



Van Buren Conservation District

September 2026 Report

District Board Director Election – The Van Buren Conservation District Director Election will be held Friday, October 29, 2026 from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM at the Van Buren Conservation District office in the USDA Service Center at 1035 E Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, 49079.

In accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan, all voters must provide one piece of identification that demonstrates residency in Van Buren County to cast a qualifying vote. Votes may be cast by absentee ballot by mail or in person or in person on October 29th. Please contact Executive Director Emily Hickmott with questions. director@VanBurenCD.org
269-633-9054



Invasive Species – Spotted Lanternfly Lookout – Spotted lanternflies are on the move, so let's be ready! Help protect our fruit crops, homes, and landscapes by following the three steps: See it, Squish it, Report it. You can report through the MISIN app or by contacting our CISMA Team at InvasivesED@VanBurenCD.org
269-633-9044.

Conservation District Millage Results – The Van Buren Conservation District millage passed! Thank you for helping make it possible for us to provide services and programs for the Van Buren County community. We look forward to continuing to help folks implement conservation and protect the environment for a cleaner, healthier, and economically stronger Van Buren County, Michigan.

Upcoming Events (details available on [our website](#))

- August 27 | Michigan Conservation Stewards Program
- September 5 | Covert Township Fire Safety Breakfast
- September 7 | Labor Day Holiday | Office closed
- September 9 | Van Buren County Land Preservation Board Meeting
- September 14 | Hartford Township Senior Luncheon Presentation
- September 23 | VBCD Board Meeting
- October 4 | Volunteer Water Monitoring
- October 12 | Indigenous People's Day Holiday | Office closed
- October 17 | Recycle Roundup collection event | Lawrence
- October 29 | VBCD Board Director Election



Van Buren Conservation District

September 2026 Report

Program Updates

Resource Recovery & Recycling (*Kalli Marshall*) – July was an exciting month as the VBCD celebrated the last year at the Annual meeting, prepped for another Recycle Roundup Event, and worked on food waste reduction. Michigan EGLE released a Food Rescue Grant which initiated conversations in Van Buren County for how the Materials Management Planning can work with our local pantries to expand food rescue for distribution. We concluded the month with a fun day of recycling education at the fair and spending the day at the South Haven Farmers Market to share details on the events and new vape disposal program.

Agriculture & Water Quality Team (*Erin Fuller and Colleen Forestieri*) – In July, the Water Quality Team spent time preparing for upcoming events and writing reports (the less glamorous, but still necessary, side of grant-funded work!) Next month the team will help host a farm field day and begin outreach to farmers to promote fall cover crop installation to reduce runoff to our lakes and rivers.

Invasive Species SWxSW Corner Cisma Team (*Alex Florian and Jena Johnson*) – July is perhaps the busiest month of the year for our team. We have gone full swing into our Spotted lanternfly outreach project, with only a few traps that still need homes. We also began treating a new patch of stiltgrass that we found near Lawrence. Because the patch is about 10 acres in size, right now we're focusing on treating the places where it is most likely to continue to spread.

Conservation Technical Assistance Program: MAEAP and Regenerative Agriculture Programs (*Kyle Mead*) – The CTAP Specialist has reverified nearly every producer due for reverification. He continues to reach out to producers that have lapsed in Cass County and producers who would be New Verifications. The CIG Grant that the tech has been assisting with for the last 5 years has finally wrapped and the test flights around Decatur are complete. The last stop for that drone was the MSU Irrigation Workshop at KBS. The specialist is also helping other Ag and Water Quality staff organize a bus tour to highlight various farms around Van Buren County that are doing regenerative farming practices. For August, the tech will focus on the last few Soil Health Assessments and analysis (farms already lined up) and will work on writing at least 3 more soil health management plans to wrap up the fiscal year.