

Newaygo CD November Newsletter

From: Newaygo Conservation District (newaygcd@macd.org)

To: goodwill.clerk@yahoo.com

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Newaygo Conservation District November Newsletter

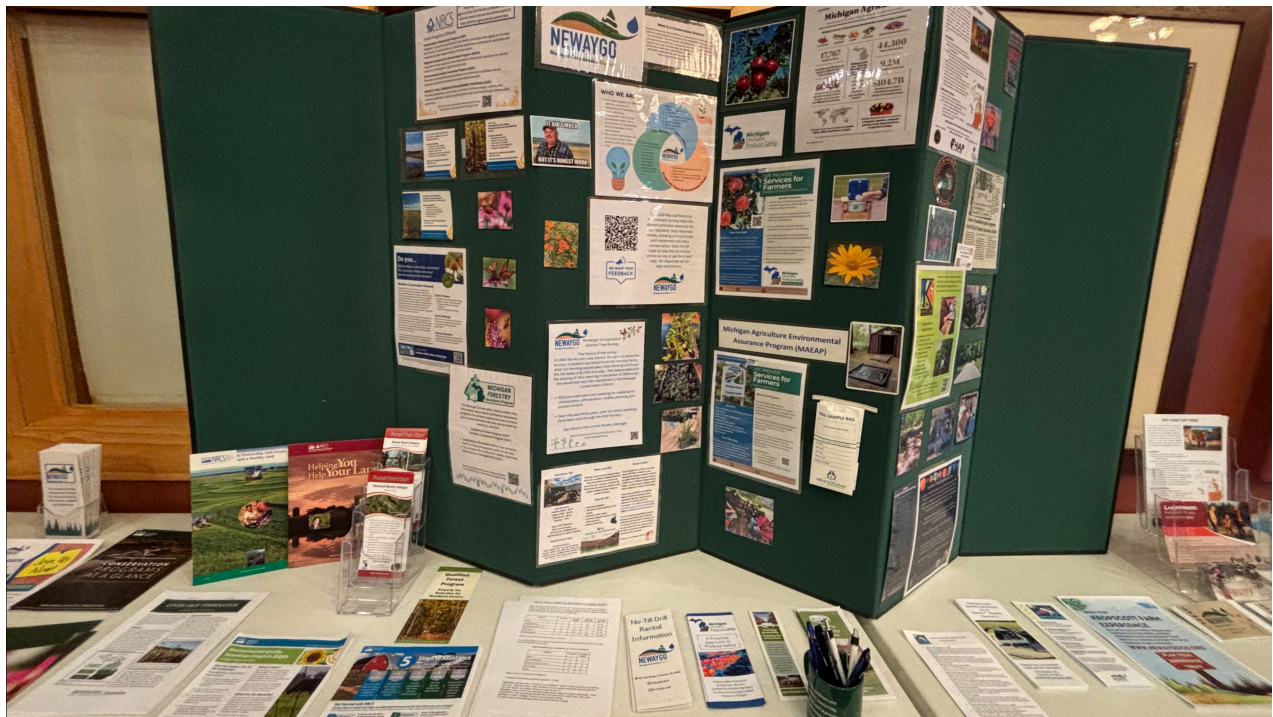
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- Program Updates



Spotlight: Annual Meeting Recap





Thank you to everyone who came out to our 72nd Annual Meeting this past Tuesday. We really appreciate you taking time out of your day to enjoy dinner from Two Hot Tamales and awesome presentations from [The Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch](#), [Michigan DNR HAP Program](#), [Trout Unlimited](#), and our office! If you'd like anymore information on any of the organizations or topics presented, or our programs, please reach out to our office at 231-225-3189!

Hunting Safety



Hunting is a popular pastime for many in Michigan. Hunting can be very rewarding and fun, but there are some safety measures that all hunters should consider. [Click here](#) for a quick refresher from the Michigan DNR on best safety practices for firearms, tree stands, and wearing hunter orange. Good luck to all of the hunters this season!

NCD Partner Updates

West Michigan Cooperative INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AREA

West Michigan CISMA

The West Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (WMCISMA) is a partnership of organizations including government agencies, non-profits, and many others, that work together to map and treat invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries.

