MANURE SPREADER CALIBRATION

Required for Development of Act 38 NMP Application Rates

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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