



# Interstate Phosphorus Issues: A Perspective from Arkansas

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# A Brief History

- In early 90's, Regulation 5 for liquid animal waste implemented
- Represented the first required nutrient management plans
- Nitrogen-Based
- Prepared under the guidance of NRCS by district employees known as Soil and Water Technicians
- Will be moving to P-Based plans

# A Brief History – Dry Manure

- Voluntary until 2003
- In 1999, Arkansas Poultry Industries request voluntary environmental training for contract growers and require NMP as part of contract
- In 2001, Oklahoma proposes a Phosphorus water quality standard 0.037 mg/l in scenic rivers, of which 6 begin in Arkansas

# More Recently...

- In 2002, City of Tulsa files class action lawsuit against an Arkansas Municipality and 6 Poultry Integrators
  - Lawsuit Settlement and Consent Decree
    - No P application in Eucha-Spavinaw basin
    - Joint P-Index to be developed by UA and OSU by Jan ‘04
  - Non-profit agency created to oversee settlement
- In 2003, Arkansas passes new regulations for poultry litter and nutrient applications

# **State Regulations**

# ACT 1060: Registration of Poultry Feeding Operations

- All poultry operations confining or feeding 2,500 birds on any one day in a 12 month period must register annually (\$10 fee).
- Items to be reported to ASWCC (Not for public record)
  - # and kind of houses, location, litter management system, litter storage system, Acreage, application method, amount of litter sold or transferred

# ACT 1059: Nutrient Management Planner and Applicator Certification

- State implements a education, training, and certification program to ensure minimal competence and knowledge of planners
  - 4 day training and certification test
- State implements a education, training, and certification program to ensure minimal competence and knowledge of nutrient applicator in nutrient sensitive areas

# ACT 1061: Proper Nutrient Utilization in Sensitive Watersheds

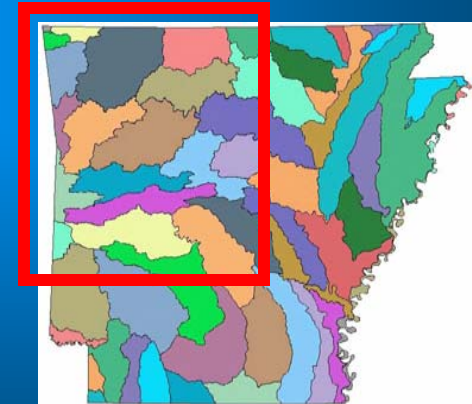
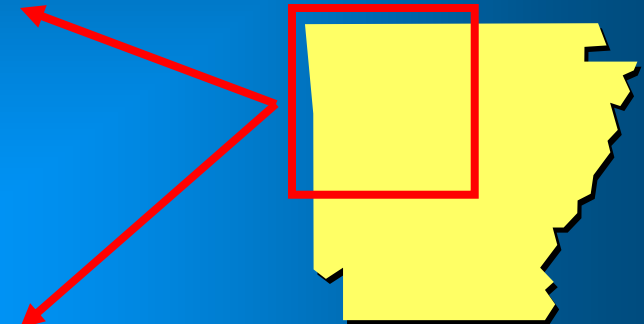
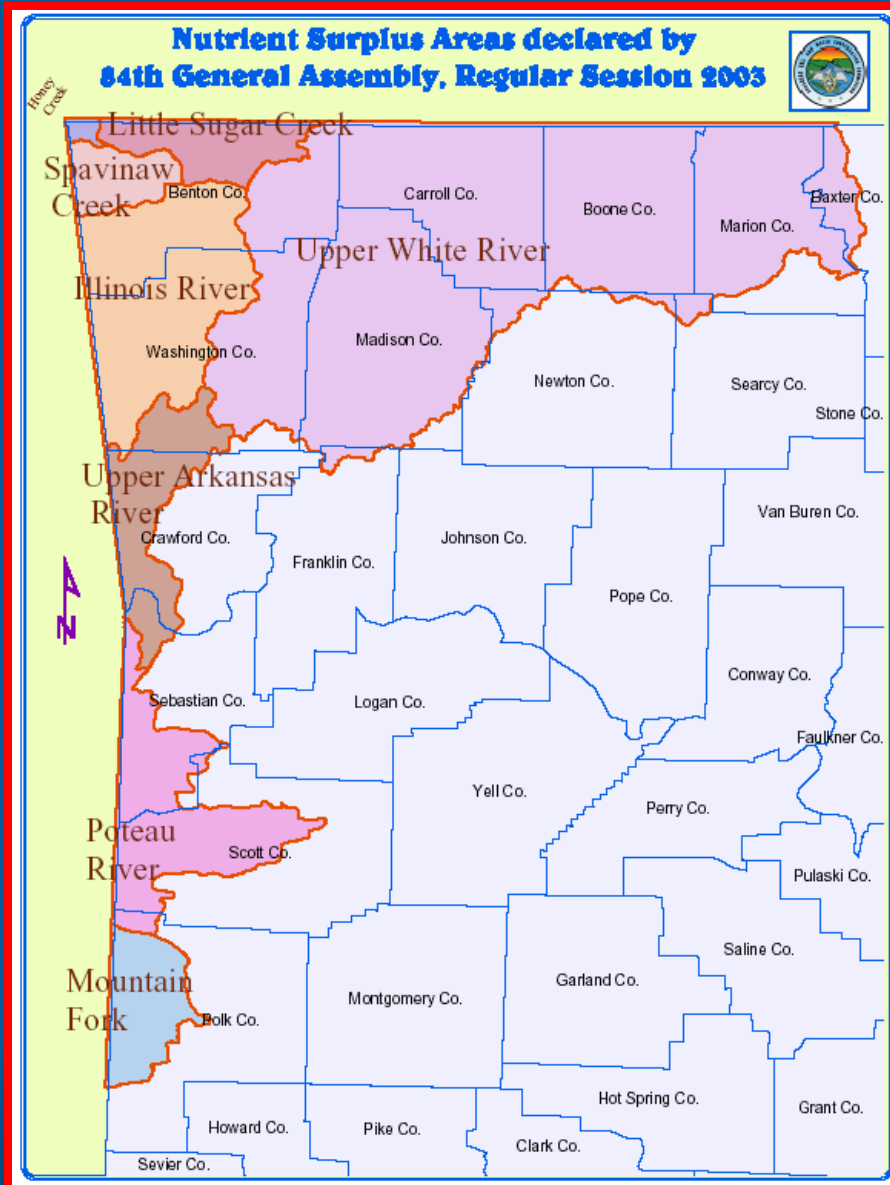
- Nutrients will be applied at protective rates determined by ASWCC
- Protective rate is the agronomic or other rate that provides for proper crop utilization, and prevention of significant impacts to waters within the State



