussee)

-River City Specialty Products, 902 47th Street S.W., Wyoming, MI 49509.

(616) 249-9440 (Michael Duffy)

-Tailored Building Systems, 11335 Apple Drive, Nunica, MI 49448. (800) 955-7005 (

Phil Peterson)

Pesticide and fertilizer spills

The 24-hour Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS), Michigan Department of Natural

Resources, 1-800-242-4706.

Proper disposal of soil contaminated by a spill

Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Response Division

Lansing (517) 322-1300.

Grand Rapids (616) 784-4326.

Fertilizer Services

Anderson Ag/Bird Fertilizer:

Irving St, Greenville (616) 754-3684

Lewis St, Edmore (517) 427-5471

301 Mill St, Ionia (616) 527-1870

Clinton Crop Service: 1100 N. Forest Hill Rd, Pewamo (517) 593-2099

Crop Production Services: 9855 E Gd. River, Portland (517) 647-6919

Crop Production Services: 474 N. Charlotte Hwy, Mulliken (517) 649-3050

Cropmate Company: 9875 W M-43, Sunfield (517) 566-8601

Gallagher Farms: 4227 Ostrum Rd, Belding (616) 761-3243

Klein Fertilizer Inc.: 10425 Carson City Rd., Carson City (517) 584-6631

Lake Odessa Fertilizer Plant: 2238 W Eaton Hwy, Lake Odessa (616) 374-7329

Vigoro-Montcalm Crop Svc: 6288 Greenville Rd, Greenville (616) 754-4609

IMPROVING PETROLEUM PRODUCT STORAGE

Tank registration, reporting closure and changes in tank ownership

The State Fire Marshal, Hazardous Material Section: (517) 322-1935.

Questions on above ground storage tanks, and secondary containment

State Fire Marshalls Division, contact Bill Clifford: (517) 322-1755

Lt. Mel Zalud: (616) 775-6000 (Cadillac)

Questions on underground storage tanks

Department of Natural Resources, Cadillac, (616) 775-9727 (Contact Larry Siefkert)

DNR, Environmental Response Division, Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Unit,
P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909. (517) 373-8168.

DNR, UST division, Grand Rapids, (616) 456-5071. (Contact Mike McKinley)

MUSTFA (517) 335-7230. Contact Debra Earl or Mike Cadry.

EPA regulations

EPA Underground Tank Program Coordinator, Region 5, 230 South Dearborn Street, Chicago,
Illinois 60604. phone: (312) 886-6159 or (312) 886-7447.

Pollution emergencies only:

1-800-292-4706, 24 hours/day.

Fire Marshal Division, 1-800-MICH-UST, which is 1-800-642-4878.

Financial assistance

Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB), Risk Management Division, MUSTFA
Fund Administrator, P.O. Box 30026, Lansing, MI 48909, 1-800-4-MUSTFA which is
1-800-468-7832.

Health effects of gasoline-contaminated groundwater

Division of Health Risk Assessment, Michigan Department of Public Health (517) 335-8350

or Institute for Environmental Technology, Michigan State University (517) 353-6469.

Scrap Metal Yards

Franklin Metals, 609 Tupper Lake Rd, Lake Odessa 374-0050

Portland Iron & Metal Inc, 3130 Knoll, PO Box 454, Portland 517-647-6476

West Michigan Iron Metal, 1845 Chicago Dr SW, Grand Rapids 243-0157

Interim MUSTFA Qualified Consultants

Accurate Env. Services Inc., 26 N. Main, Rockford, MI 49341-1266 (616) 866-5088.

Aqua Tech Consultants Inc., 400 Ann St. NW, Suite 104, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 363-2220

Aqua Terra Inc., 8087 Division, Grand Rapids, MI 49548-7231 (616) 455-7408

Belsito Envir. Service, Inc., 1141 Ottillia SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 241-2330

Berlin, Lynnes & Davidson Inc., Two Fountain Pl, Suite 350, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 459-3737

C.C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C., 3310 Eagle Park Dr. NE, Ste 101, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 940-2007

Earth Tech, 5555 Glenwood Hills Parkway SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49588-0874
(616) 942-9600

Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc., 6090 E. Fulton, Ada, MI 49301 (616) 676-2666

Gillhespy-R.V. Seaman, 532 Grandville SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 459-0125

Grand Rapids Testing Service, Inc., 565 48th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49548
(616) 534-8277

Kraus & Kriscunas P.C., 1025 Spaulding Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 (616) 957-1625

Materials Testing, 639 Plymouth Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505 (616) 456-5469

Pitsch Wrecking Co., 675 Richmond NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 363-4895

Prein & Newhof, P.C., 3355 Evergreen Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505 (616) 364-8491