Current Work

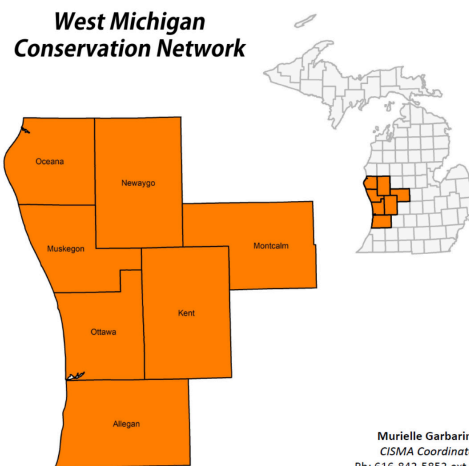
The CISMA works with partners and land owners in 7 counties of West Michigan on the items listed below:

- Invasive plant identification, mapping, treatment and management
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) identification, mapping, treatment and management
- Informative presentations and trainings on invasive species

Contact the West Michigan CISMA

For more information on the CISMA or for assistance with invasive species-related projects, contact the CISMA Coordinator:

Murielle Garbarino
616-414-2055
murielle.garbarino@macd.org



Murielle Garbarino
CISMA Coordinator
Ph: 616-842-5852 ext. 5
murielle.garbarino@macd.org

Funding

The West Michigan CISMA is funded by grants from multiple sources including:

- State of Michigan through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP)
- United States Forest Service
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL)
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Landscape Scale Restoration

NCD Program Updates

Produce Safety - Traceability & Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water, Upcoming Training Dates: Hart is the last in-person date!

With the growing season winding down for most, here are a few produce safety updates to start thinking about. The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) has upcoming compliance dates for the Traceability Rule and the Produce Safety Rule – Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water. There are also upcoming PSA Grower Trainings available.

Upcoming Training Dates. The [Produce Safety Alliance](#) (PSA) Grower Training Course is a standardized curriculum that covers a wide range of information on produce safety, including a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule requirements. It is recognized by FDA as one way to satisfy the training requirement of the [FSMA Produce Safety Rule](#), written in provision 112.22(c). Dates and Locations Include:

- In person: Dec 5, 2024 Hart, MI
- Remote (via Zoom): January 9th, 2025 , January 27th, 2025, February 10th, 2025, February 20th, 2025, March 10th, 2025

Trainings are \$100 for Michigan participants, and cost can be covered by your Produce Safety Technician if funds are available.

Traceability Rule Updates. Section 204 of FSMA is the Traceability Rule in which the FDA requires additional recordkeeping to be in place for certain commodities. I have received a few inquiries from farms that buyers are asking them about their plans for complying with the rule, although my focus is on the Produce Safety Rule I am able to help with general traceability questions to my best ability! I will start by including the [Food Traceability List](#) where you can see if your farm has any commodities on the list, and we can go forward from there if you determine you do need to comply. The compliance date for this rule is January 20, 2026.

Produce Safety Rule Updates. In May 2024 the FDA released the final rule for pre-harvest agricultural water. This will affect growers who are covered under the Produce

Safety Rule and receive inspections from the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD). The final rule changes the approach of depending on just testing water to the approach of completing an assessment to consider factors that could affect the quality of water sources that are used for pre-harvest purposes on the farm. These factors include but are not limited to: the location of water source, the application method, crop characteristics, environmental conditions. See the full fact sheet with more details [here](#). Compliance dates for this pre-harvest agriculture water assessment are as follows:

- Large farms: April 7, 2025
- Small farms: April 6, 2026
- Very small farms: April 5, 2027

If you have any further questions on anything mentioned above, please reach out via email at allissa.conley@macd.org or by phone/text at 989-295-5661. I plan to

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Seeking Public Input



Learn more about the request for public input

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requests public input by December 23, 2024, on improving conservation practices standards that support climate change mitigation and adaptation. The practice standards used within these programs are backed by peer-reviewed scientific research. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers these conservation practices through programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

NRCS is explicitly looking for input on several conservation practice standards:

- Waste Storage Facility
- Brush Management
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- Forest Stand Improvement

Additionally, NRCS is also requesting input for practices up for review but not currently on the Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation

Have questions about programs available or the request for public input? Contact:

Kelly Bishop, USDA NRCS District Conservationist

Email: kelly.bishop@usda.gov

Phone: 231-924-2060 x3

Jen Burfield - Outreach Coordinator

Email: jen.burfield@macd.org

Phone: (231) 225-3201

Outreach - Events & Workshops Community Input

Newwaygo Conservation District is seeking input from our community for 2025 events and workshops. If you have an idea for a conservation based event or workshop, please let us know!

Jen Burfield - Outreach Coordinator

Phone: (231) 225-3201

Email: jen.burfield@macd.org



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Newwaygo Conservation District

940 Rex Street

Fremont, MI 49412

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