

2025 Water Use Reporting Reminder from MDARD

MDARD has updated the water use reporting system for 2025 reporting and beyond.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has implemented significant updates and improvements to the Water Use Reporting Program (WUR). WUR is the database used by large capacity agricultural water users to annually report their water use, as required by law. Large Quantity Water withdrawals (LQW) are defined as an individual or combined capacity to pump 70 gpm or greater.

Water users who have previously reported should note that the reporting system will now be accessed through the MiLogin for Business portal. Previous access was through MiLogin for Citizens. This will require users to create a new account in MiLogin for Business (<https://milogintp.michigan.gov>).

MDARD pre-emptively assigned new User IDs to be used when creating a MiLogin for Business account. Support materials and user guidance, including these User IDs, have been sent via email and USPS to water users who have active accounts in the system.

If, however, you already have an established MiLogin for Business account, please contact MDARD as soon as possible - mdard-waterusereporting@michigan.gov. We can defer to that User ID to ensure a smooth transition to your data history based on the that already established MiLogin for Business User ID.

Once on your MiLogin for Business Home Page you must request access to Water Use Reporting (WUR) through "Discover Online Services". Select Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, then Water Use Reporting to make this request. The approval may not be instant and may take up to 24 hours. Once you receive an email confirmation of approval, the program will appear on your Home Page when you log back into your MiLogin for Business account.

Users who are new to water use reporting can set up a MiLogin for Business account with a User ID of their choosing and request access to WUR through Discover Online Services. Prior to approval, you may receive an email asking you to confirm that you are a large quantity agricultural water user. Once access is granted you can proceed to set up your reporting information.

Consultants, technicians and others who provide a reporting service on behalf of more than one farm entity not under your personal operation or management:

You should use one MiLogin for Business account to report for all of your clients. The new reporting system will allow you to generate, submit and print separate reports for

each of your separate clients under your single account. If you desire this option, you *must select the “Consultant” option when you set up your contact information in your account initially.*

Please note that a consultant is different from a single operation/ manager that may be leasing and reporting multiple farms and/or pumps, where it is assumed the conservation practices are the same across the entire farm operation. In this, the majority of cases, you will not select the consultant option.

FEATURES AND TIPS

The new WUR system can be accessed through all common web browsers, including Safari. It should also scale as appropriate to use with cell phones and tablets.

As a reminder, you must have both Water Volume and a Water Use Purpose(s) saved, for each pump.

“*Water Use Purpose*” is the type of crop and acreage, or livestock or other purpose, for which your water pump was used.

You will not need to enter a water use purpose when selecting “Active but not used this year”. Save after all pump entries.

Report using Acre-Inches

You have the option of reporting monthly water volumes in acre-inches of gallons. If you would like to do the conversion yourself, one acre-inch equals 27,154 gallons.

Transferring pumps from new leases or sales

If you have acquired or released an existing pump through a new lease or sale, please contact our office as soon as possible. Please do not add these pumps to your account. If you know the name of the person or farm from whom the pump was acquired or to whom it will be sold/leased, we will transfer the record between accounts accordingly. The history will then track properly with the pump, and it will not be flagged as a new withdrawal.

If you have, or are installing, a new large capacity surface water or groundwater withdrawal you must register that system with the State. Reporting your annual water use is not the same as registration. You must consult the MI Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT) prior to using the new or increased capacity withdrawal. Once your new withdrawal is approved, it will be assigned a registration number through the WWAT which you will need for reporting. MDARD will not accept a new pump for reporting without proof of WWAT approval. You may also access the WWAT through your MILogin for Business account. Select Discover Online Services and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

If you have questions, please contact mdard-wateruserreporting@michigan.gov or Abby Eaton at 517-930-3006.