



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

June 13, 2025

Mr. Sam Beechy
10113 W. Tyler Road
Sumner, MI 48889

Dear Mr. Beechy:

On June 6, 2025, I met with you to discuss the manure management practices at your equine operation located in Gratiot County. This meeting was prompted by a complaint received through the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Right to Farm Program, regarding livestock access to surface water with manure runoff. During our meeting, I was unable to confirm that the following practices were being followed as outlined in the Manure Management and Utilization Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices (GAAMPs):

- Inadequate Lot Runoff Treatment
- Insufficient Lot Scraping

MDARD recommends the equine operation adopt these practices and/or develop a written management plan to address these issues. Other farms have successfully tackled similar challenges by implementing methods such as:

- Excess manure is routinely removed from livestock lots.
- Livestock yard/lot has appropriate setbacks from surface waters.
- Livestock lots managed to prevent the runoff.

MDARD recommends that you contact Gratiot County MSU Extension Service at 989-875-5233, Gratiot Conservation District at 989-875-3050, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service at 989- 875-3900 or a private consultant for assistance.

Please implement practice(s) or submit a written schedule of implementation and/or a letter of intent to MDARD by July 18, 2025. These documents can be submitted by email to MahoneyS@michigan.gov.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please call me at 517-930-2966.

Sincerely,

Stephen Mahoney, CCA/CPAg, Resource Analyst
Conservation and Stewardship

cc: Gratiot County Clerk
Sumner Township Clerk
Mr. Eli and Mrs. Irene Beechy