Rose & Westra, Inc., 4328 Three Mile Rd. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 791-7100

Wenck Assoc. Inc., 24 Weston, SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 776-9066

Underground Storage Tank Interim Certified Professional

Austin, Lawrence M., 400 Ann St. NW, Ste 104, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 363-2220

Belsito, Michael E., 1141 Ottillia SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 241-2330

Bosze, William J., 6090 East Fulton, Ada, MI 49301 (616) 676-2666

Bow, William, 255 28th St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49548 (616) 246-6455

Brunelle, Thomas, 5555 Glenwood Hills Pkwy SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49588-0874
(616) 942-9600

Geile, Mark A., 532 Grandville Ave., SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 459-0125

Graber, William A., 4519 Broadmoor, SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Timmermans, Thomas J., 2769 Nipawin NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505 (616) 942-9600

Other numbers

Fuel Recyclers, Inc. PO Box 147, Grawn, MI 49637 (616) 922-0020

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1-800-344-3555

State Fire Safety Board: (517) 322-1921

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING RECYCLING)

Health concerns

Michigan Department of Public Health, Toxic/Health Hotline: 1-800-MI-TOXIC.

A specific product

Contact the company that makes the product. The company's phone number is frequently on the label. Or, call the Chemical Referral Center, at 1(800) CMA-8200. Sponsored by the Chemical Manufacturers' Association, this number will refer you to a specific manufacturer for answers to your product questions.

Identification and disposal of hazardous wastes

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Waste Management Division, (517) 373-2730, or your DNR district office, Environmental Response Division:
Lansing (517) 332-1300.

Automotive Battery Recycling

Discount Tire and Battery

Crystal (517) 235-4214

Edmore (517) 427-3449

Ionia: 2265 N. State Rd.-M-66. (616) 527-3200

Geldhof Tire Service; 643 W. Lincoln Ave., Ionia, MI 48846. (616)527-1101

Jones Auto Parts, 1510 W. State, Belding, 48809 (616) 794-1800

Summit Steel Processing Corp; 315 Weber, Ionia, MI 48846 (616) 527-3910

Drum Reclaimers

DeWitt Barrels, Inc., 417 Watson, S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504. (616) 459-2660.

George Belfer Drum & Barrel Company, 4336 Hansen Street, S.W., Grand Rapids, MI, 49508. (616) 534-9668.

Household Recycling

Belding Village Mall, Bridge Street, Parking Lot

Builders Lumber, 349 Water, **Portland**. (517) 647-4131. Fourth Sat. of every month.

Hours: 10-2. Accept: Foam, #2 plastic, Clear Glass, Tin, & Aluminum.

D&W Food Center, 6425 28th St., SE, (Cascade), **Grand Rapids**. (616) 949-5190.

Greenville West Shopping Center, 301 Maplewood Dr.

Meijer, Inc., 1220 Lafayette, **Greenville**.

Meijer Thrifty Acres, 3757 Plainfield Ave., NE, (Plainfield), **Grand Rapids**. (616) 364-6211
(behind Sagebrush)

Waste Management of Michigan; 2160 Clyde Rd., **Ionia**. (616) 527-4735.

Waste Management; 2355 E Michigan Ave., **Alma** 48801 (517) 463-4275.

Mon-Fri. 8-4:30 pm.

Recycling Pesticide Containers

Berger & Co., 7553 N Crystal Rd, Vestaburg (517) 268-5300

Bird Fertilizer Services, Lewis St, Edmore (517) 427-5471

Bird Fertilizer, 301 Mill St, Ionia (616) 527-1870

Harvey Milling, Carson City

Mueller Bean Company, Lake Odessa (616)374-8859

Total Ag Service, Lowell

Vigoro Ind., 6288 Greenville Rd., Greenville (616)754-4609

Vigoro Ind., 175 Railroad, Muir (517) 855-2250

Motor Oil Recycling Dump Stations

Fairchilds Oil/Crystal Flash (5 gallon limit)

2525 S. State Rd., **Ionia**, MI 48846. (616) 527-1850.

3244 Bonanza Rd., **Lake Odessa**, MI 48849. (616) 374-4311.

1102 Lincoln Lake Road, **Lowell**, MI 49331. (616) 897-4101.

Jones Auto; 1510 W. State, **Belding**, MI 48809. (616) 794-1800.

Kendall Fast Lube; 6706 S. Greenville Rd., **Greenville**, MI 48838. (616)754-3343.

Russell's Auto Parts; 241 S. Main, **Sheridan**, MI 48884. (517) 291-3355.

TSC Farm-Home-Auto Store; 6030 Greenville Rd., **Greenville**, MI 48838. (616) 754-4639.

