



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

September 3, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Beechy:

On June 6, 2025, I met with you to discuss manure management practices at your equine operation in Gratiot County. This meeting was prompted by a complaint received through the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDARD), Right to Farm Program concerning livestock access to surface water with manure runoff.

During our meeting, I observed manure accumulating near surface water. This does not follow the practices outlined in the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) for Manure Management and Utilization. To correct these issues, I have asked you to implement practices as described in these GAAMPs.

You have not submitted a written schedule of implementation, a letter of intent, or made the necessary changes in your farm operation. Thus, the complaint against your farm operation will be classified as verified, and the file will be closed.

Please note the Right to Farm Program is voluntary, and you are not required to follow GAAMPs. However, MDARD is obligated to notify the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) of verified environmental complaints. EGLE may choose to investigate this complaint. Also, you may not be able to successfully use the Michigan Right to Farm Act in your favor if your farm operation faces nuisance litigation.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the township and county where the farm operation is located.

If you have any questions on this matter, contact the Right to Farm Program office at 517-284-5619 or me at 517-930-2966 or MahoneyS@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephen Mahoney, CCA/CPAg
Resource Analyst
Conservation and Stewardship

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