

What are Some Indicators of P Loss Potential? (A09-beegle141859-Oral)

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Abstract:

Concern over the loss of phosphorus (P) from agriculture to the environment has increased in recent years, largely related to greater intensification of animal agriculture. Management systems that maximize the economic benefits of manure P and minimize the potential environmental impact are needed. The identification of critical source areas using practical indicators of the potential for P loss from a landscape is essential. The concept of the P Index which integrates indicators of sources of P such as soil, fertilizer, and manures; and transport mechanisms such as erosion, runoff and leaching of P has been widely adopted. However, the landscape and management factors that determine the potential for P loss vary dramatically. While the concept of using appropriate indicators of P loss potential in a P Index is well established, localized research and a clear understanding of local management practices in a given area are essential to selecting the appropriate practical indicators of P loss potential for that area. These indicators must not only help identify critical source areas, but also provide guidance for management systems to address the potential losses of P.

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