Motor Oil pick-up (larger quantities)

Crystal Flash of Grand Rapids 800-875-4851

Safety Kleen of Grand Rapids (616) 453-7922

-contact John Parker; also take industrial waste, sludge, photo-chemical waste,
paint, oil mixed with other contaminants.

Stoddard of Wayland (616) 792-6591

Licensed Haulers in Grand Rapids

Adams Trucking and Excavating (616) 869-6961.

Aero Liquid Transit (616) 897-5953.

Boeve Oil Co. (616) 392-2333

Contractors Trucking Inc. (616) 530-9094.

Crystal Flash Waste Oil Collection (616) 363-4851.

-Will pick-up. Under 450 gals=\$45. Over 450 gals.=10cents/gal.

-If water in oil, then charge 60cents/gal. Must make appointment 3-4 days in advance.

Detrex Corporation 312 Ellsworth Ave., SW, Grand Rapids. (616) 454-9269.

-Will only pick up waste oil from drums.

Diamond Oil Distributors (616) 940-2616.

Fuller Septic Service Co. (616) 676-2195.

Grand X-Ray Supplies Company (616) 459-0145.

Haviland Products Co. (616) 361-6691.

J & T Distributing Inc. (616)853-2528.

Kelly Distributing Company (616) 245-2241.

Plummer Septic Tank Service (616) 532-3996.

Septic tank pumping:

-If one tank and you dig it open: \$85. They dig it open for you: \$110.

-If two tanks and you dig it open: \$120. They dig it open: \$165.

Pollution Control Sev., Inc. (616) 754-9122.

Ronald Meyer & Associates Exv. Inc. (616) 688-5751.

Safety-Kleen Corp., 2700 Mullins Ct., N.W. (616) 453-7922.

Stoddard & Sons Company; (616) 877-4243.

or 3456 12th St., Wayland, MI 49348. (616) 792-6591.

-Will pick-up. If kept in drums: under 5 drums= \$25 per drum.

-Over 5 drums=\$10 per drum. If at least 250 gals. in a tank, will pick up free.

Valley City Disposal, Inc. (616) 235-1500.

Van Waters & Rogers Inc. (616) 698-7330.

Weaver Oil Company, Inc. (616) 924-0070.

Webb Chemical Service Corporation (616) 733-2181.

Solvent reclamation

Detrex Chemical, Inc.; Gold Shield Solvents Div., 312 Ellsworth, S.W.,
Grand Rapids, MI 49503. (616)454-9269.

Hazardous waste contractors

To obtain a listing of hazardous waste contractors, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Waste Management Division, (517) 373-2730.

Chemicals and their disposal in your county

MSU Extension, 100 Library St., Ionia, MI 48846. (616) 527-5357 (Don Lehman)

Your district DNR office

Kent County (616) 456-5071.

Lansing (517) 332-1300.

Mecosta County (616) 734-5492.

Montcalm County, 6640 Long Lake Rd., Belding, MI 48809. (616) 794-2658.

Human poisoning

Your physician

Carson City Hospital, 406 East Elm St, Box 879, Carson City, MI 48811-0879.

phone: (517) 584-3971.

Ionia County Memorial Hospital, 479 Lafayette, Ionia, MI 48846. (616) 527-4200.

Mecosta County General Hospital, 405 Winter Av, Big Rapids, MI, 49307.

phone: (616) 796-8691.

Sheridan Community Hospital, 301 N. Main, Sheridan, MI 48884.

phone: (517) 291-3261.

United Memorial Hospital, 615 S. Bower St., Greenville, MI 48838. (616) 754-4691.

Poison Control Center 1-800-632-2727.

IMPROVING HOUSEHOLD WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Household wastewater treatment and local regulations

Health Department:

Ionia County : 175 E. Adams, Ionia, MI 48846. (616) 527-5340.

Mecosta County : (616) 592-0130.

Montcalm County : 617 N State Suite B, Stanton, MI 48888. (517) 831-5237.

Statewide criteria for commercial sewage systems

Michigan Department of Public Health. Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health, 3500 N. Logan (Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd), Lansing, MI 48909, (517) 335-9214.

Requirements for land application

For more information on requirements for legal land application of pumpage from holding tanks, septic tanks and other treatment systems regulated by DNR, contact the nearest DNR district office.

Kent County (616) 456-5071.

Lansing (517) 332-1300.

Mecosta County (616) 734-5492.

Identification and disposal of hazardous wastes

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Waste Management Division, (517) 373-2730, or your DNR district office, Environmental Response Division:

Lansing (517) 332-1300.

Small and alternative wastewater treatment technologies

Plan Service Secretary, Agricultural Engineering Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824, (517) 353-3741.

