# 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 <u>relevant</u>
- Calibration information is required to be used as the <u>basis of developing application rates</u>
- Calibration information for plan development does not need to be difficult to come by
  - + Can use <u>loads per field</u>, 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 <u>custom applicator</u>
  - + 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 <u>method</u> 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 <u>administratively incomplete</u>
  - Cannot develop a practical/relevant plan without this information determined up front