

ARE YOU CERTAIN?



Examining the Certainty Programs of Other States

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Michael Middleman
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

Background

- Why have a certainty program?



- States that have developed or are pursuing comprehensive agricultural certainty: **Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Virginia.**
- States with lesser developed certainty programs: Alabama, California, Kentucky, Texas and Washington.

Virginia: Resource Management Plan Program

- Resource Management Plans (RMPs)
- Certainty: Exempt from any new regulations associated with TMDLs
- Verification Process: Review by DCR
- Time Period: 9 years
- Additional Incentives
- Partner Roles: Districts, DCR



Michigan: Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program

- Three step process
 - ▣ Educational Seminars
 - ▣ On Farm Risk Assessment
 - ▣ Development of a Conservation Plan addressing potential environmental risks

- Certainty
- Verification
- Time Period: 3 Years
- Additional Incentives
- Partner Roles: MDARD, N
Districts



Louisiana: Master Farmer Program and the Master Cattle Producer Program

- Three Phase Certification Process
 - Phase 1: Classroom Instruction (6 hours annually)
 - Phase 2: Attendance at Model Farm Field Days
 - Phase 3: Development and Certification of comprehensive whole farm resource management system (RMS).
- Certainty: Regulatory Compliance
- Verification
- Time Period: 5 years
- Additional Incentives
- Partner Roles: LSU, NRCS, LEAP



Questions?