National Small Flows Clearinghouse, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6064, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506-6064, or call 1-800-624-8301.

Small Scale Waste Management Project, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1450 Linden Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. (608) 262-0853 or (608) 262-6968.

IMPROVING LIVESTOCK MANURE STORAGE

Waste storage needs, designing appropriate structures

Michigan State University Extension (MSU-E), 100 Library St, **Ionia**, MI 48846-1691.

phone: (616) 527-5357.

MSU-E, County Building, 400 Elm St, **Big Rapids**, MI 49307. phone: (616) 592-0792.

MSU-E, 617 North State Rd., P.O. Box 308, **Stanton**, MI 48888-0308.

phone: (517) 831-5226.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 1966 N. State Rd, **Ionia**, MI 48846

phone: (616) 527-2620.

NRCS, 18115 Chippewa Lake Rd, Route 4, Box 18 A, **Big Rapids**, MI 49307-0001

phone: (616) 796-2650.

NRCS, 806 North State, **Stanton**, MI 48888-9799. phone: (517) 831-4606.

Cost-sharing funds

Financial assistance for manure management practices, including manure storage, may be available through the Agricultural Conservation Program administered by the Farm Service Agency (formerly the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service).

Animal waste management

Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Manure Management and Utilization. (Michigan Right to Farm Act) from:

Michigan Department of Agriculture, Kent County (616) 456-6988.

U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (see above)

Soil Conservation District

Ionia County (616) 527-4818

Montcalm County (517) 831-4606

Michigan State University Extension (see above)

IMPROVING LIVESTOCK YARD MANAGEMENT

Design assistance and technical standards for runoff control systems

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ionia County: 1966 S. State Rd., Ionia, MI 48846. (616) 527-2620

Kent County: 260 Eagle Park Drive, Suite 101-B, Grand Rapids, MI 49505-4569
(616) 940-1708

Mecosta County: 18115 Chippewa Lake Rd., Route 4, Box 18A, Big Rapids, MI
49307-0001. (616) 796-2650

Montcalm County: 806 North State, Stanton, MI 48888-9799. (517) 831-4606

Ottawa County: 16731 Ferris St., Grand Haven, MI 49417-9601.
(616) 842-5869

MSU Extension Office

Ionia County: 100 Library St., Ionia, MI 48846. (616)527-5357

Contact Dave Guikema.

Kent County (616) 336-3265

Mecosta County: County Building, 400 Elm St., Big Rapids, MI 49307. (616) 592-0792

Contact Tom Rorabaugh.

Montcalm County: 617 North State Rd., P.O. Box 308, Stanton, MI 48888

(517) 831-5226. Contact Don Smucker.

Ottawa County (616) 846-8250

Financial and technical assistance in remedying a livestock yard management problem

Your county NRCS office (see above)

Farm Service Agency (formerly ASCS)

Ionia County (616) 527-2098

Kent County (616) 456-2341

Mecosta County (616) 796-2659

Montcalm County (517) 831-4212

Ottawa County (616) 842-5852

SILAGE STORAGE

Silo design and construction

Contact the Department of Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University
(517) 355-4720.

Crop Storage Institute, P.O. Box 560, 219 N. 4th St., Lafayette, IN 47902-0560
(317) 742-0083

Big M Silos Inc., 3134 N. Crystal Rd., Vestaburg. (517) 268-5387.

Michigan Glass Lined Storage, Inc., 3587 W. Tupper Lake Rd., Lake Odessa.
374-8803

MILKING CENTER WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Contacts:

If you think your milking center wastewater may be contaminating surface or groundwater, you can contact several agencies for help. Your Michigan Department of Agriculture Dairy Division Inspector, Natural Resources Conservation Service employees or your Michigan State Extension agent can provide advice. MDNR rules require a permit when contaminated wastewater is allowed to enter surface or groundwater. Do not make a commitment to any new waste handling facilities until after checking with one of the above three sources.

MSU Extension:

(Ionia County) contact Dave Guikema; 100 Library St., Ionia, MI 48846-1691.
(616) 527-5357.

(Mecosta County) contact Tom Rorabaugh; County Building, 400 Elm Street,
Big Rapids, MI 49307. (616) 592-0792.

(Montcalm County) contact Don Smucker; 617 North State Rd., P.O. Box 308, Stanton,
MI 48888-0308. (517) 831-5226.

