



# Manure Applications Record Book

Crop year:

# Why use this book:

Keeping track of manure applications is an important component of farm management. Manure can be a good source of nutrients for crops and can reduce costs when nutrients are credited and fertilizer applications adjusted. Manure management is also a key component of a farm's nutrient management plan — an overall strategy that maximizes returns from both on- and off-farm fertilizers in a manner that protects the quality of nearby water resources.

# How to use this book:

- On the following page are some examples. Keep in mind that you may not need to fill in all of the suggested information. This is just a starting point to determine what might be useful in keeping manure application records for your farm.
- You can use this book to keep track of manure applications for a single crop year or multiple crop years. You can also make a note of the crop year(s) on the front cover for easy reference.
- If you are just starting to keep manure records, keep track of when and where you spread manure by tallying loads, you can then use the information to calculate manure credits (see Example 1).
- If you have a SnapPlus\* nutrient management plan, you can use this book to keep track of planned manure applications. After you have your plan written for the upcoming season, you can pencil in the planned applications. As the season progresses, you can keep track of applications and make notes. At the end of the season, you can update your plan from the records you kept (see Example 2).
- For farms with multiple spreaders, it is a good idea to write down the spreader used for the application in the notes section. To record calibration and additional information about your spreader(s), go to page 24. To learn more about spreader calibration, see the inside of the back cover.

\* SnapPlus is Wisconsin's nutrient management software. If you don't know about SnapPlus, you can find out more at [snappplus.wisc.edu](http://snappplus.wisc.edu)

Example 1:

Field South 06 acres 20

Application date(s) June 14, 15, 19

Application rate or **Number of loads** 28 loads

Source Dairy barn

Application method  Surface applied  Incorporated  < 1 hour  1 hour-3days  >3 days  Injected

Checking one of these is important for nutrient crediting!

Notes

Meyer box spreader, chain speed low



Example 2:

Field 80-2 (winter restrictions!) acres 35

Application date(s) planned Fall Oct 24, 25

**Application rate** or Number of loads 12,000 gal/acre

Source Pit manure

Application method  Surface applied  Incorporated  < 1 hour  1 hour-3days  >3 days  Injected

Notes

- ✓ Applicator: John Smith / Case MX Tractor with Houle
- ✓ Weather conditions: Dry 64°
- ✓ Soil condition: Non-saturated

Oct 24, 14 acres  
Oct 25, 21 acres

Field \_\_\_\_\_ acres \_\_\_\_\_

Application date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Application rate or Number of loads \_\_\_\_\_

Source \_\_\_\_\_

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 Incorporated  < 1 hour  1 hour-3days  >3 days  
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# Spreader information:

Spreader: \_\_\_\_\_

Calibration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Spreader info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(i.e. manufacturer, ground speed, PTO speed, tractor used )

Spreader: \_\_\_\_\_

Calibration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Spreader info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Spreader: \_\_\_\_\_

Calibration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Spreader info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes

## 5 KEY STEPS TO MANURE MANAGEMENT:

1. Inventory on-farm nutrient sources
2. Weigh and calibrate your spreader
3. Obtain accurate manure nutrient values
4. Determine nutrient credits
5. Follow a manure spreading plan

## SPREADER CALIBRATION

To use manure as a quality, dependable fertilizer, you must first determine your spreading rate. There are two basic techniques:

**Determine rate after spreading:** Using a typical load size, weigh the tractor with spreader both empty and full, axle by axle. Then calculate your tons per acre spreading rate using field records on how many loads you put on a particular field of known acreage.

**Determine rate in advance of spreading:** Using a typical load size, weigh the tractor with spreader both empty and full, axle by axle. Then apply manure at typical speed. Measure the length and width of the manure swath. Divide manure weight (tons) by area (acres). *i.e.*  $[5 \text{ tons} / (10,000 \text{ ft}^2 / 43,560 \text{ ft}^2/\text{a})] = 21.8 \text{ tons}$  Round down to nearest multiple of 5. *In this case, rate = 20 tons/acre*

Either technique can take less than a hour! For assistance with spreader calibration, contact your county Land Conservation Department, UW-Extension office or the Nutrient and Pest Management (NPM) Program.

## MANURE ANALYSIS

No two farming systems are exactly alike, neither is the manure produced on them! Nutrient content of manure varies from farm to farm due to a number of factors—including animal type, bedding, ration, storage/handling, and other herd management practices.

Manure nutrient values can be estimated by using University of Wisconsin “book” values. However, sampling manure from your farm and submitting it for analysis can supply you with nutrient values specific to your operation.

Using manure analysis along with spreader calibration will achieve the ultimate goal — accurate nutrient crediting of manure applications to cropland.

For information about nutrient crediting, visit the NPM Program’s website: [ipcm.wisc.edu](http://ipcm.wisc.edu)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT:

Download or request free nutrient management publications from the Nutrient and Pest Management Program: [ipcm.wisc.edu](http://ipcm.wisc.edu)

Visit the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Nutrient Management website: [datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Nutrient\\_Management/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Nutrient_Management/index.aspx)

Contact your county UW-Extension office: [www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/)

Contact your county Land Conservation Department: [www.privacy.wi.gov/Environment/Land\\_and\\_Water\\_Conservation/Land\\_and\\_Water\\_Conservation\\_Directory/](http://www.privacy.wi.gov/Environment/Land_and_Water_Conservation/Land_and_Water_Conservation_Directory/)

This publication is available from the Nutrient and Pest Management (NPM) Program. For additional copies, please contact us at:

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website: [ipcm.wisc.edu](http://ipcm.wisc.edu)



Printing of this publication was funded by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection