ALPENA-MONTMORENCY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ALPENA-MONTMORENCY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Michigan's Conservation Districts are county-level units of government that provide natural resource management services that help citizens conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan. There are 75 conservation districts statewide with diverse, ever-changing programs adapted to each county's natural resources needs.

The Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District (AMCD) serves as a gateway for citizens of Alpena and Montmorency County to access local, state, and federally administered conservation programs and services. Our mission is to serve, educate, and advise the people of both counties and advocate for the restoration, conservation and preservation of natural resources.

SERVICES

Soil Testing

Soil tests through A&L Great Lakes Laboratories designed for lawn, garden, food plot, and agricultural applications are available at AMCD. Staff provide guidance to local landowners on soil sample collection, test selection, test result interpretation, and soil amendment recommendations. Our team processed 71 soil tests for FY25.

Grain Drill Rental

Landowners in Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle, and Alcona counties can rent AMCD's Great Plains No-Till Grain Drill. No-till drill applications include food plots, conservation cover, and pasture planting. This year, 11 landowners rented the no-till drill to plant 215 acres.

PROGRAMS

. Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project (WRM)

The WRM Project from the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) assists farmers in creating a biosecurity plan for their farms to minimize the risk of their cattle contracting bovine tuberculosis (TB). This is particularly important in Alpena and Montmorency counties, part of the Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452. DMU 452 has a higher incidence of TB infection in free-ranging white-tailed deer compared to the surrounding areas.

In FY25, AMCD disbursed $137,414 across 3 cattle farm fencing projects in Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties. In total, 19,240 feet of 8-foot tall fencing was installed to protect cattle herds.

Hunting Access Program (HAP)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)'s HAP is a $6,500 grant that provides public access to private lands for hunting. The purpose of this program is to increase hunting opportunities, and reduce agricultural losses and disease transmission associated with white-tailed deer. Enrolled landowners receive an annual payment based on acres, hunting options, and type of landcover. The MDNR's MI-HUNT mapping application features HAP site locations. AMCD performs habitat evaluations, handles landowner contracts, posts signs, maintains self service boxes. There are 16 properties enrolled (12 in Alpena and 4 in Montmorency) with a total of 2,211 acres. Hunters visited these properties 131 times and hunted white-tailed deer, wild turkey, waterfowl and other species of game.

Contact

1900 M 32 West
Alpena, MI 49707

Phone: (989) 356-3596 Ext. 101
Email: AMCD@MACD.org
Website: alpenamontcd.org
Store: alpenamontcd.store

Staff

- *John Schmitz—District Manager*
- *Dr. Greg Corace—FAP Forester*
- *Charlie Doan—CTAP Technician*
- *Emily Frechette—Communications Associate*

Board Members

- *Ed Skarbek—Chair*
- *Amy Lewis—Director*
- *Patrick Lizon—Director*
- *William Estlack—Director*
- *Doug Brown—Director*

Board meetings are typically every third Thursday of the month at the Alpena office or Brush Creek Mill in Hillman. The general public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

PROGRAMS (CONT.)

Forestry Assistance Program (FAP)

The Michigan Forestry Assistance Program is a $73,000 grant installed in local conservation districts to increase the number of family forests that are managed under a forest management plan. The mission of the Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) is to, "Support family forest owners in realizing the economic, social, and ecological sustainability of their forests." To promote the missions of FAP and AMCD, Dr. Greg Corace:

- Works with landowners to help them assess their land and assist in formulating their land ownership goals to make informed forest management decisions;
- Promotes the Qualified Forest Program (QFP);
- Facilitates the interaction between consulting foresters and landowners;
- Conducts outreach with an emphasis on contemporary principles of forest ecology and management as they relate to ecological sustainability.

In FY25, FAP conducted:

99 Landowner Site Visits (14,504 acres);
20 QFP Enrollment Verifications (4,480 acres);
44 Private Sector Referrals (3,322 acres);
54 Public Sector Referrals (22,321 acres);
18 Mgmt Plan Referrals (1,699 acres);
12 Timber Harvests (622 acres).
24 Media Occurrences;
29 Forestry Outreach Events (31,242 attendees).

Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTAP– MAEAP added Regenerative Agriculture)

The Conservation Technical Assistance Program combines MAEAP with Regenerative Agriculture. It is a $78,000 grant providing a voluntary and confidential program that provides technical assistance and financial incentives to farms of all sizes and commodities to prevent or reduce agricultural pollution risks. Farmers complete three phases to achieve CTAP verification in a system.