APPENDIX E

AGENDA

Cluster Site Meeting
January 18, 1995
Grand Rapids NRCS

10:00 am

Farm*A*Syst Update

- Problems encountered doing F*A*S
- Sections of worksheets that are unclear, irrelevant or redundant
- Suggestions for improvement
- Other

Continued Promotional Efforts

- Ag Conferences: Successful method?
- Other media

Federal and State Regulations Pertaining to Burning on the Farm

- An overview
- A Summary of Laws, Regulations and Management Practices with Potential to Affect Michigan Pesticide Users

Resource Directory Update

- How's it going?
- Cost and responsibility for reproduction
- Share completed directories with others

AmeriCorps Training Requirements

- First Aid and CPR training: costs and availability
- Recreation "Fun" Day: ideas?
- Organic Farming Conference

AmeriCorps Community Service Project

- Waste oil or other material recycling project
- Other ideas?

Plan-of-Work Updates

- Turn in updated Plan-of-Works if available

2:30

Unfinished Business

3:00

Adjourn

APPENDIX F

Proposed Activities of the Ground Water Stewardship Teams

The objective of the ground water stewardship team is to empower local citizens to become active in their ground water protection programs after the AmeriCorps member has left. Since the problems of each community are different the solutions are also likely to be different; the local communities will determine the best way to go about protecting their ground water. Some of the activities that the ground water stewardship team are initiating are as follows:

- Write grants to help raise funds
- Act as a clearing house for ground water information
- Generate media interest in ground water
- Educate the media about ground water issues
- Cooperate with The Natural Resource Conservation Service, Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Department of Agriculture to research the high risk areas that the AmeriCorps members discovered
- Encourage farm families to test their drinking
- Facilitate the testing of drinking water
- Map for aquifer/ground water protection planning
- Monitor planning/development/ground water use trends
- Monitor zoning/local regulations
- Monitor ground water regulations already in place
- Prepare ground water protection action plan to designate responsibility
- Coordinate ground water education programs for all ages
- Cooperate with existing groups interested in ground water and water quality
- Involve the pesticide and herbicide sellers and farmers in ground water protection issues

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP TEAM 1995

1. Tom Adams, Natural Resources Conservation Service, District Conservationist-Grand Traverse County, 1222 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684-4454, p941-0960, f941-0837
2. Jim Bardenhagen, Leelanau county farm owner, Leelanau Agriculture Extension Agent, Michigan State University Extension, Rte. 1, 116 Phillips St., Lake Leelanau, MI 49653, p256-9888, f256-9431
3. Pepper Bromelmeier, Natural Resources Conservation Service, District Conservationist-Antrim/Kalkaska, 106 Depot St. Complex 2, Bellaire, MI 49615, p533-8363, f533-6388
4. Lew Coulter, Administrator, Grand Traverse Soil and Water Conservation District, farm owner, 1222 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684-4454, p941-0960, f941-0837
5. Craig Cunningham, Farm*A*Syst Technician, IPM consultant, Crop Management Association, 311 W. 11th St., Traverse City, MI 49684, p935-3738
6. Mark Doherty, Farm*A*Syst Technician, IPM consultant, HortSystems, Inc., 9680 E. Carter Rd, Traverse City, MI 49686, p946-0316, f946-HORN
7. Roberta Dow, NMI Regional Groundwater Agent, Michigan State University Extension-Traverse City, 1102 Cass St., Suite A, Traverse City, MI 49684 p922-4620, f922-4633
6. Judy Egeler, Administrator, Leelanau Soil and Water Conservation District, P.O. Box 205, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653, p256-9783, f256-7851
7. Duke Elsner, Grand Traverse/Kalkaska Agriculture Extension Agent, Michigan State University Extension, 1102 Cass St. Suite A, Traverse City, MI 49684, p922-4620, f922-4633
8. Randy Emeott, Sanitarian, Leelanau Environmental Health Department, 2325 Garfield Rd North, Traverse City, MI 49684, p922-4833, f922-2756
9. Chris Garthe, Farm*A*Syst Technician, District IPM Scout, Leelanau farm owner, District Technician, Leelanau Soil and Water Conservation District, P.O. Box 205, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653, p256-9783, f256-7851
10. Jean Kadlec, Administrator, Benzie Soil and Water Conservation District, 207 S. Benzie Blvd., Beulah, MI 49617, p882-4391
11. Cheryl Kobernik, Benzie Farm Bureau Board member, Benzie SWCD Director, Benzie county farm owner, private IPM consultant, Farm*A*Syst technician, 1139 Forrester Rd., Frankfort, MI 49635, p352-4865
12. Romaine LaLone, Farm*A*Syst Technician, private IPM consultant, Grand Traverse county farm owner, 9810 Steed Rd, Buckley, MI 49620, p269-3867