# ACT 1061: Proper Nutrient Utilization in Sensitive Watersheds

- On residential parcels of 2.5 acres or more, nutrients have to be applied by certified nutrient applicator
- Poultry operations required to have NMP prepared by certified planner and nutrients applied by certified applicators

# State Nutrient Surplus Areas



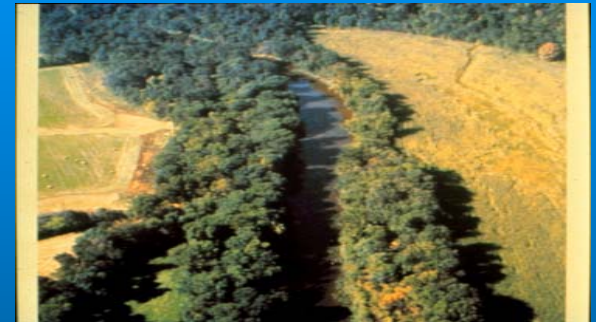
# Arkansas P Index

- Developed by USDA and UA researchers
- Uses a risk assessment approach to consider many factors to determine manure application rates
- Each factor weighted based on their contribution for P movement as determined in research and/or professional judgement.



# The Arkansas P Index for Pastures

**P Index = Source \* Transport \* Precipitation  
\* BMP**



# P Index Transport Factors

P Transport = Sum of Site Characteristic Loss Rating Values

Site Characteristic	Description				
Soil Erosion	< 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 5	> 5
	0	0.1	0.2	0.4	1
Runoff Class	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very High</b>
	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.0
Flooding Frequency	<b>None</b>	<b>Occasional</b>		<b>Frequent</b>	
	0	0.1		2.0	
Application Method	<b>Incorporated</b>	<b>Surface Applied</b>		<b>Surface Applied on Frozen Ground or Snow</b>	
	0.1	0.2		0.5	
Application Timing	<b>June-Oct</b>	<b>March - May</b>		<b>Nov - Feb</b>	
	0.1	0.2		0.3	
Grazing Management	<b>Hayed Only</b>	<b>Grazed and Hayed</b>		<b>Grazed Only</b>	
	0.1	0.2		0.3	

Green text represents typical values

# P Index Process

## (Putting It All Together)

Farm Conditions/Management Practices

$$P \text{ source} = (.404 * \text{lb/ac sol P}) + (.000666 * \text{lb/ac STP})$$

P Transport = Sum of Site Characteristic Loss Rating Values

$$P \text{ Index} = P \text{ Source} * P \text{ Transport} * \text{Precipitation Factor}$$

$$P \text{ Index} = P \text{ Index} * 0.9^{(\# \text{ BMP})}$$

# P Index Interpretive Guidance

P Index	Site Interpretation and Guidance
< 0.6	Low potential for P movement from site. Apply nutrients based on crop needs, normally nitrogen. Caution against long term buildup.
0.6 to 1.2	Medium potential for P movement from site. Evaluate the Index and determine any areas that could cause long-term concerns. Consider adding conservation practices or reduced P application to maintain the risk at 1.2 or less. Apply nutrients based on crop needs, normally nitrogen.
1.2 to 1.8	High potential for P movement from site. Evaluate the Index and determine elevation cause. Add appropriate conservation practices and/or reduce P application. The immediate planning target is a PI value of 1.2 or less. If this cannot be achieved with realistic conservation practices and /or reduced P rates in the short term, then a progressive plan needs to be developed with a long term goal of a PI less than 1.2.
>1.8	Very High potential for P movement from site. No litter application. Add conservation practices to decrease this value below 1.8 in the short term and develop a progressive conservation plan that would reduce the PI to a lower risk category, with long term goal of a PI of less than 1.2.

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright yellow-orange orb in the center of the sky, casting a long, shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a lighter, hazy orange at the top. The ocean is dark with small waves, and the foreground shows a sandy beach with some dark, thin plants or grasses. The text "Thank You Questions?" is overlaid in a bold, blue, serif font in the lower center of the image.

**Thank You  
Questions?**