

MANURE SPREADER CALIBRATION

**Required for Development of Act 38
NMP Application Rates**

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MAKING THE PLAN RELEVANT TO THE FARMER

- ✘ Important to ensure plans can be implemented
- ✘ Practical application rates are one of the keys to a plan that is relevant
- ✘ Calibration information is required to be used as the basis of developing application rates
- ✘ Calibration information for plan development does not need to be difficult to come by
 - + Can use loads per field, along with determination of the capacity of the spreader as loaded

WHEN IS CALIBRATION REQUIRED

- ✘ For operations where it is relevant, such as:
 - + Existing operations
 - + Have the equipment available for evaluation
 - + Have info on history of applications, or
 - ✘ Have manure available and ready for calibration
- ✘ Not required when using a custom applicator
 - + Act 49 obligates applicators to apply manure according to planned rates

WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE PLAN

- × Description of the application equipment
 - + Equipment manufacturer, model and capacity
 - × Capacity is **not** calibration
 - + Good Examples
 - × “*New Idea 3632 Box Spreader: 320 bushel capacity*”
 - × “*Jamesway AT-4100 Tank Spreader: 4,100 gallon capacity*”
 - + Bad Example
 - × “*Box spreader: 225 bushel*”

WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE PLAN

- × Practical application rates for the equipment
 - + Based on farm's calibration information
 - × One or more rates based on typical on-farm equipment speeds and settings
 - + For each piece of application equipment used
 - + Good Examples
 - × *“New Idea box spreader calibrated application rate: 23 tons/acre”*
 - × *“Jamesway tank spreader calibrated application rates: 6,000 gal/acre and 7,500 gal/acre”*
 - + Bad Example
 - × *Jamesway tank spreader calibrated application rates: 3,000 to 9,000 gallons per acre.”*

WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE PLAN

- × The specific calibration method used
 - + Brief description of the method used
 - + Calibration data does not need to be submitted with the plan
 - + Good Examples
 - × *“New Idea box spreader; calibration rate determined using the “tarp method””*
 - × *“Jamesway tank spreader; calibration rates determined using the “loads per field” information obtained from the farmer based on his typical application procedures”*
 - + Bad Example
 - × *“Load spreader, apply manure, measure length and width, multiply length X width and / 43,560 to get application area, and then take the volume of manure applied in the area and divide by the application area calculated above...”*

IN CONCLUSION

- ✘ Practical rates required to be documented in the plan
 - + Describe equipment to be used
 - + List application rates determined to be practical for farm
 - + Describe calibration method used to determine practical application rates
- ✘ Information needed in the plan is not extensive
 - + Calibration data maintained at the operation
- ✘ Plans that do not have this information will be returned as administratively incomplete
 - + Cannot develop a practical/relevant plan without this information determined up front