13. Russ LaRowe, Administrator, Kalkaska Soil and Water Conservation District, 605 N. Birch, Kalkaska, MI 49646, f258-3318
14. Jim Laubach, IPM Consultant, HortSystems, Inc., Rte. 1, Box 313, Honor, MI 49640
15. Buzz Long, Natural Resources Conservation Service, District Conservationist-Leelanau county, P.O. Box 205, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653, p256-9783, f256-7851
16. Ben Loosemore, Natural Resources Conservation Service, District Conservationist-Benzie/Manistee counties, 8840 Chippewa Hwy., Bear Lake, MI 49614, p889-9666, f889-4020
17. Mike Merriweather, Forester, Antrim Soil and Water Conservation District, 106 Depot St., Complex 2, Bellaire, MI 49615, p533-8363, f533-6388
18. Andy Norman, Michigan State University-Extension, Agriculture Extension Agent-Benzie, P.O. Box 307, Beulah, MI 49617, p882-9671
19. Janet Person, Antrim Soil and Water Conservation District, Farm*A*Syst Technician, 106 Depot St., Complex 2, Bellaire, MI 49615, p533-8363, f533-6388
20. Brian Price, Leelanau Conservancy, 105 N. First St., Leland, MI 49654, p256-9665, f256-9643
21. Burt Stanley, Michigan State University-Extension, Agricultural Extension Agent-Antrim county, P.O. Box 427, Bellaire, MI 49615, p533-8818, f533-8392
22. Milton Stanton, Head Sanitarian, Environmental Health Department, 2325 Garfield Rd. North, Suite B, Traverse City, MI 49684, p922-2707, f922-2756
23. Teresa Suurs, Farm*A*Syst Coordinator, Grand Traverse Soil and Water Conservation District, 1222 Veterans Dr. Traverse City, MI 49684, p941-4191, f941-0837
24. Gary Thornton, Michigan State University-Extension, IPM Specialist, Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station, 6686 S. Center Hwy, Traverse City, MI 49684, p946-1510, f946-1404
25. Faith Traylor, USDA/AmeriCorps member, NRCS Leelanau Field Office, P.O. Box 205, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
25. Bruce Wildie, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Regional Representative, 701 S. Elmwood, Suite 9, Traverse City, MI 49684-3185, p922-5210, f922-5236
26. Chris Wright, Executive Director, Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Initiative, 1102 Cass St. Traverse City, MI 49684, p935-1514, f922-4633

APPENDIX G



Telegram photo by Maureen Brady

Mike Szynski, AmeriCorps member, shows fifth-grade students from Lenawee Christian how water goes through porous rock as compared with solid rock. The demonstration was part of the first Groundwater Festival at the Stubnitz Environmental Center which attracted about 300 students from throughout Lenawee County.

SEE STORY PAGE A3.

Groundwater program inspires students

By CHRIS BALUSIK
Daily Telegram Staff Writer

ADRIAN — Ronni Zents, 11, of Clinton, knew what she liked about Tuesday's Groundwater Festival at the Stubnitz Environmental Education and Conference Center.

"I learned not to pollute the water, and that you should make sure you've got stuff around your water like...what are they called?" she asked her classmate, Kaycee Harrison.

Then she stopped trying to figure out the term she was looking for.

"Whatever they are, because that water down there is..." she finished, shaking her head.

Zents may not have been able to think of the name of the filter she had learned about earlier, but she knew that the end result of treating groundwater was a clean product for drinking.

That type of learning about environmental preservation processes, rather than just terms, was the point of the day-long festival. Rebecca Kanner from the Ecology Center, who coordinated the day's activities for the county schools said students should

groundwater.

"I think probably most of the students here drink groundwater," Kanner said. "About 50 percent of all Michigan residents do."

The approximately 330 fifth-grade students from classes in Morenci, Britton-Macon, Onsted, Adrian, Madison, Lenawee Christian, Addison, Clinton, Deerfield and Tecumseh learned the lesson through a series of hands-on projects in the outdoor Stubnitz setting.

Among the activities the 11-year-old Harrison enjoyed was one in which each student created a model landfill. Using a milk jug lined with clay, the impromptu landfill was then polluted and allowed to sit for a short time before the results were checked.

"Usually, a percentage of them leak," Kanner said. "They look at them and then we talk about how we can prevent that. We talk about how you can recycle motor oil, how you can recycle newspaper, house paint you can reuse."

Through the methods being taught, the kids learn how they can help reduce the amount of pollutants going into the landfills.

At another of the five stations, the children created cities out of Lego building bricks in sand boxes. Then coordinators threw unplanned environmental disasters, such as gasoline from leaky underground storage tanks, at the villages to demonstrate the effects of pollutants on the entire system.

"(Students) then talk about how they can prevent (disasters) and how to clean it up, which is much more expensive," Kanner said.

The stress of all the day's events was on prevention, she added. By having to figure out how tedious a cleanup would be, she hopes students will recognize the value of advance prevention.

