Nutrient Management Planning at Dairies



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Slide 1

Dairy Operations

- Dairy General Order (Order No. R5-2007-0035)
- Three phases of operations:
 - Production area
 - Storage
 - Land application

Purpose and Expected Outcome

Apply nutrients efficiently
Maximize plant uptake
Minimize percolation and runoff
Protection of water quality

Nutrient Management Planning

Land Application Area
Sampling and Analysis
Nutrient Budget
Reporting

Land Application Area

- Map
- Fields
- Storage and conveyance
- Acreage and crops grown
- Sampling locations
- Third-party agreements

Sampling and Analysis

- Wastewater
- Manure
- Soil
- Plant tissue
- Irrigation water
- Groundwater

Nutrient Budget

- Crop need on a field scale
- Planned rate and timing of application
- Nitrogen Balance
 - 1.4 total N vs. N removed by crop
 - 1.65 if needed and no pollution
- Certified Nutrient Management Specialist



- Field inspections
- Nutrient monitoring
- Groundwater
- Nutrient Management Plan

Reporting Tools

Merced County reporting tool

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Measures of Success

- Effective implementation of nutrient management
- Understanding impacts to water quality
- Water quality meets objectives or is improving

Benefits and Challenges

- Benefits:
 - Protection of water quality
 - Efficient use of resources
- Challenges:
 - Complicated
 - Requires commitment
 - Differing opinions
 - Tracking compliance at 1,300+ dairies

