



USDA-CSREES 2005 National Water Quality Conference

Cropland Nutrient Budgets in the Mid-Atlantic Region: Making Information Available

Abstract:

Situation: The geographic separation of crop and animal production can create areas where manure nutrients exceed local crop needs. Cropland nutrient budgets can be used to develop regional strategies to address this issue.

Objectives: Our objectives were to 1) develop cropland phosphorus (P) budgets for the states, counties, physiographic regions and watersheds in the Mid-Atlantic Region from 1939 to present and 2) make this information available for use in extension programming.

Methods: These budgets are estimates of major nutrient inputs (manure and fertilizer) and outputs (harvested crops) for cropland in the Mid-Atlantic region. The estimates are based on data from the U.S. Census of Agriculture and fertilizer sales reports from several sources.

Partnerships: The primary partnerships are among the members of the nutrient budget topic team of the Mid-Atlantic Water Quality Program. The team members have backgrounds in Agricultural Economics and Soil Science.

Resources: We have consolidated the regional USDA-CSREES 406 funds available in Pennsylvania to facilitate nutrient budget development and application.

Integration of Research, Teaching, and Extension: Our research to develop cropland P budgets has laid the foundation for extension and education. To begin our extension programs, we have made the budget information available on our website: <http://www.mawaterquality.org/budget>. We are posting budget information on the website as it is developed.

Results: The website was released to the public on March 29, 2004. It provides an introduction to nutrient budgets and the purpose of this project. Users can view budgets by choosing from a menu of budget trends.

Note: Some of this material will be covered in the proposed presentation "Developing Cropland Phosphorus Budgets in the Mid-Atlantic", also submitted by K. Arrington. We are proposing this poster to publicize our website. We plan to have a laptop available during the poster sessions to allow people to navigate the website.

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