

How Can I Assist Farmers?

- By refraining from unwarranted complaints to local, state, or federal governments about generally accepted farm management practices
- By refraining from any actions that would discourage farmers from conducting standard farming practices on agriculturally zoned property
- By refraining from filing frivolous lawsuits aimed at curtailing farming practices on agriculturally zoned property
- By always receiving permission from farmers before entering their property for any purpose so as to avoid damaging crops and/or disrupting farming operations



Farmers need your assistance to remain in business. Please do what you can to keep agriculture viable in Ottawa County.

This brochure was developed by the
Ottawa County Planning Commission
through the support of the following:

County of Ottawa
Board of Commissioners



Ottawa County
Farm Bureau



Ottawa County
MSUE



This brochure is distributed through the support
of the following local businesses:

Allied Home Mortgage Capital Corp.
AM Realty
Byron Center State Bank
Carini & Associates, Realtors
Community Shores Bank
EXIT Realty Professionals
Franklin Mortgage
Grand Haven Bank
Greenridge Realty (Holland)
Lakeland Mortgage Corporation
Lake Pacor Home Mortgage (Grand Haven, Holland)
Landamerica Transnation Title
Macatawa Bank Mortgage Company
Pine Bay Real Estate, Inc.
RE/MAX Grand Valley (Hudsonville)
RE/MAX Metro
RE/MAX SunQuest, Inc.
Universal Properties, Inc.
Woodland Realty, Inc.

Farm Fact

Ottawa County is the largest and most diverse producer of agricultural products in the State of Michigan, selling over \$300 million in agricultural products each year.

IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT MOVING TO THE COUNTRY



YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER THIS...

1. **H**as the noise, traffic, and hassles of your neighborhood led you to consider moving to the country?



2. **D**oes the thought of clean fresh air and country quietness make you dream about building a new home?



3. **D**o you dream about moving to the country so your property will be surrounded by natural scenery and panoramic views?

If you answered, “**Yes**” to any of these questions, you may want to reflect on the realities of living in the country.

For the past 200 years, farmers have been producing the food, fiber, and nursery products needed to make the world grow and flourish. In fact, their productivity has allowed our nation to become the “Breadbasket” of the World. This designation is made possible by industrious farmers carefully applying manure to fields as well as pesticides and fertilizers to crops. Additionally, farmers work long hours to ensure their success.



These farm practices - late hours, manure application, and crop management - give us the breadbasket designation, but they also conflict with many new homeowners’ perceptions of “living in the country.”

Ironically, it is those individuals who purchase their dream home in the country that are the most vocal advocates of preserving farmland, but the most likely to complain about a farmer’s hours of operation, as well as pesticide, fertilizer, and manure application.



To that point, if you move to the country, please realize that the *Michigan Right to Farm Act* protects farm practices that generate the most complaints. These practices include, but are not limited to the following:

- The operation of farm machinery which creates noise and dust
- The operation of farm machinery in the early morning and late evening throughout the year
- The transporting of farm related products with slow moving farm machinery on local roads
- The spraying of pesticides and application of fertilizers
- The spreading of manure (If of this odor you’re in doubt Scratch n’ Sniff and you’ll find out)

Manure Odor