

Automating Indiana's Environmental Assessment Tool for Use With Nutrient Management Planning Software. (S11-joern124056-Oral)

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Abstract:

Nutrient management planning requires an environmental assessment to determine potential nutrient losses. Assessments are a complicated and time-consuming task. Many states have programmed phosphorus indexes to simplify this task. Indiana's assessment tools are programmed as a Microsoft Access database that is linked to the Purdue University Manure Management Planner (MMP). MMP addresses nutrient management planning, manure allocation, recordkeeping, and nutrient management plan (NMP) and comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) development. A pre-screening evaluation of all fields and the Offsite Risk Index (ORI) for high-risk fields is done first. A report indicates ORI areas of concern and offers agronomic management activities (AMAs) and conservation practices (CPs) to address those concerns. Fields are then ranked by their suitability for nutrient application and re-evaluated for the additional risk associated with nutrient source, rate, method and timing. The assessment tool results and reports are included in NMPs and CNMPs. This automation process will save nutrient planners considerable time and effort in completing the required environmental assessment.

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