Teachers and parent volunteers attended a preparatory workshop at the center in April, as did student helpers from Tecumseh High School. The single-day event, therefore, was reinforced by classroom time earlier this month and will be followed by additional work in the days to come.

The festival was just one of a number of events the Stubnitz Center has held for classes in the county since it opened in the fall of 1993. According to coordinator Pam

APPENDIX H

FARM*A*SYST EVALUATION

Directions:

Answer each question as accurately as you can. Many questions can be answered by circling the item that best describes your opinion or situation. Other questions require you to check the response or responses that apply. All answers will be kept completely confidential.

1. How did you hear about Farm*A*Syst and the service available through USDA/AmeriCorps members? *(check all that apply)*

- Newsletters
- Newspapers
- Radio
- Television
- Direct Mail
- Meetings
- Word-of-Mouth
- Flyer
- Other _____

2. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being of no value and 5 being extremely valuable, circle the number that most closely describes your feeling about your participation in Farm*A*Syst with a USDA/AmeriCorps member.

- | | | | | |
|----------|---|------------------|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| No value | | of some value | | very valuable |

3. How would you rate the assistance from the USDA/AmeriCorps member?
(circle one option)

- a. poor
- b. fair
- c. good
- d. very good
- e. excellent

The following questions concern your opinion of groundwater pollution in general, the risks associated with groundwater pollution and problems resulting from polluted groundwater.

4. Which statement most accurately reflects your opinion of groundwater pollution risks?
(check all that apply)

- I do not believe it's a problem.
- I believe it's a problem.
- I believe that others could have some risk from it.
- I believe myself or my family could have some risk from it.

5. Which of the following negative health effects do you associate with groundwater contamination? (check all that apply)

- Diarrhea
- Cancer
- Neurological problems
- Birth defects
- Blue baby syndrome

For the following questions, circle the response that most closely reflects your opinion.

6. I believe that my families risk from groundwater contamination is :

- a. Low
- b. Medium
- c. High

7. Do you know of someone that has had problems caused by polluted groundwater.

- a. Yes
- b. No

8. Myself or someone in my family has had some sort of problem because of polluted groundwater.

- a. Yes
- b. No

9. If someone in your home did have negative health effects from groundwater contamination, how serious do you think they would be?

- a. Very minor
- b. Minor
- c. Somewhat serious
- d. Serious
- e. Very serious

10. When you think about groundwater pollution, how do you feel?

- a. Not at all concerned
- b. Somewhat concerned
- c. Concerned
- d. Very concerned

11. In general, how would you rate the level of concern about groundwater pollution in your community?

- a. Not at all concerned
- b. Somewhat concerned
- c. Concerned
- d. Very concerned
- e. Don't know

12. Please circle the response that best indicates whether you agree or disagree about each of the following statements.

If you STRONGLY DISAGREE, circle..... SD

If you DISAGREE, circle..... D

If you AGREE, circle..... A

If you STRONGLY AGREE, circle..... SA

a. The health problems resulting from polluted groundwater caused by risky farmstead practices can be very serious.

SD D A SA

b. Risks of groundwater pollution from practices around the farmstead are a problem.

SD D A SA

c. Others may be at risk from polluted groundwater.

SD D A SA

d. I believe if groundwater contamination occurred on my farmstead my property values would be affected.

SD D A SA

e. It is likely that my drinking water is at risk from contamination from farmstead practices.

SD D A SA

f. I believe that the precautions I can take to protect my drinking water supply will be effective in reducing the risk from groundwater contamination.

SD D A SA

g. Going through the farmstead assessment increased my awareness of the precautions I could take to protect myself, my family and my property from the consequences of groundwater pollution.

SD D A SA

13. The following opinions about groundwater have been expressed. We want to know if you agree or disagree with them. *(Please circle your opinion)*

a. If my neighbor dumps oil in a drainage ditch the oil may end up in my drinking water. Agree Disagree Don't Know

b. What people do on their own property won't help prevent well water contamination unless their neighbors also work to prevent it. Agree Disagree Don't Know

c. Physical characteristics like soil and bedrock type and depth to groundwater affect the potential for groundwater and well water contamination at a specific site. Agree Disagree Don't Know

14. When groundwater is polluted it: *(circle one)*

- a. Can be cleaned very easily
- b. Is very difficult to clean
- c. Cannot be cleaned
- d. Don't know

15. Which of the following statements best describes your plans regarding the high risk area identified on your farmstead that is of the most concern to you.
(Check the option that best describes your opinion).

I know the high risk situation exists but I don't believe it needs to be addressed.

I know the high risk situation is a problem and am deciding what to do.

I know the high risk situation is a problem and I am planning to act but have not acted yet.

