

**INTERAGENCY NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 28, 2005**

Attendees

<u>NCDACS</u>	<u>NCSU</u>	<u>NCDSWC</u>	<u>NRCS</u>
C. Hudak	K. Shaffer	V. Cox	T. Cutts
D. Hardy	J. Green		R. Hansard
			L. Price

Discussion Items

1. Waste Application on Forestland. The Committee discussed the information and recommendations presented by Dr. Lee Allen, Forestry, NCSU in May 2005. Follow-up is needed on several issues prior to finalizing the INMC recommendations.
 - (a) What are the potential implications of applying five years of N (300 lbs/acre) for off-site transport?
 - (b) Does the recommendation to apply nutrients after year 4 still apply on sites without an existing ground litter (e.g. converted cropland)? If litter is applied earlier on such sites, what are implications on increased competition?
 - (c) What specific revisions or databases are needed for the Nutrient Management software?
 - (d) What specific changes to the 590 standard and 633 standard would be required?
2. Release of Revised Nutrient Management Software. Vernon reported that the goal is to release the software by August 1. The Committee reviewed the additional forms that had been developed to allow producers to update their plans after year 1. INMC members should provide any other suggestions on the forms to Vernon Cox immediately.
3. Sludge Application Study. The status of the project was reported. We have six sites proposed by field offices. Two have had soil samples collected. Samples will be collected from the other four this fall.
4. Subsurface P Transport Study. John Havlin reported that Rory Maquire and others were making progress of a study underway in the coastal plain to evaluate subsurface P movement across fields and through buffers from sites with high subsurface P concentrations. About 25 sites have been selected for the study to date. NCSU is working with Murphy Farms. NCDACS is currently completing the lab analysis on the samples collected. A number of sites will be monitored with wells in the field and through the buffers.
5. Emerging PLAT Issues. Lane Price discussed a number of technical issues that were emerging from field sites collecting PLAT. There is a considerable amount of professional judgment required in collecting field factors for PLAT, and on-going training is important. Examples of factors that are sometimes difficult include subdividing fields, concentrated flow through buffers, receiving slopes,

dealing with factors on sequential fields, soil test anomalies, dealing with naturally ponded areas, and others. The Committee agreed that on mountain floodplain sites that have naturally ponded areas where the runoff typically leaves through infiltration and subsurface lateral movement, a credit for a sediment basin may be applied. The recent issue of waste applications on multiple years during a rotation was also reviewed. An email was recently distributed on this issue. Several enhancements to PLAT have been proposed from field offices.

6. Yield data for Seeded Bermudas and Crabgrass. Jim Green reported that the data that is available is inconclusive. The variable results are also compounded by the common occurrence of species mixtures that are found on sites. At this time, it is the recommendation of the INMC that improved seeded Bermuda varieties (e.g. Cheyenne, Wrangler) be given the same credit as hybrid Bermuda, and crabgrass at 75%.

Another issue discussed was the large number of sites identified in plans as Coastal Bermuda, but which in reality were either Common Bermuda or a mixture of summer annuals. Although some of these are viable as nutrient application sites, there is no documented yield data. NRCS is recommending that some informational materials for producers be prepared that discuss the proper management practices to help maintain hybrid Bermuda stands.

7. Free Range Swine. Lane Price discussed the growing number of technical assistance requests that NRCS is receiving for free range swine operations. There is a misperception by some that there are no environmental concerns because the waste is not captured in a lagoon. NRCS is working with NC A&TSU to develop some conservation planning guidance for field staff on such operations.
8. Feeding Livestock on Waste Applications Sites. Jim Green reported on the results of his field survey to determine the extent of this problem. The survey, although limited in size, indicated that most field sites do not see this as a significant issue. Unfortunately, some of the sites indicated that although livestock were not being fed on waste application areas, they were being fed along the field edges, closer to streams. At a minimum, the issue will be addressed by NRCS in training, and additional criteria will be added to the 590 standard and associated job sheets to ensure this is brought to the attention of planners and growers when appropriate.
9. Updated Waste Sample Analyses. Colleen Hudak reported on the data from the Lab that has been compiled and summarized by Shaun Casteel. This data provides the average and top 10% N, P205 and K20 from litter samples from 2000-2004. The INMC agreed that this data, and the default data from 633 on animal sizes and waste generated should be reviewed by the industry and specialists, and used to update 633. It was suggested that to make this effort manageable, the INMC should focus on updating only litter at this time. It was also suggested that we solicit from industry input on the most appropriate manure management and application categories.

Coleen also indicated that they are in the process of updating their forms for waste samples. INMC members should provide any additional feedback on the forms to NCDACS.

10. Update on BMP Equivalents. INMC reviewed the NLEW committee findings. The INMC will develop a letter back to the 1217 committee on the recommended BMP equivalent associated with a 20 ft filter strip and water table control.
11. New NRCS 591 Standard. Lane Price distributed a new national NRCS standard, Amendments for the Treatment of Agricultural Wastes, as well as new NRCS standards for this practice from Mississippi and Delaware. INMC should review and provide comments or input to NRCS.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2005 at 1:00 pm at NCDA.