Systems include, Cropping, Farmstead, Livestock, and Forests, Wetlands & Habitat.
Our CTAP technician works with farmers in Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle, and Alcona counties.

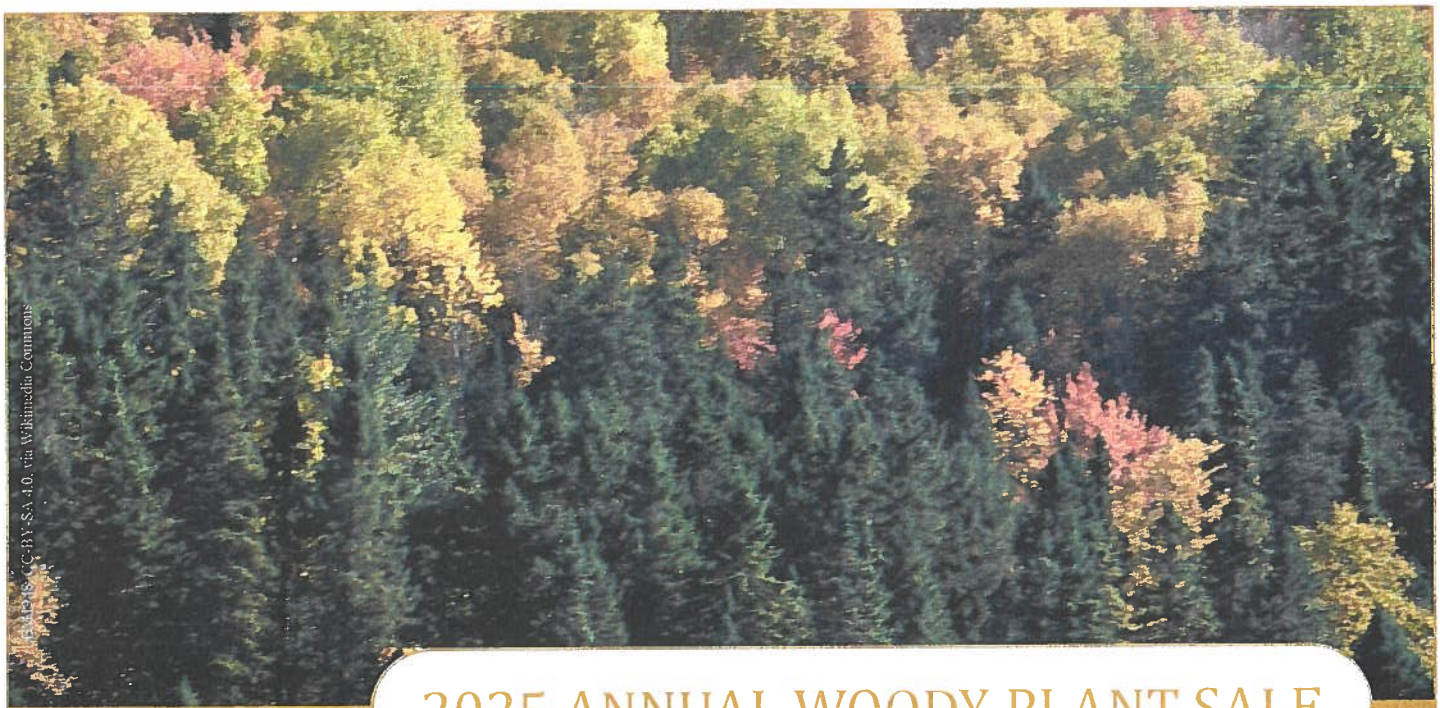
In FY25, CTAP Conducted:

4 New farms enrolled in MAEAP;

1 New farms verified in MAEAP;
30 Technical assistance actions;
47 Risk reductions;
$1325.00 in cost share assistance;
1 Education/Outreach event;
-Assisted with the development of a training program for new technicians.

White-tail Doe Tag (Antlerless Deer Tag) Program

FY25 marked the first year of the annual white-tailed doe or antlerless deer tag program. The Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District provided funding to A1 Woods and Waters (Montmorency County) and Clems Bait and Tackle (Alpena County) to provide 100 free doe tags at each site. The purpose of this program is to encourage more harvesting of does during the season. Each site successfully handed out their allotment of tags for the season. We are currently working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to better track the success rate of these hunters.



2025 ANNUAL WOODY PLANT SALE

The AMCD contributes to local reforestation and biodiversity by featuring a selection of native woody plants and planting supplies. In FY25 more than 300 customers purchased over 84,000 seedlings resulting in a total of $102,000 in sales.