I know the high risk situation is a problem and believe it's important but I am not going to do anything about it at this time.

I have done something to reduce the risk from that practice.

There was no high risk situation. (Skip to Question 22)

16. For the previous question, which area did you select as the most important high risk area? (please check one of the following)

Well Condition

Pesticide Storage and Handling

Fertilizer Storage and Handling

Petroleum Product Storage

Hazardous Waste Management

Household Wastewater Management

Manure Storage

Livestock Yards Management

Silage Storage

Milking Center Wastewater

Site Evaluation

No high risk area

17. If you do not plan to make changes in this high risk area, why not?
(check all that apply)

Financial reasons

Lack of information

Conflicting regulations

Lack of technical assistance

Lack of time

No high risk area/No change needed

Other (please specify) _____

18. Did the USDA/AmeriCorps member suggest a precaution that would lower your risk ranking from the high risk practice? (check one)

- Yes
 No (skip to 20)

19. If yes, how do you feel about the precaution suggested?
(check all that apply)

- I remember that a precaution was suggested.
 The precaution suggested was clear to me.
 I believe the precaution suggested would reduce risk from the practice in general.
 I believe the precaution suggested would reduce risk from the practice for myself.

20. For the high risk areas you have identified on your farmstead that you would like to change, what type of assistance, if any, would be helpful in making those changes?
(check all that apply)

- Technical design/engineering
 Equipment recommendations
 Education on management options
 Cost sharing
 Testing services (soil, water etc...)
 Other (please specify) _____

21. Which, if any, of the following persons or organizations did you or will you contact for advise or assistance in making the changes you intend to make?
(check all that apply)

- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Agriculture
- County Extension Agent, Michigan State University
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly SCS)
- Soil and Water Conservation District
- Farm Services Agency (formerly ASCS)
- Agrichemical Dealer
- Vocational Ag Instructor
- Fellow farmer
- Crop Consultant
- Health Department
- Local Contractor
- None
- Other (please list) _____

22. What other assistance would you like to see provided by USDA/AmeriCorps and other groundwater technicians? (check all that apply)

- Water tests
- Informational brochures
- Soil tests
- Soil maps and descriptions
- Pesticide recertification credits
- Cost share (more)
- Tax breaks
- Pesticide information
- Other (please specify) _____

23. After participating in the Farmstead Assessment process with the USDA/AmeriCorps member, would you be interested in completing assessments in other areas not addressed in the original assessment?

- Yes
- No

Please use this space to write your comments about this survey.

Thank you for your cooperation with this evaluation. Please return the completed survey to:

Christina Coulon, USDA/AmeriCorps
Michigan State University Extension
11 Agriculture Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1039

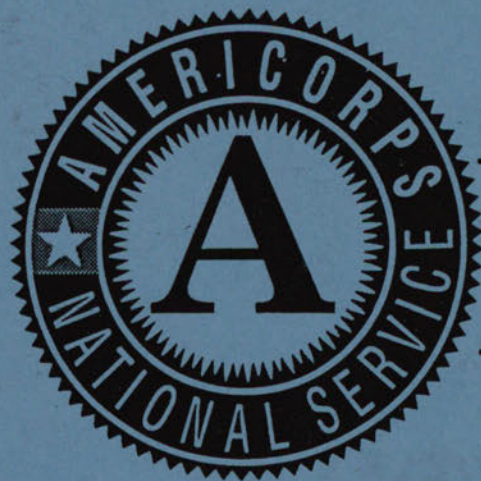
APPENDIX I

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This evaluative research attempted to use the precaution adoption process model developed by Neil Weinstein of Rutgers University to predict what influences the decision to make changes. The perception of risk from contaminated groundwater was also examined. The study population consisted of landowners, typically farmers, that had conducted a risk assessment of their farmstead in relation to groundwater. The risk assessment tool is called Farm*A*Syst and is a series of worksheets designed to rank the risk to groundwater certain practices pose.

A survey was given to the farmers that completed a Farm*A*Syst with a USDA/AmeriCorps member. The USDA/AmeriCorps member assisted the farmer complete the Farm*A*Syst worksheets and provided information to the farmer about resources available help make changes where needed. Fifty-eight percent of the farmers responded to the survey.

The results from the evaluation indicate that the factors influencing a farmer to make a change in a high risk situation may not be readily apparent. A concern about groundwater contamination and a perceived difficulty of remediation did demonstrate a statistical relationship to the decision to make a change, but most of the factors tested did not demonstrate this. There were contradictions in the findings on risk perception, most respondents did not consider themselves to be at high risk to groundwater contamination although most people did have at least one high risk situation on their farmstead. People that did want to make changes reported the availability of financial assistance for making those changes would motivate them to make the change.



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